

“THE SPIRIT OF MARTIN LUTHER” TOUR 2012 – EAST GERMANY

Travel date: **August 09 – 20 , 2012 (Thursday – Monday, 12 days)**

Travel in the footsteps of one of the most famous Germans - Martin Luther. Born in 1483 in the small town Eisleben he has spent most of his life in the today's East German states Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Saxony. In the 16th century Martin Luther's challenging theological ideas inspired the Protestant Reformation and changed the course of Western civilization. Our exclusive tour takes you to the places where Martin Luther has lived and worked and back to the medieval times in which he has lived – and to one of the most interesting cultural landscapes in German and European history. Martin Luther was born and has died in the small town Eisleben in 1546. In the small historic town of Eisenach, nestled in the scenic Thuringian Forest, Martin Luther attended the St. Georg School until 1501 and here he also sang in the church boy choir. Erfurt is considered young Luther's spiritual home. Founded in 742, Erfurt has one of the largest listed historical city centers in Germany. Martin Luther was a student at the University of Erfurt, Germany's third oldest university. Luther was admitted to the Augustinian Monastery in 1505 where he was later ordained to the priesthood and where he has lived as a monk. In Wittenberg Martin Luther has spent most of his life carrier and here he posted his famous 95 theses and held the very first service in German. The Luther House where Martin Luther has lived fo almost 35 years and where he and his wife, Katharina von Bora, raised their six children, today accommodates the world's largest museum relating to the history of the Reformation. Due to the ban of the Catholic Church, Martin Luther was forced 1521 into protective custody at the fortress Wartburg in Eisenach where he translated the New Testament into German. In 1537, Martin Luther presented in the town of Schmalkalden his articles of faith, which were incorporated into the Book of Concord of the Evangelical church as the Schmalkaldic Articles. The Luther sites in Eisleben and Wittenberg as well as the Luther fortress Wartburg in Eisenach and the Museum Island in Berlin have the status of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites. We always travel in small exclusive groups of 4-6 or 10-18 guests in order to provide a flexible individual travel experience. Groups are escorted 24/7 by an English speaking native German guide. We will be traveling in a private van / small bus.

Tour route: **Berlin – Wittenberg – Eisleben – Leipzig – Dresden – Erfurt – Eisenach – Wartburg fortress – Schmalkalden – Berlin**

Tour price*: **\$2,989 per person** Single supplement: \$550 per person

* Ground package, double occupancy, air fare & travel insurance & credit card fee not included - USD \$ price is subject to currency fluctuations. The preliminary tour price is based on an exchange rate of 1 EUR = 1.35 USD. Program is subject to change due to seasonal availability.

In ground package included: 10 overnight stays at selected hotels//Inns with buffet breakfast, Private van or mini bus transportation and experienced driver, English speaking native German tour guide throughout & Experienced local city guides, Admission fees & expenses for tour related visits & selected excursions, Welcome dinner & Farewell dinner including beverage, 6 additional meals (dinner/lunch) including beverage, 2 Tastings (Wine / Beer / Chocolate), 4-5 guided walking tours escorted by experienced specialized local guides.

Minimum participants: 4 persons for group size 4-6 and 10 persons for group size 10-18



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Tour program overview:

Day 01 – Thu, Aug 09: Individual departure from U.S. or elsewhere

Day 02 – Fri, Aug 10: Individual arrival in Berlin, Germany

Individual arrival in Berlin, Germany – Greeting at the Hotel – Individual activities (tips and maps will be provided) – Welcome group dinner. Overnight: Berlin

Day 03 – Sat, Aug 11: Berlin – Capital of Germany

Guided walking tour in historic Berlin – Museum Island and Berlin Cathedral – Brandenburg Gate and Berlin Wall – Reichstags Building – Spree river boat tour (optional) – Overnight: Berlin

Day 04 – Sun, Aug 12: Luther Town Wittenberg

Transfer to Wittenberg – Guided walking tour in historic Wittenberg – Luther House – Castle Church with Luter’s grave – Group dinner. Overnight: Wittenberg

Day 05 – Mon, Aug 13: Luther Town Eisleben

Day trip to Luther Town Eisleben – Guided walking tour through historic Eisleben – Group lunch – Luther’s Birth and Death House with museum. Overnight: Wittenberg

Day 06 – Tue, Aug 14: Leipzig – Dresden, Saxony

Transfer to Leipzig – Guided walking tour in historic Leipzig – St. Thomas Church – Historic Arcades – Market square with town hall. Group lunch – Transfer to Dresden – Overnight: Dresden

Day 07 – Wed, Aug 15: Dresden – Capital of the State of Saxony

Guided walking tour in Historic Dresden – Church of Our Lady – Zwinger Palace – Semper Opera – Town Castle – Elbe river boat tour or museum (optional) – Group dinner. Overnight: Dresden

Day 08 – Thu, Aug 16: Erfurt – Capital of the State of Thuringia

Transfer to Erfurt – Guided walking tour in historic Erfurt – Augustinian Monastery – Merchants’ Bridge – Cathedral – Market square with town hall – Group dinner. Overnight: Erfurt

Day 09 – Fri, Aug 17: Thuringian Forest – Schmalkalden

Scenic ride through the Thuringian Forest – Schmalkalden with guided walking tour – Transfer to Erfurt – Individual activities in Erfurt. Overnight: Erfurt

Day 10 – Sat, Aug 18: Luther Fortress Wartburg – Luther Town Eisenach – Piano Concert

Transfer to Eisenach – Guided tour at the Wartburg Castle – Individual lunch – Guided tour in Eisenach – Group dinner in Eisenach – Piano Concert at Festive Hall of the Wartburg Castle – Transfer to Erfurt. Overnight: Erfurt

Day 11 – Sun, Aug 19: Berlin

Transfer to Berlin – Individual activities – Farewell group dinner – Overnight: Berlin

Day 12 – Mon, Aug 20: Individual departure from Berlin – Arrival in the U.S. or elsewhere

You can extend your trip by adding individual days. Please contact us for special inquiries.

For detailed information, tour itinerary and reservations please contact:

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[We very much look forward to traveling with you to Martin Luther sites – and back in time!](#)

