

Newsletter # 01 TGAC

International Berlin Beer Festival 2008: Every year at the first weekend of August more than 240 breweries from 80 countries present 1,750 different brands of beer. With 2.2km length the Berlin “beer mile” is the “longest beer garden of the world” and located directly in the city centre. In 20 different beer regions you can enjoy cultural and culinary specialities. Each year several new brands of beer are represented, e.g. Voodoo Dark from Benin, Poker-Beer from Columbia, Gurkha-Beer from Nepal or Crocodile-Beer from Australia. A live musical programme taking place on 18 stages accompanies the beer festival. Admission is free. Last year a record number of 750,000 visitors came to the festival. The Official Pro(Beer) Mug is a very special item for collectors.

Further information: <http://www.bierfestival-berlin.de/index.php?idcat=24>

Erfurt, Thuringia – the spectacle of the “Domstufenfestspiele” (cathedral stairways festival) 2008: Every summer the 70 stairs of the magnificent Cathedral in Erfurt – the capital of the East German state Thuringia becomes an unequalled scenery for unforgettable performances. From July 05 to July 20 the “Domstufenfestspiele” will present: “MARTIN Luther – The Musical”. The main focus is on Martin Luther as a person with all his inconsistencies and doubts. Starting with his time in Erfurt as a student – a historic fact! – the story deals with the most important stages of Luther’s life.

Further information:

http://www.theater-erfurt.de/domstufen/englisch/domsrt02_e.html

Dresden, Saxony – UNESCO World heritage site and home of the unique “Dresden State Art Collections”: The Staatlichen Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections) are among the most important museums presently in existence. With our altogether eleven museum institutions, they offer a thematic diversity that is unparalleled anywhere in the world. In addition to the masterpieces of world-famous painters of the sixteenth to

eighteenth centuries visitors can admire the outstanding inventory of the Porcelain Collection as well as historical timepieces and scientific instruments of three. The jewels and precious objects of Europe's most magnificent treasure chamber museum (Grünes Gewölbe) along with the everyday and luxury articles of the Saxon Court now on view in the Museum of Decorative Arts take visitors on a vivid journey through a rich history. With its superb works of the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries, the New Masters Gallery makes the unique experience of art offered by the city of Dresden complete.

Further information: <http://www.skd-dresden.de/en/museen.html>

Introduction of Environmental Zones in major German cities starting January 2008: Cities such as Berlin, Hanover and Cologne start setting up "Environmental Zones" in order to reduce air pollution by traffic. Other German cities will follow later in 2008 including Munich and Regensburg. Within the zones (mostly the inner city centers), only those vehicles may travel that adhere to certain exhaust standards and that carry the proper badges on the windshield. The badge ordinance applies to both German citizens and all kind of visitors. Anyone driving in the Environmental Zones without a badge is subject to a fine. Our advice: At car rentals ask explicitly for the GREEN level 4 badge (Umweltplakette Stufe 4 gruen).

Further information: <http://www.umwelt-plakette.de>

"BIO-Hotels" – Live the healthy spirit throughout your vacation: "BIO-Hotels" is an association of independent hotels offering holidays based around natural products. You can choose between a wide selection of hotels in many different regions. BIO – This term is mostly associated with organic food and a healthy diet. A BIO-Hotel, however, means much more. The conversion to 100% bio in the area of alimentation has also served as a kick-off for an improvement in quality to fully 100%. Respect for all living creatures has grown into a basic element of the philosophy. Highly recommended are the BIO-Hotel's package deals including wellness, medical wellness, fasting, exercise, culinary delights etc..

Further information: <http://www.biohotels.info/en>

Berlin Modern Art Venues – The White Cube at Schlossplatz: When it comes to contemporary art, Berlin may now be Europe’s most dynamic venue where art is created, presented and collected. As just one example in July 2008, the “White Cube” – a unique new showroom for contemporary art in downtown Berlin – is set to open its doors creating quite a buzz for modern art in Germany’s capital.

Further information: <http://www.white-cube-berlin.org>

East Germany – “land of lakes” Brandenburg: There is no end to outstanding places of interest and attractive destinations for excursions in Brandenburg. Landscapes, museums, monasteries and monuments offer a fascinating insight into the region’s history. With a network of about 3,000 lakes and over 30,000 kilometres of waterways Brandenburg is Germany’s largest water landscape. It is also unique in Europe. Together the lakelands of Brandenburg and Mecklenburg form Europe’s largest integral inland waterway complex. We would like to introduce you to just one of the uncountable highlights: **Potsdam** – royal seat at the water’s edge. Potsdam is best found on the occasion of a visit to the beautiful castle and park complex, which is part of the UNESCO world cultural heritage. The picturesque sight of the world-renowned Sanssouci summer residence with its fountains and vineyard terraces, on which Frederick the Great strolled, or the walk through the tree-lined avenue to the Neue Palais (new palace), which is the last large castle complex in the Prussian baroque style, let you imagine why once electors, kings and the emperor chose Potsdam to be their royal seat. All of them strolled through the park of Sanssouci Castle, which is one of Europe’s most significant and most extensive park areas.

Further information: http://www.brandenburg-tourism.com/pages/sights_highlights_potsdam_heritage.html

More news & travel tips:
<http://www.tgac-us.com>