

Newsletter # 10 TGAC

Oktoberfest 2009 – Cultural Beer Tours with Bier-Mania: Incredible Oktoberfest tours have been designed to not only introduce you to the world famous annual Oktoberfest in Munich, but also to show you more of Munich and Bavaria! Experience the Alps, King Ludwig's castle Neuschwanstein, Monasteries, Oberammergau and great architecture along the trip as well as beer gardens, beer halls, breweries – and of course some great beer! Bier-Mania offers exclusive and escorted small group tours with 8 people maximum for your comfort! In 2009, the 176th Oktoberfest takes place from September 19th to October 4th. The historical background: The very first Oktoberfest was held in 1810 in honor of the Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig's marriage to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. The festivities began on October 12th, 1810 and ended on October 17th with a horse race. In the following years, the celebrations were repeated and, later, the festival was prolonged and moved forward into September. That simply allowed better weather conditions and in the warmer September nights, the visitors were able to enjoy the beer gardens outside the tents and stroll "die Wiesn" (the meadow) much longer. Historically, the last Oktoberfest weekend was in October and this tradition continues into the present. The locals in Munich refer to the Oktoberfest as "die Wiesn" because of its location "Theresienwiese" (Therese Meadow), which was named after the Princess Therese. By the way, the "typical Bavarian" toast & song "Ein Prosit der Gemuetlichkeit" was composed by a Mister Bernhard Dittrich from Chemnitz in Saxony. In cooperation with The German American Connection, Bier-Mania also has a exciting "Go East German Beer Tour" in the program – which takes you to the roots of German Beer Brewing tradition in Berlin and East Germany. Especially the Free States of Thuringia (Thueringen) and Saxony (Sachsen) are famous for their huge diversity of beer specialties and their many microbreweries.

www.bier-mania.com

http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/German_Beer_Brewing_Tour.php

Once-in-a-Lifetime exhibition “Model Bauhaus – Workshop for Modernity” in Berlin: Ninety years ago, Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus School for Art, Architecture and Design in Weimar (Thuringia, Germany). It existed only 14 years but it became the most important school of modernity. Many famous artists worked and taught at the Bauhaus school under the direction of Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. The Bauhaus is Germany’s most successful contribution to international art and culture of modernity in the 20th century. The special exhibition “Model Bauhaus” takes place from July 22 to October 4th, 2009 in Berlin. The three German Bauhaus institutions Bauhaus Archive Berlin, Foundation Bauhaus Dessau, Classicism Foundation Weimar – for the first time – jointly present this exhibition in cooperation with Museum of Modern Art in New York. “Bauhaus. A Conceptual Model” recounts the story of the Bauhaus in a comprehensive presentation of the works of its masters and students as well as the most important school issues. Inter-disciplinary, experimental teaching, the concept of practice-oriented workshops, the pursuit of answers to social questions, the propaganda of timeless aesthetics as well as experimentation with new techniques and materials in architecture and design were the school’s most important concerns. CULTOURINARIA offers special Bauhaus Tours to Berlin, Dessau, Leipzig, Weimar, Dresden and Prague. These tailor-made escorted small group tours are designed for people who are interested in art, architecture and design. We visit the authentic Bauhaus sites and we follow the – sometimes hidden – traces of Bauhaus influences. Depending on the group interest it can be either an exclusive leisure tour or an educational study tour. We have special deals for group hosts and teachers traveling with student groups: “With 12 you go free”. On the tours, you always have time to explore historic art and architecture, to enjoy German cuisine and local culinary delights and to go on your own individual excursions...

http://cultourinaria.com/Bauhaus_Tours.html

The Peace Marches in Leipzig and Fall of the Berlin Wall 1989: This year is the 20th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and the Fall of the Berlin Wall. These events triggered drastic changes around the world, marking the end of the Cold War and of the division of Europe. In 2009, Berlin and Leipzig focus on this anniversary – a reminiscence of the happenings in 1989: Awakening – Revolution – Unity. AWAKENING: In the GDR of the 1980's, dissatisfaction is growing among young people – they increasingly refuse to bow to the dictates of the State. Political opposition is organizing itself under the aegis of protestant church and in private circles. REVOLUTION: Some wish to reform society, others leave the GDR. Emigrations and escapes make a considerable contribution to the collapse of the regime of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED). On October 7th 1989, the 40th anniversary of the GDR, security forces still are still crushing the protest in Berlin – two days later, the mass demonstration in Leipzig progresses peacefully. Parties and initiatives emerge and now openly raise the question of power. Even after the Fall of the Wall on November 9th, the development still remains completely uncertain – the SED does not wish to abandon its absolute claim of power... UNITY: As early as during the demonstrations late in 1989, calls for national unity of Germany are being expressed. The first free elections in the GDR on March 18th ,1990, work out in favor of the “Alliance for Germany” which promises rapid unification. There are still many political hurdles to overcome, the peaceful “Monday Demonstrations” continued... Shortly before the signing of the reunification agreement on October 3rd ,1990, the citizen's movements succeed in forcing opening of the GDR secret police “Stasi” files. A euphoric spirit of optimism reigns throughout the country. The citizens of the former GDR can finally start to radically transform their country... Since the Peaceful Revolution 1989, it is not just the facades, streets, towns and cities of East Germany that have changed in appearance. Population, Culture, Art, Business, Science etc. have, to this day, all been undergoing constant change... In October and November 2009, we offer special “Fall of the Berlin Wall” tours which take you on a exciting journey to East Germany. You will experience young German history at original places – where it happened! Be part of the “Nights of the Candles” in Leipzig or the “Festival of Freedom” in Berlin, celebrate with people from all over the world in Berlin & Germany!

http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Fall_of_the_Berlin_Wall.html

In the footsteps of Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach in Germany: The life and work of two world famous visionaries are closely linked to the East German States Thuringia (Thuringen), Saxony-Anhalt (Sachsen-Anhalt) and Saxony (Sachsen): Martin Luther and J.S. Bach. In the 16th century, Martin Luther's challenging theological ideas inspired the Protestant Reformation and changed the course of Western civilization. Born in the small town Eisleben, from 1501 to 1505 Luther was a student at the University of Erfurt – the third oldest university in Germany. Afterwards he was admitted to the Augustinian Monastery, where he stayed as a monk until 1511. It's said that Thuringia's capital Erfurt was the young Luther's spiritual home. In Wittenberg, he was awarded his Doctor of Theology and he was called to the position of Doctor in Bible. It was in Wittenberg – today located in Saxony-Anhalt – where Luther held his first service in German and where he posted his famous 95 theses. Later in 1521, Luther was forced to live in protected custody on the fortress Wartburg, Eisenach (Thuringia). In 2009, from May to October, the Wartburg Museum shows a special exhibition "475 years of the Luther Bible". This exhibition – and much more – is part of one of the Cultural and Culinary Tours offered by CULTOURINARIA. Johann Sebastian Bach accompanies you on other tours – to the IX. Bach Festival Potsdam in early September as just one example. The most important German composer of the Baroque era was born in Eisenach (what a coincident ?!) in 1685. Bach spent his childhood and early years in Thuringia: Eisenach, Ohrdruf, Arnstadt and Weimar. In 1723, J.S. Bach was appointed Cantor of Thomas School, adjacent to the St. Thomas Church, in Leipzig, where he lived until his death in 1750. The German American Connection invites you on journeys in the footsteps of Bach & Luther. You can join one of CULTOURINARIA's classy Cultural & Culinary Tours we offer throughout the year. For existing groups and independent travelers we also organize tailor-made trips to Germany according to your special interest, your budget and your wishes. Along the trips you will always enjoy the beauty of Southern East Germany: castles, parks, gardens, fortresses, monasteries, small towns and villages, a fairy-tale landscapes, forests, local handcraft, traditional and modern culinary specialties and much more...

http://cultourinaria.com/cultural-culinary_tours.html

http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Martin_Luther.html

http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Johann_Sebastian_Bach.html

Do you like to travel independently or do you want to host a group trip to Germany?: No matter where in Germany you want to go, when you want to travel and what your personal interests are, we lay-out individual itineraries and organize your trip for you! As a small independent business we are flexible and we very much look forward to working together with you on YOUR special trip. We have a very broad and personal knowledge of hidden pearls in Germany – off the beaten tourism tracks. We regularly travel ourselves to discover new places for you. We speak German and can arrange private accommodations you usually do not find with big tour operators or on the internet: from inexpensive family-run pensions over private vacation apartments to romantic luxury castle hotels – We plan exciting trips for every budget. We can even save you money on car rental, accommodation train tickets and public transportation which is better spent on extra excursions and culinary delights! Enjoy the comfort of a professionally planned, pre-booked and organized trip! Our Individual Trip Planning service applies, but is not limited to: Single Travelers / Families / Friends / Couples / People searching for German Family Roots / Business Travelers / Professionals attending fairs, conferences, meetings / Existing Groups, Networks and Organizations for Special Interest Theme Tours – Leisure & Educational / Business Group Trips, Alumni Associations / College Travel Programs German / Classical Music Societies / American Organizations / German Heritage Organizations / Sister City or Twin Town Associations / Language Schools / Professional Networks ... If you want to take the members of your network or organization on a special trip – You will be the HOST / LEADER of the travel group inviting other members – We stay in the back and make sure the tour is going to be a great success and everyone – including YOU – is going to have a perfect time! We even take care of tour price calculations and finance management! As a host, you can even built in your trip for free or for a reduced price – again: We work together with you in order to make your trip to Germany perfect!

http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Individual_Traveler_Info.html

http://cultourinaria.com/Individual_Trip_Planning.html

More news & travel tips:

<http://www.tgac-us.com>