



In the FOOTSTEPS of MARTIN LUTHER

SEPTEMBER 21ST - 30TH 2023

On October 31, 1517, legend has it that the priest and scholar Martin Luther approached the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, and nailed a piece of paper to it containing 95 theses - revolutionary opinions that would begin the Protestant Reformation.

Or maybe he didn't! Modern scholarship has cast doubt on the accuracy of the traditional account. Joan Acocella, writing in the *New Yorker* states: "Not only were there no eyewitnesses; Luther himself, ordinarily an enthusiastic self-dramatizer, was vague on what had happened. He remembered drawing up a list of ninety-five theses around the date in question, but, as for what he did with it, all he was sure of was that he sent it to the local archbishop."

In the final analysis, it matters little how the document was transmitted - although there is a certain dramatic flair to the "nailed to the door" story - the fact that it was written and disseminated was enough to set in motion a chain of events that changed the world. In 1521, Luther was excommunicated for his refusal to back down on his 95 proposals for reform, and was subject to the Edict of Worms, issued by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. This declared Luther an outlaw and a heretic and gave anyone the right to execute him without consequence. Protected by Prince Frederick, he began his 10-year task of translating the New Testament into German, which he undertook in Wartburg Castle. In 1529 Charles V revoked a provision of the Edict of Worms that had allowed individual state rulers to decide whether to enforce it or not. Many of them protested this and became known as the "Protestants." The rest, as they say, is history.

If you would like to know more about this fascinating story, please consider joining us on this brand new tour, that has been developed in conjunction with our resident Berlin tour guide, Matthias Kort.



WARTBURG CASTLE



THE BRANDENBURG GATE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$3890**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 780**

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 7 nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- GUIDES:** DISCOVER EUROPE tour guide throughout
- BAGGAGE:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary, plus a 3-Day Berlin Museum pass
- TICKETS:** Best seats to a major concert (Berlin Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin or similar depending on schedules)

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.





THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST - Departure from your chosen gateway city.

OVERNIGHT: PLANE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND - Your arrival in Berlin will be met for the drive to our hotel in Wittenberg. After checking in to our hotel, there will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring this lovely university town on the river Elbe. This evening there will be an orientation meeting before we gather for dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: WITTENBERG**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD - This morning we take a walking tour of the town. Officially known, since 1922, as Lutherstadt Wittenberg (literally Luther Town) the town is famous as the “birthplace of the protestant reformation,” for it was here that Martin Luther first published his 95 theses in 1517. We’ll visit the Lutherhaus - once a monastery and Luther’s home, it is now a museum displaying his personal artifacts and paintings – the church of St. Marien, where Luther preached, and the schlosskirche (Castle church), where Luther is said to have nailed his theses. The afternoon and evening are free for personal exploration. **(B) OVERNIGHT: WITTENBERG**

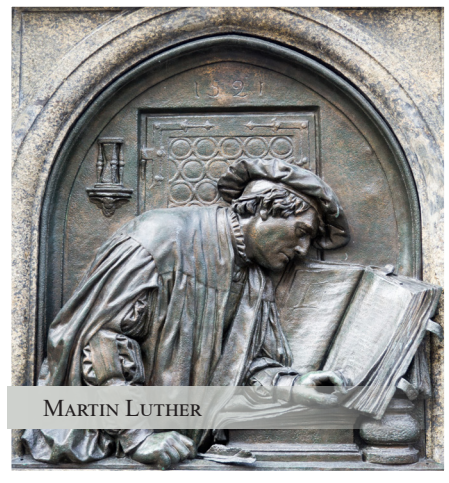
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH - Leaving Wittenberg, our first stop this morning will be the town of Eisleben. Coincidentally, Eisleben is both the town of Luther’s birth and the town where he preached his last sermon and died in 1546. We’ll visit the houses where he was born and where he died (both now listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites) and see the original font in the church of St. Peter & Paul, where he was baptised. After time for lunch, we’ll continue Erfurt. Our walking tour of Erfurt old town includes a visit to the cathedral of St. Mary (with origins from the 8th century), where Luther was ordained and the nearby Gothic church of St. Severus. A short drive then brings us to our hotel in Eisenach, where dinner awaits. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: EISENACH**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH - We’ll begin our day with a guided tour of Wartburg castle. It was here that Luther was secretly given shelter by Prince Frederick III, Elector of Saxony, after being excommunicated, and also where he worked on his translation of the New Testament from Greek to German. Returning to the town center, we’ll visit the Lutherhaus, a half-timbered building that is now a museum dedicated to Martin Luther. The rest of the day is free to explore the town – perhaps pay a visit to the Bachhaus Museum, celebrating the life of the local born composer, Johann Sebastian Bach. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: EISENACH**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH - Our excursion today takes us through the heart of Germany from the region of Thuringen and into Hessen and the town of Marburg. It was here that the first protestant university was founded in 1527 and where the famous disputation took place between the reformers Luther, Zwingli and Melancthon in 1529. Our tour will include a walking tour of the Old Town and the castle of Marburg. There will be free time to explore before we return to Eisenach. Dinner is included this evening at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: EISENACH**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH - After breakfast this morning, we head to Berlin, the German capital. On the way we will stop in the city of Leipzig, formerly in East Germany. We’ll visit St. Thomas’ Church, where JS Bach was the cantor and where he has been buried since 1950, and then, opposite the church, visit the museum dedicate to his life and works. There will be some free time to explore and have lunch before we continue to Berlin. After checking into our hotel there will be time to settle in and freshen up before we gather for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BERLIN**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH - This morning, we will have an introduction to the city: a panoramic tour, revealing treasures from the depth of Berlin’s capital culture enhanced with the precious insights of your local guide. This afternoon, we depart on a boat ride through the heart of the city on the River Spree. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are free for individual exploration and your tour guide will have plenty of ideas and suggestions to make the best use of your time. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BERLIN**



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH - Our excursion today takes us southwest from Berlin. Our first stop will be the Allied Museum on the outskirts of the city. Set in the former “Western Zone” of the city, the museum shows the military and political scenery of the region from the end of World War II to the reunification. From here we continue to the shores of the Wannsee to visit the site, now a memorial, of the infamous Wannsee Conference of 1942, where the Nazis planned their “Final Solution” to the Jewish “problem.” Then, in contrast, we head to the Cecilienhof Palace, the site of the Potsdam Conference at the end of the war, where the fate of Berlin was sealed. We will break for lunch in the beautiful Dutch Quarter of Potsdam and then visit the retreat of the Prussian kings at Sanssouci. We’ll explore the summer residence built for Frederick the Great between 1745-47, frequently called the “Prussian Versailles.” Sanssouci is a stunning legacy to a modest king, famous for saying “a crown is just a hat that lets the rain in.” After returning to the hotel, the we gather for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BERLIN**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH - Transfers are included this morning to Berlin Airport for return flights to the USA **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

*Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner