



Reformation Tours presents
**Our Great Heritage
Reformation Tour**

July 24 - August 3, 2024



Our Great Heritage Reformation Tour

July 24 – August 3, 2024

Dear Travelers,

As your Reformation tour begins, we hope you will experience new cultures, thoughts, landscapes, and joy. We desire that your tour be a time of refreshment, relaxation, and adventure. Travel enables us to learn about the exciting times of spiritual growth and historical changes when the concepts of Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, and Sola Fide spread across the landscapes of Europe and beyond.

We have prepared this book to accompany your trip. It includes extra information on the places you will visit and the people mentioned along the way. It also includes some fun facts and extra reading. Please note that the itinerary may change slightly after printing.

We hope you will enjoy fellowship and worship with brothers and sisters in the Lord during the tour, both with fellow travelers and those you meet along the way. Finally, we hope you will return home from your tour refreshed and enriched in mind and spirit, having made some wonderful memories.

Our prayers go with you,

Rowena Drinkhouse and Staff
Reformation Tours, LLC

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Meet the Travelers

Tour Hosts

Pastor Justin Dauck

Pastor Joel Naumann

Tour Participants:

Ilene Berger

Gretchen Brei

Mitch and Lorrie Bur

Dallas and Vicki Christ

Brian and Tammy Dauck

Steve and Melinda Hahm

Larry and Carol Hans

Stanley and Mary Hueske

Cathryn Naumann

Arlyn and Deb Panko

Daniel and Melissa Price

Scott and Jona Raasch

Keith Schleusener

Joel and Karen Schroeder

Wes and Cari Schroeder

Nicholas and Heidi Warnke

Mark and Debra Wells

Tour Itinerary Summary

Key: IF = In Flight Meals, B= Breakfast, D = Dinner

Day	Date	Itinerary	Meals
1	Wednesday, July 24	Depart the US	IF
2	Thursday, July 25	Dresden, Berlin	IF/D
3	Friday, July 26	Berlin, Wittenberg	B/D
4	Saturday, July 27	Wittenberg	B
5	Sunday, July 28	Zwickau	B/L
6	Monday, July 29	Erfurt	B/D
7	Tuesday, July 30	Eisenach, Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber	B/D
8	Wednesday, July 31	Romantic Road, Dachau, Salzburg	B/D
9	Thursday, August 1	Salzburg, Munich	B/D
10	Friday, August 2	Munich, Mainz	B/D
11	Saturday, August 3	Return to US	B/IF

Featured Hotels

July 25-26, 2024

Park Inn by Radisson Berlin

Berlin, Germany (+Pre-tour hotel)

July 30-31, 2024

Hotel Rappen

Rothenburg, Germany

July 26-28, 2024

Best Western Hotel Soibelmanns

Wittenberg, Germany

July 31-August 1, 2024

Hotel Rupertihof

Salzburg, Austria

July 28-29, 2024

Best Western Hotel Plaza

Zwickau, Germany

August 1-2, 2024

Maritim Hotel

Munich, Germany

July 29-30, 2024

Mercure Hotel Erfurt Altstadt

Erfurt, Germany

August 2-3, 2024

Hotel AC by Marriott

Mainz, Germany

Tour Information

Welcome to your tour! Our team has been praying for you, and we hope your trip exceeds your expectations. The following pages contain the details of your trip, including departure and mealtimes. While the information listed in the itinerary was accurate at the time of printing, it is subject to change, so we value your flexibility! Please carefully record any changes from your tour director so you don't miss any of the fun events we have planned for you.

We suggest you put the following numbers in your phone so you can call or text us if you need any assistance while on tour:

Tour Director: Thomas Plinninger +49 160 776 3989

Tour Host: Rev. Justin Dauck +1 402 806 9082

Tour Host: Rev. Joel Nauman + 1 715 214 7880

Reformation Tours:

(618) 222-9914 during business hours

(618) 977-3533 for emergencies

Some tour hints and etiquette to make the best of your trip:

- Have your passport with you at all times.
- Please be on time or a few minutes early for all departures, as any late arrivals will affect the entire group and possibly that day's planned activities.
- Please let your tour director know right away if you are not going to be able to keep to the day's schedule.
- Please refrain from talking during a tour when the tour leader is speaking.
- Please report any and all concerns to your tour director or to Reformation Tours right away. Most issues can be resolved easily if we are made aware of them. We want your trip to be as pleasant and enjoyable as possible!

Calling Internationally

Dial the international access code:

- 011 if calling from a US or Canadian landline or mobile phone
- 00 if calling from a number in any European country

Dial the country code:

- For example, dial 44 if you're calling England

Dial the phone number:

- If the number begins with a 0, drop it



Tour Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Wednesday, July 24, 2024: Flight

Our journey begins as we board our international flight to Berlin, Germany.

Day 2: Thursday, July 25, 2024: Arrival in Berlin, Dresden

Upon our early morning arrival in Berlin, our tour director, Thomas Plinnenger, will meet us and escort us to our waiting motor coach. We will drive to Dresden and have free time to purchase lunch. We will attend the noon concert at the Frauenkirche, followed by an optional city tour. We will depart at 3 PM and check in to our hotel in Berlin. Dinner is at 7:30 PM. **(IF)**

Day 3: Friday, July 26, 2024: Berlin

After breakfast, we will meet in the lobby to board the bus for our Berlin city tour. We'll see the famous Brandenburg Gate, the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Cathedral, the Reichstag building, and the lively boulevards. This city has undergone momentous changes since reunification. We will visit the Neues Altes Museum, then continue to Wittenberg, where we'll dine in our hotel. **(B/D)**

Day 4: Saturday, July 27, 2024: Wittenberg

A local guide will join us for a tour of Lutherstadt-Wittenberg, including the site where Luther posted his 95 Theses. Although the original door was destroyed in a fire, the replica has all 95 Theses in bronze, which is magnificent. The tour also includes St. Mary's Church, where Luther regularly preached. Lutherhalle (Luther House) Museum is currently closed for renovations, but we will visit the special exhibition "Literally Luther. Facets of a Reformer" in the nearby Augusteum. In 1508 when Martin Luther came to Wittenberg, he lived in the Lutherhalle with other Augustinian Monks. Later, Luther and his wife, Katharina von Bora, raised six children here. The afternoon and evening are at leisure. **(B)**

Day 5: Sunday, July 28, 2024: Zwickau

We will depart early this morning to reach Zwickau in time for the morning service at St. Petri-Church. Zwickau was the first city after Wittenberg to adopt the Reformation. Zwickau is also the headquarters for our sister church in Germany, the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (ELFK). After a group lunch with invited guests, Dr. Gottfried Herrmann, a Zwickau expert and church historian, will take us on a Reformation-themed walk. We will visit St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Katherine's Church, the Dr. Martin Luther School, and St. John's Church. We will stay overnight in Zwickau. **(B/L)**

Day 6: Monday, July 29, 2024: Erfurt

After breakfast, we will drive through the Thuringian countryside to Erfurt where we will have free time for lunch. Our afternoon walking tour will include viewing the Cathedral and the famous Krämer Bridge. We will end the tour at the Augustinian Monastery, where we will have a private service in the chapel. We will dine together this evening. **(B/D)**

Day 7: Tuesday, July 30, 2024: Eisenach, Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber

This morning, we will visit nearby Eisenach for a tour of the Wartburg Castle, where Luther translated the New Testament into German. In the afternoon, we will travel to Rothenburg, a well-preserved medieval city with ramparts, a city gate, and a town hall. Perhaps the most famous town on the “Romantic Road”, Rothenburg is a jewel. It is a nearly intact medieval walled city without a single modern building. We will enjoy a meal together at our hotel in this wonderful city, followed by the Night Watchman’s tour. **(B/D)**

Day 8: Wednesday, July 31, 2024: Romantic Road, Dachau, Salzburg

We’ll board the coach and drive the Romantic Road to Dachau, where we’ll tour the Concentration Camp and prayerfully remember those who were interned. We’ll then continue to Salzburg where we’ll attend the Mozart Dinner Show in the Baroque Hall of St. Peter’s Monastery. **(B/D)**

Day 9: Thursday, August 1, 2024: Salzburg, Munich

This morning's walking tour of Salzburg includes the Mirabel Gardens, a walk over the river, the Cathedral, a walk through the cemetery where a famous American general is buried, the Mozart statue, and the Getreidegasse, the major shopping street in Salzburg. In the afternoon, we will visit Berchtesgaden and board a local bus to ride up the Kehlstein Strasse to Hitler's Nest for a spectacular view of Austria. We can also enjoy coffee or ice cream in the cafe. We'll end the day with a traditional Bavarian dinner at the famous "Hofbräuhaus." **(B/D)**

Day 10: Friday, August 2, 2024: Munich, Mainz

We will have a walking tour of the highlights of Munich this morning, including the Frauenkirche, the New City Hall, Marienplatz, and the famous Glockenspiel. We'll drive by the Olympic Stadium, Nymphenburg Castle, the New and Old Pinakothek, and the Deutsches Museum on our way to the Rhine River region. Our final night is in Mainz, and we will dine in our hotel. **(B/D)**

Day 11: Saturday, August 3, 2024: Departure

Our motor coach takes us to Frankfurt airport for our return flight home.

Park Inn by Radisson Berlin



Park Inn by Radisson Berlin

Alexanderplatz 7
D -10178 Berlin
Tel: 011-49-30-23890

Located adjacent to the famous Alexanderplatz Square in former East Berlin, this hotel is in the heart of the city, near the TV Tower and the Brandenburg Gate. You can enjoy magnificent panoramic views of Berlin's skyline from the rooftop terrace.

Amenities: Free Wi-fi, elevator, flat-screen satellite TVs, air conditioning, heated bathroom floors, in-room coffee and tea facilities, spa, and fitness center, three different restaurants—breakfast, traditional specialties, European-Californian fusion—rooftop terrace with bar, and conference facilities.



Best Western Soibelmans, Wittenberg



[Best Western Hotel Soibelmans](#)

Collegianstrasse 56-57
06886 Wittenberg

This charming modern hotel is superbly situated in the heart of the city, next to the famous Lutherhaus Museum, within walking distance of the Castle Church, St Mary's Church, and other Reformation and tourist sites. Features include a cozy restaurant with a fireplace, a courtyard terrace, and a chic bar.

Amenities: Free Wi-fi, hairdryer, elevator, air conditioning, satellite TV, coffee makers, minibar, complimentary bottled water, sauna, restaurant, bar/lounge, business center, meeting facilities, concierge services, dry cleaning/laundry, and room service.



Best Western Hotel Plaza, Zwickau



[Best Western Hotel Plaza](#)

Olzmannstraße 57
08060 Zwickau

This modern hotel is very close to Zwickau's historic center. The Estia Restaurant serves Mediterranean and International food. There's also a sun terrace where you can enjoy a summer drink. The hotel also has a sauna, which is available for an additional charge.

Amenities: Free Wi-fi, hairdryer, elevator, satellite TV, tea and coffee making facilities, sauna, restaurant, bar/lounge, meeting facilities, business center, concierge services, dry cleaning/laundry, and room service.



Mercure Hotel Erfurt Altstadt



[Mercure Hotel Erfurt Altstadt](#)

Meienbergstr. 26-27

99084 Erfurt

This 4* hotel is located very close to the Merchant Bridge. The traditional Zum Rebstock Restaurant serves local and international specialties. Guests can relax on the summer terrace.

Amenities: Free Wi-fi, hairdryer, elevator, satellite TV, tea and coffee making facilities, sauna, restaurant, bar/lounge, meeting facilities, business center, concierge services, dry cleaning/laundry, and room service.



Hotel Rappen, Rothenburg



[Hotel Rappen](#)

Vorm Wurzbürger Tor 6-10
91541 Rothenburg ob der Tauber

The Rappen Hotel is located in a historic building dating back to 1603. Originally a tavern, it offered travellers and their horses comfortable lodging and Imperial city hospitality. The post-war renovations included adding another neighboring building. Dating back to 1603, this fully renovated hotel is close to the center of medieval Rothenburg ob der Tauber. The hotel features a traditional Franconian restaurant, a beer garden, and a rustic-chic bar.

Amenities: Free Wi-fi, hairdryer, elevator, satellite TV, tea and coffee making facilities, sauna, restaurant, bar/lounge, meeting facilities, business center, concierge services, dry cleaning/laundry, and room service.



Hotel Rupertihof, Salzburg

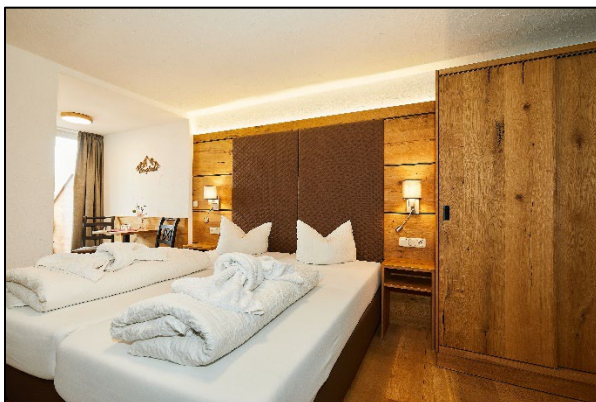


[Hotel Rupertihof](#)

D – 83404 Ainring
Rupertiweg 17

The Rupertihof is located in the village of Ainring, just outside Salzburg, in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, by Lake Fuschl. Guests can relax on the terrace or in the beer garden. There are indoor and outdoor pools, a whirlpool, saunas, and a fitness room. Three restaurants feature local produce. Most rooms have balconies.

Amenities: Free Wi-fi, hairdryer, satellite TV, tea and coffee making facilities, sauna, restaurants, indoor and outdoor pools,



Maritim Hotel München, Munich

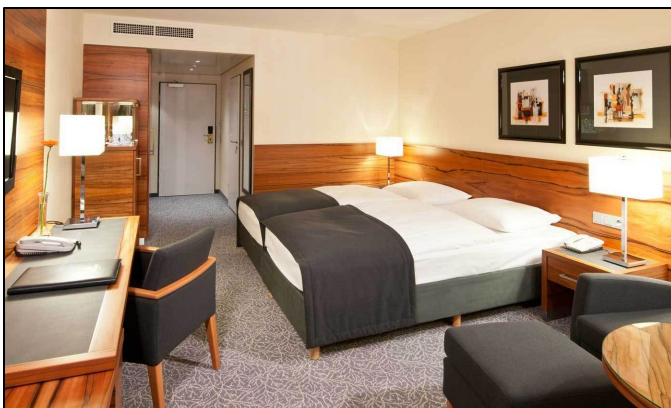


Maritim Hotel München

Goethestraße 7
80336 München

Located in the heart of Munich, the Maritim Hotel features a rooftop swimming pool with panoramic views of the city center and the famous Frauenkirche. It is within easy access of Munich's main train station, Karlsplatz Stachus square, and the famous Theresienwiese, where Oktoberfest is held every year.

Amenities: Free Wi-fi, hairdryer, air conditioning, large flat screen TVs, elevator, restaurant serving regional and international specialties, piano bar, beer garden, swimming pool, fitness area (fee), sauna (fee), dry cleaning and laundry.



Hotel AC, Mainz



Mainz, Germany

May 31 – June 1, 2024

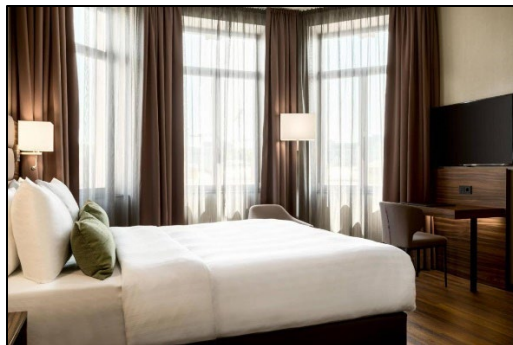
[Hotel AC by Marriott](#)

Bahnhofpl. 8

55116 Mainz

The Hotel AC by Marriott is a stylish boutique hotel located near the train station in the historic city center of Mainz. The [Adam & Eden Restaurant](#) serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Amenities include free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, elevator, flat-screen TVs, air conditioning, tea/coffee maker and an excellent breakfast.





**Country, City,
& Featured Site
Information**

Welcome to Germany



Capital: Berlin

Population: 82.7 million

Official Language: German

Currency: € Euro

Time Zone: EST +6 hours

Country Code: +011 49

Emergency Number: 112 (equivalent to 911 in the U.S.)

If the word “romance” isn’t the first word that comes to mind when thinking about Germany, a drive down Southern Germany’s nearly 250-mile Romantic Road filled with fairytale castles, medieval towns, and woodland forests might just change your mind. Traveling a bit farther south welcomes stunning views of the Bavarian Alps—a breathtaking natural divide along the Austrian border. A turn north opens history wide in an area known as Lutherland, where Martin Luther ignited the Protestant Reformation, changing the face of the Church and the world. Across Germany, countless charming towns highlight the music, tradition, and fun of Oktoberfest year-round, then Christkindlmarkts warm the Advent season.

While the northern capital of Berlin still bears scars of the atrocities of the events surrounding Auschwitz and the remnants of a wall that divided a nation in two, it also offers hope for the future. In recent decades, Berlin has rebirthed into a gleaming city featuring high-tech trains and world-class museums. Other major metropolitan areas have followed suit, making Germany a world leader in innovation, education, research, and technology. National Geographic magazine recently described Germany as “Europe’s strongest economic and industrial power.”

Berlin



Berlin is a study in contrasts—a city steeped in history yet bustling with the latest innovations. This lively city offers an eclectic mix of sites to explore, like the 18th-century Brandenburg Gate, the Golden Berliner Philharmonic, and numerous world-class museums set against the somber backdrop of the Holocaust Memorial, Checkpoint Charlie, and the crumbling remains of the Berlin Wall.

History Highlights

Friedrich Wilhelm of Brandenburg built the city at the end of the 17th century. The Edict of Potsdam, on October 29, 1685, opened the gates for vast immigration. By 1871, Berlin's population had reached one million and had become known internationally as a major leader in science, the arts, and government. But by the end of World War II, one-third of Berlin's buildings had been destroyed, its population had decreased by more than 1 million, and its Jewish population by more than 150,000. After the war, Berlin was split into four occupation sectors among Great Britain, France, the U.S., and the Soviet Union. The three western sectors became a city-state and split from the eastern sector, with Berlin at its core. The Berlin Wall went up in August 1961, sealing the city's division into east and west for three decades. On November 9, 1989, the Wall was suddenly opened, and Germany again became one unified nation, spurring dramatic growth and rebirth.

Alexanderplatz

Named after Tsar Alexander I, this transportation junction features shops, cinemas, and restaurants and is within easy walking distance of many attractions, making it the ideal starting point for a sightseeing tour of Berlin. It's also known as a popular film location and the site of peaceful demonstrations against the East German regime.

Berlin Cathedral (Berliner Dom Am Lustgarten)

The largest church in the city and a vital center for the Protestant church of Germany. The Berliner Dom was the former court cathedral of Prussia's royal family and was conceived as a Protestant answer to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Martin Luther, John Calvin, Philip Melancthon, and Swiss Ulrich Zwingli are memorialized here in statues, with their fingers pointing to the Bible, as a message to future generations to seek truth. The "Dom" became a Lutheran church with Martin Luther's support.

Berlin Wall Memorial (Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer)

Poignant, stark, eerie, and gripping, this museum brings visitors face-to-face with the horrors Berlin once suffered when the Berlin Wall divided East and West Berlin from August 13, 1961, to November 9, 1989, cutting a line through the entire city center. The memorial shows how the border facilities were constructed and imparts a lasting impression of the boundary that divided the entire nation.

Brandenburg Gate (Brandenburger Tor)

This beautiful 18th-century neoclassical gate was commissioned by Frederick William II as an entrance to Unter den Linden, which led to the Prussian palace. It is the only remaining town gate in Berlin. It is comprised of elaborate columns and carved motifs and reliefs based mostly on the exploits of Heracles. The structure was topped off with a statue known as the "Quadriga," depicting the goddess of victory driving a chariot pulled by four horses—a section removed more than once. Citizens flocked to this symbol of Berlin when the Berlin Wall fell for weeks of celebrations.

Check Point Charlie Museum (Mauermuseum Haus am Checkpoint Charlie)

East Berliners' escape attempts—ingenious and daring, risky and sometimes successful—are showcased here. Learn about the ingenious ways they went over, under, or through the wall using gliders, homemade hot air balloons, cars with secret compartments, and so much more. Authentic newspaper clippings and media resources accompany many displays. The museum is a must see to get a handle on the soul of this once divided nation and Berlin.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer House Museum (Bonhoeffer-Haus)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is a modern-day hero of faith who stood strong during the Nazi era and helped found the Confessing Church in Germany. He lived here with his parents and met with others who were planning resistance against the Nazis. He was arrested at this location on April 5, 1943, and later died in the Flossenburg Concentration Camp. In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer rebuked nominal Christians saying, "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline. Communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."

Gendarmenmarkt

Berlin's most magnificent square is best known for the architectural trio composed of the German and French cathedrals and Schinkel's Konzerthaus (concert hall), which together form one of the most stunning ensembles in Berlin. The "domes" refer to the domed

tower structures erected in 1785 by architect Carl von Gontard. They were mainly intended to add stature and grandeur to the two buildings.

German Historical Museum/DHM, (Deutsches Historisches Museum)

A museum of German history, it describes itself as a place of “enlightenment and understanding of the shared history of Germans and Europeans.” It is often viewed as one of the most important museums in Berlin and is one of the most frequented. It contains displays of WWI, WWII, German Romanticism, early history, and more.

Jewish Museum (Studio Libeskind)

Jewish Museum Berlin was opened in 2001 and is the largest Jewish Museum in Europe. It consists of three buildings, two of which are new additions specifically built for the museum. German-Jewish history is documented in the collections, the library, and the archive, and is reflected in the museum’s program of events. The museum is one of Germany’s most visited museums.

Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche)

The church was built in the late 1800s and badly damaged in World War II. It was left as a partial ruin as a visual reminder of war’s destruction. It’s an emotional place to visit. The church is named after Wilhelm I who can be seen in the well-preserved mosaics in the vestibule of the old church. The vestibule entry area is also a war memorial represented by historical illustrations of the church and the theme of cross-cultural reconciliation.

Martin Gropius Building (Martin Gropius Bau)

This building is considered one of Berlin’s most magnificent with its combined classical and Renaissance features. A short walk from Potsdamer Platz, it ranks among one of Europe’s top international exhibition and event venues.

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (Denkmal für die Ermordeten Juden Europas)

Located near the Brandenburg Gate, the Holocaust Memorial is a simple but powerful tribute to the Jews who died as a result of Hitler’s extermination plan. Here, 2,711 concrete slabs are arranged in a wave-like pattern over 205,000 square feet. Each stone is unique, varying from ankle high to over six feet tall. There is no set pattern and visitors may walk in any direction through the peaceful, quiet stones. An information center housed underneath the memorial offers timelines and personal stories of people affected by the actions of the Nazi party. *Not recommended for youth under 14 years of age due to the subject matter.

Pergamon Museum (Pergamonmuseum) – currently closed

This world-class museum showcases rare antiquities and religious art from such great cities as Pergamum, Miletus, and Babylon. Don’t miss the Pergamon Altar from the ancient city of Pergamon (one of the Seven Churches of Revelation), the gateway to the Greek city of Miletus built by Emperor Hadrian, and the Ishtar Gate and Processional Way built by Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

Potsdamer Platz

Potsdamer Platz is an important public square that has been redeveloped as the new center of Berlin after the fall of the Wall. A bustling traffic intersection in the 1920s, it became desolate after WWII and part of the border strip by the Berlin Wall. Berlin's Potsdamer Platz is the most striking example of the urban renewal that turned Berlin into the "New Berlin" in the 1990s. The area today consists of a Berlin Wall exhibition on the corner, and three developments known as Daimler City (1998), the Sony Centre (2000), and the Beisheim Centre (2004), which literally transformed the dormant wasteland where the Berlin Wall stood between east and west Berlin until 1989.

Reichstag

The Reichstag was built to house the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany. It was designed by Paul Wallot and completed in 1894. A month after Hitler seized power in 1933, the building was set on fire, which Hitler blamed on communists and used as a pretext to demand emergency powers. It was bombed by the Allies during World War II and stormed in 1945 by Russian troops (you can still see the graffiti they left behind). The Reichstag is now home to the German Bundestag (parliament) but retains its original name. The glass dome atop the building embodies the ideals of transparency in government. Climb above the Reichstag with a spiral staircase for a peek inside and a spectacular view.

Unter den Linden

Berlin's elegant boulevard is found in the old heart of Berlin, going all the way from the Brandenburg Gate to Schlossbrücke Bridge. On the boulevard Unter den Linden, there are many important institutions such as the Humboldt University and the State Opera.

WWII Topography of Terror Museum (Topographie des Terrors)

This powerful and poignant museum about WWII Nazi history is an easy way to get a glimpse into this period of Germany's past. One of the few original remainders of the Berlin Wall is also part of the site.

Dresden



After being nearly destroyed by Allied bombing during WWII, Dresden has been rebuilding itself into a cultural center once again. Today, Dresden offers a unique blend of stunning architecture, world-famous art collections, and great tradition in both music and fine art. Highlights of the city include the magnificent palatial buildings around the Theater Platz: Semper Opera House, Zwinger Palace, and recently completed renovations of the famous Frauenkirche, Germany's largest Protestant Church.

History Highlights

Dresden was first mentioned in 1216 as a German colony. It was rebuilt and fortified after a disastrous fire in 1491. Martin Luther visited Dresden in 1516 and 1518. Heinrich the Pious and his sons converted their lands to Protestantism, and the rest of the city followed in 1539. Augustus I and Augustus II modernized the city in the Baroque and Rococo styles in the late 17th and 18th centuries. In 1813, Napoleon I made the town a center of military operations and there won his last great battle. Dresden's prosperity grew rapidly during the 19th century, and it was called "the Florence on the Elbe," considered one of the world's most beautiful cities. Tragically, Dresden was almost completely destroyed by Allied bombing raids on February 13–14, 1945 and thousands of civilians were killed. In recent years the city has been reconstructed in a modern, less ornate style than at its height.

Bruehl's Terrace at Dresden (Brühlsche Terrasse)

"The Balcony of Europe" gives a panoramic view of the Elbe River and is a great spot to enjoy Dresden. It was once a part of Dresden's protective ramparts. By 1748, the Bruehl was turned into a beautiful garden. Today, visitors enjoy strolling the promenade and taking in Dresden's panoramic views.

Church of Our Lady (Frauenkirche)

Dresden's restored Church of Our Lady, the Frauenkirche, is Germany's largest Protestant church. The original church was replaced in the 18th century by a larger Baroque Lutheran building. It is considered an outstanding example of Protestant sacred architecture, featuring one of the largest domes in Europe. When Dresden was bombed in WWII, the Frauenkirche wasn't hit by bombs but collapsed two days later from fire damage. The remaining ruins were left for 50 years as a war memorial. The church was rebuilt after the reunification of Germany. Since re-opening, it has been a tourist destination—in the first three years, seven million people visited the church as tourists and to attend worship services.

Royal Palace, Dresden Castle (Residenzschloss)

The Royal Palace is home to the Dresden State Art Collections contained in six different museums. The Green Vault (Grünes Gewölbe) houses what is considered to be one of the largest collections of treasures in Europe. Located in Dresden Castle, it contains more than 4,000 items. Visitors to this baroque castle will find magnificent works of art including gold figurines and unusual pieces such as gilded goblets made from ostrich eggs. It is also a showcase for an amazing collection of gems and jewels, including the 41-carat Dresden Green Diamond. The Residenzschloss Dresden was among the most magnificent and important Renaissance palaces in Germany and the permanent residence of the Saxon kings and electors since 1485. It is open Mondays, while the Zwinger Palace Museums are closed.

Semper Opera (Semperoper)

Considered the most famous opera house in Germany—and one of the most beautiful in the world—Semper Opera House was built between 1838 and 1841 by Gottfried Semper. It was built in the Italian High Renaissance style with richly decorated architecture and artistic ornamentation. It is home to the Saxon State Opera, which looks back on a long and illustrious past. Musical accompaniment is provided by the prestigious Dresden State Orchestra of Saxony. Destroyed during WWII, the Semper has been grandly rebuilt and renovated.

Zwinger Palace Museum, Semperbau Museum and Courtyards

The Zwinger is a superb museum complex containing numerous individual museums: *the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister* (Old Masters Picture Gallery), the *Porzellansammlung* (Dresden Procelain Collection) and the *Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon* (Royal Cabinet of Mathematical and Physical Instruments). The gallery has as its showpiece Raphael's *Sistine Madonna*. The world-famous Zwinger is a magnificent Baroque building featuring courtyard gardens and exquisite design.

Wittenberg



Wittenberg, or Lutherstadt-Wittenberg as it is formally known, was the hometown of Martin Luther. It was here that he posted the 95 Theses on October 31, 1517, sparking the Protestant Reformation. Wittenberg's skyline is dominated by the unique tower of Castle Church, the famous site of Luther's 95 Theses and quite possibly one of the most important churches in the history of Christianity.

History Highlights

Wittenberg would likely be overlooked as having any real historical significance had it not been for the events sparked by resident Martin Luther. Luther first arrived in Wittenberg in 1508 to study at Wittenberg's world-renown university, at the time a hotbed of intellectual and religious discourse. Perhaps inspired by the debate and fervor of the times, on October 31, 1517, Luther took out his frustration with the church's selling of indulgences and other unbiblical practices and famously nailed his 95 Theses to the doors of Castle Church, sparking the Protestant Reformation. Here Luther taught, preached, and led the Reformation.

Castle Church (Schlosskirche)

Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of Castle Church in 1517. Although the original doors were destroyed in 1760 during the Seven Years War, the current bronze doors feature a copy of the theses. The church contains the tombs of Luther, Melancthon, and Frederick the Wise along with beautiful stained-glass windows with Biblical scenes. The top of the tower offers a view of the surrounding countryside. The church once held one of Europe's largest collections of holy relics, collected by Frederick III of Saxony in the 16th century.

Cranach Courtyard & Cranach House Museum, (Cranachhof & Cranachhaus)

The Cranach Houses at Markt 4 and Schlosstrabe 1 were the lodgings and workshops of Lucas Cranach the Elder and his son, Lucas Cranach the Younger, two artist-entrepreneurs who were instrumental in the growth of the Reformation. Cranach helped print and publish Martin Luther's "September Testament" in his printing shop. The Cranachs produced some of the first illustrated books, which proclaimed the gospel of grace, as rediscovered by Martin Luther. They were some of the first masters of propaganda, using their woodcuts on the printing press to vividly illustrate Luther's works and other Reformation writings. The Cranachs created the most famous portraits and church art of the 16th century in Germany in their painter's workshop, leaving behind a record of Reformation leaders through their exquisite portraits. Portraits of Luther disguised in the Wartburg Castle as Junker Jorg (Knight George) help us today better understand the events and people of the Reformation. Without Cranach the Elder and Younger's works, we would have difficulty knowing what Luther looked like. Lucas Cranach also ran a pharmacy and other businesses trading in paper, paints, wax, sandstone, & spices.

Luther House and Museum (Lutherhalle, Lutherhaus) – currently closed

Once an Augustinian monastery, then home to Martin Luther and his family, this UNESCO World Heritage Site now boasts the world's largest Reformation museum. It is full of history and genuine memorabilia, housed right where the Reformation was forged. The exhibits include one of the chests used for collecting money for indulgences, an "indulgence" letter, the table where Luther held his "table talks," and the pulpit that Martin Luther used for preaching. Today, the exhibition *Martin Luther: Life, Work, and Legacy* transports visitors back to Reformation times with fascinating exhibits such as Luther's Living Room, Lucas Cranach the Elder's Ten Commandments, and a Lutheran Bible from 1534. This is where Luther had his "Tower Experience" studying Romans 1:17 in his heated study in the tower when he says he came to faith.

Luther Oak (Luther Eiche)

In December 1520, Luther defiantly burned the Papal Bull that threatened his excommunication for "heresy" on this very spot, fueling the fire with books containing the old church law. Rome had burned Luther's books, so he was burning their decree against him. Later an oak tree was planted to commemorate the bold event, called the Luthereiche (Luther oak). Luther chose this location intentionally, for this is where the clothing of those who had died of contagious diseases was burned. According to a legend, the first tree was planted one day after Luther's brave act. The original oak was cut down in spite by occupying French Catholic forces in 1813 who needed firewood. A replacement tree was planted on the same spot in 1830 on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession.

Luther Statue at Wittenberg (Lutherdenkmal)

The Luther monument in the Market Square is next to a statue of his Reformation colleague Phillip Melancthon. On one side it states, "If it is of God, it will last; if it is of man, it will pass."

Luther Wedding Festival

Every June Wittenberg celebrates its most famous couple, Martin Luther and Katharina von Bora, in a re-enactment of their wedding. The old town transforms into a medieval spectacle with market stalls, entertainers, people in period costume, artisan displays of products from Luther's time, and around the castle church musicians perform historic music. A festive procession of bride, groom, and 2,000 wedding guests moves through the alleys of the old town of Lutherstadt Wittenberg, crowning the unforgettable event.

Melanchthon's House (Melanchthonhaus)

This is the home of Philip Melanchthon, Luther's right-hand man and the main author of the Augsburg Confession, the first official Protestant creed. This splendidly restored 1536 Renaissance style house is one of Wittenberg's greatest architectural gems and has been preserved largely unchanged through the centuries. This is the house where Melanchthon resided with his family and many guests, where he penned many of his writings, and where he staged poetry contests with his students. Today, its exhibition "Philipp Melanchthon: Life-Work-Legacy" provides an intimate look at the private life of Philip Melanchthon. View a copy of the Augsburg Confession, a document dating back to 1520, as well as a larger-than-life portrait of Melanchthon by Lucas Cranach the Younger.

St. Mary's City Church (Stadtkirche St. Marien or Evangelische Stadtkirchengemeinde)

The town and parish church is the oldest building in town and is now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Martin Luther worked here as a preacher beginning in 1512 and delivered countless sermons until the end of his life. Luther's preaching against indulgences began here, it was here that services were held in German for the first time (rather than in Latin), and The Lord's Supper was first distributed here, as both bread and wine, among the congregation. Here, Luther preached his famous sermon, "The Just Shall Live by Faith." In 1535, the church witnessed the first ordaining of Protestant priests, making it a mother church of the Reformation. It is a church of many names: City Church, Stadtkirche, Marienskirche, St. Mary's Church, Stadtkirche St Marien, City Church of St. Mary, and "Mother Church of the Reformation." With more than 3700 parishioners, today it is one of the biggest Protestant church congregations in central Germany. Martin & Katharina Luther's wedding is re-enacted here annually in a popular festival in June.

The Old Latin School

The International Lutheran Center at the Old Latin School is directly adjacent to St. Mary's City Church and was truly in the very center of the birthplace of the Reformation. Stemming from the new approach to education being taught by Wittenberg Reformers, the Old Latin School was built in 1564, as the city school for boys. The ILSW invites all to explore the Lutheran roots in Wittenberg by coming home to the Reformation. The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has partnered with this, her sister church in Germany, to undertake the extraordinary endeavor of restoring the Old Latin School, where the Lutheran faith was taught for more than 250 years.

Wittenberg English Ministry

WEM offers visitors English-speaking worship opportunities at the Castle Church and Town Church where Martin Luther preached. A special program of Worship in the English language provides spiritual fulfillment for the many thousands of English-

speaking tourists who visit Lutherstadt Wittenberg from all parts of the world. WEM, initiated in 1997, today spans the entire six-month tourist season, May through October. Each service includes the opportunity to sing Luther's famous *Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott* (*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*) accompanied by the great pipe organs of the churches. Lutheran Pastors lead the worship and offer the sermon. All texts are in English, and hymns are representative of the standard Protestant repertoire.

Wittenberg University/Leucorea University (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg/MLU)

During the first half of the 16th century, the Leucorea was the most important university in all of Europe. Luther left Erfurt a troubled and frustrated Augustinian monk, unsure of how to please a seemingly angry God. Sent here to teach philosophy, Luther instead came to salvation. Johann von Staupitz, Luther's sponsor in the Augustinians, called Luther here to take over the professorship in Moral Philosophy at the University in the winter semester of 1508-9. After having graduated as a Doctor of Theology at Wittenberg University in 1512, he became professor for Bible studies here. With the arrival of Luther and Melancthon, who attracted hundreds of students, Leucorea became the largest German university. After 1817, it became a military barracks for the Prussian army and was converted to apartments after 1920. The University has now moved to nearby Halle, now called Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg. What remains is now called Leucorea Foundation in Wittenberg and serves as MLU's convention center.

Lutherstadt Wittenberg



Castle Church All Saints' Church

Best known for being the church where Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses, the Castle Church, also known as All Saints' Church, houses the graves of both Luther and Philipp Melancthon.



Old Town Hall

Located in the Market Square, Wittenberg's Old Town Hall sits behind monuments to Martin Luther and Philipp Melancthon.



Town Church St. Mary's Church

Considered the "Mother Church of the Reformation," the Town Church heard Martin Luther preach more than 2,000 sermons, and this is where the mass was first celebrated in German rather than Latin and where the congregation first received both the bread and wine/body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



Luther House

Martin Luther lived in this converted cloister with his family for many years. Now a museum, the Luther House is a significant stop on the tourist route through Wittenberg.

The Luther Oak

This oak tree was planted where Luther burned the papal bull threatening him with excommunication.



Melancthon House

Luther's friend and fellow theologian and reformer, Philipp Melancthon, lived in this house that was built in 1536 for him and his family.



Cranach Courtyards

The Cranach Courtyards, which housed the homes and art studios of Lucas Cranach, a 16th-century artist who documented the Reformation with his portraits and woodcuts, also are situated in the center of old town Wittenberg.



Zwickau



The former silver mining town of Zwickau lies to the south of Leipzig, near the Czech border, in the German state of Saxony. The GDR's most famous small car, the Trabant, was manufactured at the Sachsenring plant there until 1991.

The town assumed a key regional role early on in the Reformation. In 1520, Martin Luther dedicated his seminal Reformation work "On the Freedom of a Christian" to Mayor Hermann Mühlfort of Zwickau (c. 1486-1534). At Luther's recommendation, the City Council summoned Thomas Müntzer (c. 1489-1525) to preach in the town. In his sermons, Müntzer attacked the local Franciscans and supported Zwickau's cloth makers' radical social and religious demands. The group sought public ownership and the abolition of the monasteries and was even prepared to use violent means to achieve its aims.

As a result, the City Council dismissed Müntzer and appointed moderate Protestant pastor Nikolaus Hausmann (c. 1478-1538) in his place. When the radical Reformers stormed the town's Grünhain Abbey in 1522 with the aim of liberating a peasant imprisoned by the monks, this culminated in iconoclasm. Upon the request of the Council, shortly thereafter, Luther himself traveled to Zwickau and repeatedly preached against the "Zwickau Prophets." The more moderate forces of the Reformation came to the fore. Together with the City Council, pastor Hausmann reformed church life. He preached Protestantism, introduced the public alms box for the poor in 1523 and held mass in German from 1524 on. Luther recognized Hausmann's services to Protestant worship by dedicating his own work of worship, "Formula missae et communionis", to him in 1523.

By 1525, the Wittenberg Reformation had been thoroughly implemented in Zwickau. The Council abolished the Franciscan monastery, and the radicals had lost all support in the wake of the Peasants' War and Thomas Müntzer's execution following the Battle of Frankenhausen.

With this, Zwickau became the second town after Wittenberg to implement the Reformation in the Electorate of Saxony. Nowadays, a signposted Luther Trail traces the key sites of the Reformation throughout Zwickau, such as the Franciscan monastery, the Grünhain Abbey, Saint Catherine's Church, St Mary's Church and the town hall where Hermann Mühlfort held office.

Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (ELFK) is WELS's sister church. Just as the greater Milwaukee area is home to the WELS headquarters, various schools, the publishing house, and other organizations, Zwickau is home to important sites for the ELFK. WELS's fellowship with the ELFK goes back to 1876.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

St. Petri Parish Church meets in a building on Zwickau's Romerplatz and is entered through an archway. The golden lettering set it apart from the other residential buildings. The church hall is in the inner courtyard. The church was founded on January 25, 1922, under the leadership of Pastor Martin Willkomm. The name was chosen based on 1 Peter 2:9, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you should proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Pastor Gotthilf Herrmann was appointed as the first pastor in 1923, and he served for almost 30 years. Pastor Albrecht Hoffmann has been the pastor since 2024. He is also the chairman of the Office for Church Music and has been editor of the editor of the devotional booklet "Gott ist für uns" since 2019.

Priesterhäuser

Opposite St. Mary's Cathedral are four small houses from the late Middle Ages, which have been restored to their original style and furnishings. The Priesterhäuser originated in the 13th century and the homes are among the oldest residential buildings in Germany still existing today. The Museum of Local History and Culture of the municipality of Zwickau was opened in 2003 and offers, through its permanent and changing temporary exhibitions, multifaceted and exciting insights into the city's past. Especially worth seeing are the carefully restored parlors, chambers, and kitchens, vividly showing the everyday life of its former inhabitants back in the late Middle Ages.

St. Katharine's Church

St. Katherine's, alongside St. Mary's Cathedral, is one of the oldest churches in Zwickau. The altarpiece was painted by Lucas Cranach the Elder, including an image of Elector Frederick the Wise. From the autumn of 1520 to April 1521, Thomas Müntzer was a preacher at this church. Given the social tensions in those days, especially among journeymen, his radical views fell on fertile ground. In April 1521, the Council suspended Müntzer to avoid unrest in town. A statue of Thomas Müntzer and a relief depicting the Peasants' War created by the Berlin sculptor Jürgen Raue in 1989 can be seen in front of the church. In 2014, the church was awarded the European Heritage Label for Sites of the Reformation, thereby honoring its importance in the context of the processes leading to the Lutheran Reformation. Under the banner of the European Heritage Label, the

Katharinenkirche is representative of all Saxon sites of the Reformation in conjunction with the palace chapel and Hartfels Palace in Torgau.

St. Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Cathedral ranks among the most important Late Gothic hall churches in Upper Saxony. This historic 12th-century building was completed in the Late Gothic style between 1453 and 1565. The cathedral's present Baroque spire was erected between 1671 and 1677. It is still the tallest building in Zwickau today. Towards the end of the 19th century, the cathedral's buttresses were decorated with sculptures of the apostles, prophets, and key figures from the Protestant Reformation. There are also a number of art treasures to be found inside the cathedral, including a winged altar decorated by Michael Wohlgenuth, who would go on to teach Dürer and the mourning figures of Peter Breuer's *Beweinung Christi* (Lamentation of Christ). Visitors will also have the opportunity to see Michael Hauffner's *Heiliges Grab* (Holy Grave) and Paul Speck's font and pulpit, both of which date from the 16th century.

ELFK's Primary School

Dr. Martin Luther Schule was started with financial assistance from WELS members in the years after Germany's reunification. The Latin school was first mentioned in 1383. Martin Römer, a wealthy citizen, built the school building at the Domhof. In 1479, he became the 'Amtshauptmann' (district administrator) of Zwickau. Leading personalities such as Georgius Agricola, Stephan Roth, Leonhardt Natter, etc., worked here during the 16th century. They all stayed in close contact with Martin Luther and his fellow reformers. This school enjoyed an excellent reputation far beyond the borders of Zwickau. In the 19th century, this school formed the basis for the 'Realgymnasium', a modern secondary school.

St. John's Lutheran Church

The founding of the Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation is closely linked to the creation of the ELFK. With great sacrifice, the first members of the congregation acquired a piece of land in Niederplanitz near Zwickau in 1871. An old barn was converted into the first church. God blessed the work in the congregation, so that a larger church was needed as early as 1878. A Jehmlich organ or the brass choir accompanies the congregation's singing. The room of the first church is now used for weekly services and Bible studies. Sermons, services and devotions can be heard and viewed on the congregation's website. Michael Herbst has been the current pastor since December 2004. In 2018 he was elected President by the 92nd Synod.

Erfurt



“There just has to be a city on a spot like this!” declared Martin Luther upon his first view of the many church spires dotting Erfurt’s skyline in the early 16th century. Luther became a monk at the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt on July 17, 1505, and spent six years serving at the monastery, which can be toured today. Erfurt has one of the largest and best-preserved historical city centers in Germany including St. Mary’s Cathedral, St. Severin’s Church, and the famous Merchant’s Bridge.

History Highlights

Erfurt was originally founded in 742 AD by St. Boniface, “The Apostle of the Germans.” With a wealth of natural resources and a convenient location on a busy trade route to Russia, it quickly grew into an important trading and spiritual center. In 1505, Luther reportedly was walking back to Erfurt from his parents’ home when he encountered a wild thunderstorm in a nearby village. Feeling he was in grave danger, Luther dropped to the ground and cried, “Help me, St. Anna, and I will become a monk!” Two weeks later he entered the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt despite his father’s protests. Years later, Luther would read the complete Bible in Erfurt for the first time, leading him to embark upon a spiritual journey that changed Christianity and the world forever.

Augustinian Monastery (Evangelisches Augustinerkloster zu Erfurt)

After his lightning scare at the nearby village of Stotternheim, Luther joined this monastery as a novice monk, desperate to please God. The monastery houses a permanent exhibition that depicts its history and the history of the Bible. Upstairs is a replica monk’s personal bedroom, offering insights into Luther’s living conditions.

Buchenwald Concentration Camp (Gedenkstätten Buchenwald)

This concentration camp was established in 1937 for political opponents of the Nazi Regime. The exhibition includes hundreds of objects that illuminate Buchenwald’s history

including artifacts, photographs, documents, eyewitness accounts, and biographies of both victims and perpetrators. The exhibition is divided into six main sections. Approximately 300,000 people were imprisoned; 65,000 men, women, and children from 35 countries died. The camp was liberated by the U.S. Army on April 11, 1945.

Church of St. Severus (Severikirche; St. Severi)

This is the second church on Erfurt's famed Cathedral Hill. Severikirche is best known for its huge baptismal font and monument to St. Severus. The interior boasts a five-aisled hall church with a lofty atmosphere despite its relatively small size. It is the earliest example of Gothic architecture in Erfurt. Severikirche's distinctive triple-towered east end makes an interesting contrast with its cathedral neighbor when viewed from the Domplatz (market square).

Dominican Church "Preacher's Church" (Predigerkirche)

Predigerkirche, also known as "Preacher's Church," was originally built by the Dominican Order in the 13th century when theologian and mystic Meister Eckhart was prior here. Predigerkirche is one of the most important preserved mendicant churches and an outstanding specimen of Gothic church architecture. Christians have worshiped here since the 14th century, and it is still one of the main Protestant churches in Erfurt.

Luther Statue (Lutherdenkmal)

This statue sits outside the Merchant's Church and shows the great Reformer holding the open Bible in his left hand. The bas-relief depicts scenes from the life of the Reformer on three sides: Luther as a student in the circle of friends, his farewell before entering the monastery, and the festive reception at the university in April 1521 in Erfurt on the way to Worms. On the front is Psalm 118:17, "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord."

Luther Stone (Lutherstein)

Legend has it that, in 1505, Luther was caught in a violent storm in one of Stotternheim's fields. Afraid for his life, Luther cried into the wind, "St. Anna, help me! I will become a monk." He survived the treacherous storm and, true to his word, Luther quit his studies in law and joined Erfurt's Augustinian Monastery, where he became a monk one year later. Today, there is a stone monument at the foot of the "Galgenhügel" (Gallows Hill) dedicated to the events in Luther's life that day.

Luther's Dormitory (Georgenburse)

Martin Luther stayed here from 1501 to 1505 while he was a student. The Georgenburse is now an educational center and meeting place that contains a permanent exhibition on medieval academic studies.

Merchant's Bridge (Krammerbrücke)

This historic bridge was first built in the 11th century, then rebuilt in stone in 1325. This Renaissance bridge, similar to the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, is the longest inhabited bridge north of the Alps. Luther would have been quite familiar with it. Today, the bridge is lined with wonderful shops and cafes that are well worth a visit.

Merchant's Church (Kaufmannskirche St. Gregorius)

This is one of the largest and most important original parish churches in Erfurt. Luther visited Erfurt with Philip Melanchthon in 1522 and preached two sermons at this church. He preached about the virtues of true faith as he read from the Bible. He also preached against heretics and veneration of the saints and against the pope as the one and only mediator between God and humanity. Just outside the church is an inspiring statue of Luther standing atop the crushed papal edict and victoriously holding his Bible. The parents of Johann Sebastian Bach, Johann Ambrosius Bach and Maria Elisabeth Lämmerhirt, married here in 1668.

Old Synagogue (Alte Synagoge)

The Old Synagogue is one of very few preserved medieval synagogues in Europe and is among the most highly rated architectural monuments in the area. The synagogue was constructed during the Middle Ages on a major European trade route near Merchants Bridge and town hall. Many parts of the structure still remain today, including all four thick outer walls, the Romanesque gemel window, the Gothic rose window, and the entrance to the synagogue room. Also on display is a rare collection of medieval gold and silver treasures and a unique look at the areas early Jewish history.

Old University of Erfurt (Collegium Maius)

Latin for “Great College,” Collegium Maius was the main building of the Old University of Erfurt that Martin Luther attended. The foundation of the university dates from 1379, making Collegium Maius one of the oldest universities in Germany. Here in the courtyard stood a library where Luther first held a complete Bible, in Latin. In 1945, a bomb destroyed the entire building leaving just the ground floor walls standing. Collegium Maius is now completely reconstructed and is home to the Evangelical Church in Central Germany.

Petersberg Citadel Fort (Zitadelle Petersberg)

This is the only extensively preserved town baroque fortress in central Europe. The fort offers a unique example of the European style of fortress construction, complete with military history exhibits. Unfortunately, some of the sites are only available for guided groups, but it is still worthy of a visit.

St. Mary's Cathedral, Erfurt Cathedral (Mariendom)

Martin Luther was ordained a priest here on April 3, 1507, as a 23-year-old monk. 785 years previously, Christianity was being forged here by Wynfrid from England, later known as St. Boniface, “The Apostle of the Germans.” He was one of the first to bring Christianity to Germany and started right on this spot. When Luther lived in Erfurt, the cathedral looked much like it does today. Look out for the carvings of the wise and foolish virgins (Matt. 25) on the north doors. Also at the north doors are twin statues—the church triumphant and the synagogue defeated—referring to the Jew’s failure to see Christ as the Lamb of God.

Eisenach



In 1521, while fleeing from the wrath of the Pope, Martin Luther took refuge in Eisenach's Wartburg Castle after a fake kidnapping staged by his friend and protector, Frederick the Wise. There, he finished translating the New Testament into German in just eleven weeks. As a schoolboy, Luther sang in the choir of St. George's Church, where Johann Sebastian Bach's family also worshiped.

History Highlights

Founded around 1050 AD, the town developed on an important trade route where it earned a reputation as a great cultural and jousting center. Dominating the landscape high on a hill stands medieval Wartburg Castle, where troubadours and knights once gathered to compete in annual contests. Its grandeur is said to have inspired composer Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. During the 16th century, Martin Luther spent several of his school years living at the Lutherhaus, sang in the choir at St. George's church, and later preached there. Years later he returned in disguise as "Knight George" (Junker Jörg) seeking refuge at Wartburg Castle, where he translated the New Testament into German.

Bach Museum (Bachhaus)

This is the largest museum dedicated to the composer Johann Sebastian Bach, who spent part of his childhood and the beginning of his musical education here. It provides a look at the middle-class lifestyle at the time of J.S. Bach, with period furnishings, 17th and 18th century instruments, and an extensive collection of Bach memorabilia. Staff give short performances of several Bach pieces on original instruments at the start of every hour.

Eisenach Monastery and Museum (Predigerkirche)

This former monastery is now a museum. Colorfully designed figures of saints, altars, tombs, sculptures, and liturgical items offer a glimpse into the world of religious people in the Middle Ages. It contains Thuringia's largest collection of medieval carvings.

Hainich National Park (Nationalpark Hainich)

Embedded in a rich cultural landscape, the Hainich National Park offers jungle-type natural beech forests and rare animal species. Here, visitors can experience what is meant by leaving nature alone. Fascinating forest landscapes in one of the most primeval of German forests offers a piece of unspoiled wilderness. A great highlight is the unique view from atop Treetop Trail (Baumkronenpfad).

Luther House Museum in Eisenach (Lutherhaus)

The newly renovated Luther House Museum presents Luther as a student, reformer, and Bible translator. There are displays on Luther's two periods in Eisenach and a collection of Reformation books and archives. When he was a young child, Martin Luther sang in the choir of the *Georgenschule* at St. George's Church. He so impressed a local widow, Mrs. Cotta, that she took him under her care. Luther lived with the Cotta family from 1498 to 1501. Luther was inspired by the genuine faith of Mrs. Cotta, which went beyond mere observance of religious rituals. From the Schalbes, Luther learned of local monk Johann Hilten, who preached against papal abuses and Catholic corruption. "Soon a hero will emerge who will seriously attack you monks," said Hilten, predicting the fall of the pope's authority, which would come in about 1516.

Luther Statue (Lutherdenkmal)

Underneath the larger-than-life figure, four reliefs show scenes from Luther's life both in Eisenach and Wartburg Castle. The viewer sees him on the pedestal as Junker Jörg in the Luther room and during a hunting scene. Another relief portrays the first contact of the Latin student with Ursula Cotta. The most famous Luther song, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," is found on the back of the monument.

St. George's Church (Georgenkirche, Stadtkirche St. Georg)

Martin Luther was a choir boy at St. George's Church and later preached here in 1521 on his journeys to and from the Diet in Worms. On the north wall is a large painting commissioned to commemorate the century of the Reformation, depicting Luther and Hus as well as the Augsburg Confession. St. George's Church is also connected with Johann Sebastian Bach, whose family made music on the organ bench here for more than 132 years. The church is situated on the market square which offers plenty of options for lunch, shopping, or relaxing in a café.

St. Nicholas's Church (Nikolaikirche)

The first Evangelical sermon in Thuringia was preached here in 1555. Next to the church is the Nikolaitor city gate, which Luther passed through during his journeys via Eisenach. The monks and nuns were driven out of the city through this gate during the "iconoclasm" in April 1525. This is the only remaining of the five original city wall gates and is still in use for modern traffic. The Nikolaikirche has been renovated into a city visitor center as part of the Decade of Luther celebrations.

Thuringian Museum (Stadtschloss)

After years of restoration this museum has reopened to showcase local historic artisan treasures. Exhibits include china, glass, graphics, ironwork, historic period clothing, paintings, and a historical pharmacy. This building also houses the Eisenach Tourist Information Office.

Wartburg Castle (Schloss Wartburg)

This imposing medieval fortress built by Count Ludwig I in 1067 stands atop a mountain on the outskirts of Eisenach. After Luther was excommunicated by the pope and outlawed by the emperor, he was given refuge in the bailiff's lodge at Wartburg. He lived under protective custody by his friend Frederick the Wise in disguise of Junker Jörg for months. In a sparsely furnished room, known as the Luther Room (*Lutherstube*), he translated the New Testament from the original Greek texts into German in just ten weeks. Though there were many different German dialects at the time, Luther produced a translation that all Germans could understand. Finally, ordinary men and women could read God's word in their own language. A tour of the castle includes the Knight's Hall, the Chapel, the Hall of Songs, and Landgrave's Hall. Festival Hall contains a mural depicting the triumph of Christianity over paganism. Other features include period furnishings and an original copy of Luther's translation of the Bible.

Rothenburg



The fairytale-like village of Rothenburg ob der Tauber is considered Germany's best-preserved, walled medieval town—most of the buildings standing today were built by 1400. Part of the Romantic Road of southern Germany, Rothenburg features cobble streets, stately towers, massive fortifications, churches, and unique museums.

History Highlights

Rothenburg was granted a city charter in 1274 and flourished in the Middle Ages. As the city grew physically, it also grew spiritually. Ideas of Reformation emerged early when young men from Rothenburg studied in Wittenberg with Luther and Melanchthon. This theology combined with Renaissance thoughts brought great change to the city. However, Rothenburg's growth stalemated in the 17th century after being defeated during the Thirty Years War, facing financial repercussions from the Catholic church for its Protestant status, and enduring an outbreak of the plague. In the 19th century its citizens passed laws strictly protecting its medieval architecture and atmosphere, thus preserving its current 17th century state.

Imperial Town Museum, (Reichsstadtmuseum)

The museum is housed in a former Dominican convent, which was dissolved in 1544. See how the nuns lived here with their historical living quarters. The well-preserved 13th century convent kitchen offers an arresting insight into their everyday lives. A tour of the museum will also take in the internationally renowned Baumann Foundation, which features the history of weaponry in Europe from the Stone Age to the 19th century.

Kathe Wohlfahrt's Christmas Store (Käthe Wohlfahrt Weihnachtsdorf)

Located in the center town, just off the Market Square, this shop claims to have the largest selection of German Christmas decorations worldwide and is open all year-round. Many of the items are handcrafted with amazing skill and imagination.

Marcus Tower & Roder Arch (Markusturm & Röderbogen)

The beautiful townhouses and romantic Röderbrunnen fountain, together with the Röderbogen Arch and the massive, hipped roof of the Markus Tower, form a wonderful ensemble that is one of the most popular subjects for photographers in Rothenburg. The Röderbogen Arch, with the slim clock tower and the sharply pointed roof, dates back to the 12th century and was part of the town's first fortifications, later replaced by the outer ring wall.

Night Watchman Tour (Nachtwächter von Rothenburg)

Accompany the Rothenburg Night Watchman on his entertaining and informative rounds through the darkness. Follow him through dark alleyways, across dimly lit squares, and enjoy the special mood of the town at night. Listen to his stories and find out how people lived in the Middle Ages.

Rothenburg City Walls

As early as 1100 AD, sections of fortified stone wall protected the young trading center and its royal castle. As the city grew, so did its fortifications. Rothenburg still retains its historic city walls, including 42 gate houses and towers. These were of vital importance when it came to protecting Rothenburg from its enemies. In some cases, attackers would have to pass through up to seven gates before they could enter the town. The best-preserved sections are around the Röderdor Gate.

St. Jakobs' Church (St. Jakobsirche)

This Lutheran parish church, constructed from 1311 to 1485, is one of the most dominant sights of the Rothenburg ob der Tauber skyline. It carries a wide variety of religious artworks including 600 years of stained-glass windows (two feature Luther and Melanchthon) and the famous *Heiliges Blut* (Holy Blood of Christ) altar by Tilman Riemenschneider. Above the altar is a crystal capsule containing drops of Christ's blood, or so the legends claim. The *Zwölfbotenalter* (Twelve Apostles Altar) by Friedrich Herlin contains the oldest depiction of the town of Rothenburg.

Town Hall Tower (Rathausturm)

The Town Hall Tower is the tallest tower in the city with a viewing platform offering a picturesque view of the Tauber Valley and its beautiful mills from here. The Tower is simply set on top of the gothic part of the Town Hall with a 52-meter viewing platform accessed via 220 steps from the main door of the Town Hall. Enjoy panoramic views of the medieval town from the viewing platform.

Dachau Concentration Camp, Germany



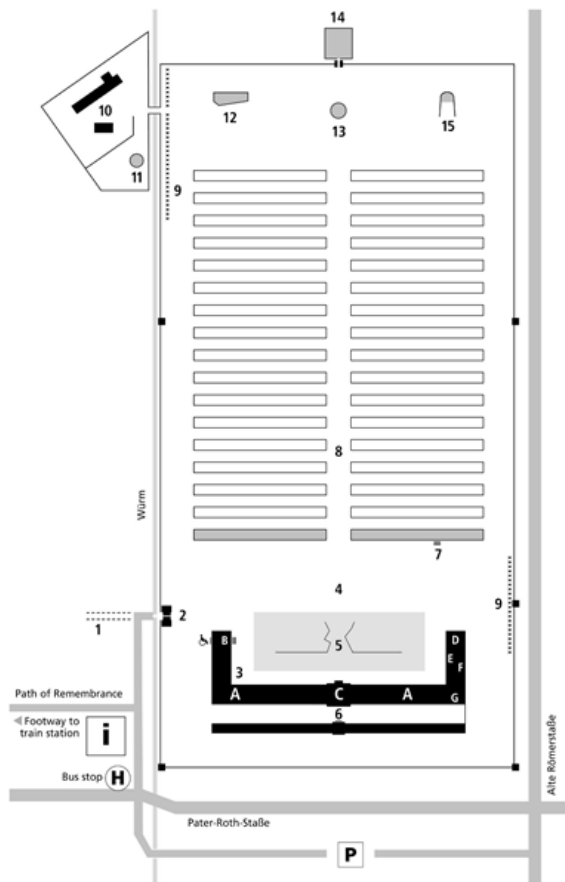
Established in March 1933, the Dachau concentration camp was the first regular concentration camp in Germany. The first inmates were mainly political prisoners, though later victims included those considered social outcasts, as well.

Jews were brought to Dachau in November, 1938. The number of Jewish prisoners rose with the increased persecution of Jews and by November 11, 1938, more than 10,000 Jewish men were interned there. It also served as the central camp for Christian religious prisoners. According to records of the Roman Catholic Church, at least 3,000 deacons, priests, and bishops were imprisoned there.

German doctors and scientists set up laboratories at Dachau using inmates as involuntary guinea pigs for experiments. Many died or were permanently crippled as a result. Prisoners were also used as forced laborers.

When the systematic killing of Jews began in 1942, many were sent from Dachau to the extermination camps. In August 1944, a women's camp opened inside Dachau. Its first shipment of women came from Auschwitz-Birkenau.

In the course of Dachau's history, at least 160,000 prisoners passed through the main camp, and 90,000 through the branches. Records indicate that at least 32,000 of the inmates died from disease, malnutrition, physical oppression, and execution, but countless more were transported to the extermination camps in German-occupied Poland.



i Visitor Center

Information · Audio guides · Bookshop · Bistro

- 1 Connecting road to the former SS grounds
- 2 **Jourhaus** (SS offices) with main camp gate
- 3 **Former maintenance building**
 - A **Permanent exhibition**
 - B CID bookstand
 - C **Film**
 - D Administrative offices with archive and library
 - E CID office and Catholic counseling office
 - F Seminar rooms
 - G **Special exhibitions**
- 4 **Roll-call area**
- 5 **International monument** with commemorative plaque (1968)
- 6 **"Bunker"** (former camp prison)
- 7 **Barracks** (reconstructed)
- 8 **Camp road**
- 9 **Security installations** with guard towers and outer walls (partially reconstructed)
- 10 **Crematorium area**
- 11 Russian Orthodox Chapel (1995)
- 12 Protestant Church of Reconciliation (1967)
- 13 Catholic Mortal Agony of Christ Chapel (1960)
- 14 Carmelite Convent (1964)
- 15 Jewish Memorial (1967)

Salzburg, Austria



Salzburg is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Art lovers call it the “Golden City of High Baroque,” historians call it the “Florence of the North,” and music lovers know it as the birthplace of beloved composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The singing von Trapp family, whose true story was dramatically portrayed in the beloved *Sound of Music* musical and movie, won first place in the 1936 Salzburg Music Festival. Much of the movie was filmed in Salzburg.

History Highlights

Intent on becoming a patron of the arts, Salzburg’s prince-archbishop Wolf-Dietrich lavished much of his wealth on rebuilding the city in Baroque style in the late 16th century. Mozart was born here on January 27, 1756, to Anna and Leopold Mozart—himself a renowned court composer. Amadeus Mozart grew up in the center of the city, where he began playing piano at age three and composing for piano at only four years of age. A prolific composer, he composed over 626 works during the 35 short years of his life, many of which he spent in Salzburg. Since 1920, the world-famous Salzburg Festival has honored “Wolferl” with performances of his works by the world’s greatest musicians.

Basilica St. Michael Mondsee

Considered the cultural and spiritual heart of the region, this gothic former monastery was constructed in the 15th century under the direction of Abbot Benedikt Eck and is the second biggest church in Upper Austria. It famously served as the site of the wedding scene in *The Sound of Music*, where the characters played by Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer are married—though in real life, Maria Auguste and Georg von Trapp married in the Nonnberg Abbey in 1927. Pope John Paul II upgraded the church to a basilica in 2005. In 2009, the church was reopened after a huge restoration entitled “Austria’s Monument of the Year.” Over 200,000 people visit the basilica every year.

Collegiate Church of St. Peter (Stiftkirche St. Peter)

Mozart's famed *Great Mass in C Minor* premiered in this stunning church in 1783. His wife, Constanze, sang the lead soprano role. Mozart directed the orchestra and choir and also played the organ. The porch has beautiful Romanesque vaulted arches from the original structure built in the 12th century. The interior was decorated in the late-baroque style when additions were made in the 1770s. Note the side chapel's unusual crèche portraying the *Flight into Egypt* and the *Massacre of the Innocents*.

Fortress Hohensalzburg

Hohensalzburg Fortress sits high atop Festungsberg hill, towering over the rooftops of the Baroque historic district. It is the largest fully preserved castle in Central Europe. Construction of the fortress began in 1077 under Archbishop Gebhard von Helfenstein. The archbishops of Salzburg expanded the fortress during the times of the Holy Roman Empire. It was gradually expanded further during the following centuries. The only time that the fortress actually came under siege was during the German Peasants' War of 1525. The Fortress was refurbished during the late 19th century, when it became a major tourist attraction. Today it stands as one of the best-preserved castles in Europe.

Getreidegasse Lane

Salzburg's most famous street lies in the bustling heart of the Old City, with lovely narrow lanes, medieval houses, wrought iron signs, and unmistakable charm. Known for its wonderful shopping and its significance as Mozart's birthplace, it is an irresistible destination for countless visitors from around the world. Aside from an array of international fashion chains, the Getreidegasse also charms passersby with its traditional inns and unique businesses steeped in history.

Mirabell Palace and Gardens (Schloss Mirabell)

In the midst of Salzburg lies an oasis of calm known as Schloss Mirabell, or Mirabell Gardens. Featuring rich floral ornamentation, precisely trimmed trees, and decorative urns, the visual orientation toward the cathedral and fortress adds to the grandeur of the gardens. These gardens were one of the most important shooting locations of *The Sound of Music*. In the film, Maria and the children dance around the **Pegasus Fountain** in front of the palace, singing the song *Do Re Mi*. At the end of the scene, the Trapp family stands on the steps in front of Rose Hill and sings the song's final bars where viewers are enchanted by unique views across Mirabell Gardens towards the fortress, Mirabell Palace. Built in 1606 by Prince Archbishop Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau as a token of his love for Salome Alt, the palace's Baroque Marble Hall is considered to be one of the most beautiful and historically significant concert halls in Austria. In its glory days, the Mozart family performed here for Salzburg royalty.

Mozart Birth House (Mozarts Geburtshaus or Hagenauerhaus)

One of the most visited museums in Austria, Mozart's Birthplace is in the heart of the Old City—and a site that should not be missed. This three-story homage to Salzburg's prodigal son offers fascinating insights into his life and works, with carefully curated relics of his youth, listening rooms, and designer's models of famous productions of his operas. This was Mozart's home—when not on one of his frequent trips abroad—until the age of 17. As the child prodigy composed many of his first works in these rooms, it is fitting and touching to find Mozart's tiny first violin on display.

Mozarteum

This university, considered one of the best music schools in the world, specializes in music and the dramatic arts. As one of the most respected universities in Europe for music studies, it was named after Salzburg native, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Nonnberg Abbey

Nonnberg Abbey, the oldest existing nunnery in the German-speaking region, became world-famous through the film *The Sound of Music*. The nunnery was founded sometime between 712 and 715, by St. Bishop Rupert of Salzburg, and has existed uninterrupted since, making it the oldest nunnery in the German-speaking area. The narrow abbey grounds are flanked by a fortress wall on the western side and by steep slopes on all other sides, making expansion over the centuries impossible. In 1423, the church and large parts of the buildings were destroyed or heavily damaged in a major fire—reconstruction took more than 30 years. The first abbess, Erentrudis of Salzburg was a champion of the poor and sick. She was worshipped as a saint, and in 1624, she was named Salzburg's Mother of the Nation. Her rock tomb is located in the crypt of the St. Mary's Church. Unlike how the film portrays the story, Maria Auguste Kutschera wasn't a nun, but only a novice and governess in the abbey's school before she was sent to the widowed Baron von Trapp's house to temporarily care for his seven children. In 1927, Maria Auguste and Georg von Trapp married in the Nonnberg Abbey Church. However, in the movie the wedding took place in the church in Mondsee. The film features no interior shots of the abbey. True to life, the nuns at Nonnberg Abbey really do sing Gregorian chants every morning in the abbey church. Today the abbey houses an important collection of medieval manuscripts, gothic sculptures, and painting.

Salzburg Cathedral (Dom zu Salzburg)

Hailed by some as the most perfect Renaissance building in the Germanic countries, highlights at Salzburg Cathedral include a marble facade, twin symmetrical towers, and the font in which Mozart was baptized. This site has hosted a Christian church since 774. The original building was replaced with a late-Romanesque structure built in 1181-1200. The Romanesque cathedral burned down in 1598, and Prince-Archbishop Wolf Dietrich took advantage of the destruction (some would say caused the destruction) to demolish the rest and make plans for a grand new cathedral to reaffirm Salzburg's commitment to the Catholic cause in the face of the Reformation. Built in the 17th century, the present structure holds 10,000 people. The cathedral honors the patron saint of Salzburg, St. Rupert, who founded Nonnberg Abbey around 700, along with the Irish St. Virgil, the founder of the first cathedral consecrated in 774, whose relics lie buried beneath the altar.

Schloss Hellbrunn

One of the most exciting sites near Salzburg, the lovely Hellbrunn Palace is best-known for its amazing trick fountains. Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Markus Sittikus, created this charming palace as a summer retreat in 1612. The property also contains five elaborate grottos with carved Greek gods, miraculous creatures, and amazing illusions. Don't miss *The Sound of Music Pavilion*, the famous gazebo where Liesl sings "I am 16 Going On 17" and where Captain von Trapp and Maria performed their romantic duet, "Something Good" (the gazebo was moved here from its original home in the gardens of Leopoldskron Castle). You'll also recognize the property's yellow walls from Maria's "I Have Confidence."

Schloss Leopoldskron

Schloss Leopoldskron was commissioned as a family estate in 1736 by the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg, Leopold Anton Freiherr von Firmian, in an attempt to rescue the social standing of his family. In May 1744, Leopold deeded the completed Schloss over to his nephew, Count Laktanz Firmian, and died later that same year. Count Laktanz enriched Schloss Leopoldskron with an astounding collection of paintings, including works of Rembrandt, Rubens, Dürer, and Titian. The Count was one of the first sponsors of Leopold Mozart and his son, Wolfgang Amadeus. Schloss Leopoldskron has been dubbed *The Sound of Music* palace, as a white music gazebo once stood in the palace park and played an important role in the film's romantic scenes—it has since been moved to Schloss Hellbrunn to reduce tourist congestion at the site. One of the main rooms of the palace, the Venetian Room on the first floor, was completely replicated for the film. Magnificent handcrafted, gold wall panels and mirrors served as a model for the ball room scene in the film. It was also the backdrop for the private performance of the marionette theater. In 1987, *The Sound of Christmas* was filmed at Schloss Leopoldskron, starring Julie Andrews, John Denver, and Plácido Domingo, and reconnecting the castle to the movie.

The Sound of Music Tour

The life of the von Trapp family is intertwined with that of Salzburg itself. The fascinating life of former novice Maria von Trapp and her singing family became a world-wide success when the film was released in 1965, with Julie Andrews starring as Maria. The songs from *The Sound of Music* are famous around the globe. The Sound of Music Tour is the ultimate experience for those who know all of the words to *Do-Re-Me* or felt touched by this film based on actual events. On the tour you will see a few of the various sights used in the film like the stunning Mirabell Gardens and the Nonnberg Convent (where the young Maria was a novice). Explore the origins of this moving and emotional story that almost feels like a fairytale.

Berchtesgaden, Germany



Situated on the border of Germany and Austria, Berchtesgaden is a picturesque town in the Bavarian Alps. Often overlooked by tourists, this beautiful village is home to two historic World War II sites, Hitler's Eagle's Nest retreat and the Dokumentation Obersalzberg Museum. Berchtesgaden features stunning Alpine scenery with breathtaking views and peaceful hideaways.

Hitler's Eagles Nest Retreat (Kehlsteinhaus)

Once Hitler's mountain retreat, today Eagles Nest is a cafe featuring magnificent panoramic views of the Alps and the neighboring city of Salzburg at an altitude of 6,017 feet. Perched almost 3,000 feet above the surrounding valley floor, on a clear day, visibility is up to 120 miles! The entire property, from the masterfully-constructed 4-mile-long mountain road to the Alpine chalet at the top, was gifted to Hitler on his 50th birthday in 1939. The project took over 3000 laborers more than a year of around-the-clock work to complete—all in extremely dangerous conditions. The chalet was lavishly decorated, including a fireplace gifted from Italian dictator, Mussolini. Spared bombing in WWII, the project was turned into a restaurant in 1952. Highlights include a Mountain Cross, where visitors can take a photo looking back toward the Eagle's Nest, and the cement platforms that housed the weapons that protected the chalet from air attacks.

Obersalzberg Retreat & Documentation Center (Dokumentation Obersalzberg)

Hitler made his mountain vacation home here long before the troubles of WWII began. In 1925, he rented a log cabin in the woods and wrote the second part of *Mein Kampf*, and he later had a country house here called "Wachenfeld." After Hitler came to power in 1933, he bought a modest property and converted it into a luxurious mountain residence featuring enormous panoramic windows, a bar, and a bowling alley. It became a second seat of government, where Hitler held high level meetings and made many decisions that would devastate the lives of millions. The government of Bavaria has since removed most of the buildings associated with that period. Obersalzberg Documentation Center

(currently closed for massive renovations) houses an exhibition that offers insight into the politics and social aspects of the time and the advent of propaganda and terror, presented in a simple and explicit way.

Salt Mine (Salzbergwerk)

Sometime before 1194, salt mining began on the Gollnbach in Berchtesgaden. In the Middle Ages, this valuable commodity helped Berchtesgaden rise to economic power along with nearby Salzburg, Hallein, and Hallstatt. In 1517, the Petersberg gallery was struck, and the Salt Mine Berchtesgaden was founded by Prince-Provost Gregor Rainer. Through the Middle Ages, the wealth from its salt trade helped the village grow, until it eventually joined Bavaria in 1810. The guided tour includes an underground lake, a slide down the old 120-foot-long wooden miner slides, and a salt train ride. Today, one of the 14-ton bronze pumps can still be seen in the Salt Mine.

Munich



Munich's 12th-century roots manage to co-exist within a growing industry sector, merging cutting-edge technology with Bavarian tradition. Chic Munich is known for its Baroque theater, royal palace, Glockenspiel, and 700 years of beer-brewing tradition—attracting over 6 million people a year to the world's largest Oktoberfest.

History Highlights

Munich traces its origins to the Benedictine monastery at nearby Tegernsee, which was probably founded in 750 AD. In 1157 Henry the Lion, duke of Bavaria, granted the monks the right to establish a market on the “salt road” between mighty Salzburg and Augsburg. In 1225, it became the primary residence of the ruling Wittelsbach family, a dynasty of dukes and then kings who ruled Bavaria for eight centuries. Many of the rulers were avid builders who attracted artistic and musical talent to the city, which mostly flourished under their rule until the 1918 abolition of the monarchy. When Hitler came to power shortly thereafter, Munich became the “Capital of the Movement,” with buildings reflecting Nazi views. The city suffered terrible bombardments during the war but rebuilt quickly afterward.

Deutsches Museum

The world's largest museum of science and technology, with approximately 28,000 exhibited objects from 50 fields of science and technology. Adjoining the museum in the Forum der Technik is a planetarium and an IMAX theater. The museum is currently undergoing major renovations as part of a ten-year complete redesign, leaving up to half of all exhibits closed or under construction until 2025. Exhibits are primarily in German only.

Frauenkirche

Munich's cathedral is easily recognizable by its two copper domes. The church was badly damaged during World War II, but stained-glass windows from the 14th and 16th centuries survived. According to lore, architect Jörg Ganghofer made a pact with the devil, who challenged him to build a church with a spot where someone could stand without seeing a single window. Ganghofer made good on the pact as there's one place where every window is obscured by pillars. It is said the devil stamped his foot in rage, leaving an imprint in the stone.

Hofbrauhaus

A popular beer hall since 1589, regulars have individual lockers for holding their personal beer mugs. There are 424 of these and ownership is passed down to the next generation—with an annual fee of 200 Euros, which doesn't include having your mug washed! There is live music in the afternoon and evenings.

Marienplatz

The central square in the heart of the city dating back to the 12th century, Marienplatz used to be home to medieval markets, celebrations, and tournaments. For centuries, it was known as the *Schrannenmarkt* but was renamed in 1854 after the statue of the Virgin Mary in the center. The north side of *Marienplatz* is entirely dominated by the neo-Gothic New Town Hall (*Neues Rathaus*), built in the 19th century. Crowds gather outside at noon to hear the *Glockenspiel* and see the mechanical marionettes perform scenes from Munich's history.

Munchener Residenz (Munich Residence)

The Munich Residence embodies over 600 years of Bavarian history. Successive members of the Wittelsbach dynasty expanded the original 14th-century castle to create a complex of palaces around seven courtyards. The elaborate rooms contain antiques, sculptures, paintings, and tapestries amassed by the Wittelsbachs between the 16th and 19th centuries.

Nymphenburg Palace

The summer residence of the Bavarian kings is just outside the city center. Its stunning symmetrical layout and beautiful surrounding parkland was created in the 18th and 19th centuries. The extensive grounds conceal four miniature palaces within their landscaped confines. One, the Amalienburg, is considered the most attractive Rococo palace in Germany.

Oktoberfest

Held annually from mid-September to the beginning of October, Munich's 16-18 day celebration highlights the best of traditional Bavarian culture. Oktoberfest takes place on the Theresienwiese, just as it has for over 200 years. The Theresienwiese is the large field where the first-ever Oktoberfest, the wedding celebration between Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese, occurred. In 2022, Oktoberfest begins at noon on September 17th after the Lord Mayor of Munich taps the first keg and shouts, "O'zapft is!" ("It's tapped!") The only beer served at Oktoberfest Munich must be brewed within the city limits—there are 14 major beer tents, most owned by one of the Big 6 breweries, and more than 20 "small" beer tents, each with their own theme, be it dumplings, seafood, poultry, cheese, etc.

Patrons must be seated to be served a beer, so plan ahead and arrive early in the day. It wouldn't be Oktoberfest without popular traditional Bavarian dishes like roasted half chickens (Hendl), pork knuckles (Schweinshaxe), oxen, bratwursts, sauerkraut, red cabbage, potato dumplings, potato salad, and Bavarian soft pretzels. Other Oktoberfest activities include polka dancing, parades, carnival rides, concerts, shooting competitions, and much more. And don't be shy about dressing the part. Around 90% of visitors will be dressed up on some level for Oktoberfest, and over 75% will be wearing full traditional outfits. Women traditionally wear dirndls, while men sport lederhosen. Oktoberfest typically runs from 10am – 11:30pm on weekdays and from 9am – midnight on weekends.

Olympiastadion (Olympic Stadium)

This unusually shaped stadium was constructed as the main venue for the 1972 Summer Olympics. The lightweight, tent-like construction was considered revolutionary for its time. Located in the heart of the Olympiapark München, the iconic stadium has hosted major world-wide sporting events and concerts.

Rathaus-Glockenspiel at New Town Hall

Built in 1908, this 260-foot mechanical clock (glockenspiel) located in New Town Hall at Marienplatz comes to life every day at 11 am, noon, and 5 pm, seasonally. The tower contains 43 bells and 32 mechanical figures that come to life, reenacting two scenes from Munich's history. The top section recounts a joust from the decadent 2-week long wedding celebration of Bavarian Duke Wilhelm V in 1568. The joust took place in the Marienplatz, where the clock is now located. The lower level of the glockenspiel features coopers (barrel makers) performing their famous Schächlerstanz dance, which is linked in lore to a 1517 plague. Though the details of that event are a little murky, Munich did suffer a terrible plague in 1635 which wiped out about a third of the population. The whole display lasts about 15 minutes.

St. Peter's Church

Romanesque St. Peter's is the oldest church in Munich and dates back to the 12th century, although it was rebuilt in 1386 after a fire. It has an unusual domed bell tower called "Alter Peter," or "Old Peter." There is a statue of St. Peter carved by Erasmus Grasser (1450-1518) in the center of the church.

The Three Pinakotheks

The Old Pinakothek (Alte Pinakothek), constructed in the 19th century for King Ludwig I, is home to one of the world's oldest and most important collections of paintings by European Old Masters, including Dürer, Raphael, Rembrandt, and Rubens. The New Pinakothek (Neue Pinakothek), located opposite in a modern building, was conceived by Ludwig I as a showcase for contemporary art. The museum houses European painting and sculpture from the second half of the 18th century to the beginning of the 20th century. German painting of the 19th century forms the core of the collection. The third Pinakothek of Modern Art (Pinakothek der Moderne) is a collection of contemporary art, architecture and design taken from various collections throughout the city to complement the works housed in the first two galleries.

Mainz



Mainz is a lively city situated along the Rhine River. It features a charming Old Town lined with half-timbered houses and a market square. Other highlights include 10th century Mainz Cathedral and the Gutenberg Museum, commemorating Johann Gutenberg's printing legacy and housing a collection of rare, early Bibles.

History Highlights

Mainz grew on the site of the Roman camp of Maguntiacum in the 1st century A.D. The city was made the seat of the first German archbishop, St. Boniface (c.675–754). Later archbishops ruled here, and in nearby territory as princes of the Holy Roman Empire. The foundation stone of Mainz Cathedral, which still dominates the skyline today, was laid in 975 A.D. under Bishop Willigis. Johann Gutenberg helped to make Mainz the first printing center of Europe. The University of Mainz was originally founded in 1477 and reestablished as Johannes Gutenberg University in 1946.

Gutenberg Museum

Johannes Gutenberg of Mainz played a pivotal role in the Reformation by inventing moveable type and the moveable type printing press. Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and other reformers quickly took advantage of this technological breakthrough to share their messages with those eager to read about new religious thought. The Gutenberg-Museum, which lies opposite the cathedral in the heart of the old part of Mainz, is one of the oldest printing museums in the world. It houses three extremely rare and valuable Gutenberg original 42-line Bibles. The Museum was founded by a group of Mainz citizens in 1900 and is dedicated to Gutenberg, today's "Man of the Millennium," and his inventions.

Mainz Cathedral (Mainzer Dom)

Towering majestically over the city near Mainz's historical center and pedestrianized market square, the red sandstone cathedral is one of the most important churches in Germany. Archbishop Willigis laid the foundation stone for the Mainz cathedral in 975, modelling it after old St. Peter's in Rome. Unfortunately, it burned on the day of its consecration in August 1009 and didn't reopen until 1036. In all, the cathedral has survived seven fires, though much of it is still original. Inside the cathedral is a large gallery of elaborate monuments, sculptures, and tombstones honoring esteemed archbishops, bishops, and canons. During World War II, Allied bombing of Mainz destroyed 80% of the city, but the cathedral was left almost entirely unharmed.



FRIDERICVS · GVILELMVS · IV · REX · PORTAVI
 M · OCTOBR · D · XXXI · INDVLTENTIS · ROMANVS
 REFORMATIONIS · SACRORVM · PRAESENTIAS
 VALVAS · EX · AERE · FIERI · ATQVE · ILLAS · THESE
 IN · QVA · MARTINVS · LA · THIERVS · A · DOM · MDXVII
 IMP · VGNANDIS · THESE · AFFIXIT · LXXXVY
 INCENDIO · VASTATA · REFECIT · SIGNIS · EXORNAVIT
 INSCRIBI · IVSSIT · A · DOM · MDCCCLVII



History Highlights & Extras

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



Bach's Early Years

Johann Sebastian Bach was born on March 21, 1685, in Eisenach, Germany, the youngest child of Johann Ambrosius Bach and Elizabeth Lämmerhirt Bach, who were deeply devoted to the Lutheran faith. His father was the town musician in Eisenach and came from a long line of accomplished musicians, stretching back many generations. It's believed he first taught young Johann to play the violin.

In 1694, both Johann's mother and father died within two months of each other. At age ten, he moved to Ohrdruf, Germany to live with his brother, Johann Christoph, who was the organist at St. Michael's Church and gave Bach his first formal keyboard lessons. Bach's soprano voice in his youth secured him a place in a select choir of poor boys at the school at Michaelskirche, Lüneburg. When his voice changed, he switched to studying organ then returned to Thuringia in the late summer of 1702. By this time, he was already a reasonably proficient organist.

Early Career and Marriage

In 1703, Bach landed his first job as a musician at the court of Duke Johann Ernst in Weimar where he served as a violinist and filled in for the official organist. Bach's reputation grew quickly, and he landed the position of organist at New Church in Arnstadt. However, he did not always get along well others, was often at odds with his students, and his composition style and complexity weren't seen fit for the church.

In 1707, he gladly took an organist position at the Church of St. Blaise in Mühlhausen. In October of that year, he married his cousin Maria Barbara Bach; together they would have seven children. He produced several conservative church cantatas based on biblical and chorale texts that were well received. One of his most famous works from this time is the cantata "Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit," also known as "Actus Tragicus."

Working for Royalty

After spending a year in Mühlhausen, Bach was awarded the position of organist at the court of the Duke Wilhelm Ernst in Weimar. He wrote many church cantatas and some of his best organ compositions, including "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor." In 1717, Bach became Kapellmeister, of chapel master, for Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Cothen. There he composed the Brandenburg Concertos and The Well-Tempered Clavier.

Second Marriage and Later Work

Bach's wife, Maria, died in 1720. In 1721, he married Anna Magdalena Wilcke (the daughter of the town trumpeter). Together, they had thirteen children, bringing his total number of offspring to twenty, though ten of them died in infancy. Of his ten surviving children, four went on to become well-known composers and musicians, including Johann Christian Bach.

In 1723, Bach left Anhalt-Cothen for Leipzig, where he took a position as Kantor at St. Thomas Church. He remained there for the rest of his life. There, his major works included St. John Passion (1723), St. Matthew Passion (1727), Suite No. 3 in D (1729), Magnificat in D Major (1731), Christmas Oratorio (1734), Italian Concerto (1735), Goldberg Variations (1741-1742), The Well-Tempered Clavier (second book, 1742), the Musical Offering (1747), and The Art of the Fugue (unfinished, 1749).

Final Years and Legacy

By 1740, Bach's eyesight was failing, though he continued to work as long as he could. In 1747, he performed for Frederick the Great, the king of Prussia, playing and even making up a new composition on the spot. He refined the composition back in Leipzig and gave the king the set of fugues called "Musical Offering."

In 1750, two failed eye operations resulted in complete blindness for Bach. He died of a stroke on July 28, 1750, and is buried at St. John's cemetery, Leipzig. His death in 1750 marked the end of the Baroque period in music and his compositions were mostly forgotten.

During his lifetime, Bach was better known as an organist than a composer. However, his few published works were admired by those who followed in his footsteps, including Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven. In March of 1829, almost 100 years after Bach's death, the composer Felix Mendelssohn performed Bach's "Passion According to St. Matthew." This performance spurred what would eventually become a world-wide interest in Bach.

Today, Bach is considered to be the best composer of the Baroque era, and one of the most important figures in classical music in general. He was a master at invoking emotions and an expert storyteller, often using melody to suggest actions or events. He created richly detailed composition, drawing from a variety of musical style from France, Italy, and across Europe.

Bach is remembered as a strong and loving family man. Even his secular compositions reflected his deep commitment to his faith, with Bach often writing the initials I.N.J. for the Latin *In Nomine Jesu*, or "in the name of Jesus," on his sheet music.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)



Luther's Early Years

Martin Luther was born November 10, 1483, in Eisleben and baptized the very next day in the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Eisleben on St Martin's Day. When Martin was only 6 months old, the family moved to Mansfeld. His father, Hans Luther, a successful copper miner and his mother Margarethe were very strict, but they were committed to giving their children a good education.

Luther the Schoolboy

Martin Luther began attending the local school in Mansfeld, at age 4, where he learnt the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church, as well as music. This was all taught in Latin. When he was 14, he was sent to Cathedral school at Magdeburg. The teachers were members of the Brethren of the Common Life, who stressed Bible reading and living simply. At 15, he transferred to St. George's Latin School in Eisenach, staying with the Cotta family.

Luther the Student

Luther was sent to Erfurt University by his father Hans, who wanted the best university for his son. At that time, it had approximately one thousand students and four colleges: Theology, Liberal Arts, Medicine and Law. He studied law, as his Father had wished, earning a liberal arts degree in 1502 and a master's arts degree in February 1505. While he was there, he furthered his Latin studies and cultivated his love of music. He also continued his religious training, attending mass regularly and praying daily.

Luther the Monk

Luther entered the Erfurt Monastery on July 17, 1505, and joined the Augustinian Order of Hermit. While he was there, he studied the Bible and teachings of the Catholic Church. He memorized much of both the New and the Old Testament, reading 10 Psalms a day. His reading led him to see God as a righteous judge and he became keenly aware of his own imperfection. He fulfilled the rigorous duties of a monk, but compulsively, in a desperate attempt to achieve forgiveness. Luther first had the opportunity to read a Bible in Latin in 1503. It was a rare book in those times, and it so excited Luther that he came back to the library repeatedly to read it. "Oh, that God would give me such a book for myself," he thought. While he was in hiding in the Wartburg Castle in 1521-22, he translated the New Testament from Latin--the language of scholars and clergy--into the German vernacular. In 1534 "The complete Bible of Martin Luther" was first printed at Wittenberg by Hans Lufft in 1534. It is said that Lufft sold over 100,000 copies of Luther's Bible in forty years.

Martin Luther the Reformer

The start of the Protestant Reformation is "officially" recognized as October 31, 1517, when Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. There is some debate, however, that this actually happened, as the first account comes from

Melanchthon after Luther's death. He definitely sent a letter to his superiors in the Augustinian Order and included the 95 Theses as a basis for discussion. The reformation had been brewing across Europe for many years. Luther was fortunate to have a protector and supporter, Frederick the Wise. The invention of moveable type by Gutenberg, also meant that Luther's books, Bibles, pamphlets etc. could be widely distributed.

Luther's Marriage

Although Luther highly approved of marriage, he himself was a confirmed bachelor. One of his duties was to find suitable husbands for the 12 nuns who had escaped from the convent in Grimma. Katharina was the last and despite all his efforts refused to marry anyone but him! This was during the Peasant's War and the Pope and Charles V were still after him. However, On June 13, 1525, Luther (42) married Katie (26) in Wittenberg. The couple had 6 children and looked after several more. They kept a houseful of guests and were very happy. He commented that she was more precious than the kingdom of France and the riches of Venice and had many pet names for her, such as "My Lord Katie" and "My rib".

Luther's Death

Luther passed away at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon on 18 February 1546. He had come to mediate a dispute between the Counts of Mansfeld, but the journey from Wittenberg had weakened him. The funeral was held in St Andrew's Church the following day and Justus Jonas preached. A second funeral was held on the 20th, then his coffin was carried on a wagon to Wittenberg. He was laid to rest in the Castle Church in Wittenberg on 22 February 1546.

Philip Melanchthon (1497-1560)



Early Years

Born Philip Schwartzerd, he entered the University of Heidelberg and studied philosophy at the age of 13. He received his B.A. at age 14, and his PhD at age 17. After receiving his master's degree in 1516, he studied theology and began to see true Christianity differently from the established church.

Introduction to Luther

In 1518, Melanchthon was appointed to teach along with Martin Luther at the University of Wittenberg. At Luther's urging, he began teaching Theology and Scripture in addition to his courses in classical studies.

Though Melanchthon was younger than Luther, shy, and mild mannered, he had Luther's respect and devotion—and, in many ways, tempered Luther. For his part, Melanchthon referred to Luther as his spiritual father and once said of him, "I would rather die than be separated from this man."

Melanchthon attended the disputation at Leipzig as a spectator, where he influenced the discussion with quiet commentary to Luther. In 1520, Melanchthon married Katharina, daughter of Wittenberg's mayor, and they eventually had four children.

Augsburg Confession

In April of 1530, Emperor Charles V called an official meeting between the representative of Lutheranism and Roman Catholicism, hoping to broker peace between the groups. Since Luther was at that time under papal excommunication and an imperial ban, Melanchthon was assigned the chief Lutheran representative.

The Augsburg Confession of 1530, largely Melanchthon's work, was officially presented by the German princes to the emperor on June 25, 1530, as the defining document of Lutheranism within Christendom. However, Luther felt Melanchthon should have taken a firmer position. It has been said that while Luther scattered sparks among the people, Melanchthon won the sympathy of educated people and scholars for the Reformation.

Death and Legacy

Thought there was some tension between them at the end, upon Luther's death Melanchthon said: "Dead is the horseman and chariot of Israel who ruled the Church in this last age of the world!" Melanchthon is remembered as a brilliant student of the classics, humanist scholar, and great theologian who led the German Reformation after Luther until his death in 1560. He was buried next to Luther.

Reformation Timeline



Pre-Reformation Events

1211	Followers of Peter Waldo were known as Waldensians, “Poor in Spirit.” Pope Lucius III excommunicated them in 1184. In 1211, more than eighty were burned as heretics in Strasbourg, beginning centuries of persecution.
1384	The Wycliffe Bible was the first translation of the scripture into English. John Wycliffe determined that every believer should have access to a Bible in his or her own language. His followers became known as Lollards.
1415	Jan Hus was condemned at the Council of Constance and martyred for his beliefs. The bonfire used for his execution was fueled with his copy of Wycliffe’s books. He sang praises until his final breath.
By 1455	Johann Gutenberg’s development of moveable type enabled the teaching of the Reformers to be widely circulated. By 1455, around 180 Bibles had been printed at a cost of nearly a year’s wages.
1497	At the carnival in Florence, Dominican Monk Girolamo Savonarola organized the “Bonfire of the Vanities.” He sent children door-to-door to gather the worldly things that were distracting people from true Christian living. The pile of books, cosmetics, dresses, masks, musical instruments, cards and other materials was estimated to be fifteen stories high.

Reformation Events

1519	At the Disputation of Leipzig, Andreas von Carlstadt and Luther debated with Dominican Friar Johann Eck. Eck forced Luther to admit that he agreed with Jan Hus (who was burned at the stake as a heretic), but this only served to strengthen Luther's resolve.
1521	Emperor Charles V called for the famous Diet of Worms to allow the Pope's ambassador, Cardinal Aleander, to examine Luther to see if he was a heretic. It was here that Luther made his famous reply including these words, "...my conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither safe nor right. God help me! Amen."
1521	The Edict of Worms, signed by Emperor Charles V, declared Martin Luther a heretic and placed him under an imperial ban. It also specified that all Luther's books were to be burned.
1522	While being kept safe by his friend Frederick the Wise in Wartburg Castle, Luther translated the entire New Testament into the German language in two and a half months.
1523	Ulrich Zwingli presented his 67 Theses at the Zurich Disputation, before hundreds of educated men. These included such topics as allowing clergy to marry, the mass being a celebration not a sacrifice and more.
1524-1526	The German peasants, angered by rising prices and the feudal system, decided to revolt in June 1524. Luther, in speaking on spiritual matters, made it clear that the Christian was "a perfect free lord of all, subject to none." The peasants interpreted this politically. The Peasant's Revolt began peacefully, but by 1525, the protests turned violent. At about the same time, Luther wrote a tract on Earthly Government stating that secular authorities should be obeyed. In the tract he called for patience and prayer and rejected the violence of the Revolt. As a result, many of the peasants rejected Luther.
1526	William Tyndale published an English language New Testament in Worms. The Bibles were then smuggled into England and distributed.
1530	Emperor Charles V called the Parliament together in Augsburg to resolve the political, religious and social problems created by the Reformation. The result was a document called the Augsburg Confession, which is still the Lutheran doctrinal standard.
1536	Menno Simons, the former Priest, gathered the scattered Anabaptists into congregations. They then became known as Mennonites. This group has influenced Baptists, Amish, Hutterites and Quakers.

1539	The Treaty of Frankfurt was an attempt to bring peace between the Schmalkaldic League and Emperor Charles V. Unfortunately, it failed to prevent future wars between Catholics and Protestants.
1549	“Consensus Tigurinus” - Calvinists and Zwinglians agree about communion.
1555	The Peace of Augsburg was an edict of toleration for Lutheranism. The outcome became known as ‘cuius regio, eius religio,’ (not actually in the Peace) which meant that each individual prince could choose the religion for his area. Lutheranism was formally recognized, but the other Reformation movements were not.
1563	The Heidelberg Catechism is one of the most important Calvinistic statements of faith.
1572	The St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre began with the murder of Gaspard de Coligny, one of the Huguenot leaders. Beginning in Paris and spreading to Rouen, Lyons, Bourges, Orleans, Bordeaux and beyond, up to 10,000 Huguenots were killed. The few survivors who fled to other countries, were imprisoned or enslaved.
1618-1648	The Thirty Years War took place. Society broke down in this period and two-thirds of the population died through warfare, famine and plague.
1648	After years of struggle, a series of treaties known as ‘The Peace of Westphalia’ were signed in Münster, by Emperor Frederick III. This was the start of the separation of church and state. Calvinists were added to the list of tolerated religions, which brought increased stability.

The Five Solas



The Five Solas are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that sum up the basic theological principles reformer Martin Luther held in contrast to some of the teachings of the Catholic church at the time.

1. Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone

“But man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 8:3

2. Sola Fide - Faith Alone

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.” Romans 3:21-22

3. Sola Gratia - Grace Alone

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8

4. Solus Christus - Christ Alone

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6

5. Soli Deo Gloria - To the Glory of God Alone

“Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”

Luther's Definition of Faith: An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, 1522

From Luther's *German Bible of 1522*:

Faith is not what some people think it is. Their human dream is a delusion. Because they observe that faith is not followed by good works or a better life, they fall into error, even though they speak and hear much about faith. "Faith is not enough," they say, "You must do good works, you must be pious to be saved." They think that, when you hear the gospel, you start working, creating by your own strength a thankful heart which says, "I believe." That is what they think true faith is. But, because this is a human idea, a dream, the heart never learns anything from it, so it does nothing and reform doesn't come from this 'faith,' either.

Instead, faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God. (John 1:13). It kills the Old Adam and makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever. He stumbles around and looks for faith and good works, even though he does not know what faith or good works are. Yet he gossips and chatters about faith and good works with many words.

Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace. Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire! Therefore, watch out for your own false ideas and guard against good-for-nothing gossips, who think they're smart enough to define faith and works, but really are the greatest of fools. Ask God to work faith in you, or you will remain forever without faith, no matter what you wish, say or can do.

Source: Translated by Rev. Robert E. Smith from DR. MARTIN LUTHER'S VERMISCHTE DEUTSCHE SCHRIFTEN. Johann K. Irmischer, ed. Vol. 63 (Erlangen: Heyder and Zimmer, 1854), pp.124-125. [EA 63:124-125].

Luther's Preface to the Small Catechism (1529)

Martin Luther to All Faithful and Godly Pastors and Preachers:

“Grace, Mercy, and Peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord. The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare [publish] this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small, plain, simple form. Mercy! Good God! what manifold misery I beheld! The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and, alas! many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach [so much so, that one is ashamed to speak of it]. Nevertheless, all maintain that they are Christians, have been baptized and receive the [common] holy Sacraments. Yet they [*do not* understand and] cannot [*even*] recite either the Lord's Prayer, or the Creed, or the Ten Commandments; they live like dumb brutes and irrational hogs; and yet, now that the Gospel has come, they have nicely learned to abuse all liberty like experts.

O ye bishops! [to whom this charge has been committed by God,] what will ye ever answer to Christ for having so shamefully neglected the people and never for a moment discharged your office? [You are the persons to whom alone this ruin of the Christian religion is due. You have permitted men to err so shamefully; yours is the guilt; for you have ever done anything rather than what your office required you to do.] May all misfortune flee you! [I do not wish at this place to invoke evil on your heads.] You command the Sacrament in one form [but is not this the highest ungodliness coupled with the greatest impudence that you are insisting on the administration of the Sacrament in one form only, and on your traditions] and insist on your human laws, and yet at the same time you do not care in the least [while you are utterly without scruple and concern] whether the people know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, or any part of the Word of God. Woe, woe, unto you forever!

Therefore I entreat [and adjure] you all for God's sake, my dear sirs and brethren, who are pastors or preachers, to devote yourselves heartily to your office, to have pity on the people who are entrusted to you, and to help us inculcate the Catechism upon the people, and especially upon the young. And let those of you who cannot do better [If any of you are so unskilled that you have absolutely no knowledge of these matters, let them not be ashamed to] take these tables and forms and impress them, word for word, on the people, as follows:--

In the first place, let the preacher above all be careful to avoid many kinds of or various texts and forms of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Sacraments, etc., but choose one form to which he adheres, and which he inculcates all the time, year after year. For [I give this advice, however, because I know that] young and simple people must be taught by uniform, settled texts and forms, otherwise they easily become confused when the teacher to-day teaches them thus, and in a year some other way, as if he wished to make improvements, and thus all effort and labor [which has been expended in teaching] is lost.

Also our blessed fathers understood this well; for they all used the same form of the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. Therefore we, too, should [imitate their

diligence and be at pains to] teach the young and simple people these parts in such a way as not to change a syllable, or set them forth and repeat them one year differently than in another [no matter how often we teach the Catechism].

Hence, choose whatever form you please, and adhere to it forever. But when you preach in the presence of learned and intelligent men, you may exhibit your skill, and may present these parts in as varied and intricate ways and give them as masterly turns as you are able. But with the young people stick to one fixed, permanent form and manner, and teach them, first of all, these parts, namely, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, etc., according to the text, word for word, so that they, too, can repeat it in the same manner after you and commit it to memory.

But those who are unwilling to learn it should be told that they deny Christ and are no Christians, neither should they be admitted to the Sacrament, accepted as sponsors at baptism, nor exercise any part of Christian liberty, but should simply be turned back to the Pope and his officials, yea, to the devil himself. Moreover, their parents and employers should refuse them food and drink, and [they would also do well if they were to] notify them that the prince will drive such rude people from the country, etc.

For although we cannot and should not force any one to believe, yet we should insist and urge the people that they know what is right and wrong with those among whom they dwell and wish to make their living. For whoever desires to reside in a town must know and observe the town laws, the protection of which he wishes to enjoy, no matter whether he is a believer or at heart and in private a rogue or knave.

In the second place, after they have well learned the text, then teach them the sense also, so that they know what it means, and again choose the form of these tables, or some other brief uniform method, whichever you like, and adhere to it, and do not change a single syllable, as was just said regarding the text; and take your time to it. For it is not necessary that you take up all the parts at once, but one after the other. After they understand the First Commandment well, then take up the Second, and so on, otherwise they will be overwhelmed, so as not to be able to retain any well.

In the third place, after you have thus taught them this Short Catechism, then take up the Large Catechism, and give them also a richer and fuller knowledge. Here explain at large every commandment, [article,] petition, and part with its various works, uses, benefits, dangers, and injuries, as you find these abundantly stated in many books written about these matters. And particularly, urge that commandment or part most which suffers the greatest neglect among your people. For instance, the Seventh Commandment, concerning stealing, must be strenuously urged among mechanics and merchants, and even farmers and servants, for among these people many kinds of dishonesty and thieving prevail. So, too, you must urge well the Fourth Commandment among the children and the common people, that they may be quiet and faithful, obedient and peaceable, and you must always adduce many examples from the Scriptures to show how God has punished or blessed such persons.

Especially should you here urge magistrates and parents to rule well and to send their children to school, showing them why it is their duty to do this, and what a damnable sin

they are committing if they do not do it. For by such neglect they overthrow and destroy both the kingdom of God and that of the world, acting as the worst enemies both of God and of men. And make it very plain to them what an awful harm they are doing if they will not help to train children to be pastors, preachers, clerks [also for other offices, with which we cannot dispense in this life], etc., and that God will punish them terribly for it. For such preaching is needed. [Verily, I do not know of any other topic that deserves to be treated as much as this.] Parents and magistrates are now sinning unspeakably in this respect. The devil, too, aims at something cruel because of these things [that he may hurl Germany into the greatest distress].

Lastly, since the tyranny of the Pope has been abolished, people are no longer willing to go to the Sacrament and despise it [as something useless and unnecessary]. Here again urging is necessary, however, with this understanding: We are to force no one to believe, or to receive the Sacrament, nor fix any law, nor time, nor place for it, but are to preach in such a manner that of their own accord, without our law, they will urge themselves and, as it were, compel us pastors to administer the Sacrament. This is done by telling them: Whoever does not seek or desire the Sacrament at least some four times a year, it is to be feared that he despises the Sacrament and is no Christian, just as he is no Christian who does not believe or hear the Gospel; for Christ did not say, This omit, or, This despise, but, *This do ye, as oft as ye drink it*, etc. Verily, He wants it done, and not entirely neglected and despised. *This do ye*, He says.

Now, whoever does not highly value the Sacrament thereby shows that he has no sin, no flesh, no devil, no world, no death, no danger, no hell; that is, he does not believe any such things, although he is in them over head and ears and is doubly the devil's own. On the other hand, he needs no grace, life, Paradise, heaven, Christ, God, nor anything good. For if he believed that he had so much that is evil, and needed so much that is good, he would not thus neglect the Sacrament, by which such evil is remedied and so much good is bestowed. Neither will it be necessary to force him to the Sacrament by any law, but he will come running and racing of his own accord, will force himself and urge you that you must give him the Sacrament.

Hence, you must not make any law in this matter, as the Pope does. Only set forth clearly the benefit and harm, the need and use, the danger and the blessing, connected with this Sacrament, and the people will come of themselves without your compulsion. But if they do not come, let them go and tell them that such belong to the devil as do not regard nor feel their great need and the gracious help of God. But if you do not urge this, or make a law or a bane of it, it is your fault if they despise the Sacrament. How could they be otherwise than slothful if you sleep and are silent? Therefore look to it, ye pastors and preachers. Our office is now become a different thing from what it was under the Pope; it is now become serious and salutary. Accordingly, it now involves much more trouble and labor, danger and trials, and, in addition thereto, little reward and gratitude in the world. But Christ Himself will be our reward if we labor faithfully. To this end may the Father of all grace help us, to whom be praise and thanks forever through Christ, our Lord! Amen.”

Source: <http://www.bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php>

Luther's Tower Experience (1519)



“Meanwhile in that same year, 1519, I had begun interpreting the Psalms once again. I felt confident that I was now more experienced, since I had dealt in university courses with St. Paul’s Letters to the Romans, to the Galatians, and the Letter to the Hebrews. I had conceived a burning desire to understand what Paul meant in his Letter to the Romans, but thus far there had stood in my way, not the cold blood around my heart, but that one word which is in chapter one: “The justice of God is revealed in it.” I hated that word, “justice of God,” which, by the use and custom of all my teachers, I had been taught to understand philosophically as referring to formal or active justice, as they call it, i.e., that justice by which God is just and by which he punishes sinners and the unjust.

But I, blameless monk that I was, felt that before God I was a sinner with an extremely troubled conscience. I couldn’t be sure that God was appeased by my satisfaction. I did not love, no, rather I hated the just God who punishes sinners. In silence, if I did not blaspheme, then certainly I grumbled vehemently and got angry at God. I said, “Isn’t it enough that we miserable sinners, lost for all eternity because of original sin, are oppressed by every kind of calamity through the Ten Commandments? Why does God heap sorrow upon sorrow through the Gospel and through the Gospel threaten us with his justice and his wrath?” This was how I was raging with wild and disturbed conscience. I constantly badgered St. Paul about that spot in Romans 1 and anxiously wanted to know what he meant.

I meditated night and day on those words until at last, by the mercy of God, I paid attention to their context: “The justice of God is revealed in it, as it is written: “The just person lives by faith.” I began to understand that in this verse the justice of God is that by which the just person lives by a gift of God, that is by faith. I began to understand that this verse means that the justice of God is revealed through the Gospel, but it is a passive justice, i.e. that by which the merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written: “The just

person lives by faith.” All at once I felt that I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates. Immediately I saw the whole of Scripture in a different light. I ran through the Scriptures from memory and found that other terms had analogous meanings, e.g., the work of God, that is, what God works in us; the power of God, by which he makes us powerful; the wisdom of God, by which he makes us wise; the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God.

I exalted this sweetest word of mine, “the justice of God,” with as much love as before I had hated it with hate. This phrase of Paul was for me the very gate of paradise. Afterward I read Augustine’s “On the Spirit and the Letter,” in which I found what I had not dared hope for. I discovered that he too interpreted “the justice of God” in a similar way, namely, as that with which God clothes us when he justifies us. Although Augustine had said it imperfectly and did not explain in detail how God imputes justice to us, still it pleased me that he taught the justice of God by which we are justified.”

Source: *Preface to the Complete Edition of Luther’s Latin Works* (1545) by Dr. Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Translated by Bro. Andrew Thornton, OSB from the “Vorrede zu Band I der Opera Latina der Wittenberger Ausgabe. 1545” in vol. 4 of *Luthers Werke in Auswahl*, ed. Otto Clemen, 6th ed., (Berlin: de Gruyter. 1967). pp. 421-428.

The Apostles Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a brief statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles. It was not formulated by theologians, but out of the needs of the Christian church. Christians used it to tell others what they believed and also to confess their faith with one another as they met for worship.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Apostles' Creed is a brief statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles. It was not formulated by theologians, but out of the needs of the Christian church. Christians used it to tell others what they believed and also to confess their faith with one another as they met for worship.

Lutheran Confessions

The Small Catechism (1529 A.D)

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism as a brief summary of the basic truths of the Christian faith. It was primarily intended to educate the laity and was designed as a tool that parents could use to teach their children. It provides summaries or explanations of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion), and the Ministry of the Keys and Confession.

The Large Catechism (1529 A.D)

Covering in greater depth the same doctrines and subjects as the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism was really a series of edited sermons of Martin Luther. It was intended primarily as a tool that could be used by pastors and teachers to broaden their knowledge of the teachings of the Bible.

The Augsburg Confession (1530 A.D.)

Written by Luther's colleague Philip Melancthon, this statement of faith is often viewed as the chief Lutheran confession. It was presented by the followers of Luther to Emperor Charles V at the imperial diet (assembly) meeting in Augsburg, Germany. It was intended to be a summary of the chief articles of the Christian faith as understood and taught by Lutherans in contrast to the errors that were being taught by the Roman Catholic church.

The Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession (1531 A.D.)

After the Roman theologians had condemned many of the teachings of the Augsburg Confession, Philip Melancthon authored this lengthy defense of the Augsburg Confession.

Smalcald Articles (1536 A.D.)

The Smalcald Articles were written by Luther in late 1536 for presentation and discussion at a church council that had been planned by Pope Paul III. . On June 4, 1536, Pope Paul III announced that a council would be held to deal with the concerns of the Protestants. In these articles Luther indicated on which points Lutherans would not compromise. Lutherans at once recognized their value as a statement of pure evangelical and biblical doctrine.

The Formula of Concord (1577 A.D.)

In the years following Luther's death, Lutherans had become divided over a number of doctrinal issues. Written primarily by Jacob Andreae, Martin Chemnitz, and David Chytraeus, the Formula of Concord (or "agreement") was a detailed restatement of many of the truths contained in the Augsburg Confession and was intended to be a statement that all genuine Lutherans could adopt. It was signed by over 8,100 pastors and theologians, as well as by over 50 governmental leaders. The Solid Declaration is the unabridged version. The Epitome is an abridged version intended for congregations to study.

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

WELS is a group of more than 340,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ’s saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God’s gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

Mission Statement: The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod exists to give all glory to God by upholding, defending, and proclaiming the truth of the Holy Scriptures as articulated in the Lutheran Confessions, and by providing a means for congregations and their members to extend the reach of their God-given mission of proclaiming the gospel in Word and sacrament through joint mission efforts at home and abroad, the training of called workers, and coordination of gospel applications to encourage spiritually healthy called workers in spiritually healthy congregations and schools.

Our acronym stands for the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We admit, it’s a mouthful. But each word is significant.

Wisconsin is where three pastors serving German immigrants joined together in a common fellowship more than 150 years ago. Today, it is still where more than half of our membership calls home—but now we have congregations spread all across North America and missions spanning the globe.

Evangelical is a Greek word. Literally translated it means “gospel oriented.” It is an apt description, for the gospel of Jesus Christ is at the core of all we believe and proclaim.

Lutheran refers to those who adhere to the teachings of Martin Luther, the leader of the Reformation in Germany. God used Luther to point out the errors of the church some 500 years ago—that salvation was something that must be earned. It was Luther who once again made clear that salvation is received through faith in Jesus as a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Synod literally translated means “walking together.” As a fellowship of Christians, we walk together as individuals and congregations sharing a common bond of faith in Jesus articulated in the Lutheran Confessions.

We invite you to walk with us.

Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference



Both WELS and the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany are members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference [CELFC]. The CELFC is a worldwide fellowship of Lutheran church bodies committed to the teachings of the Lutheran Church found in the Book of Concord of 1580. Established in 1993 with thirteen churches, the CELFC has grown by God's grace to include thirty-four church bodies today.

Every three years, representatives from CELFC churches gather for fellowship and theological study at an international convention. Regional meetings are held in alternate years. These gatherings provide spiritual encouragement for confessional Lutherans who often find themselves quite isolated. Visitors are always welcome at these gatherings.

Speaking about the heart and core of the CELFC, former President Gaylin Schmeling wrote: "The CELFC stands ready to give an answer to the confident hope of salvation in Christ that is within us. It is a refuge for those seeking confessional homes and a beacon shining the light of the Gospel in a sin-darkened world. Here the central truth of the Reformation, justification by faith alone, continues to be proclaimed. We are declared righteous by nothing we do or accomplish, but alone on the basis of Christ's redemptive work, which is counted as ours through faith in the Savior. He accomplished salvation for all on the cross and announced it to all by His resurrection, declaring the whole world righteous in Christ. This treasure is brought to us personally through the means of grace and is received by faith alone in the Savior, which is worked through those very means of grace."

History of WELS

“As we celebrate [our] past history, we note how the Lord has gathered us together and guided us. We may be a small gathering of believers by the world’s standards. Even in comparison with other church bodies, we are small. . . . Yet we share a commitment to be faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. God gathered us to work together and blessed the faithful efforts of all those who have gone before us. We remain together to work as brothers and sisters in Christ and to proclaim the wonders of God’s grace to all the world” (*Together in Christ: A History of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*, p. 54).

1828	United Rhine Mission Society formed in Germany
1837	German Mission Society sends John Muehlhaeuser to serve in North America
1848	Muehlhaeuser moves from New York to Wisconsin
1850	First meeting of the new Wisconsin Synod at Granville church with Muehlhaeuser as president
1858	Synod numbers: 17 pastors, 16 parish schools, 7 Sunday schools, 3 teachers
1860	John Bading becomes new synod president
1865	Seminary building dedicated in Watertown; Synod periodical <i>Gemeinde-Blatt</i> appears
1866	J. M. Hoeckendorf’s congregation of 125 Lutherans moves to Nebraska
1868	Synod severs ties with Germany to become more Lutheran
1871	Minnesota Synod withdraws from General Council and moves to closer ties with Wisconsin Synod
1872	Ohio, Missouri, Norwegian, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota Synods hold first convention of Synodical Conference
1878	Relocated seminary begins at 13th and Vine in Milwaukee with six students
1892	Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin Synods form federation called Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States
1893	Federation adopts Apache mission effort as its world mission project
1914	English <i>Northwestern Lutheran</i> begins publication

1917	Merger of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Nebraska all becoming districts of Wisconsin Synod
1919	Merged synod numbers: 127,000 communicants spread throughout 698 congregations
1929	New home for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary dedicated
1930	Synod enters debt and financial hardship – mission work suffers
1933	Synod elects John Brenner as president
1935	Synod resolves to retire debt
1939	Subscribers to English <i>Northwestern Lutheran</i> outnumber those to German <i>Gemeinde-Blatt</i> ; Synod protests LCMS ties with ALC
1949	Synod sends exploratory team to Africa
1950	First synod service in California
1952	Missionary sent to Japan
1952	Missionary team arrives in Zambia
1954	Arizona-California District added to synod
1955	First synod services in Florida
1959	Synod officially becomes the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
1961	Synod resolves to break with LCMS
1973	South Atlantic District added to synod
1983	North Atlantic and South Central Districts added to synod.
1995	Martin Luther College begins in New Ulm and Luther Preparatory Schools begin in Watertown

From *Together in Christ: A History of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod* © 2000 Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee WI. All rights reserved.

The Lord's Prayer in English and German

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Vater unser im Himmel,
geheiligt werde dein Name;
dein Reich komme; dein Wille geschehe,
wie im Himmel so auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern;
und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.

Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.
Amen.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Text and tune: Public domain

640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
we keep its teachings pure
throughout all generations.

Text: Public domain

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
he holds the field for - ev - er.
one lit - tle word can fell him.
the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a trusty shield and weapon;
he helps us free from ev'ry need
that has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
now means deadly woe;
deep guile and great might
are his dread arms in fight;
on earth is not his equal.

- 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
soon were our loss effected;
but for us fights the valiant one
whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?"
Jesus Christ it is,
the almighty Lord,
and there's no other God;
he holds the field forever.

- 3 Though devils all the world should fill,
all eager to devour us,
we tremble not, we fear no ill;
they shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
scowl fierce as he will,
he can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
one little word can fell him.

- 4 The Word they still shall let remain
nor any thanks have for it;
he's by our side upon the plain
with his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
goods, fame, child, and wife,
though all may be gone,
our victory is won;
the kingdom's ours forever!

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son and to de - stroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would seek to overthrow your Son
and to destroy what he has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your Christendom that we
may sing your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Public domain



Travel Tips & Fun Facts

General Thoughts on European Travel

Americans enjoy what is probably the highest standard of living in the world. We take for granted many things that are luxury items in most other areas of the world. Below we have gathered a few tips to help the new traveler avoid unpleasant surprises on that first journey across the ocean. Following are a few ideas of what you should expect (or not expect) when you journey abroad:

Hotels

Hotels in the Europe are clean and comfortable. They are very often charming and reflect the culture of the country you are visiting. However, the standard room size is usually significantly smaller (even in the most expensive hotels) than a typical hotel room in the States. This is probably one of the biggest surprises of American travelers. Many hotels provide hair dryers and other essentials. We've tried to list the amenities we know if, but please check each hotel's website for specific amenities and keep in mind that hotels can make changes at any point.

Air-Conditioning

In much of the U.S., air-conditioning is no longer considered a luxury. In Europe, the climate is much milder, so air-conditioning is limited to only some of the most expensive hotels. Even in touring coaches, air-conditioning often does not function to the degree we expect. If you know that you need a cool room at night, we can order you a portable fan to be delivered to the first hotel.

Smoking

In Europe, smoking is permitted in certain areas in airports, train stations, and even some restaurants. Similarly, although many hotels are now offering some non-smoking rooms, they cannot guarantee enough of them for an entire travel group. Though European laws are beginning to change, unfortunately there is no way to completely avoid tobacco smoke.

Restrooms

In many areas of the U.S., we are used to using restrooms in restaurants, filling stations, department stores, and more anytime we want and at no cost. In Europe, though technically you are legally allowed to use a restroom at any public establishment, many restaurant owners and shopkeepers "show their displeasure" when tourists come into their establishment, use their water, and then leave. If you buy something however, usage is almost always free.

It is free to use the restroom in airports and at most attractions, so those are the best places to stop for a break. Most other restrooms require a cash payment—make sure to carry some change.

Water

At home we are used to finding drinking fountains on every floor of every building. In Europe, drinking fountains are scarce. Every time we sit down at a restaurant, we are used to a glass of ice water presented to us. In Europe, a patron will hardly ever be served a glass of water upon being seated. You are also likely to be charged for your water in some countries. Generally, ice cubes are not used in beverages, and ice is available in limited quantities. While you can sometimes ask for ice, don't be surprised if they refuse or count the cubes and charge accordingly.

Waiters

In the U.S., many of us follow schedules that allow 30-60 minutes to have a meal at a restaurant. In Europe, service is simply slower. People eat slower, and dinner is often considered a social event in itself. No waiter is going to "hint" that you should vacate your table. Most of the time they will not even bring you a check until you flag them down.

No Free Refills

Americans are used to paying certain prices for things like soft drinks, coffee, and tea. In Europe, as well as other parts of the world, you will pay \$2.00 (and sometimes much more) for one cup of plain coffee, depending on where you are having it. There are no free refills for coffee, soft drinks, etc.

Europe is an amazing place to visit and explore. Please do not let these cultural differences keep you from enjoying all the wonderful experiences you should have during your trip!

10 Tips for Travel Etiquette in Germany



Each country has its own unique customs and cultural etiquette, so it's useful to know what those rules are. Here are some suggestions to help you make the most of your trip to Germany:

Tip 1: Greet Germans formally

Germans are much more comfortable with a handshake than a hug. This also applies to greeting children. It's important to maintain eye-contact when greeting Germans. Start by using titles, such as Herr (Mr.) or Frau (Ms.) with their surname, unless they invite you to use their first name.

Tip 2: Just say hello

Simply say "Hello" (Guten tag) and avoid questions like, "How are you?" especially when you are greeting strangers. They don't chat in the check-out lines in the store like Americans. The quicker you are in that line, the better!

Tip 3: Avoid awkward conversational topics

Germans aren't much for small talk, and they don't tend to talk about their personal lives and families. We also suggest avoiding talking about politics, money, and war. They do enjoy talking about their wonderful country!

Tip 4: Don't ask for tap water

When you are in a restaurant order still or carbonated bottled water, as it's considered stingy to ask for tap water. Don't take the bottle home though, as the restaurant will lose their deposit. If you purchase water from a store, you can return the bottle to a store to get the refund (25c).

Tip 5: Don't be late

Germans are very punctual, so avoid being late for any appointments or tours. You will love the German efficiency!

Tip 6: Take your elbows off the table

It is polite to rest your hands on the table, but not your elbows. Germans, like many Europeans, use their knife and fork to cut most things (including pizza). They use their fork in their left-hand and the knife in the right. Bread is the only food eaten with their hands. When you have finished your meal, put your knife and fork side-by-side on the plate.

Tip 7: Don't stand so close to me!

Privacy and personal space are very important, so remain at least an arm's length away and avoid touching, as it's seen as an invasion of privacy. They also don't like effusive compliments, but you can certainly thank tour guides and give them a gratuity.

Tip 8: Shop 6 days a week

Shops are generally closed on Sundays, unless it's a primarily tourist area, so make sure that you get your shopping done during the week. It's easier to buy things with Euros than with credit cards, so it's good to travel with cash.

Tip 9: Wait for the green light

It is illegal to jaywalk or cross the street when the traffic light is red. It's also forbidden to walk in the bicycle lane, and you might get hit by a cyclist!

Tip 10: Say no to gum

It is considered impolite to chew gum while talking to someone, so save it for the bus or when you're not conversing with Germans. You should also avoid putting your hands in your pockets while chatting.

German Language Basics

Hello–Guten Tag (goo-ten tock)

Good Morning–Guten Morgen (goo-ten mor-gen)

Good Evening–Guten Abend (goo-ten ah-bend)

Goodbye–Auf Wiedersehen (owf vee-dahr-sayn)

Do you speak English?–Sprechen Sie Englisch? (schprechen zee eng-lish)

I do not understand–Ich verstehe nicht (ik fair-schtay-eh nicht)

Yes–Ja (yah)

No–Nein (nine)

Please–Bitte (bit-eh)

Thank you–Danke (dahn-keh)

How much does that cost?–Wieviel kostet das? (vee-feel kos-tet doss)

Where is the restroom?–Wo ist die Toilette? (voh ist dee twah-let-teh)

Where is the post office?–Wo ist das Postamt? (voh ist doss post-ahmt)

Where is there a doctor?–Wo gibt es einen Arzt? (voh geept es ine-nen Ahrtst)

Where is the train?–Wo ist der Bahnhof? (voh ist dare Bon-hoef)

The bill, please–Zahlen, bitte (tsah-len bit-eh)

I would like...–Ich möchte...(ik mok-te)

In Germany it is customary when entering a smaller retail store to greet (“Guten Tag,” “Guten Abend,” “Guten Morgen”) and be greeted by the clerk. Then upon leaving, you say: “Auf Wiedersehen.”

Dining in Germany



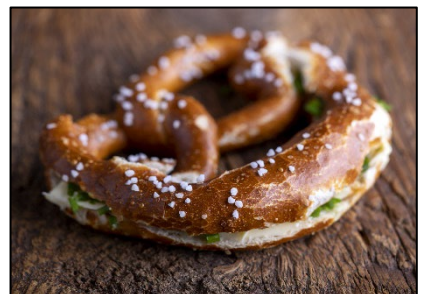
Germany is well-known for its hearty comfort foods like sausages, sauerkraut, golden-fried potatoes, and spätzle. But this is only a small part of the German gastronomic picture. While you definitely will find great traditional favorites tucked into Germany's beer gardens, food markets, and family-friendly restaurants, you will also find forward-thinking gastropubs, quaint cafés, and fine dining experiences highlighting top-quality, locally-sourced ingredients.

Here are a few of the traditional dishes you might want to sample:



Apfelkücherl – Crisp apple rings coated in batter then deep fried to perfection, creating something like an apple donut. Though a long-standing tradition from southern Germany, their popularity has spread throughout Europe and to the US. While these were traditionally eaten as a complete meal, today it has become a popular dessert, as well.

Brezel – This is the German term for pretzel, though you may see them sold under either name. They are widely available across Germany at bakeries, street stalls, and even service stations. Germans love to eat their pretzels cut in half with a thick layer of butter and chopped chives on top. Many view the knot shape as a symbol of the Holy Trinity.





Brot or Brötchen – Whether in the form of a loaf (Brot) or a small crusty roll with a tender center (Brötchen), Germans love their fresh bread. Many Germans purchase fresh bread daily from the local bakery. Bread is served with most meals, in a wide variety, including grain, Pumpernickel, rye, and white.

Currywurst – Another popular sausage dish, this German sausage with curry ketchup is the number one “fast food” in the country. It starts with a high-quality pork sausage that is steamed, fried or grilled, sliced up and covered with thick curry ketchup, curry powder, and spices. Vendors sell them at street fairs and carnivals all over Germany, often alongside fries a roll (Brötchen).



Döner Kebab - First introduced by Turkish immigrant workers in the 1960s, Germany’s answer to a gyro is one of the country’s most popular street foods, with annual sales of over 3.5 billion Euros. Döner contain seasoned meat shaved from a vertical rotisserie with veggies like lettuce, tomato, onion, and red cabbage in a warm pita with a variety of special sauce options.

Käsespätzle – This comfort food is served in beer gardens and street markets across Germany and in most German homes. Homemade egg noodles (Spätzle) are layered with creamy Emmentaler cheese and topped with crispy fried onions yielding a hearty, filling dish similar to mac and cheese (but infinitely better).



Kartoffelpuffer – Similar to a latke, this potato pancake is made from grated potatoes, egg, and flour. They are widely enjoyed as an appetizer, alongside roasted meats, or served for breakfast. Another popular potato dish, **Bratkartoffeln**, is made from thin slices or shredded potatoes fried with onion (and sometimes bacon). They are also widely enjoyed any time of day.



Nürnberger Rostbratwürst – If you visit Nuremberg, do not miss a chance to sample their famous proprietary bratwurst. They are enjoyed alongside sauerkraut and dumplings or in a delicious **Drei im Weggla** sandwich made of three sausages on a Brötchen with yellow mustard. This simple dish is one of Germany's most popular street foods for good reason!

Rouladen – This unique main dish is a combination of bacon, onions, mustard, and pickles wrapped in sliced beef or veal and served in a red wine gravy. It is often accompanied by Spätzle (potato dumplings shaped like noodles) or mashed potatoes and pickled red cabbage. This is a popular staple of family dinners and special occasions.



Sauerbraten – One of Germany's national dishes, this pot roast is first marinated in a spiced wine and vinegar mixture, then roasted until tender, and served with a wonderfully flavorful sweet-tangy gravy. The origin of Sauerbraten has been ascribed to Julius Caesar, who is documented as having sent beef marinated in wine all the way from Rome to the new Roman colony of Cologne.

Schnitzel – Meat cutlets (such as chicken, beef, veal, or pork) are pounded into thin patties, breaded, and fried in oil to create a crispy, juicy main dish. Schnitzel is typically served with **spätzle**, fried or mashed potatoes, salad, or warm potato salad. It is a very popular food in restaurants, bars, and fast-food eateries.



Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte – Better known as Black Forest cake, this popular confection is named not after the mountain range, but the region's Schwarzwälder kirsch liquor, distilled from tart cherries. Chocolate sponge cake is layered with whipped cream and sour cherries, drizzled with the liquor, and decorated with whipped cream, cherries, and chocolate.

Making Special Dietary Requests in German

Below are some useful phrases if you have any special dietary requirements. If you don't feel comfortable pronouncing the phrases, you can just show this page to your waiter:

“I am allergic to gluten”

German: Ich bin allergisch gegen Gluten.

“I am allergic to nuts”

German: Ich bin allergisch gegen Nüsse.

“I am allergic to dairy”

German: Ich bin allergisch gegen Milchprodukte.

“I am allergic to shellfish”

German: Ich bin allergisch gegen Schalentiere.

“I am allergic to eggs”

German: Ich bin allergisch gegen Eier.

“I would prefer a vegan meal”

German: Ich hätte gerne ein veganes Gericht.

There are quite a few places to buy gluten free ingredients in Europe, from local supermarkets to bigger chain stores and organic shops.

Many larger grocery chains in Germany carry gluten-free foods, marked with the words *glutenfrei* or the German Celiac Society (DZG) logo.

Also, the website <http://www.legalnomads.com/gluten-free> has a wealth of helpful information about gluten-free foods to eat while travelling



Travel Tips

Currency

Euros € are the official currency of Germany. Using an ATM is the best way to get cash in foreign currency at the best exchange rates. A fee of about \$3-\$5 per transaction will be charged. Check with your bank for locations of ATMs that will accept your bankcard and for fees your bank may charge (you'll probably be charged a fee by both your bank and the foreign ATM's bank). Also, check with your bank since some international ATMs only accept 4-digit PIN numbers (you may need to change your PIN to 4 digits if it isn't already).

Taking a well-known credit card such as Visa or MasterCard is a good idea. Again, check with your bank for your PIN. Although many credit card companies are adding a 2% surcharge for international transactions, Chase Bank and Capital One are not doing so at this time. Take money with you in small denominations, nothing over \$20 bills. Most hotels have safes in the rooms. It is now very difficult to cash traveler's checks, so we don't recommend them.

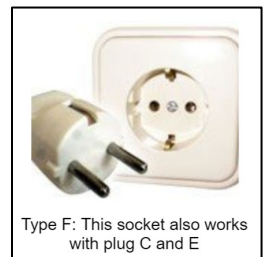
Estimated current value of Euro: 1€ ≈ \$1.07

EUR / USD						Traveler Cheatsheet cuex.com	
Exchange rates from 25/06/2024							
EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD		
1	» 1.07	15	» 16.07	45	» 48.20		
2	» 2.14	20	» 21.42	50	» 53.56		
3	» 3.21	25	» 26.78	100	» 107.12		
4	» 4.28	30	» 32.14	250	» 267.80		
5	» 5.36	35	» 37.49	500	» 535.59		
10	» 10.71	40	» 42.85	1,000	» 1,071.18		

USD / EUR						Traveler Cheatsheet cuex.com	
Exchange rates from 25/06/2024							
USD	EUR	USD	EUR	USD	EUR		
1	» 0.93	15	» 14.00	45	» 42.01		
2	» 1.87	20	» 18.67	50	» 46.68		
3	» 2.80	25	» 23.34	100	» 93.35		
4	» 3.73	30	» 28.01	250	» 233.39		
5	» 4.67	35	» 32.67	500	» 466.77		
10	» 9.34	40	» 37.34	1,000	» 933.55		

Electricity

In Germany, the power sockets are type F. The standard voltage is 230 V, and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. This means that electric shavers, hair styling tools, travel irons, etc. from the U.S. will need a converter. Many modern chargers (iPad, iPhone, laptops, etc.) are dual voltage and require only a plug converter. Check the voltages printed on your charger. Hotels nearly always have hair dryers, so you don't need to bring one. Many are also equipped with irons, at least at the front desk. Check each hotel's amenities on the Internet prior to departure to find out.



Healthcare

Germany has good medical care and facilities. If you are not a resident of Germany, doctors and hospitals will expect immediate payment in cash. Most doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies do not accept credit cards. You are strongly advised to take out travel insurance, as healthcare in Germany is quite expensive. The U.S. government does not pay medical bills, and U.S. Medicare is not valid overseas.

Many European pharmacists can diagnose and prescribe remedies for simple illnesses. If a pharmacist can't help you, he or she will send you to a doctor or a health clinic, where you will likely be expected to make immediate payment in cash.

Internet & Phone Usage

Cellular service and the internet are widely available in Germany. Many hotels, cafes, and visitor attractions offer free Wi-Fi. Contact your current cell phone provider for details about how to use your phone internationally.

Restrooms

Many attractions have public restrooms, though they may be a bit spread out in larger cities or sparse in smaller towns. Often there is a small fee for use, so make sure to have some local coins on hand. Facilities are also available in many pubs, restaurants, and eateries; however, these are usually reserved for paying customers, so be prepared to make a small cash purchase before asking to use the restroom.

Safety

Crime - Germany is considered generally safe for U.S. travelers. Be vigilant, as pickpocketing, mugging, and theft of mobile phones and personal items can occur. Be cautious with personal belongings; don't leave cell phones or other valuables unattended or sitting out on tables in restaurants or cafés. If you must carry a purse, a cross-body type is recommended. Never "hold" bags for someone you don't know. Avoid political parades, protests, and areas of demonstrations.

Water quality – Water is the most controlled food/beverage product in Germany. Many cities in Germany are quite proud of the high quality of their drinking water.

Shopping

In larger cities, stores are usually open from 9:30am to 8pm, Monday through Saturday. In smaller villages, most stores hours are from 9:30am to 6pm, though shops may be closed during lunch and on Wednesday afternoons. German shops are closed on Sundays with the exception of some bakeries, gas stations, grocery stores, and little shops called "Spätkauf" or "Späti."

Keep in mind that clothing and shoe sizes differ from the U.S. Some major stores have comparison charts posted, but it is best to try on garments before buying them.

Some stores offer "free shipping/no tax" on purchases you buy and have shipped directly to the U.S. Items mailed to the U.S. are subject to duty when they arrive. They cannot be included in your exemption, and duty on them cannot be prepaid. Upon delivery, duty tax will be imposed according to the value of the items. We recommend only buying things that can be carried in your suitcase or carry-on bag since the shipping process can be lengthy and uncertain.

When shopping, you will pay a VAT, or Value Added Tax of up to 20% of the cost of most items. U.S. residents are often entitled to a refund of this tax. Follow these steps:

1. Get a VAT 407 form from the retailer when you purchase the product. They might ask for proof that you're eligible, e.g., your passport.
2. Show the goods, the completed form, and your receipts to customs when you leave Germany.
3. Customs will approve your form if everything is in order. You then take the approved form to get paid.

Getting Paid

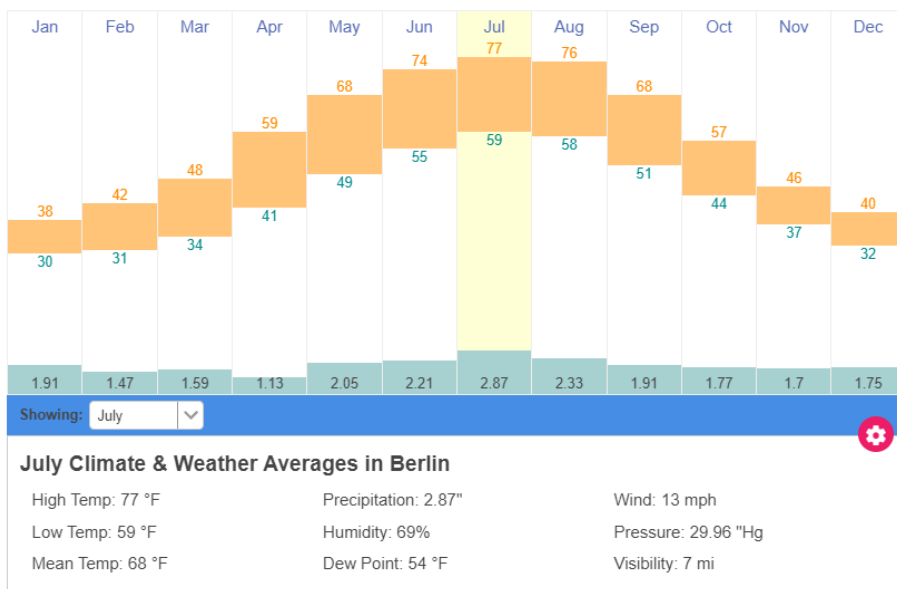
You can either get paid immediately at a refund booth, at the airport, or send the approved form to the retailer or their refund company. The retailer will tell you how you'll get paid. Some retailers charge a fee for handling your form. This money will be deducted from your refund. If there are no customs officials available, you can leave your form in a customs post box. Customs will check it and contact your retailer to arrange the refund if everything is in order.

U.S. Customs

A U.S. resident who has been out of the states for more than 48 hours may bring home \$800 worth of retail goods without paying duty on them. There is a flat duty of 10% on the next \$1000 worth of purchases. After that, the duty varies, depending on the items purchased. Keep a complete record of your purchases (with receipts) and have it handy for Customs. U.S. Customs may confiscate certain food products such as meats and fruits and contraband items such as ivory, which is on the endangered list.

Weather

In general, summer highs are in the 70s F with a bit more rainfall in June, July, and August. Winter average highs are around 40 degrees F. The southwest, wine region of Germany is warmer, with a more Mediterranean climate, while the Alps are colder and snowier than average. It's best to dress in layers and be prepared with an umbrella and a raincoat.



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

We really hope you don't experience any problems while you are traveling, but should you need assistance with visas, lost passports, or aid in an emergency situation, you can get in touch with the U.S. Embassy and consulates below:

GERMANY

U.S. Embassy Berlin

Clayallee 170,

14191 Berlin

Federal Republic of Germany

Telephone: +(49) (30) 8305-0

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(49) (30) 8305-0

Email: ACSBerlin@state.gov

U.S. Consulate General Munich

Koeniginstrasse 5

80539 Munich

Federal Republic of Germany

Telephone: +(49) (89) 2888-575

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: 089-2888-0

Fax: +(49) (89) 280-9998

Email: ConsMunich@state.gov

Traveler Biographies

Ilene Berger. I'm a retired ER nurse. My husband was a WELS Pastor, but now is in heaven. I now live in Wausau, WI with my little sheltie, Buddy. I have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. I enjoy reading, decorating and going to craft shows.



Gretchen Brei is a member of St Paul Ev Lutheran, Appleton, WI, who also treasures daily devotions and worship opportunities on FB with St Paul, Plymouth, NE. Pastor Fred Berger's mother, Ilene, and I worked together for 30 years. Worked 43 years as RN, but now enjoying retirement, spending time with husband of 45 years. Husband sees no reason to retire from farming. Our 2 adult children and 5 grandchildren live within 10 miles from us. Hobbies: anything with my grandkids, swimming, fishing, travel, bird watching, reading



Lorrie Bur. I grew up in the small northern city of Rhinelander, Wisconsin where nearly everyone had German ancestry. I have lived in Eau Claire for the last 40 years. I have a husband and 4 adult children, one may always live with me. I was in Germany for a month staying with a family when I was sixteen in a small city outside of Frankfurt am Main. At the time I could not speak German but could understand conversation very well. Not now sad to say. I am looking forward to learning some history.



Hello, I am **Mitch Bur.** Born and raised in Eau Claire, WI for 24 years. I have 3 siblings and will be accompanying my mom on this trip. I enjoy the sport Ultimate frisbee, as well as biking, reading, and writing. I have enjoyed one previous visit to Germany and am excited to see more.



Dallas and Vickie Christ live in Plymouth, Nebraska and are both retired (kind of). We have two sons, Beau and his wife Christa live in Boiling Springs, SC, and Chase and his wife Kenzie live in Lincoln, NE. We both love to travel and to meet new people. There is a good chance we will not be the quietest couple on the trip:) Members of St Paul's Lutheran in Plymouth, Nebraska.



We are **Brian and Tammy Dauck**. We moved to Plymouth in 2021 (from Green Bay, WI area) to be close to our grandchildren. Brian works at Plymouth Electric and enjoys wood working and gardening. Tammy is retired and enjoys volunteering. We are blessed to be part of the St Pauls church family!



Justin Dauck is one of the pastors at St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School in Plymouth, Nebraska. He is married to Beth and they have four children—James (8), Nora (6), Gideon (4), and Samuel (2). Justin has had the opportunity to travel to the Luther Lands in the past and is looking forward to leading the tour to learn more about “Our Great Heritage.”



Larry and Carol Hans are from Lincoln NE, are members of St. Mark Lutheran Church, and both work for Hans Electric. Their two married children, Tim and Kelly, also live in Lincoln along with five grandchildren. Larry enjoys hunting, fishing and watching westerns, and Carol likes gardening and baking. They also enjoy Husker volleyball and family time at the cabin.



Steve and Melinda Hahm live in Eau Claire, WI. They have 3 daughters. The oldest is married and lives in Florida, the middle daughter is currently deployed with the army reserve, and the youngest is finishing her first year at Winona State. Melinda works in cardiology as a clinical exercise physiologist and Steve transitioned from a 26-year manufacturing job to a building maintenance position at a skilled nursing facility. They are getting used to being empty nesters and enjoy spending time outside and look forward to taking up new hobbies and going on new adventures together.



Stan and Mary Hueske live near Plymouth, Nebraska. We have three adult children and nine grandchildren ages 14-26. Sheri and Matt Murphy live in Idaho, Annette and Lee Morrell live in Arizona and Tom and Tracie Hueske live near Plymouth, Nebraska. Stan worked at Motorola for three years as an electrical engineer before being drafted into the Army. Then he worked for National Cash Register one year before coming back to Nebraska. We have a T-L pivot irrigation and sales business plus raise corn and soybeans. We are semi-retired and enjoy our extra free time.



Joel and Cathryn Naumann live in Eau Claire, WI with their three gradeschool-aged children, Titus, Abram, and Maggie. Joel has served as pastor at St. Mark Church and School since graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2010. Cathryn is a homemaker, nanny, and coordinator for St. Mark's school choice families. Both love to travel; both have been to Europe on several occasions, including previous travels within Germany. Joel has previously led a German Outreach trip of six high school students from Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Joel and Cathryn enjoy good company around a good cup of coffee or a nice beer.



Arlyn & Deb Panko live in Fairbury, Nebraska. They have five adult sons. Arlyn has an agricultural background and Deb is a retired school teacher. They are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Plymouth. They have both done some traveling but it will be their first time going overseas.



Dan and Melissa Price live in Appleton, WI. They are retired and enjoy traveling and spending time with family and friends. Their 4 children are married and have blessed them with 11 grandchildren. Melissa enjoys cooking and reading. Dan stays busy working outdoors and watching the stock market.



Scott and Jona Raasch live in Lincoln, NE. Their son Scott Jr. lives in Gretna, NE with his wife Lindsey and son Benjamin (5). Daughter, Elizabeth Satterthwaite, lives SE of Hickman, NE with her husband, Brandon and sons Dylan (11) Cooper (9) and daughter Aubree (5). Scott enjoys his retirement and is very active with his church, Mount Olive in Lincoln. Scott also enjoys golfing and reading. Jona enjoys travel, film festivals, and reading.

Keith Schleusener was born and raised on a farm and worked many years on a dairyman and a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War. Keith and his wife, Vada, were blessed with five children and seven grandchildren. Keith is a member at Grace Lutheran Church in Seward.



Joel and Karen Schroeder live near DeWitt, NE. Joel enjoys his life as a farmer and Karen works at a Koch Fertilizer plant. They have three children and six grandchildren. Their oldest son, Ben, and family live in Waco, TX. Their second son, Tom, and family live in Overland Park, KS. Their daughter, Amy, is getting married in December and lives in Lincoln, NE. Joel is an avid Nebraska football fan and likes to restore old vehicles. Karen likes traveling, Nebraska volleyball and

taking care of the lawn and flowers. They are members of St. Paul's - Plymouth, NE.



Wes & Cari Schroeder live in rural Plymouth, NE. Wes is the Motor Division Manager for Echo Electric Supply and runs our family farming operation, raising corn, soybeans, and hay and managing our cow/calf herd. In his spare time, he loves to go fishing. Cari worked as a public-school speech-language pathologist & early childhood educator for 35 years. She retired to babysit grandchildren and then teach music and piano at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, jigsaw puzzles. Both participate in many church activities.



Heidi and Nick Warnke Live in Plymouth, NE. Have two boys: Weston, 11 and Layne, 10. Heidi works for the State of Nebraska as a Service Coordinator supporting individuals with disabilities. She enjoys reading, cooking/baking, spending time with the boys and all their sports, events and activities. Nick works at Smithfield (Farmland). He enjoys racing, hunting, going to the boys activities and events but also helps as coach the boys teams. Fun fact: this is our first time ever flying and traveling internationally.



Mark and Deb Wells live and work in Plymouth, NE. Mark works in the parts department at Wells Implement and Deb serves as the church secretary at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. They have three grown children: Larissa Frey (and her husband Adam and their three children) who live in Woodbury, MN; Benjy, (and his wife Jade) who live in Phoenix, AZ; and Michael (and his wife Laura) who live in Plymouth, NE. Their three grandchildren range in age from 10-15. As time permits, they enjoy sightseeing and exploring nearby areas while visiting their children and grandchildren They are looking forward to spending time with everyone in Germany.

Fun Facts About Germany

- Germany is the most populous European country (apart from Russia), with a population of 82 million.
- Germany's land area was over 50% larger during the Second Reich (1871-1918) and included most of present-day Poland and parts of Lithuania.
- The German language was once the lingua franca of central, eastern and northern Europe, and remains the language with the most native speakers in Europe.
- About a quarter of all American citizens claim at least partial German ancestry.
- Classical music has been widely dominated by German-speaking composers. A few famous ones born on the present territory of Germany include Bach, Händel, Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Wagner and R. Strauss.
- The Germans can be credited for the discovery of insulin, the invention of the clarinet, the pocket watch, the automated calculator, the light bulb, television (partly), paraffin, petrol/gasoline & Diesel engines, the automobile (as well as the engine, differential gear and other important devices), the motorcycle, the jet engine, the LCD screen and the Walkman.
- There are 1,300 beer breweries in Germany, making some 5,000 kinds of beer. German people are the world's second biggest beer drinkers after the Czechs.
- In 2005 Germany produced approximately 35% of the world's wind energy. There are over 20,000 wind turbines off the coast of northern Germany, the largest of which reach 200 meters in height.
- Germans are among the most avid recyclers. According to a BBC survey, Germany had the third highest recycling rate (48% of waste recycled), only just surpassed by its Swiss and Austrian neighbors.
- The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation was founded by Charlemagne in Aachen in 800 C.E. It lasted over a thousand years, until 1806, when Napoleon dissolved it (mostly because he saw himself as the heir of Charlemagne, the new Emperor of the Occident).
- The University of Marburg (Philipps-Universität Marburg), in Hesse, was founded in 1527 as the world's first Protestant university.
- Germany has had quite a few capitals in its turbulent history, notably: Aachen (from 794), Regensburg (seat of the *Reichstag* from 1663 to 1806), Frankfurt-am-Main (site of the election and coronation of German emperors between 1152 and 1792 and seat of the *Bundestag* of the German Confederation from 1815 to 1871), Nuremberg (seat of the Imperial Diet 1356- 1543, and official residence of numerous Kings of Germany), Berlin (from 1871 to 1945, and from 1990 to present), and Bonn (from 1949 to 1990 - West Germany only).
- As of 2006, Germany had the highest corporate tax rate in Europe, close to 40%.
- The biggest train station in Europe opened in Berlin in 2006.



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