



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

# LUTHER'S GERMANY

May 30 – June 9, 2017 11 Days

Optional extension to Prague, June 9-11

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Ritva H. Williams



## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### TUE 30 MAY

### Depart U.S.

Your journey of faith and discovery begins today. Board your transatlantic, overnight flight to Europe departing from Minneapolis/St. Paul. (Meals in-flight)

### WED 31 MAY

### Arrive Frankfurt/Eisenach

Upon arrival in Frankfurt this morning, your national guide and driver will be waiting to welcome you. Drive to Eisenach, where Martin Luther attended parish school as a youth and where Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685. After hotel check-in and time to refresh, gather for a welcome dinner. Goebel's Sophien Hotel (Meals in-flight, D) [www.goebel-hotels.com/eisenach/sophienhotel/urlaubshotel-thueringen](http://www.goebel-hotels.com/eisenach/sophienhotel/urlaubshotel-thueringen)

### THU 01 JUN

### Eisenach

Take a walking tour through town: visit the Luther House where Luther lodged as a schoolboy, and visit the Bach Haus where the young J.S. Bach lived—enjoy a recital on period instruments. If available, attend an organ concert at St. George's Church where Luther sang in the choir as a boy and where Bach was baptized. Tour Wartburg Castle; it was here that Luther retreated after returning from the Worms debate and where he translated the New Testament from its original Greek into common German. Goebel's Sophien Hotel (B)

### FRI 02 JUN

### Eisenach/Erfurt

Drive to Erfurt where Martin Luther attended university and entered the monastic life here—this is his spiritual home. On July 2, 1505, during a violent thunderstorm, Martin Luther vowed to become a monk. On July 17, Luther walked through the gates of Erfurt's Augustinian Monastery to enter monastic life. Tour the Augustinian Cloister; the monastery is now a home to Protestant nuns, and the cathedral. Enjoy chocolate tasting and time on own for shopping before hotel check in. Mercure Altstadt Hotel (B,D) [www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-5375-mercure-hotel-erfurt-altstadt/index.shtml](http://www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-5375-mercure-hotel-erfurt-altstadt/index.shtml)

### SAT 03 JUN

### Erfurt/Eisleben

Depart Erfurt and make a sobering visit to Buchenwald, one of Nazi Germany's notorious concentration camps where Dietrich Bonhoeffer was imprisoned for a brief time. Travel into the river valleys of Germany's northernmost wine region and stop for wine-tasting in the Naumburg vicinity. Continue to Eisleben, where Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, and died on February 18,

1546. Check into your lodging at a local convent. Hefta Monastery (B,D) [www.kloster-helfta.de/cms/index.html?changelang=21](http://www.kloster-helfta.de/cms/index.html?changelang=21)

### SUN 04 JUN

### Eisleben/Wittenberg

Worship in Eisleben this morning. Tour the church of St. Peter and Paul where Martin Luther was baptized and where you will experience renewal of baptism. See St. Andrew's church where Luther laid in state, and Market Square with its Luther Memorial. Visit the late Gothic house where Luther was born and the house where he died, both now museums depicting different phases of Luther's life. Continue to Wittenberg Lutherstadt, home of Martin and Katie Luther for 36 years. Enjoy a Luther themed dinner. Acron Hotel [www.wittenberg-acron.de](http://www.wittenberg-acron.de) (B,D)

### MON 05 JUN

### Wittenberg

Take a locally guided tour of the town including visits to the Castle Church, where Luther posted his 95 Theses; St. Mary's Church, where he preferred to preach; and the Lutherhalle, which was Martin and Katie's home and is now the world's largest Reformation museum. If available attend 5 p.m. worship in English at one of the local churches. Acron Hotel (B)

### TUE 06 JUN

### Wittenberg

Enjoy an excursion to Leipzig. Over the centuries Leipzig has been known as the center of commerce and trade fairs, especially in publishing. Its many publishing houses and libraries still attest to this tradition. During the tour visit Market Square and see the beautifully restored commercial buildings. Enter the Nikolaikirche, the center of the peaceful demonstrations that brought about the fall of Communism in 1989. Visit the Thomaskirche, where Bach was organist for 27 years and where Luther preached in 1539, and tour the Bach Museum. Perhaps meet with a local Lutheran pastor to learn about the lives of refugees in Germany. Return to Wittenberg for overnight. Acron Hotel (B)

### WED 07 JUN

### Wittenberg/Berlin

Drive to Berlin and enjoy a panoramic tour en route to the hotel. In the West, see the memorial along the famous Kurfurstendamm Street (Kudamm) – Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche (Memorial Church), which represents the horrors of war and the promise of the future. In the East, see the Brandenburg Gate, once the symbol of the division of West and East and now of unified Berlin. Drive to a remaining portion of the wall that separated East and West Berlin during the Cold

War until the fall of Communism in 1989. Hotel Amano (B,D) [www.amanogroup.de/en/hotels/amano](http://www.amanogroup.de/en/hotels/amano)

### THU 08 JUN

### Berlin

This morning visit the stunning rococo Sanssouci Palace and its verdant gardens - the summer home of Friedrich the Great. This UNESCO World Heritage site was built from 1745-47 as a quiet refuge for the king; the French word sanssouci means "without a care." Enjoy a free afternoon to explore Berlin on own. There is a special exhibit on "The Luther Effect" mounted by the German Historical Museum at the Martin-Gropius-Bau. The exhibition tells a global story of effect and counter-effect that begins around 1500 and continues on into the present. Gather for a festive farewell dinner at a local bierhaus. Hotel Amano (B,D)

### FRI 09 JUN

### To U.S. or extend to Prague.

This morning transfer to the Berlin airport for the return flights to the U.S. Arrive home this same day enriched with your journey of faith, friendship and discovery. Or depart for the optional extension to Prague. (B, Meals in-flight)

Code: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Itinerary subject to change.

## OPTIONAL PRAGUE EXTENSION

### FRI 09 JUN

### Berlin/Prague

Board a train this morning for the trip to Prague. Upon early afternoon arrival meet a local guide and embark on a walking tour of Josefov, the Old Jewish Quarter which houses Europe's oldest synagogue and cemetery. A children's museum here shows artwork of the children who were housed in Terezin concentration camp outside of Prague. Check in at your hotel for dinner and overnight. Hotel Melantrich (D) [www.hotelmelantrich.cz](http://www.hotelmelantrich.cz)

### SAT 10 JUN

### Prague

Enjoy a full day of touring featuring the Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral and Vladislav Hall. Tour Old Town, with its famous clock tower at the Town Hall and, of course, stroll the elegant Charles Bridge. This evening enjoy a traditional Czech dinner with entertainment. (B, D)

### SUN 11 JUN

### Return to U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your homebound flights to the United States. (B, in-flight)

Code: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Itinerary subject to change.



## TOUR CONDITIONS

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** Your reservation and deposit of \$400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due January 24, 2017. Final payment is due March 24, 2017. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

**REFUND POLICY:** All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to January 23, 2017 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; January 24 - May 15, 2017 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; May 16, 2017 or after - No refund.

**CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS:** The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than January 24, 2017. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

**LATE BOOKINGS:** Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

Iowa Seller of Travel #1075

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul via Delta Air Lines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ACCOMMODATION:** Nine nights accommodation in Christian guesthouse, superior tourist and first class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily and six dinners as outlined in the itinerary.
- GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Frankfurt through departure from Berlin.
- GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$105 per person has been included).
- TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$698 per person).
- ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

**PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when insurance is purchased at the time of reservation / deposit. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174**

## COST SUMMARY

**\$ 4799**

From Minneapolis/St. Paul

Tour Gratuities (\$105).....Included  
 Airport /Departures Taxes (\$698).....Included  
 \*Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

### Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room\* .....\$359  
 \*Limited availability on request basis.

### Optional Prague Extension.....\$775

Included: two nights in first class hotel, breakfast and dinner daily, transfers and transportation by motorcoach and 2nd class train, entrance fees, English-speaking tour guides for daily touring in Prague and departure assistance, gratuities to drivers and guides. Note: portage is currently not available at the Melantrich Hotel. Single room add-on=\$160

**Costs:** The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of February 2016, a minimum of 20 travelers (10 on the optional extension), and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only. *Not all bookings have been made and all space/rates are subject to availability at time of booking.*

### Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended. Please refer to the Travel Insurance section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry visa.

## RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#170509 • OR CLIP AND MAIL

St. Stephen's Lutheran : Germany • May 30 – June 9, 2017 • (G#170509) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Name as it appears (or will appear) on passport:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

2. \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. boxes) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve.) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_  I will pay the supplement for a single room.  Sign me/us up for the Prague extension.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

### FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/We will take the group flights from Mpls/St. Paul.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from \_\_\_\_\_ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.

### DEPOSIT/TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$673 per person **inclusive of travel insurance** for the main tour only.  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$720 per person **inclusive of travel insurance** for the main tour and the optional extension.  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$400 per person **without travel insurance**.  
 I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre-existing waiver.

### Form of Payment

Check  
 Charge my deposit(s) to  
 Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp \_\_\_\_\_  
 Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name as it appears on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#170509

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is included as an option with the initial tour deposit and is highly recommended. GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company. By purchasing insurance at the time the tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, e.g., pre-existing medical conditions (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of reservation, you may purchase it within 14 days with the pre-existing conditions waiver or you may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174.

**GTD TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUSIONS**

- Trip Cancellation.....up to Tour Cost\*
  - Trip Interruption.....up to 150% of Tour Cost\*\*
  - Travel Delay.....\$750
  - Missed Connection.....\$300
  - Baggage.....\$1,000
  - Baggage Delay.....\$200
  - Medical Expense.....\$50,000
  - Evacuation/Repatriation.....\$500,000
  - Accidental Death.....\$10,000
  - Political Emergency Evacuation.....\$100,000
  - ID Theft Resolution Services.....included
  - Assistance Service.....included
- \* a maximum of \$5000 per person  
 \*\* a maximum of \$7500 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Insurance is \$273 per person (\$320 with the optional extension). Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Once purchased, travel insurance is non-refundable. NOTE: Residents of Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington will receive a state-specific Description of Coverage, which can also be requested by calling 866-684-0218.

**CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

**NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:**

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>

**For more information, contact:**

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