

Tracing Martin Luther, the Passion Play Oberammergau 2020
Germany - Berlin, Wittenberg, Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach, Coburg, Nuemberg, Munich
10-day tour ♦ July 29-August 7, 2020

Day 1, Wed, July 29

Depart for overnight flight to Berlin Germany.

Day 2, Thurs, July 30 ♦ Arrival in Germany, visit of Berlin



After arrival at Berlin airport, you will be met by your tour escort who will take you to your coach. Now you will tour Berlin, the capital of the reunified Germany. The guided tour includes all the important highlights like the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag (seat of the Parliament) and its cupola, the Nikolai Quarter, the impressive boulevard “Unter den Linden”, the Museum Island, the Gendarmen-Market, the Alexanderplatz and Check-Point Charlie. Depending on your arrival time you will have the opportunity to enjoy the city on your own after the tour. In the evening the group will come together for a welcome dinner. Overnight stay in Berlin.

Day 3, Fri, July 31 ♦ Wittenberg, Eisleben

After an early breakfast, you will depart for Lutherstadt Wittenberg. Thinking of Luther Wittenberg is one of the most important cities as he is said to have nailed his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church. You will visit the Luther House, the town hall, the old city and the Town and Parish Church St. Marien, the oldest building in Wittenberg. After a quick lunch you will proceed to Eisleben where Luther was born in 1483 and died in 1546. You will visit both houses. Dinner and overnight stay in Eisleben.



Day 4, Sat, August 1 ♦ Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach

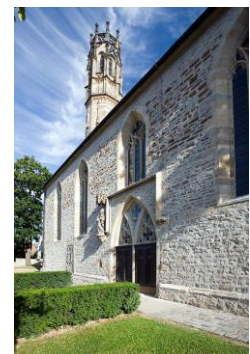
In the morning you will see some other sights in the town center of Eisleben such as the Church of St. Peter and Paul, St. Andrew’s Church, St. Anne’s Church and the Old Town with its charming historical houses. Then you will continue to Erfurt and start with a guided walk through the Old City. Discover the Merchants' Bridge (Krämerbrücke), the longest series of inhabited buildings on any bridge in Europe, the Fish Market, the Town Hall, the Merchant’s Church, the Luther Memorial and the Anger (central square of the city). Also explore St. Mary’s Cathedral. Erfurt played an important role in Luther’s life as it was there that he decided to become a monk. You will visit the Augustinian Monastery with its dome and stained glass window choir. The tour will also take you to the cell where Luther lived during his stay in the monastery. In the evening you will progress to Eisenach for dinner and the next overnight stay.



Day 5, Sun, August 2 ♦ Eisenach, Coburg



Your local guide will show you all the “must sees” of Eisenach city, including the Luther-House, and St. Georg’s Church, where J.S. Bach was baptized and St. Elisabeth was married. Next station of the day is Wartburg Castle. There Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into German. Nowadays you can visit the cell where he lived and worked. Afterwards you will continue to Coburg. The Veste Coburg is one of the largest and best-preserved medieval castle complexes of Germany. During the Augsburg Confession (1530) Luther took refuge and lived there for six months. After exploring the fortress you will visit the Historical City. Dinner and overnight stay in Coburg.



Day 6, Mon, August 3 ♦ Nuremberg, Augsburg



Today your first stop will be in Nuremberg. According to Luther, Nuremberg was “the eye and the ear of Germany”: in those days there were 21 printing houses to publish news. You will have a walk through the Old Town including Albrecht-Dürer House and the churches St. Lorenz and St. Sebald. Second stop of the day will be Augsburg. It was here in 1518 at St. Anna's Church that Luther met the papal legate, Cardinal Cajetan, who demanded that Luther submit to the pope. Augsburg was also the site of the Imperial Diet in 1530 at which Protestants argued their commitment to their confession. In the town hall, the Peace of Augsburg was signed in 1555, ending the religious wars in Germany between the Catholics and the Protestants at least for some time. Dinner and overnight stay in Augsburg.

Day 7, Tues, August 4 ♦ Dachau, Munich

After breakfast the drive will bring you to the Dachau Concentration Camp. Here we visit the museum with its reconstructed barracks and crematorium where the Holocaust is documented. From here we make our way to Munich. After arriving there, you will enjoy a walking tour through the historic Old City of Munich. It consists of famous buildings and squares, including the Marienplatz with the town hall and its "Glockenspiel" (carillon) along with the "Frauenkirche" (Church of Our Lady) with its distinctive onion dome towers. And of course you will have a saunter in the Viktualienmarkt. Dinner and overnight in Munich.



Day 8, Wed, August 5 ♦ Neuschwanstein, Oberammergau

Today you will explore Germany's most visited castle: Neuschwanstein, perched high up on a mountain in the Alps. The shimmering white towers of the castle almost touching the clouds are instantly recognizable to many. Disney's Sleeping Beauty Castle was inspired by Neuschwanstein. To visit it is to step inside a fairy tale. “Mad“ King Ludwig II realized this architectural dream and it became world famous. The majestic facade conceals an unbelievable splendor inside: very exquisite furniture, luxurious decors and masterly artistry. In the afternoon you continue to a small, picturesque village in the Alps which is known all over the world. Oberammergau, the “Passion Play Village with Heart” is about 1 hour driving time away from Neuschwanstein. You will check-in at your hotel. Have a look at the information about the Passion Play which you will find in your room.

Day 9, Thurs, August 6 ♦ The Passion Play

Oberammergau is not only known for its Passion Play, but also for its woodcarving craft and for its colorful and attractive frescos known as Lüftmalereien. In the morning you can explore the lovely village, the museum, the parish church and visit a woodcarving workshop. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant. Then it is time to take your seat at the Passion Play Theater. The play starts at 2:30 pm. It is performed only by locals. All the actors, musicians, and singers as well as the backstage staff are inhabitants of Oberammergau. Between the different scenes of the life of Jesus Christ you can admire “living pictures” – scenes from the bible are presented as still life by actual people. After 2.5 hours it is time for a break. Dinner is waiting for you in a restaurant. After dinner you have the opportunity to stroll around the village and to do some shopping. At 8:00 pm the second part of the play starts. It will last until approximately 11:00 pm. You return to your hotel by coach after the play.



Day 10, Fri, Aug 7 ♦ Neuschwanstein, Travel Day

Transfer to the airport and depart Munich Germany for your flight home.