

American Celebration of Music in Germany

Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled airline service to Berlin, Germany



Day 2

Berlin / Dresden

(D)

Arrive in Berlin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for a transfer to Dresden

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight



Dresden - thanks to an exceptional artistic and architectural heritage (Dresden has been nicknamed the "Florence of the Elbe"), it has become one of the most popular and important tourist centers in Germany. Electors Augustus II and III built the magnificent Baroque Zwinger, the Japanese Palace, Hofkirche and assembled outstanding collections of paintings and objects of art. Today, Dresden's museums, its opera (Semper-Oper), the Staatskapelle and the Staatsoper orchestras enjoy a worldwide reputation.

Day 3

Dresden

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

A morning guided tour of Dresden includes the world-famous Zwinger Palace with its Old Masters Gallery, the Cathedral, and the Neustadt Quarter

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 4

Dresden / Leipzig

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Leipzig

Lunch, on own

Upon arrival, enjoy a guided tour of Leipzig including entrance to St. Thomas Church (famous because Bach was the organist and choirmaster here, and it is the home of the St. Thomas Boys Choir, one of the most famous in the world). Also visit the Bach Museum. The reconstructed Bose House stands in the shadow of the Thomaskirche. It was once the home of the Bach family and now contains the largest Bach archives in Germany, as well as many mementos of the composer

Choirs only: Perform a Recital in Thomaskirche

Evening dinner and overnight



Leipzig has musical associations with some of the greatest of all composers: Bach worked and lived here a big part of his life; Mendelssohn was born and lived here; Wagner was born here (but never lived here), and nearby, Halle is the birthplace of Georg Frederick Händel

Day 5

Leipzig

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day *In the Footsteps of Composers* tour including Schumann House, Wagner Memorial, Leipzig Opera House, St. Nicholas School, St. Nicholas Church, Old City Hall, and entrance to the Mendelssohn House. Also visit the Grassi



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Musikinstrumenten-Museum containing one of the largest collections of musical instruments with over 10,000 instruments from all over the world
 Lunch, on own
 Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities
Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany
 Evening dinner and overnight



Day 6 Leipzig / Berlin (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
 Transfer from Leipzig to Berlin
 Lunch, on own
 Afternoon guided tour of Berlin, including Unter den Linden, Kurfürstendamm, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Berlin Dom (Cathedral), etc. Also explore Berlin's magnificent architectural treasures and experience the city's amazing transformation by boat on a one-hour cruise on the River Spree
 Evening dinner and overnight

Berlin, for so long a symbol of the world's division into two opposing camps, owes its economic and cultural dynamism today to the fact that both the Federal Republic and what used to be called East Germany had for thirty years been determined to use the city as a shop window for their respective ways of life. Berlin became truly important under the reign of Friedrich-Wilhelm of Brandenburg. He welcomed the influx of French Huguenot craftsmen, theologians, doctors and scholars who helped transform the city and strengthen its influence on its neighbors



Day 7 Berlin (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel
 Morning sightseeing includes a visit to Charlottenburg Palace. With the Berlin Municipal Palace destroyed, Charlottenburg Palace is now Berlin's best example of the architectural passions and skills of the Prussian kings. The Palace and park are open to the public. In addition to the Historical Apartments, the Palace houses the Museum of Prehistory and the Gallery of Romanticism from the New National Gallery. Other features of interest in the park are the Schinkel Pavilion, the Belvedere and the Mausoleum
 Lunch, on own

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Germany

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 8 Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel
 Transfer to Berlin's International Airport for the return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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