

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Leipzig Walking Tour

Friday, 27 May 2011, approx. 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Leipzig is the largest city in the Federal State of Saxony and in the new states of Germany and played a significant role in the fall of communism in Eastern Germany. Since the reunification, Leipzig has undergone significant change with the restoration of historical buildings and the development of a modern transport infrastructure.

Programme:

12:00 p.m. Departure by tram from Congress Center Leipzig (CCL) and arrival at Leipzig Central Station (Hauptbahnhof)

12:45 p.m. Leipzig Central Station (Hauptbahnhof)

Leipzig Central Station is one of the largest terminus train stations in Europe. A few years ago, a part of the station was turned into a state-of-the-art shopping mall and service centre. A walking tour through the city centre is the best way to discover the most famous sights of Leipzig's city. We will first begin with:

- the modern passage **Speck's Court** (Speck's Hof) – the numerous old trade courts and passages are a unique trademark of Leipzig's city centre – that will lead us to
- **St. Nicholas Church**, where the Peaceful Revolution began against the German Democratic Republic (GDR) regime of East Germany in the autumn of 1989. We will also go the city centre to discover
- **Augustus Square** with the **Leipzig Opera House** and the **Gewandhaus Orchestra**,
- Leipzig's most famous arcade – **Mädlerpassage** and continue to
- the **Old Town Hall**, one of the most beautiful Renaissance buildings in Germany.
- **St. Thomas Church** (Thomaskirche) is home of St. Thomas Boys Choir and a place of musical creativity which dates back to the 12th century. It is also the final resting place of the famous St. Thomas Cantor, Johann Sebastian Bach.

2:00 p.m. Coffee Break at Zum Arabischen Coffe Baum*. This is the oldest surviving coffee house and restaurant in Europe which has been continuously in operation. Today, it is a restaurant, cafe, and museum in one, documenting the history of the Saxons' proverbial love for coffee. Richard Wagner and Robert Schumann were frequent visitors.

3:00 p.m. The Bach Museum Leipzig. On 750 m², the life and works of Johann Sebastian Bach and his family are presented in an interactive multimedia exhibition. One of the highlights of the museum is the treasure chamber, which holds original Bach manuscripts and other precious objects. Among the special exhibits, are the console of an organ examined by Bach himself in 1743 from the former St John's Church (Johanniskirche), a casket with relics from Bach's tomb, and a cash box, which was recently discovered among the property of the Bach family.

All inclusive price per participant: € 35.00

includes guided tour, entrance fees. * Coffee break at own expense.



Excursion to Dresden

Friday, 27 May 2011, approx. 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The city of Dresden, known as the 'Jewel Box' because of its baroque and rococo city centre, is a highly symbolic city which was almost completely destroyed during the Second World War. It was then rebuilt, and restoration work on the historic inner city, including the 'Semper Oper' and the 'Dresdner Frauenkirche', has again turned the city into a jewel of German culture and civilisation.

Since German reunification in 1990, Dresden has regained importance as one of the cultural, educational, political and economic centres of Germany. The capital of the Free State of Saxony straddles the Elbe River. The Elbe Valley of Dresden was an internationally recognised site of cultural significance by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for five years.

Cultural Programme

12:00 p.m. Depart by tour bus from Congress Center Leipzig (CCL)

Our professional, English-speaking tour guide will explain the route of the Dresden tour to participants on departure from Leipzig.

2:15 p.m. Guided Tour of Dresden by foot

Through the historic city centre, featuring the following sites:

- **Zwinger:** Most perfect example of Late Baroque architecture in Germany
- **Semper Opera House** (Semperoper): most famous opera house in Germany; it houses the Saxon Symphony Orchestra, one of the world's oldest and best-known orchestras
- **Royal Palace** (Residenzschloß): was once the hub of power for the Saxon princes and kings
- **Brühl Terrace** (Brühlsche Terrasse): nicknamed "The Balcony of Europe"; one of the main city landmarks
- the **Frauenkirche Church:** this impressive church with its magnificent bell-shaped dome dominates the Dresden skyline.

3:20 p.m. Meeting at Royal Palace for a coffee break in Restaurant "Chiaveri" in the Saxony Parliament (Sächsischer Landtag)*

4:30 p.m. The Green Vault (Grünes Gewölbe)

The Green Vault in the Royal Palace houses part of the State Art Collection of the former treasure chamber of the Princes of Wettin from the Renaissance to Classicism. The name of Europe's biggest jewellery collection comes from the malachite green-painted pillars room (Pretiosensaal), although, these days, they are covered with mirrors. The Green Vault (Grünes Gewölbe) forms part of the State Art.

5:30 p.m. Depart Dresden

7:00 p.m. Arrival in Leipzig

All inclusive price per participant: € 75.00

includes packed lunch, guided tour, bus shuttle, entrance fees. * Coffee break at own expense.

