



## The Very Best of Eastern Germany

May 12 - 23, 2025 | 13 Days / 11 Nights program



*Christoph will take you on an 11 night journey to his motherland of East Germany! See sights that you haven't seen on your previous visits to Germany. Enjoy meats, cheeses, breads and try local beers at a beer garden. Learn how to properly dance an English Waltz instructed by Christoph's sister at her dance school. Visit the famous Meissen porcelain factory. Meet and hear from locals on your city tours of Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig and Potsdam. Relax and enjoy the countryside between cities. Visit the summer palace of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia in Potsdam and eat at the same restaurant Goethe and Bach dined! Take a river cruise on the river Spree and see Berlin from its best angle. Experience a unique boat cruise on the Elbe River on a paddle steamer in Dresden. Enjoy a farewell dinner cruise in Potsdam on the River Havel and soak in the scenery.*

*...Be surprised - Not everyone in Germany wears lederhosen!*

### MAY 12 | US TO GERMANY

Today you board your overnight flight to Germany.

### MAY 13 | BERLIN | PANORAMIC CITY TOUR

Upon arrival at the Berlin airport you will be met and assisted by your Universal Travel representative. Berlin is an incredible place, originally two 14th century towns (Cölln and Altberein) separated only by the River Spree. It has always been a city of contrasts and never more so than in its recent past, which makes it such a fascinating place to visit. This morning embark on a panoramic city tour incl. Checkpoint Charlie, Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag Dome, Kurfürstendamm, and free time for lunch before you check into your hotel early this afternoon. Tonight meet your fellow travelers and enjoy a welcome to Germany dinner complete with German food, beer, and wine!

**Overnight: Berlin**

(D)

### MAY 14 | GDR MUSEUM | BERLIN WALL | RIVER CRUISE

A full day of Berlin! First you will visit the East German-GDR Museum, one of the most interactive museums in the world. The museum gives you a chance to experience what everyday life behind the Berlin Wall was like in former East Germany, such as living conditions, the Wall, and the Stasi. This visit is a history lesson like no other, making it one of the top things to do in Berlin. Next you are off to the Berlin Wall, Germany's standing symbol of the Cold War, dividing the country for more than 28 years. The longest remaining stretch has now transformed into the world's longest open-air gallery, the East Side Gallery. This one mile of fascinating images takes a significant era of Germany's history and turns it into a work of art. After some free time for lunch your tour continues with a cruise down the Spree River. Here you will get a completely different perspective of Germany's Capital. Enjoy lovely views of the Reichstag, the Main Train Station, and the TV Tower among many other sites. You return to your hotel with time to relax and an evening at your leisure.

**Overnight: Berlin**

(B)

### MAY 15 | A FREE DAY IN BERLIN

Today is yours to explore Berlin on your own! Make it a shopping day at the famous department store "The Kaufhaus des Westens." With over 60,000 square meters of retail space, the KA-DE-W is the second largest department store in Europe, after Harrods of London. Within 10 min. walking distance, you reach Kurfürstendamm. This large avenue, colloquially known by the Berliners as "Ku'damm," is the most important

shopping area in Berlin. A vast number of shops are strung along the wide boulevard, most of which are international brands. Another option is visiting Museum Island, a unique ensemble of buildings on Spree Island in the heart of Berlin. It encompasses five large Berlin museums, built under the Prussian rulers, as well as a reception and exhibition building, the James Simon Gallery.

### Optional Tour - Former Concentration Camp Sachsenhausen:

With sufficient numbers, Universal Travel will offer a visit to the Sachsenhausen Memorial Center, one of the biggest concentration camps on German territory from 1936 to 1945. From 1945 to 1950 the site was used as a special camp by the Soviet secret service.

**Overnight: Berlin**

(B)

### MAY 16 | WITTENBERG - MARTIN LUTHER | LEIPZIG

This morning after a leisurely breakfast, you board your private motor coach and travel south to the town of Wittenberg for a guided tour of the Luther House. It was here that the Reformer, Martin Luther, lived and worked for over 35 years. Originally built as an Augustinian Monastery, Martin Luther called this home from 1508; first as a monk and then later with his family. This was where he made his "reformatory discovery," gave lectures to students from across Europe, and penned his writings that changed the world. After your tour enjoy free time in Old Town Wittenberg for lunch on your own. You continue your journey southbound and arrive at the University City of Leipzig for a two-night stay. Tonight's dinner will be served at the famous Auerbachs Keller. Like millions of guests before you, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was here, too. The mentioning of the Fasskeller (barrel cellar) in Goethe's classic work "Faust" makes it arguably the most famous restaurant in Germany. Today the room is exactly as generations of guests before and after Goethe's time knew it.

**Overnight: Leipzig**

(B,D)

### MAY 17 | LEIPZIG CITY TOUR | DANCE LESSON

This morning after breakfast we are off to a half day sightseeing tour of the city followed by free time for lunch and shopping in Leipzig's Old Town. This afternoon a special treat is in store as you participate in a "hands-on slow waltz dance lesson" complete with sparkling wine, taught by Christoph's sister, a professional ballroom dance champion! Return back to your hotel with the remainder of the day at your leisure.

**Overnight: Leipzig**

(B)



**MAY 18 | MEISSEN PORCELAIN FACTORY | DRESDEN**  
 This morning you travel to Meissen for a guided tour of the world famous porcelain factory. Meissen porcelain was the first successfully produced true porcelain in Europe, and dominated the style of European porcelain manufactured until the mid 17th century. From here, you journey a short distance to Dresden and check into your hotel for a relaxing three night stay. Dinner tonight will be served at a local restaurant.

**Overnight: Dresden (B,D)**

**MAY 19 | CITY TOUR | WINE TASTING | STEAMBOAT**  
 Start your morning with a walking tour of Dresden's old city quarters. See the famous Frauenkirche, the Dresdner Zwinger, the Stallhof and more. Next, enjoy a guided tour of the famous Semper Opera House, the most famous opera house in all of Germany! The Opera houses the Saxon State Orchestra, one of the world's oldest and best-known orchestras. After some free time for lunch on your own, you leave town and journey along the Saxon Wine Route. Here you stop at a winery and sample wines while taking in the scenery. In this area you will find many different varieties of wine, including Traminer, Riesling, Müller-Thurgau, Dornfelder, and Pinot Noir. This afternoon unwind with a relaxing steamboat cruise on the River Elbe. Dinner tonight is included.

**Overnight: Dresden (B,D)**

**MAY 20 | SAXON SWITZERLAND REGION | FORTRESS**  
 After breakfast this morning you leave for the Saxon Switzerland region. Together with the Bohemian Switzerland in the Czech Republic it forms the Elbe Sandstone Mountains. Your first stop is the Königstein Fortress, the "Saxon Bastille," a hilltop fortress located on the left bank of the River Elbe. It is one of the largest hilltop fortifications in Europe and sits atop the mountain Königstein. After a guided tour of the fortress and an included lunch, your journey continues to the Bastei, one of Germany's most unique landscapes. Giant pinnacles of

sandstone rocks tower over the Elbe River and the green countryside. Later this afternoon return back to your hotel for an evening at your leisure.

**Overnight: Dresden (B,L)**

**MAY 21 | POTSDAM | CHURCHILL, TRUMAN, STALIN**  
 After checking out of your hotel this morning, you travel north and arrive in Potsdam around noon. First stop will be the famous Glienicke Bridge, also known as the Bridge of Spies. The bridge straddled the border between East and West Berlin and was used to exchange high-ranking spies between the Eastern and Western powers. After an included lunch you will visit Cecilienhof Palace. It was here that the victorious powers of World War II met for the Potsdam Conference during the summer of 1945. Churchill, Truman, and Stalin made world history here discussing how to divide Germany, and later signed the Peace Treaty Agreement. This afternoon check into your hotel for a two-night stay.

**Overnight: Potsdam (B,L)**

**MAY 22 | CITY TOUR | SANSSOUCI PALACE | CRUISE**  
 On your city tour this morning discover the regal heritage of Potsdam, Berlin's posh royal suburb from the past. You will see Downtown Potsdam, Belvedere Pfingstberg, and admire the red brick buildings in the Dutch Quarter. Later you will marvel over the UNESCO-listed wonder of Sanssouci Palace, the summer palace of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. Explore the palace gardens before returning to your hotel. This evening enjoy a boat tour along the river Havel complete with dinner, wine, beer and entertainment!

**Overnight: Potsdam (B,D)**

**MAY 23 | DEPARTURE BACK HOME**  
 This morning you will be transferred to the Berlin airport and board your flight home. The memories you made in East Germany will last forever!

*\*Itinerary is subject to change*

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Roundtrip transfer to IAH or DFW
- Roundtrip airfare from IAH or DFW to Berlin
- 12-days luxury motor coach transportation while in Germany
- Local step-on guides in Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden & Potsdam
- 10-nights Accommodations in 4-star hotels (3-nights in Berlin & Dresden, 2-nights in Leipzig & Potsdam)
- Daily breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners (including a glass of beer, wine, or soda per dinner)
- Panoramic Sightseeing in Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden & Potsdam
- Guided tour of GDR museum, Porcelain factory, Dresden Opera House, Martin Luther House, Cecilienhof Palace, Sanssouci Castle and Fortress Koenigstein
- Cruises as indicated on the Spree, Havel and Elbe Rivers
- Wine tasting at a winery
- Dance lesson incl. 1 glass of beer, wine, sparkling wine, or soda
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- Hotel taxes, meal taxes and gratuities
- Portorage of 1 bag per person (excludes airline baggage fees)
- All resort, service, and government fees
- Professional Tour Director, bilingual (English/German)
- **All gratuities for drivers, guides, step-on guides**

**TRIP COST:**

**\$6,848.00** Per Person  
**\$7,999.00** Single Rate

Cash or Check Payment

**A valid passport is required for travel.**

**\$900.00 deposit due to confirm the reservation**

**Final payment due Jan 6, 2025**  
**No penalties until Jan 9, 2025**

**Cancellation:**

**50% non-refundable Jan 10, 2025**  
**100% non-refundable Feb 10, 2025**

**Prosperity Bank Travel Club**

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*An optional Travel Protection plan is available with coverage for trip cancellation/interruption. See enclosed product flyer for more information.*