

## GERMANY

### Thuringia – Saxony:

# Martin Luther and the Reformation

*Venture through Thuringia and Saxony and experience the dramatic beginnings of the Reformation in the years 1517 to 1525 and its influences on world history as we visit the most important sites pertaining to this movement. An introduction into Luther's theology, his understanding of the Bible and his Doctrine of Justification will also play an important role. We will delve into this tumultuous epoch marked by upheaval and the transition from the Middle Ages to the Modern Ages, showing the influences that affect us even today.*



#### Day 1 Arrival in Frankfurt/Main – Eisenach

(approx. 195 km/121 miles)

Arrival in **Frankfurt/Main** and welcome by the local tour guide, who will accompany you throughout your stay. Bus transfer to **Eisenach**: visit to St. George's Church where Saint Elisabeth was married and J.S. Bach baptized; Luther House where Luther lived as a student with the Cotta family from 1498-1501, see the Luther exhibition documenting his life and theologies. Accommodation for three nights.

#### Day 2 Erfurt

(approx. 120 km/75 miles)

Full-day excursion to **Erfurt**: visit to the famous Dom (cathedral) and to Augustinian Monastery. Luther, student of law, entered as a novice in 1505 and took his vows as a monk in 1507; city tour with Fish Market, Town hall and Merchant's Bridge, Merchant's Church and the Luther Memorial. Short walk to Anger square with its numerous shops. Return to Eisenach.

Martin Luther

#### Day 3 Möhra

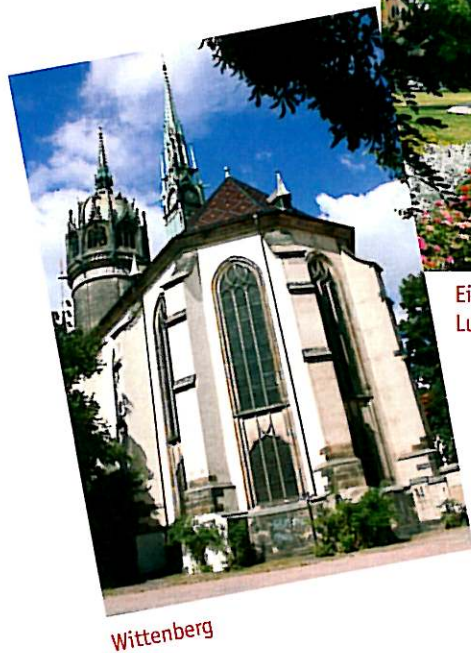
(approx. 100 km/68 miles)

Drive to **Möhra**, home of Luther's family: tour of the village church. Continuing on to **Schmalkalden**, the headquarters of the "League of Schmalkalden" (1530-1547): visit to the church of St. George. Return to **Eisenach**: visit to Wartburg Castle with tour of the Palas (Great Hall), Art exhibition, the Elizabeth Hallway and the Luther Room where he translated the New Testament into German. Afterwards, local rustic "Luther feast" in the Castle Inn.

#### Day 4 Weimar – Naumburg – Leipzig

(approx. 200 km/124 miles)

Drive to **Weimar**: city tour with visit to the "Herderkirche", the Goethe Museum, and the Goethe Garden House located in the River Ilm Park. Continue on to **Naumburg**: walking tour through this medieval market town to St. Wenceslas Church and Renaissance Town Hall, followed by a guided tour of the late Romanesque Cathedral with its world-famous double choir. Afterwards, bus transfer to **Leipzig**: Accommodation for three nights.



Wittenberg



Eisenach –  
Luther Monument and Nikolaikirche

Eisleben

Erfurt

Torgau

#### Day 5 Halle – Eisleben

(approx. 180 km/112 miles)

Drive to **Halle**: visit to the Market Square with its Gothic Red Tower, the Marienkirche, the Handel House, The Dom (Cathedral) with its rounded gables, Moritzburg and the Francke'sche Stiftungen (Europe's largest half-timbered building). Continue on to **Eisleben**, where Luther was born in 1483 and died in 1546: visit to the St. Andrew's Church (Luther held his last sermons here) and Luther's "Death House" with guided tour; walk across the Market Square through the old town to his "Birth House" and to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, where Luther was baptized. Drive back to Leipzig. In the evening special dinner (Luther menu) in the "Luther Hall" at the famous "Thüringer Hof" restaurant.

#### Day 6 Leipzig (no bus)

**Leipzig**: city tour on foot including the Opera House, Gewandhaus Concert Hall, Moritzbastei, St. Nicolaus Church, Naschmarkt and Goethe Memorial, St. Thomas Church where J.S. Bach worked and now rests, and the Völkerschlachtdenkmal (Monument of the battle of the Nations). Time at leisure.

#### Day 7 Torgau – Wittenberg

(approx. 100 km/62 miles)

Drive to **Torgau**, since 1456 residence of the Electors of Saxony: visit the Renaissance Hartenfels Castle with guided tour of the Palace Chapel (the first protestant church in Germany, built to the specifications of Luther and the Reformers in 1540); guided tour of St. Mary's church with its famous Cranach Altar, burial site of Luther's wife, Katharina von Bora, and work-place of Johann Walter – choirmaster, composer and close friend and advisor of Luther in organization of Lutheran church music in Saxony; walking tour of the city including Katharina Luther's "Death House" and the Market Square with its wonderful Renaissance houses. Continuation to **Wittenberg**, the main workplace of Martin Luther from 1508: visit Luther Hall (formerly an Augustinian monastery and from 1525 domicile of Luther's family): nowadays, it is the largest Reformation history museum in the world. Accommodation for two nights.

#### Day 8 Wittenberg

Sightseeing tour by bus and on foot, taking in the Market Square and Town Hall; guided

tour of the "Schlosskirche" (all Saints Church) where Luther posted his 95 theses on the Church doors sparking the beginning of the Reformation, and sepulcher of Luther and his fellow reformer Philipp Melancthon; guided tour of St. Mary's Church where Luther did the majority of his preaching; visit the Melancthon House, renovated for the 500th anniversary of his birth and offering a rare look into the life and works of this important humanist and reformer.

#### Day 9 Departure

(approx. 460 km/280 miles)

Bus transfer to Frankfurt/Main airport.