



TERRA LU
TRAVEL CONSULT EVENTS

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Rail Experiences

Small Railroads in Luther Country

- ✓ **Character: Bus tour with many Railroad Experiences**
- ✓ **Can be organised any time with any standard group size 20+**



Day 1 - Arrival Berlin

Upon our arrival at Berlin airport (on the map: K), the Tour Director will greet and escort the group to the waiting deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach. On the way to the hotel we'll take a scenic drive through Berlin. Get some first impressions of the German capital at Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag parliament, and Potsdamer Platz. After this long travel day we'll enjoy the Welcome dinner in the hotel.

Day 2 – Berlin – Heidekrautbahn – Model Railroad

Following the breakfast buffet we will take the S-Bahn commuter train to Wilhelmsruh. From here the Heidekrautbahn takes our group on an exclusive tour in a restored 1950's rail bus. According to the landscape we cross, this railroad is called the Heidekraut-Bahn – Erica Railroad. We go to the Heidekraut's Bahn Depot in Basdorf to visit the little Museum and the machine pool which includes a few steam engines. Back into the city with our Rail Bus. In the later afternoon we enjoy a visit in the LOXX Miniature World, with the World's largest digital model railroad in 1:87 scales.



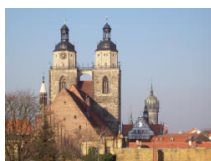
Day 3 – Museum of Technology - Wittenberg

We couldn't leave Berlin without visiting the Rail Transport Exhibition in the German Museum of Technology. The presentation of Germany's railway history starts with the steam engine "Beuth", moving on to the first ever electric railway (invented by Werner Siemens), express locomotives of various classes, rubble trains and railcars, and ends with diesel engines and the precursors of the ICE high-speed train. Among many other artefacts 40 original vehicles on 34 tracks can be seen.

After we are done with the Museum we take a break – and head south to Wittenberg for dinner and overnight (map: B).

Day 4 – Wittenberg

A full day in the cradle of the Reformation is waiting for us. In the morning a local guide will take us on an orientation tour. We'll see the door where Martin Luther posted the 95 thesis, visit the Castle church, and the Town church with its marvellous Cranach Altar. After a lunch break we'll have plenty of time to visit the Lutherhaus museum, the 2013 brandnew opened Melanchthon Museum, or to just enjoy strolling the streets and getting some "Reformation atmosphere" in the town where Martin Luther and



his fellows lived, taught, and preached. The Wittenberg Main Station currently is under reconstruction and will be turned into a model “green self supplying” station. We will check out the construction site to learn more about the details.

Dinner on our own in one of the many restaurants around the Market square.

Day 5 – Eisleben – Wernigerode

We leave Wittenberg and have a first stop in Eisleben (map: C). Here Martin Luther was born and died. We visit the little museum in his birthhouse, see the pulpit in St. Andrews where Luther preached, and visit St Peter and Paul. This church, where Luther was baptized, is now a “Center for Baptism”.

We head on to Wernigerode (map: D), a picturesque little town in the Harz mountains – and most important: the starting point of the narrow-gauge Harzer Schmalspurbahn.

Day 6 – Brockenbahn



We take one of the morning steam trains from Wernigerode (234 m / 768 ft) up to the Brocken mountain (1,125 m / 3,690 ft), crossing through small streets, magnificent bridges, and dark forests. After a little lunch break on the peak (on own account) we make our way back downhill into Wernigerode. After arrival our group will have the privilege of an exclusive tour through the rail depot*. We visit the repair shop, get introduced to the steam engines, and may even give the workers a hand.

(* only Mon- Fri)

No doubt where we will have dinner: In a Railroad styled restaurants where the drinks are served with a LGB model railroad.

Day 7 – Wartburg – Erfurt

Back on our bus again we enjoy another scenic drive on small and narrow roads through the Harz. Our en route stop today is the magnificent Wartburg Castle (map: E), where Luther took refuge while he translated the New Testament into the German language. After our tour we hit the interstate Autobahn into Erfurt (map: F), the capital of Thuringia with a nicely restored old city. We enjoy a relaxing stroll through the little streets after a long travel day.



Day 8 – Erfurt – Ore Mountains

In Erfurt Luther took the decisive step to turn to theology and the monastic life when he was caught in a violent thunderstorm nearby and took a vow to become a monk. We'll join a local guide for a walking city tour including St. Mary's Cathedral where Luther was ordained as a priest, the Augustinian Monastery where Luther lived as a monk and the Medieval Kramer Bridge on which 33 dwellings are built. After our daily lunch pause we take the bus into the Ore Mountains. Our tonight's hotel will be in Annaberg-Buchholz (map: G), a region which is known for its marvellous woodcraft. Many Christmas decorations like the large pyramids originate from this area.

Day 9 – Narrow-gauge Railroads Ore Mountains



Another Rail excursion today as we first take the modern standard gauge Erzgebirgsbahn from Annaberg-Buchholz to Cranzahl. Here we change trains to the narrow-gauge, steam engine Fichtelgebirgsbahn. The firemen have to take the train at full steam up hill through the forest and over the magnificent Hüttenbachviadukt to Oberwiesenthal, Germany's highest town. We enjoy the scenery at the train station and stroll the streets of Oberwiesenthal, before we meet our motorcoach again. Crossing the Ore Mountains on road we reach Dresden in the evening.



Day 10 – Dresden

Our today’s sightseeing is in Dresden at the Elbe river (map: J), known as the “Florence of the North”. Dresden was badly destroyed during air raids at the end of WWII, but came back to its beauty after being rebuilt over the past 20 years. We will be amazed about the reconstructed, neo-baroque Frauenkirche, the Semper Opera, the Zwinger Palace, and the large number of art museums. Dinner will be with the group in a nice restaurant downtown Dresden.

Day 11 – Day trip Prague



After an early breakfast our bus will take us to Dresden Central Train Station where we catch the InterCity train to Prague (map: I). After arrival in the Capital of the Czech Republic (at about 10:30 am) our guide will meet us for a walking tour (yes, we also use streetcars). Our guide takes us to the Hradschin Castle, we cross the Charles Bridge (and listen to some of the best Jazz and Dixieland Musicians playing along the streets), and try to understand the astronomic clock at the town hall which dates back to 1410. Shopping possibilities are endless in the afternoon. We meet for dinner in the early evening

(with good Czech beer) before catching our train (at about 6:30 pm) back to Dresden (arrival ~ 8:45 pm).

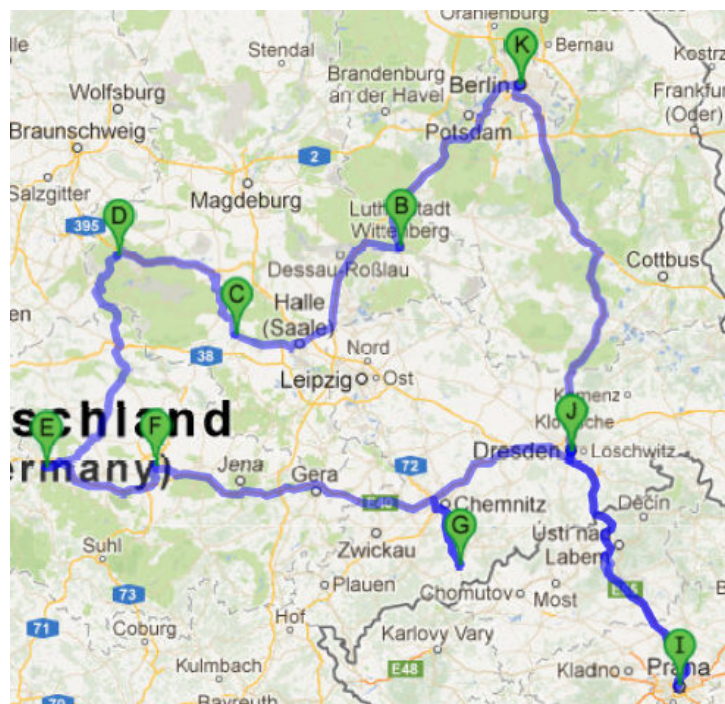
Day 12 – Back to Berlin

We enjoy a late breakfast and leisure time in Dresden before our bus takes us back to Berlin in the afternoon. After our Farewell Dinner in Berlin we will join a once-in-the-World experience: A 20 miles- tunnel tour in “convertible” cars through the Berlin Subway System*! (* Available only two Fridays per month – long term reservation and exact timing required. Full charter possible – 150 seats)



Day 13 – Home

Our bus takes us back to the airport for our homebound flights – after an exciting trip of Germany.



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