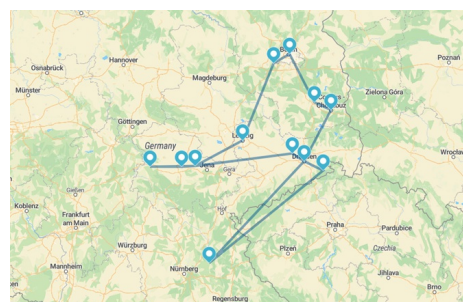




Germany, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

East Germany Route, beyond the wall

Any tour that includes Berlin among its stops is already worth it, but if we also add destinations such as Dresden or the Saxon Switzerland National Park, then it's better to experience it than to read about it. That's why we'd like to invite you to drive through the very best of East Germany, including the cities that gave birth to and inspired the greatest geniuses and outstanding figures of German culture. Bach, Mendelssohn, Nietzsche and Martin Luther are just some of the examples, but not the only ones. You can visit their museum houses and look for inspiration in the streets where they themselves found it. In Meissen, you'll have the chance to enter one of Europe's most sumptuous palaces, owned by the first ever family to make porcelain in Europe when it was a luxury material imported from the Far East. Both its façade and its interior are fascinating. Another highlight of this tour is Saxon Switzerland. It's also a paradise for climbers and hikers, who can choose between thousands of routes and hundreds of trails. But no worries if this isn't your cup of tea, as a thermal spa is waiting that will repair all your ills. Incidentally, most of the cities proposed on this tour have entire neighbourhoods that were rebuilt after the bombings suffered throughout World War II. This is also the case of Berlin, where you'll enjoy a sightseeing tour of the capital to ensure you see all the most emblematic landmarks. Are you coming with us? All you need is a car and a map to discover places and drive through fantastic landscapes that will make your trip unforgettable.



Departure date: Departures from July 2026 till June 2027

From: London

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - BERLIN

Flight departure from the city of origin to Berlin and rental car pick-up.

Get ready to discover the best-kept secrets of the eastern part of the country! Berlin has so much to offer the traveller eager for new experiences. That's why we're going to propose two things for you to do. The first is to carefully read all our tips, while the second is to be flexible tomorrow with your departure time for Dresden, seeing as you'll be spending two nights there. Berlin is one of the most fascinating cities in the entire world and there is so much to see. Make sure you dedicate most of your time to its most emblematic landmarks. One of them is, without a doubt, its parliament building. The Reichstag and its fascinating Norman Foster-designed dome will instantly mesmerise you, as will the Brandenburg Gate. Its symbolism is tremendous and reminds Germans and tourists alike how paramount unity is. Another must-see is the Gendarmenmarkt. It's stunning and, even though it was partially rebuilt after World War II, still oozes a wistful air. To erase any hint of melancholy from your mind, there's no better medicine than to head to the most modern part of Berlin, which revolves around Potsdamer Platz. Your camera will be busy at the Sony Center and the Theater am Potsdamer Platz. A further must-visit is the Berlin Wall. The most popular area is the East Side Gallery, but there are others that are less touristy yet equally fascinating. People flock to Checkpoint Charlie, where a military hut and two American soldiers recall one of the most famous episodes of the Cold War. A good place to take a breather is Nikolaiviertel, where you can park up, take a leisurely stroll around and have some food or a drink at any of the bars in the district. You can spend the afternoon seeing Berlin Cathedral and sampling some of the city's top museums. The well-known Museum Island is home to the capital's best museums, showcasing much-revered works on the world museum circuit. It may seem an extravagance to spend time at museums on such a lightning visit, but it's a good choice if the weather isn't behaving very well. At some point in the day, taking advantage of having the car, you could head out to the monument to the Jews murdered in the Holocaust. It's truly moving and will give you an idea of how respectfully this very dark episode of German history is remembered. After an intense day, our recommendation is to relax while you discover Berlin's culinary culture.

Overnight stay in Berlin.

● DAY 2 · BERLIN - DRESDEN

Before setting off for Dresden, you can extend your visit to Berlin by a bit. There may be some things you didn't manage to see yesterday. Don't rush, because in the next few days you'll have plenty of time to see Dresden. One of the visits you can do today is the Red Town Hall (Rotes Rathaus), the seat of the city government. It was built with red brick, which makes this building a truly unique piece among the generally subdued German architecture. Another symbol of this city is its TV Tower (Fernsehturm). You'll need to stand quite a way back to fit it all into a selfie. And two final proposals: shopping on the Friedrichstraße - the heart of Berlin - and a tour of Charlottenburg Palace. Both options will give you enough of an endorphin rush for the two-hour drive between Berlin and Dresden, one of the most beautiful cities in Central Europe and nicknamed Florence on the Elbe.

On the way you will pass through one of the most beautiful nature areas in this region, the Spreewald or "Green Venice", a forest of glacial origin which is compared to the Italian city because of the large number of canals and streams that cover the land. The historic centre of Spreewald is in Lübbenau, from whose jetty excursions around the park leave; one of these goes to the small village of Lehde, which has an interesting open-air museum. Another park that is a must is Branitz in Cottbus, created in the 19th century in the style of English gardens. Back to the tour.

Get ready to get to discover the capital of Saxony! Like much of the German territory, Dresden was bombed during World War, although the allied forces showed little mercy to this city. In just two days, they reduced to rubble dozens of buildings that have been rebuilt again, although many others disappeared forever. To get your bearings, the city is divided into two - the new part (Neustadt) and the old town (Altstadt) - by the River Elbe. The historic part concentrates most of the things to see in the city, which is why our advice is to start off by visiting the Altstadt and leaving the Neustadt for another day. First stop should be the restored Church of Our Lady (in German, Frauenkirche). It is truly incredible, both from an architectural point of view and given the history that it cherishes within its walls. During World War II, it was reduced to rubble and rebuilt according to the original plans. Its dome and its interpretation centre are spectacular. We also highly recommend a stroll around the Neumarktplatz, where - weather permitting - there are many terraces to have a coffee before continuing to the next stop. The River Elbe offers endless opportunities for the visitor. Everything from a walk in the Elbe Park to a visit to the Brühlsche Terrasse, an ideal location to photograph the city skyline. For culture and museum buffs, we recommend the Residenzschloss, a building that houses the Museum of Art but was once an unrivalled palace in Dresden. It takes a whole day to see all the exhibitions and collections, so decide whether you go in today or leave it for another day. Take advantage of your stay in the city to visit the famous Dresden Opera, the imperial Zwinger Palace and the Procession of Princes (Fürstenzug), a 100-metre mural covered in tiles. Built to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Wettin Dynasty, it is the largest mosaic in the world and one of the city's top attractions.

Overnight stay in Dresden.

● DAY 3 · DRESDEN - SAXON SWITZERLAND - DRESDEN

We'll say goodbye temporarily to Dresden to head towards the Czech border and venture into the Saxon Switzerland National Park, located about an hour's drive away. If you feel like stopping along the way, take note of this name: Schloss Pillnitz. The garden of this palace is impressive, not only for its size and its beauty, but also for its exotic species and its histories. For example, it features several Japanese species unique to Europe that came to the continent thanks to the efforts of a 17th-century botanist. Nowhere else have they survived, and here there have been frosts and fires that have wiped out hundreds of plants. It's best to take a guided tour because the garden has many anecdotes to tell, as does the palace building. Many dignitaries have stayed at the palace and today its interior is full of museums. Everything will hypnotise you! When the effect has worn off, you can continue to Saxon Switzerland.

Get ready to explore one of the most amazing eco-tourist destinations in Germany, where you'll be able to switch off from the daily routine and "connect" with nature in its purest form, thanks to the endless picture-postcard landscapes and exotic sandstone rock formations that appear out of nowhere. Admire the Bastei, a rocky formation towering 200 metres above the River Elbe connected via a bridge to the mainland. It's one of the major landmarks of Saxon Switzerland. Very close to here is a vantage point with a unique view of Saxon Switzerland, the River Elbe and the Basteibrücke. As you'll soon discover, Saxon Switzerland is a sanctuary for climbing and hiking lovers.

In fact, it's home to one of Germany's most famous free climbing schools. No surprise, as in this area alone, there are 1,000-plus sandstone peaks with more than 21,000 different sections to climb. Even though it's not a major tourist destination, you'll still come across a multitude of fans of this sport. Among so many mountains, there's also place for people who love to go hiking in pure nature. Park the car, put on your boots and get going! Our next stop will be the town of Königstein, where you can enter its fortress museum and discover how inmates lived when it was once a maximum security prison. And in Bad Schandau, you'll find one of the best thermal springs in the whole country thanks to its waters with iron-based properties. There's also a viewing point here that we love. You can get there via a lift that will remind you of the elevator used by the night's watchmen at the Game of Thrones wall. This viewing point will give you an amazing panoramic view, although it does have one minor drawback. You won't be able to see Lilienstein, a highly distinctive mountain, so you can go and visit it before returning to Dresden in the afternoon. Take the chance to try the local Altbier and have a leisurely dinner before returning to the hotel.

Overnight stay in Dresden.

● DAY 4 · DRESDEN - MEISSEN - WEIMAR

The time has come to leave Dresden behind. We'll get back on the road towards Meissen, located around thirty minutes' drive away and internationally famous for its exquisite porcelain. It's officially the first place in Europe where porcelain was made in the eighteenth century, when this material was still only found in the Far East. This milestone, along with the industriousness and dedication shown in its production, means that Meissen is still a prosperous region today. It's also worth visiting the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory and Museum, where you can see at first hand how it is handcrafted and each piece is carefully decorated. But porcelain is not its only attraction. The minute you enter the town, you'll be surprised at the grandeur and dimensions of its Cathedral. Besides the mandatory visit to the temple, you can also stroll along the Altmarkt and the Domplatz, two pedestrian streets full of life and a great atmosphere. If you're looking for some good views, you can climb up to the Meissen Balcony. For the end of the visit, we've left another of the city's wonders: the Albrechtsberg Palace. Its construction was financed thanks to the porcelain business. A thriving business at that time, judging by the luxury of its interiors. You'll be surprised by the paintings, the exhibitions of porcelain pieces and how they make you put on some slippers if you want to visit one of their rooms. Once the visit is over, it's time to get back on the road for a further two hours. But before you leave Dresden, you can make a stop at Schloss Moritzburg. Built on an artificial island, this palace has four round towers. It's the most prized example of Baroque style and its interior will to a certain extent remind you of the Palace of Versailles. (Note: It cherishes several unique treasures inside, such as its collection of carriages, porcelain or antlers. The latter is one of the most interesting in the whole world). Once you've finished, you can start the drive westward to Weimar. This city's streets have possibly been walked by the greatest number of geniuses ever in Germany. It inspired Bach, Nietzsche, Schiller, Liszt and Goethe, to name just a few, and attracted numerous patrons who not only allowed many artists to develop in their discipline, but also made the area flourish with huge investments into palaces. The period of greatest splendour was in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, a movement known as Weimar Classicism and only comparable to the fascinating advent of Bauhaus, one of the most important architectural movements of modern Europe. Proof of all this are visits to Goethe's house, the palaces of Belvedere, Burgplatz and Wittum, and the Duchess Anna Amalia Library. A moment for reflection and recollection should be taken at the Buchenwald concentration camp. This was Hitler's medical experiment camp and the predecessor of Auschwitz. After this highly moving visit, it's time to rebuild your soul and look for some fun in the city.

Overnight stay in Weimar.

● DAY 5 · WEIMAR - EISENACH - ERFURT - WEIMAR

If Weimar was a cultural melting pot, Eisenach is not far behind. Johann Sebastian Bach was born here and Martin Luther spent an important period of his life in the town. They are its most illustrious residents, although Eisenach is famous because the first BMW car was manufactured here. The imprint of the German musician is still present and his house has become a place of pilgrimage for music lovers. You can visit the rooms, try to get some of his inspiration and listen to a concert of his works. Also important is the memory left in the town by Martin Luther, who was born here and later returned to take refuge at Wartburg Castle. During his stay, he translated the New Testament into German. You can visit his house and also the magnificent Wartburg Castle. These ingredients already make it worth visiting the city. But Eisenach offers many other attractions. Wonderful options include a stroll around the Marktplatz, a tour of the Georgenkirche, and obviously a visit to everything that reminds us that we're in the birthplace of the BMW brand. There's a fascinating museum - the Automobile Welt Eisenach - that showcases different models of the brand and other F1 teams. Very close to here, less than an hour's drive away, is Erfurt, known as the Rome of Thuringia for its architectural beauty. Take advantage of the visit to stroll through one of the most charismatic old quarters of all Thuringia, visit the Augustinian monastery and cross the longest wooden bridge in Europe. It's an ideal place to park up your car, leave the map behind and wander aimlessly through its cobbled side streets. Its Domplatz, dominated by the Erfurter Dom, will seduce you in a matter of seconds and encourage you to visit the stone-built Krämerbrücke bridge, just a few minutes away. If you're with your kids, the local zoo is particularly famous, especially its colony of monkeys, the funniest and most mischievous in the whole area. Remember that you have to return to Weimar, because you'll be spending the night there. It's half an hour away, so keep an eye on the time to make sure you have some leeway if you want to stroll around Weimar before dinner.

Overnight stay in Weimar.

● DAY 6 · WEIMAR - LEIPZIG

A fascinating day lies ahead today. Leipzig is outstanding and will quickly infect you with its energy and charisma. The city was the driving force behind Europe's economic and spiritual life for several centuries. As on previous days, many of your visits will be closely tied to prominent players in German society and culture. In Leipzig, you'll have the chance to visit museums dedicated to Richard Wagner (who was born here) and Mendelssohn (who died here), as well as the Thomaskirche, whose choir was led by Johann Sebastian Bach for several years. In fact, he died in Leipzig and his remains are found in the church. Another person who had a close bond with the city was Nietzsche, who studied at the university here. The city centre architecture is full of carefully-restored historical testimonies. Any recommendations? A stroll around the Marktplatz, where you'll find the Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall). It dates from 1556 and is on a par with the Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall), another building that will fascinate you. As you'll see, Leipzig is a place to enjoy at your leisure, strolling around town, soaking up the vibrant culture that oozes from every corner and visiting its attractive museums. They include the Museum of Modern Art and the Museum in der Runden Ecke, better known as the Stasi Museum, where you can learn about all the secrets the Cold War, the Ministry for State Security (aka the Stasi), and forty years of Soviet-influenced control of the then German Democratic Republic (GDR). The Stasi is uncovered here. Their methods, their costumes and their disguises are all revealed. It is very interesting indeed. And if a whole day in the city is too much for you, then we propose a trip out to the Cospudener See. You can sail on this lake, and there are two kilometres of beaches, a spectacular pier and a very wholesome ambience. Leipzig's nightlife is very lively and provides a one-off opportunity to enjoy the city with the intensity it deserves.

Overnight stay in Leipzig.

● DAY 7 · LEIPZIG - POTSDAM - BERLIN

It's your last day, so organise yourself well if you want to see everything. So, if you still have something to see in Berlin (especially its museums), you should head directly there. The drive from Leipzig to Berlin takes about two and a half hours, so make sure you plan out your day well. En route to Berlin, about 30 minutes before arriving in the capital, is the town of Potsdam. This is a must-see destination, as even though it suffered intense bombings during World War II, it still boasts several palaces, parks and gardens that dodged the air raids. There are no replicas or rebuilds here. Everything is original. A must-see is the Schloss Sanssouci. This is a palace where Frederick the Great spent his summer sojourns. Visitors can only enter with tickets booked in advance. So, if you're going to stop off in Potsdam to discover what is hidden behind its walls, make sure you reserve your tickets online. The inside of the palace will definitely impress, as will the Neues Palais, separated by 2 kilometres of parks and gardens. Other attractions here are the Bildergalerie and Charlottenhof Park. After the visit, we'll head back to Berlin to enjoy its cosmopolitan spirit, trendy restaurants and excellent nightlife.

Overnight stay in Berlin.

● DAY 8 · BERLIN - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Return flight. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Berlin. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Berlin. |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Dresden. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Dresden. | |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Weimar. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Weimar. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Leipzig. |
| ✓ Selected meal plan in Leipzig. | ✓ Rent-a-car. | ✓ Insolvency protection. |

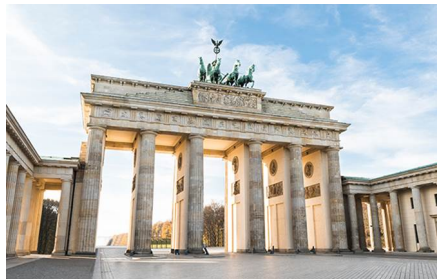
Your trip doesn't include

✕ Accommodation taxes in Berlin direct payment in facility.

✕ Possible toll charges.

Destinations Visited

Berlin



Lübbenau



Cottbus



Dresden



Königstein



Bad Schandau



Meißen



Weimar



Eisenach



Erfurt



Leipzig



Potsdam



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your

times, tastes and needs.

- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.