



Reisen, die nicht die Welt kosten

From the Metropolis to Nature – Berlin, Potsdam and the Spreewald

A 5-day trip following the World Vegetarian Congress 2008 in Dresden

Schedule

Saturday, 2 August 2008

In the morning, you will be picked up in Dresden by your English- and German-speaking guide and travel to Berlin by bus, where you will arrive around midday. A guided walk through the centre of Germany's capital will give you a first impression of this vibrant metropolis. On your way, you will be passing sights such as the government district with the newly built Chancellery and the historic old Parliament building (Reichstag). You will then walk through the Brandenburger Tor down to Paris Square, passing the memorial for the Jews murdered in Europe and view remains of the Berlin wall. Your guided walk ends at Potsdam Square, where you will have the opportunity for an evening meal.



Sunday, 3 August 2008

Traveling by streetcar, you will follow the old city wall of Berlin, simultaneously a showcase of the rapid development of Berlin in the last 150 years. Stops are planned along the way at important buildings, streets and spots that reveal the history of as well as modern life of Berlin. Examples are the ruins of the Portal to the Anhalter Train Station, Friedrichstrasse, the Hackescher Marketplace, Alexanderplatz, the former industrial area near the Warschauer Strasse and the district of Kreuzberg, where we will eat lunch. The trip continues by underground to the western part of Berlin – the Zoo Train Station, the “subterraneans,” the high-class shops and boutiques, the movie palasts, the theaters and coffeehouses near the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, all of which have supplied Berlin with its well-known and distinctive charme since the beginning of the last century. We will make stops at the Memorial Church, the Kurfürstendamm, the Europa Center and KaDeWe, the largest shopping temple in Germany. The rest of day is at your disposal for shopping and strolling.



Monday, 4 August 2008

We will travel by train in the morning to the former residential city of Prussen's kings – to Potsdam. First we tour the perhaps most famous piece of architecture in Berlin, Sanssouci Castle, the summer residence of Friedrich the Great, and take a stroll through the magnificent castle gardens. Other stopoffs include the Dutch Quarter and the Russian Colonies. Lunch can be taken during this time. Afterwards we will visit the Cecilienhof Castle, best known by its being the meeting place of the Potsdam Conference following World War II. Then we return to Berlin.



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Tuesday, 5 August 2008

By bus we travel approx. 1 ½ hours to the UNESCO Biospheric Reserve Spreewald, a unique river landscape and one of the most beautiful nature reserves in all of Europe. Together the river Spree and the forest comprise an unadulterated interior delta with a network of waterways that stretch for hundreds of kilometers. After checking into the local hotel, you can travel to one of the many ferryboat launches where the so-called “cucumber tubs” start for the lagoon city of Lehde. Along the way the ferryman tells interesting stories about the Spree Forest and its residents, the Sorbs. In Lehde you will visit a lovely open-air museum demonstrating many traditional homesteads, the oldest extant rowboat-building shop and a garden of medicinal herbs. We can eat lunch in one of the old and *gemütlich* inns along the way. Our boat trip ends in the early evening hours in the harbor of Lübbenau, and we then return to our hotel, where the evening meal awaits us.



Wednesday, 6 August 2008



The farmers of the Spree Forest specialized in raising vegetables as far back as the 15th century. Especially cucumbers, horse radish and onions were grown there. In the centuries to come especially the pickled cucumbers from the Spree Forest were to become well known all over the world. For this reason, before we leave the Spree area, we will visit a firm that processes and preserves the local vegetables. You will have the opportunity to look over the shoulders of the workers and of course to sample some of the delectables. We then return to Dresden, reaching your accommodation in the early afternoon.

Price per person in a double room: EUR 499

Surcharge for a single room: EUR 140

Services included:

4 nights with breakfast in a middle-class hotel, 2 noon meals*, 2 evening meals*, bus transfers and all public transportation, admission and English-language guide to all sightseeing spots, English-/ German-language tour guide

*drinks not included

Participants: min. 25 / max. 50

Itinerary subject to change.