

AFTER THE WALL - EXPLORING GERMANY'S HIDDEN HEARTLAND **August 3 - 12, 2023**

*You've heard about the Berlin Wall; you may even have watched its demise on TV. But have you ever wondered about the 900-mile-long border that separated the two German states during the Cold War? Join tour director and writer Kerstin Lange to learn about the **former border's** echoes in people's lives, German society, and in the land itself. This special tour will also take you to **Quedlinburg**, a timber-framed gem of a town in the Harz Mountains with a fascinating history involving, among other things, a Byzantine princess, Germany's first female physician, and American artist Lyonel Feininger; **Leipzig**, the city of J.S. Bach and the Peaceful Revolution of 1989, and **Berlin**, Germany's vibrant and multi-layered capital city. Special visits and lectures along the way will deepen your insights into German history, culture, and contemporary life.*

Day 1 - Thursday, August 3: DEPARTURE DAY

Depart from your nearest airport.

Flights are individually arranged or Goodspeed & Bach can make arrangements for you. Please see details below.

An additional day with an overnight in Hamburg is recommended if you want to explore additional sights in the city or adjust to the time zone before starting the tour.

Day 2 - Friday, August 4: Hamburg – Wendland Region

Arrive in **Hamburg**, Germany's largest seaport and a city with irresistible maritime flair. After clearing customs and picking up your checked luggage, meet your tour director



Kerstin Lange and your fellow travelers, then transfer to the city center to see Hamburg's new and already world-famous landmark, the [Elbphilharmonie](#) concert hall, and learn about the city's role in the Hanseatic League, the medieval merchants' association whose echoes live on in Brick-Gothic buildings and the self-image of Hamburg's citizens. Walk around the

bustling warehouse district (Speicherstadt) and visit the **elegant shopping street Jungfernstieg**.

Enjoy some free time for lunch before boarding your motor coach to transfer to the Wendland, a unique region located in a triangle formed by the border that divided Germany during the Cold War. Take some time to settle in and refresh; then join your fellow travelers for a **welcome dinner** and an overview of the days to come.

Meals: Dinner - Overnight Wendland region

Day 3- Saturday, August 5: Wendland Region

Over breakfast at the hotel, Kerstin will offer a slide show and overview of the former “German-German” border and its transformation into Germany’s longest, most bizarrely shaped nature preserve, the [Green Belt](#). Board the motor coach for an exploration of



the Wendland region and visit some of its characteristic [Rundling villages](#) – **circular villages** that go back to the 12th century but are inhabited by 21st century people. Nineteen villages are being considered as a

UNESCO World Heritage site!

After some free time for lunch, we will visit the [Rundling Museum](#) in Lübeln. The center piece of this open-air museum is a traditional Lower Saxon hall house; other buildings include the house of Trachten (traditional costumes), the bake house, the smithy, and the cartwright’s workshop. You may also wander the museum’s extensive gardens and orchards. We will meet with an historian to learn about the founding of the Rundling villages in the twelfth century and the mysteries that still remain.



Enjoy a traditional German Kaffeetrinken in a Rundling village before visiting sites along the former border/ today’s Green Belt and learn about the remarkable biodiversity that developed in the shadow of the Iron Curtain.

Dinner is individually arranged today.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight Wendland region

Day 4 - Sunday, August 6: Quedlinburg – Halle – Leipzig

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and travel south to the eastern foothills of the Harz Mountains, where we pay a visit to [Quedlinburg](#) (approx. 2 hrs). The little town



has a fascinating history involving, among other things, a Byzantine princess, the first female physician in Germany, and a castle convent from which women ruled the town for centuries. Meet your local guide to learn more about **Quedlinburg's** rich architectural and royal legacies. The Collegiate Church of St. Servatius, burial site of the first German king, Henry the Fowler is an architectural masterpiece of the Romanesque period and houses one of Germany's foremost collections of ecclesiastical treasure.

Enjoy some free time for lunch, then travel to **Halle, hometown of George Frideric Handel** (approx. 1 hr). You may wish to visit the [Handel House](#), where the composer lived for his first eighteen years, or the Market Church of St. Mary, built in 1529, where Handel learned to play the organ.

From Halle it is only a short transfer to Leipzig, the city of J.S. Bach and the Peaceful Revolution of 1989. Check in to your hotel, then join your tour director on an orientation walk to Auerbachs Keller, the restaurant Goethe immortalized with a scene in his epic drama Faust. Dinner is served here for our group.

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight Leipzig**

Day 5 - Monday, August 7: Leipzig

Enjoy breakfast, then explore the rich musical and cultural history of **Leipzig** on a guided walk. Leipzig has been a center for commerce, publishing, and music for centuries and has hosted annual trade fairs since the Middle Ages. The influence of **Johann Sebastian Bach** can be felt throughout the city. Visit the Church of [St. Thomas \(Thomaskirche\)](#), where Bach was choirmaster for 27 years. This church is also the site of Martin Luther's sermon on Whit Sunday in 1539. We will also visit the [Church of St. Nicholas](#), which served as the site of the Monday Peace Prayers that started the Peaceful Revolution of 1989.



Monday, August 7...

The remainder of the day is free for your own explorations. You may want to visit the [Bach Museum](#), a renowned center of Bach research with a scientific library, or follow the **Leipzig Music Trail**, an interpretive walk that connects all the sites where the city's great musicians left their Legacies. Dinner is individually arranged this evening.

Meals: Breakfast
Overnight Leipzig

Day 6 - Tuesday, August 8: Leipzig

After breakfast, gather together at the hotel for a visit with **the East German dissident** who evaded Stasi surveillance to secretly film the giant protest in Leipzig on October 9, 1989 – and get the tape to a West German TV station. The afternoon is free for your own explorations.



Perhaps visit the [Mendelssohn House](#), where Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy lived and died. The recently refurbished museum includes interactive music stations, a recreation of Mendelssohn's study, and a music salon that is still used as a venue for morning concerts.

You may also wish to visit the [Museum of Musical Instruments at Leipzig](#)

University, the Grassi Museum of Applied Arts, or the Forum of Contemporary History. The latter houses an excellent exhibit about the divided Germany, as well as a variety of special exhibits. Be sure to also to explore Leipzig's inviting coffeehouses or stroll through the city's passages and courtyards.

Meals: Breakfast
Overnight Leipzig

Day 7- Wednesday, August 9: Leipzig – Berlin

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and board your motor coach for the transfer to



Berlin (approx. 2 . hrs). There will be time for a coffee or lunch break before your local guide takes you on an overview of Berlin’s most significant sites. You will see the famous [Brandenburg Gate](#), which once stood in the “no-man’s land” between East and West Berlin and became a symbol of the reunited city with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Also view the Reichstag, seat of the German Parliament.

Travel along the famous thoroughfare **Unter den Linden**, and the busy shopping avenue Kurfürstendamm, the center of West Berlin during the time of the division. Here you will see the [Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church](#), whose bombed-out spire became a

powerful reminder of the destruction of war. The new modern church with its exquisite glass mosaic is an oasis in the busyness of the metropolis. We will also visit remains of the Berlin Wall (1961 – 1989), which stood for 28 years as the most potent symbol of a divided Europe. Throughout our tour, we will see evidence of past dynastic grandeur, the efforts to construct a unified city in the post-Cold War era, and the city’s lively art scene.

Check in to your hotel in the afternoon and settle in. Dinner is individually arranged this evening.

***Meals: Breakfast
Overnight Berlin***

Day 8 - Thursday, August 10: Berlin

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel. The day is free for your own explorations. Your [Berlin Welcome Card](#) (included in the tour price) provides free public transportation and discounts to many of the city’s museums. You could easily spend all day on Museum Island. Now home to some of Berlin’s most famous cultural treasures, the island was also the site of the two 13th century villages that formed the city’s cradle.

We also recommend a visit to the [Holocaust Memorial](#). Besides the above-ground field of stelae designed by Peter Eisenman, the site features a profoundly moving exhibit about the fate of Berlin’s Jewish population during the Holocaust.

Thursday, August 10...

Also well worth a visit is the [Berlin Wall Memorial](#), which offers historical background, poignant illustrations of life in the divided city, and documentation about people who died in the attempt to flee across the Wall.



For a relaxing way to see more of Berlin, hop on one of the [sightseeing boats](#) that takes guests past the Reichstag, the new central train station, Museum Island, and more on the River Spree.

**Meals: Breakfast
Overnight Berlin****Day 9 - Friday, August 11: Berlin**

Your final day in Berlin is also free for independent exploration. You may be interested in a guided tour of the [Reichstag](#) (reservations must be made in advance), the seat of the German Parliament.

The original building was designed by Paul Wallot and modeled after the Memorial Hall in Philadelphia. Heavily damaged during the Reichstag fire in 1933 and during WWII, the building sat as a virtual ruin for decades. After

Reunification in 1990 and intense debate, Berlin was designated as the German capital again and the Reichstag renovated based on an inspired design by British architect Norman Foster. The building's dome was replaced with a glass cupola from which visitors can view the parliamentary proceedings below.



You may also choose to visit the [Checkpoint Charlie Museum](#), whose exhibits show the inventiveness and desperation with which many East Germans tried to leave the constraints of the former German Democratic Republic. Checkpoint Charlie served as the only crossing for foreigners and members of the Allied Forces between East and West Berlin during the Cold War.

The nearby [Berlin Wall Panorama](#) is a captivating artistic depiction of a scene in the divided Berlin during the 1980's with footage of historic events related to the Berlin Wall. In the evening, gather together at a local restaurant for a festive farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner - Overnight Berlin

Day 10 - Saturday, August 12: Extend your stay in Germany or fly home

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Berlin-Brandenburg Airport for your flight home, or stay on for an extension (additional nights in Berlin or Hamburg can be booked through Goodspeed & Bach).

Meals: Breakfast

PLEASE NOTE: *Goodspeed & Bach, Inc. reserves the right to alter the order of events or to make changes in the itinerary deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience and safety of the participants. Every effort will be made to adhere to the printed itinerary, but weather conditions and transportation difficulties may arise beyond the control of Goodspeed & Bach, Inc. and local suppliers could force the cancellation or substitution of events or specific services. Travel coverage is highly recommended!*

TOUR PRICE AND INCLUSIONS

- ❖ 8 nights hotel accommodations (four-star hotels or equivalent)
- ❖ 8 buffet breakfasts
- ❖ 3 Dinners including tap water, 2 drinks per person (beer/wine/soft drink, coffee/tea)
- ❖ 1 traditional German Kaffeetrinken in a Rundling village
- ❖ Private motor coach service for all group travel per the itinerary
- ❖ Guided city tour by bus in Hamburg
- ❖ Day excursion in the Wendland region
- ❖ Entrance fee of Rundling Museum in Luebeln
- ❖ Guided walking tour of Quedlinburg
- ❖ Guided walking tour of Leipzig
- ❖ Entrance fee of Bach Museum in Leipzig
- ❖ Guided city tour of Berlin by bus
- ❖ 72-hour Berlin Welcome Card (provides free public transportation and discounted
- ❖ entrance to most museums)
- ❖ Tips for bus driver and local guides

TOUR COST per person in double room **\$3,259* USD** per person

Single room supplement fee: **\$339 USD** per person

**Please note the tour cost will increase if group falls below 10 travelers*

[CLICK HERE](#) → **GERMANY TOUR REGISTRATION FORM**

→ **An invoice will be sent to you after we receive your online registration form**

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED:

- 8 Lunches and 5 Dinners
- Passport services
- Pre-tour hotel nights in Hamburg
- Post-tour hotel nights in Berlin
- Flights round trip to Europe, **additional travel agency fees** apply if Goodspeed books your flight.
- Any personal expenditures, optional touring add-ons, meals and transfers not specified in the tour itinerary.
- Travel coverage is highly recommended. You may register online with Allianz Travel Insurance at <https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com/> or another insurance company of your choice.

Land Tour Deposit Schedule

\$500 per person deposit due to confirm the tour

Balance payment due: **June 3, 2023**

Land Tour Booking Conditions and Refunds*

\$500 per person is refundable less a **\$75** per person service fee

\$500 per person is non-refundable after **February 3, 2023**

NO REFUND: If the cancellation is received after **June 3, 2023**

Travel Insurance. Travelers can purchase trip coverage directly with Allianz Travel Insurance <https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com/>

Note: Full terms and conditions are also available at [Goodspeed & Bach, Inc.](#)

Flights: Arrival will be at Hamburg Airport (HAM) and departure from Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER), unless you make other arrangements. Please note that only **one bus transfer** is confirmed per direction. If your flight arrives later than the majority of the group on the arrival day, you are responsible for paying for your own transport or if you extend your stay at the end of the tour. Goodspeed & Bach, Inc. cannot assume responsibility for any fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets.

