



# In The Footsteps of the Great German Composers

with Oregon Bach Festival

Berlin \* Leipzig \* Dresden

October 27 - November 7, 2019

*"It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument will play itself."*

Johann Sebastian Bach



Classical Oregon  
**KWAX**

Join friends of Oregon Bach Festival on an extraordinary musical journey through Germany. We'll stroll through some of the country's most beautiful cities, walk in the footsteps of the great composers and attend several fabulous classical music performances along the way. In addition to

the rich music, we'll immerse ourselves in the art, food, history, and wine of Germany.

Avant-garde architecture gives way to days of musical heritage and living history in Leipzig, which Goethe called "Little Paris". Formerly located in Eastern Germany, this university town was once home to Bach and Goethe and claims Germany's oldest symphony orchestra which you have tickets to attend! After exploring the quaint villages surrounding Leipzig our journey continues east to the 'Florence of the North', Dresden! Here we'll sample Saxon wines, stroll through museums bursting with masterpieces and tour the Dresden State Opera House. Don't miss out. Space is limited on this festive journey!

## **YOUR JOURNEY**

3 Nights Berlin

4 Nights Leipzig, home of Bach, Schumann, Goethe and more!

3 Nights Dresden



**Earthbound Expeditions Inc.**

POB 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

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## HISTORIC & MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

In-depth walking tours of Leipzig, Dresden and Berlin \* Five classical events or performances \* A concert in St. Thomas Church in Leipzig where Bach spent 27 years as music director \* Private tour of the Semperoper Dresden \* Intimate tours of the composers' homes and museums \* Multi-course dining experiences \* Wine tasting with the producers in Saxony \* Berlin - Europe's new Capital of Culture, including new world-class museums \* The romantic world of Royal Potsdam \* Time to stroll the avenue Unter den Linden and the Prussian-built Brandenburg Gate



## INCLUDED

- \* Hosted by Oregon Bach Festival
- \* With special guests, Peter and Kathleen Van de Graaff
- \* Fully guided by a local Earthbound Expedition program director
- \* Ten nights of accommodation in centrally located, 4 superior and 5 star hotels
- \* All breakfasts and eleven additional meals with regional cuisine and beverages
- \* Transportation by private air-conditioned motor coach
- \* Four glorious classical music events: St. Thomas Church Bach organ concert, Dresden State Opera production, Leipzig Orchestra, an exclusive concert in the home of Robert and Clara Schumann
- \* Gratuities for your guides and drivers
- \* Entrance fees to museums, palaces, composer homes
- \* City and local maps
- \* A river cruise on the Elbe (weather and river levels permitting)
- \* Daily walks with local historians
- \* Alumni appreciation discounts applied towards future journeys

## TRIP FACTS

11 Days/10 Nights (not including air travel)

\$4,795 per person double occupancy

\$999 Single Supplement (waived if a roommate match is confirmed)

Optional group flight departs Sunday, October 27, 2019

Trip begins: Berlin on Monday, October 28 at 6:00pm

Trip ends: Dresden on Thursday, November 7

**OPTIONAL Icelandair GROUP FLIGHT:** \$1,199 with all airport taxes, fees and transfers while in Europe.

## SAVE \$300!

Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 \* Reserve your space by March 1, 2019 and save \$100 \* Earthbound travel alumni save \$100



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## Your KWAX - Oregon Bach Festival Classical Journey Begins...

### Day 1: Sunday, October 27 - Depart for Germany

An optional group flight departs the US for Germany today.



### Day 2: Monday, October 28 - Guten Morgen! Arrive in Historic Berlin

Devastated, then divided for two generations, Berlin has been rebuilding for a mere two decades. The results are stunning and have catapulted the city back to the first rank. Top notch orchestras and opera companies thrive, several world-class museums have recently reopened over the last few years, and the

boulevard of Unter den Linden has been re-laid. Recent visitors have been overwhelmed by the kaleidoscope of things to see, hear and do in what has become Europe's cultural Mecca. Enjoy a welcome feast and orientation with your Oregon Bach Festival host and Earthbound Expeditions program director. *Sleep in Berlin (D)*

### Day 3: Tuesday, October 29 - Highlights of Berlin

This morning we tour The Reichstag building in the historical heart of Berlin. Constructed to house the Imperial Diet of the German Empire, the Reichstag opened in 1894 and housed the Diet until 1933, when it was severely damaged by arson.

Our tour of Berlin continues as we see the home of the Berlin Philharmonic. Not far away is the Holocaust Memorial and the The Bebelplatz, known as the site of one of the infamous Nazi book burning ceremonies held in the evening of May 10, 1933. Our march through 20<sup>th</sup> century history culminates with a stretch of the Berlin Wall and check-point Charlie. *Sleep in Berlin (L)*



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*"I should be sorry if I only entertained them, I wish to make them better."*  
- George Frideric Handel

#### **Day 4: Wednesday, October 30 - Historic Potsdam**

Today we'll visit historic Potsdam and tour the Schloss Cecilienhof where Truman, Churchill and Stalin outlined their plans for a post-war Europe. Many years earlier, J.S. Bach paid a short visit to Potsdam in May 1747 where he met King Friedrich II. Enjoy a lunch in Potsdam before continuing on to Berlin. En-route we will cross the famous "Bridge of Spies." *Sleep in Berlin (B, L)*

#### **Day 5: Thursday, October 31 - To Leipzig via Halle, Handel Home and Museum and Köthen**

This morning we depart for Leipzig via two historically important towns: Köthen, the town where Bach composed the Brandenburg concertos and Halle, birthplace of Handel.

Köthen has long been known to classical music enthusiasts as the place of origin of J.S. Bach's best-known secular works, including the Brandenburg concertos and the Well-Tempered Clavier. J.S. Bach worked in Köthen from 1717 to 1723 as Kapellmeister for Prince Leopold von Anhalt-Köthen. It is also the birthplace of the composer Carl Friedrich Abel who, together with Johann Christian Bach, founded the popular "Bach-Abel Concerts" in London, the first subscription concerts in England.

Then, it is just a short drive south to the town of Halle. The Handel House is where the genius of Baroque music was born and thrived. What other place could convey such vivid impressions of Handel's life, work and times? After our visit we continue south to the historic city of Leipzig.

While Bach lived in Leipzig the population was just 30,000. The city was the second largest in Saxony, the center of the German printing and publishing industries (many of Beethoven's works were first printed here), an important European trading center, and site of a progressive and famous university. It was also one of the foremost centers of German cultural life, with magnificent private dwellings, streets well-paved and illuminated at night, a municipal library, a majestic town hall, and a vibrant social life. Outside its massive town walls were elegant tree-lined promenades and extensive formal gardens. The old-established university drew scholars and men of distinction from far and wide, and the famous book trade contributed much to the cultural life of the city. One of Leipzig's most important features was its international commerce. When the Leipzig Trade Fair was in progress, the



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respectable town was transformed into a show-ground, mixing business with pleasure, and was popular with members of the Royal Court of Dresden. Many connections were established between nations on these occasions and this, in turn, had a beneficial effect on the civic economy and culture as well as the international variety of its music.

Among the many great names in musical history who lived and worked in the city were Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Clara and Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Edvard Grieg, Albert Lortzing, Gustav Mahler and Hanns Eisler. In addition, Leipzig's rich musical heritage includes the Gewandhaus Orchestra and the world famous St. Thomas Boys Choir which looks back on a proud tradition of almost 800 years.

Over the course of the next four days we'll walk in the footsteps of the great composers and learn firsthand how this city of high culture and trade impacted their works. Enjoy an included dinner this evening with your host and guide. Attend a performance by the Leipzig Orchestra this evening! *Sleep in Leipzig (B, D)*



#### **Day 6: Friday, November 1 - In Bach's Footsteps**

After breakfast meet your local guide for glimpse into the world of Bach. Leipzig is where Johann Sebastian Bach spent 27 of his most productive years. A brand new Bach Museum opened only four years ago – and it's been brilliantly done. You could even just relax while listening to the catalogue of his music. With a bit of luck they might even be playing the organ at his old church over the road. Then stroll over to the St. Thomas Church. Bach worked here as a cantor for 27 years, and today, his remains are buried

below the altar. Since 1212, St. Thomas Church has also been home to the famous St. Thomas Boys Choir. *Sleep in Leipzig (B, L)*

#### **Day 7: Saturday, November 2 - A Day with Mendelssohn and Schumann**

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy was a major influence on European musical history – and he in turn was influenced by his experience of Leipzig. Under his musical direction, the Gewandhaus Orchestra became a first-class orchestra. Moreover, Mendelssohn is renowned for his rediscovery of Bach. The performance of the *St. Matthew Passion* under his musical direction in 1829 initiated “the Bach Renaissance”. He is also credited for the foundation of the Conservatory of Music in 1843, Germany's oldest music academy, which bears his name today. Mendelssohn's home became a meeting place for famous contemporaries such as Robert and Clara Schumann and Richard Wagner. It is the composer's last remaining private residence and today accommodates the Mendelssohn Museum.



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Just a few blocks away you'll find the charming home of Robert and Clara Schumann. Here you'll learn about their life long love for each other and be treated to a special piano recital and concert featuring Peter and Kathleen Van de Graaff. *Sleep in Leipzig (B, L)*

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### **About Clara Schumann: 2019**

*Clara Schumann spent the first 25 years of her life in Leipzig. At the age of nine, she made her successful concert debut at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. As an acclaimed artist, she performed successful concerts in Paris, Vienna, Copenhagen and St. Petersburg, among others, during the Leipzig period and married Robert Schumann here. In 1878, on the occasion of her 50th anniversary as an artist, she was honored at the Leipzig Gewandhaus.*

### **Leipzig's musical tradition**

*Scarcely any other German city can point to a musical tradition as rich and vibrant as that of Leipzig. The Schumann couple, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Johann Sebastian Bach, Richard Wagner, Edvard Grieg, Gustav Mahler and many more left behind a musical treasure, which is still ubiquitous today and expands from year to year. The Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Leipzig Opera enjoy an excellent reputation worldwide and international festivals (Bachfest, Wagner-Festtage, MDR Musiksommer) attract considerable attention. The places where these composers worked bring history to life. Clara and Robert Schumann spent the first four years of their marriage in the house which still stands on Inselstraße today. The circular trail of the "Leipziger Notenspur" provides a musical stroll through the city.*

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### **Day 8: Sunday, November 3 - An excursion to Arnstadt and Weimar**

Arnstadt is not only a Bach town because Johann Sebastian Bach worked here from 1703 until 1707, but more so because the town was the home and workplace of his ancestors. The Bachs established themselves from the end of the 16th century throughout Thuringia and beyond and decisively influenced the musical life of that time. We'll tour the Palace Museum which has a permanent exhibit dedicated to the life and times of the Bach family. Enjoy a bit of free time before our adventure continues to the town of Weimar for a lunch in a cozy café.

Weimar, a beautiful 1,000-year-old town on the edge of the Thuringian Forest, is an important destination for those interested in German history and culture. Unlike many cities in the former East Germany, Weimar retains much of its old flavor. Many of its



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important historical monuments were spared bombing in World War II. Its atmospheric, narrow, winding streets, lined with houses with high-pitched gabled roofs, seem left over from the Middle Ages. A 19<sup>th</sup> century writer called Weimar one of the most walkable towns of Europe, and it still fits into that category. From 1708 to 1717, Bach was court organist. In 1775, the great Goethe came to reside at the court of "Dowager Duchess" Anna Amalia and her son, Karl August II, and he attracted such notables as Herder and Schiller. Later in the 19th century, Franz Liszt was musical director of the National Theatre. We'll return to Leipzig in time for an evening dinner and stroll. *Sleep in Leipzig (B, L)*

### **Day 9: Monday, November 4 - Leipzig to the Florence of the North, Dresden**

This morning we make our way east to a city, known as "the Florence of the North." Our journey will take us to the banks of the beautiful Elbe River and past quaint villages and medieval castles. En-route we'll tour Germany's smallest wine-producing region. The Saxon Wine Route offers a wonderful blend of picturesque vineyards and local architecture. This part of Saxony enjoys a particularly favorable climate. Grapes have been grown here for over 850 years, and the local porcelain manufacturing tradition dates back almost 300 years. It was wine and porcelain, together with rich silver deposits, that brought fame and fortune to Saxony.

After meeting the producer and having lunch, we head to Dresden, our home for the next three nights. Dresden was for many years the capital of Saxony and was on an important trade route. It was here that musical giants such as Handel, Bach and Wagner lived and worked. After checking into our centrally located hotel, we'll set out to explore the historic core of this once cultural capital. *Sleep in Dresden (B, L)*

### **Day 10: Tuesday, November 5 - A Day of Culture and Art in Dresden**

Today we set out to discover the artistic masterpieces of Dresden. Art lovers will fall in love with the impressive old masters collection housed in the Zwinger museum. August the Strong, elector of Saxony (also king of Poland), built this Baroque masterpiece, modeled after Versailles, in 1719. Here he staged tournaments and kept dozens of concubines. Today, this artfully symmetrical complex of buildings holds a collection of museums. The damage caused by the British air raid in 1945 was so devastating that some locals feared the Zwinger would remain a ruin forever. However, it's been restored and it's back in business, welcoming new generations of art lovers.

The most important museum in the complex is the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister (Old Masters Picture Gallery). This gallery, one of the best on the Continent, has as its



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howpiece Raphael's *Sistine Madonna*. You'll also find Giorgione's *Sleeping Venus*, Antonello da Messina's *The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian*, Titian's *Tribute Money*, and many famous works by Veronese, Tintoretto, Correggio, and Carracci. You'll also see Flemish, Dutch, and German paintings by Van Dyck, Vermeer, Dürer, and Rembrandt. The Rubens collection includes his spectacular *Neptune*, full of rearing horses, and an exquisite St. Jerome.

Enjoy an included lunch and a free afternoon. This evening you'll be treated to a classical music event. *Sleep in Dresden (B, L)*

### **Day 11: Wednesday, November 6 - A Day of Leisure and the Dresden State Opera House**

Relax and enjoy a free day in lovely Dresden. Enjoy another included classical concert at the Dresden State Opera this evening. *Sleep in Dresden (B, L)*

### **Day 12: Thursday, November 7 - North to Berlin!**

*Auf Wiedersehen!* Your guide will accompany you to the Berlin airport this morning. Return home with a lifetime of happy memories. *Gute Reise!*

· *Itinerary Subject to Change* ·

### **Concert and Schedule Notes**

Earthbound Expeditions is not responsible for any changes regarding the program, performers, times and/or dates which the concert organizers alter. If, for reasons a concert is changed or cancelled a substitute concert will be found. Opera houses and symphony halls generally release tickets first to season subscribers. Please note that our staff will make every effort to book the very best seats available.

Hosted Journeys: If a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

## **RESERVATIONS & QUESTIONS**

Call Earthbound Expeditions at 800 723 8454

or

Email our travel staff at: [info@earthboundexpeditions.com](mailto:info@earthboundexpeditions.com)



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