

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## Visit East Germany (Thuringen & Sachsen)

**1. Day:** Carroll's bus brings us to Dublin Airport – leaving from Bury Quay  
Aer Lingus flight: Dublin 16.55 pm arrival in Frankfurt 20.00 pm  
A three hour journey will leave us to the small town of Bad Köstritz.



Many historical buildings decorate the village which was first documented in 1364. The composer Heinrich Schütz (1585 – 1672) was born here. Today the town counts 4000 inhabitants and proudly cherishes the title of being the centre for German dahlia floriculture. A well liked German beer 'Bad Köstritzer black beer' is brewed here since 1543.  
I am sure we will enjoy our stay!

The hotel 'Goldener Löwe' is looking forward to welcome us.  
Here some photos of the building, restaurant and bed rooms.



On our daily excursions we will explore all major East-German City's beginning with the city of Erfurt.

**2. Day:** The city of Erfurt is first mentioned in 742 in a letter to the pope by Saint Boniface. Throughout the Middle Ages, it was an important trading town. In 1501 Martin Luther moved to the university as a student. During the late 18th century the city was regularly visited by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller, Johann Gottfried Herder, Christoph Martin Wieland and Wilhelm von Humboldt. The Industrial Revolution reached Erfurt in the 1840s. Erfurt suffered only limited damages in World War II. The Peaceful Revolution 1989/1990 led to German reunification.



– University Building (1392) –

After lunch we will drive to the nearby town of Weimar.



The town was a focal point of the German Enlightenment and home to the writers Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller. In the 19th century, famous composers like Franz Liszt made a music centre of Weimar and later, artists and architects like Henry van de Velde, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee and many more came to the city and founded the Bauhaus movement, the most important German design school of the interwar period.

Here was Germany's first democratic constitution signed after the First World War, giving its name to the Weimar Republic period in German politics (1918–1933).

Today, many places in the city centre have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites.



### 3. Day: Today's trip will lead us to Eisenach and castle Wartburg



The main building of the medieval castle was constructed around 1155. It is one of the best preserved secular buildings of the late Romanesque period north of the Alps, and it is surely one of the most beautiful.

Martin Luther, who was excommunicated by the pope and outlawed by the emperor, sought refuge in the bailiff's lodge. Goethe praised the Wartburg's beautiful natural surroundings.

The town of Eisenach is situated below the Wartburg. Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach. Other famous composers, musicians and poets associated with Eisenach during that period. Nowadays the town is known for its car industry.

A visit to the Bach house will be a highlight in the afternoon.



### 4. Day: To celebrate all the fame of the past few days

we would start our day at the factory of the champagne producer 'Rotkäppchen' founded in 1856.



In good spirit our day trip would follow on to the city of Leipzig.

Here we take time for a guided city tour and maybe you would like to enjoy some music in one of the fantastic venues in your free time.



Leipzig has been a trade city, since, at least the time of the Holy Roman Empire. At one time, Leipzig was one of the major European centers of learning and culture in fields such as music and publishing.

The city was heavily damaged by Allied bombing during World War II.

After World War II, it became a major urban center within the German Democratic Republic.

Leipzig later played a significant role in instigating the fall of communism in Eastern Europe.

## 5. Day: A visit to Meissen and Dresden



Not far from Dresden, in the City of Meißen, the MEISSEN Manufactory has been producing exclusive porcelain objects for more than 300 years. They stand for passion, exclusivity and immortality. A visit to the museum and shop is planned.



Dresden has a long history as the capital and royal residence for the electors and kings of Saxony, who for centuries furnished the city with cultural and artistic splendor. The city was known as the 'Jewel Box', because of its baroque and rococo city center.

The controversial British and American bombing of Dresden in World War II destroyed the entire city center.

The war restoration work has helped to reconstruct parts of the historic inner city, including the Catholic Hofkirche, the Semper Opera and the Dresdner Frauenkirche.

Let's enjoy and explore most places. A guided city tour gives us a basic idea and start off point to spend our free time wisely.

## 6. Day:

Aer Lingus departures from Frankfurt at 20.40 pm arriving in Dublin at 21.40 pm  
Carroll's bus awaits us to leave us back to Bury Quay.

But before boarding our plane we will leave for Frankfurt City where we spent a few hours in the historical Palm Garden.

The Palmengarten had to face many challenges ever since it was established in 1868 and gives the right frame of mind for a farewell sensations accompanied by the botanical beauties.



*-Entrance Hall Conservatory*



*-Blue Egyptian Water-Lily*