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In the beginning was the Word

# Luther 2017

500 years since  
the Reformation





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# 500 years since the Reformation History at your fingertips.



On 31 October 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses condemning the corrupt practice of indulgences to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. This single act marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a worldwide movement whose legacy can still be felt today, especially in Germany. The Reformation had a profound effect not only on theology and the church but also on culture, science, business, politics, language and education. It left hardly a sphere of life untouched. On 31 October 2017 it will be 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his theses to that church door. Ahead of the anniversary in 2017, you can

already discover the history of the Reformation on eight routes running right across Germany. Featuring 36 authentic Luther sites, these routes present different perspectives on the life and legacy of the great reformer, on triumphs and setbacks, on adversaries and allies, on a time that brought about great change and a new way of thinking. The paths that you follow offer illuminating insights into history and culture, surprises aplenty and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy Germany's beautiful scenery and warm hospitality. Other features, such as barrier-free travel, an excellent tourism infrastructure and transport links by road and rail to all destinations, will make your visit to the Luther sites – and to Germany – an experience to remember. Welcome to Germany, the birthplace of Martin Luther.

The German National Tourist Board

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Find out more about **Martin Luther** and **spiritual travel** at  
[www.germany.travel/luther](http://www.germany.travel/luther)



“In the beginning was the Word”, we are told in the Gospel of St. John. If this is the case, then the beginning of the Reformation was a thesis, or more precisely 95 theses. It was these that Martin Luther nailed to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg on 31 October 1517 to protest against the sale of indulgences – a lucrative practice by which the church offered absolution from sins in exchange for money.

[www.germany.travel/luther](http://www.germany.travel/luther)

Presentation of the umbrella brand campaign for the Luther decade in 2011 in Berlin



When Martin Luther hammered his theses to the door of the castle church, the sound reverberated throughout Europe. Or so the legend goes.

There is no doubt, however, that Luther's theses constitute one of the most important documents in German and European history. 31 October 1517 is considered the day the Reformation began, and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this momentous event falls on 31 October 2017.

### Did you know ...

*"As soon as a coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs": with these words, preacher Johann Tetzel vociferously sold indulgences, which promised absolution from sins – and served to finance St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.*

"Oh century, oh sciences! It is a joy to be alive!" wrote the knight and poet Ulrich von Hutten a year later. His words were an expression of the zeitgeist that saw people exploring new paths and gaining a greater appreciation of beauty and knowledge. Indeed trade, industry, art, architecture, medicine and technology flourished like never before. The modern age, the era that continues to this day, had started, a period inextricably linked with Luther and the Reformation. A turning point in history and a fitting occasion for a very special year.

Discover the history of the Reformation on the more than 2,000 km Luther Trail in Germany.

Many of the Luther sites, of which there are well over 30, allow you to discover the man Luther was, the outspoken theologian and rebel who tirelessly travelled the length and breadth of the land.

The most prominent Luther sites are Eisleben, where Luther was born and where he died, Wittenberg, Luther's home for more than 35 years, and Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, where Luther translated the New Testament into German. Martin Luther was born on 10 November 1483. In 1505 he received his master's degree from the University of Erfurt, entering the city's monastery soon afterwards. In 1508 he continued his studies in theology in Wittenberg.

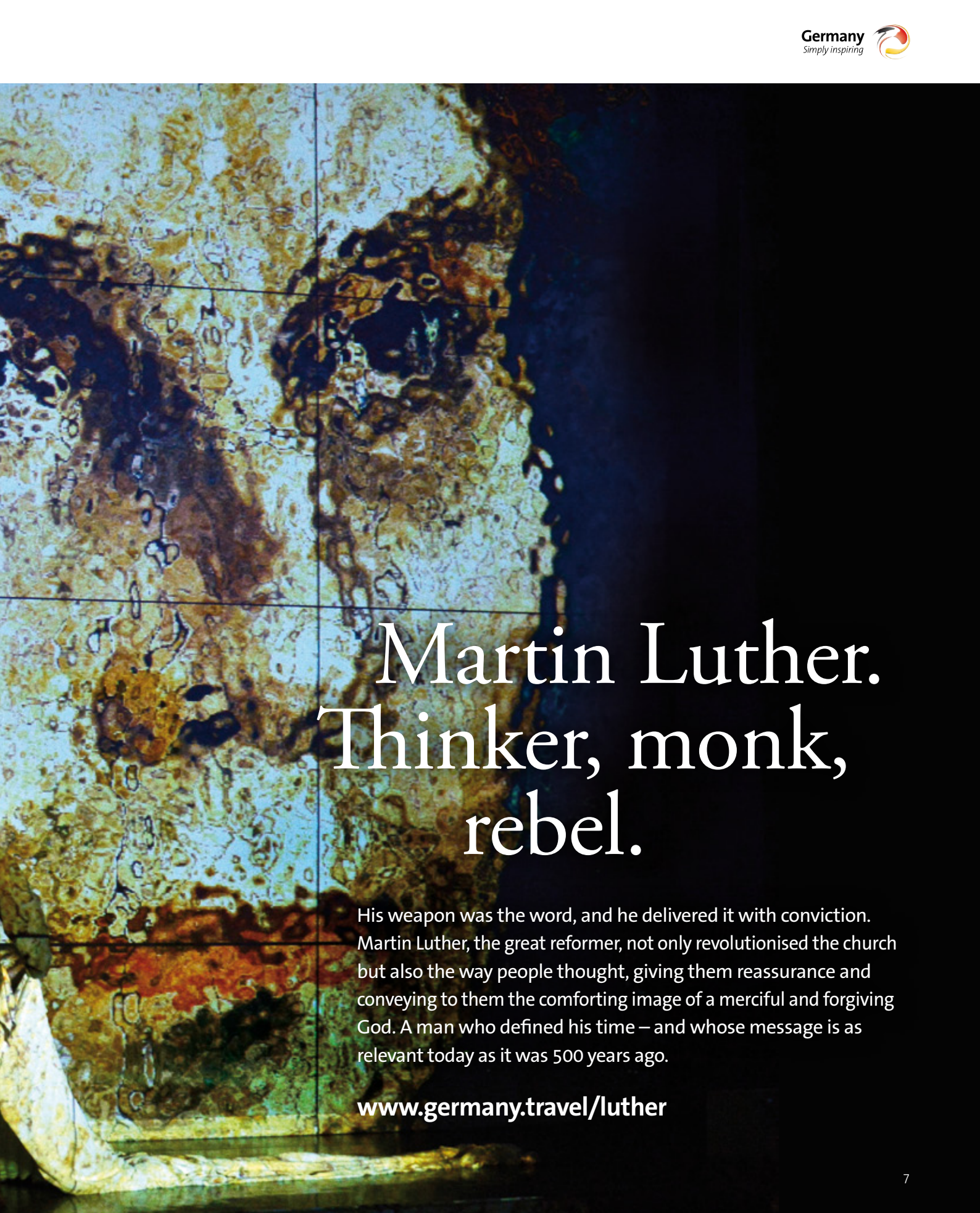
Luther was given a permanent post at Wittenberg University in 1512. It was the selling of indulgences at this time that ultimately drove him to publish his 95 theses. In 1518 the church investigated Luther on charges of heresy, and in 1521 he was declared an outlaw by the Holy Roman Emperor. A condemned man, he took refuge at Wartburg Castle in Eisenach. By March 1522, however, he was able to return to Wittenberg: the Reformation could no longer be contained. Luther married the former nun Katharina von Bora. The couple lived in Wittenberg with their children, relatives, staff and students, and when Luther died in 1546, he left a very different world behind.

### **Martin Luther also ...**

*... wrote hymns that are still sung today in Protestant church services, including 'From Heaven Above To Earth I Come' and 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'. He is also credited with coining phrases such as 'casting pearls before swine', 'a book with seven seals' and 'a wolf in sheep's clothing'.*

State Theatre in Eisenach





# Martin Luther. Thinker, monk, rebel.

His weapon was the word, and he delivered it with conviction. Martin Luther, the great reformer, not only revolutionised the church but also the way people thought, giving them reassurance and conveying to them the comforting image of a merciful and forgiving God. A man who defined his time – and whose message is as relevant today as it was 500 years ago.

[www.germany.travel/luther](http://www.germany.travel/luther)

# The heartland of Luther's legacy.

**ROUTE 1 – FROM BERLIN TO MAGDEBURG.** Martin Luther and the Reformation changed Germany – and their impact can still be felt today in the locations where the events of the time played out. A great legacy is waiting to be discovered. Our first route takes us right to the two most important places in Luther's life: Eisleben and Wittenberg.

[www.germany.travel/luther-route1](http://www.germany.travel/luther-route1)





Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam

There is much to discover on this route, particularly in the cities of Berlin, a venue for the national Luther 2017 exhibition, and Potsdam. The cathedral in Berlin and St. Nicholas' Church in Potsdam are first-rate attractions in their own right and are an ideal starting point for a journey into the Reformation.

The history of the Reformation is very much alive in Lutherstadt **Wittenberg**. It is home to the castle church, where Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door in 1517, Luther's House, now a UNESCO World Heritage site

and museum, and the town church where Luther preached on many occasions. The Prince George Library in **Dessau-Rosslau** also captures the spirit of the time. Part of the Anhalt Library of Dessau, it contains hundreds of prints and manuscripts from the time of the Reformation, including the three-volume Cranach Bible of Dessau with handwritten entries by Luther, Melanchthon and other reformers.

In **Eisleben**, Martin Luther's life went full circle. The house where he died is now a museum and provides fascinating insights

into the way people lived in the period between the Middle Ages and the modern age. This house and the house where Luther was born were granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 1996. In early November, Eisleben hosts a festival to celebrate Luther's birthday. After Luther died, his body was laid to rest overnight in **Halle (Saale)** before being taken to Wittenberg. In Halle, you can see Luther's death mask and a cast of his hands, and the pulpit in the market church from which he delivered several sermons. As a schoolchild Luther spent a lot of time in **Magdeburg**. He visited again in 1524 – although this time as a dedicated and outspoken preacher in St. John's Church and the Augustinian monastery church.

### Our tip

Many notable figures of the day made their mark in **Wittenberg** – not only Luther but also the scholars Philipp Melanchthon and Johannes Bugenhagen and the painter Lucas Cranach. Their houses and statues can be seen along the historical street that today encompasses Schlossstrasse and Collegenstrasse.

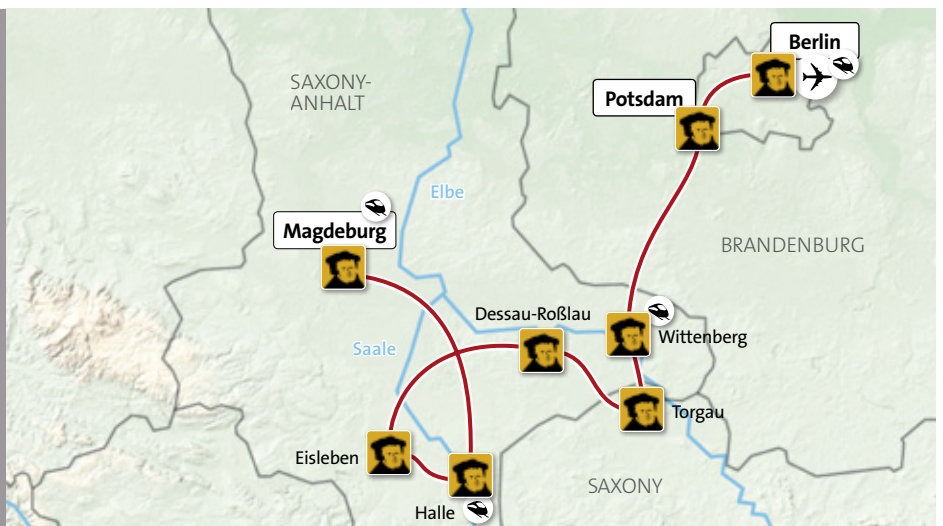
**ROUTE INFORMATION**

Length approx. 450 km  
Starts Berlin  
Ends Magdeburg

**TRAVEL**

Airports Berlin, Leipzig-Halle, Dresden  
Train stations\* Berlin, Wittenberg, Halle (Saale), Magdeburg

\* InterCityExpress station    ✈️ Airport



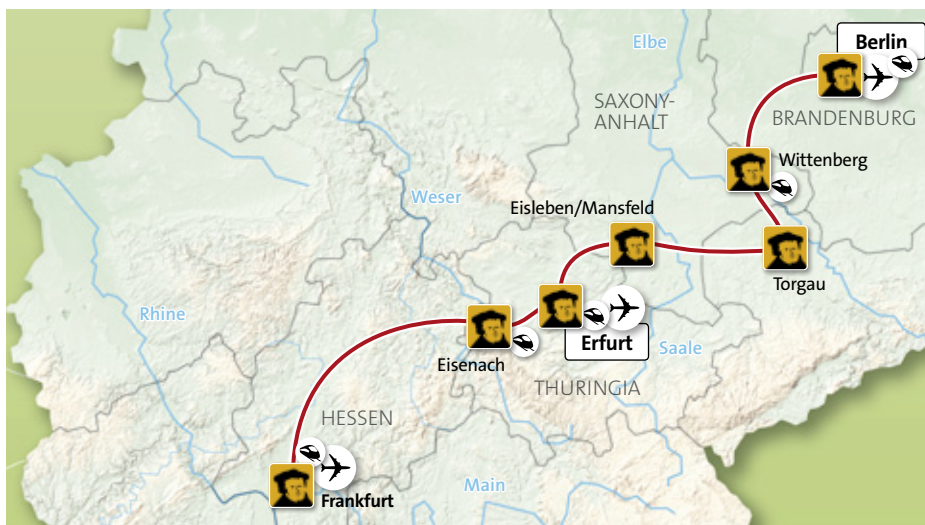
# Tradition and transition.

**ROUTE 2 – FROM BERLIN TO FRANKFURT.** 2017 is fast approaching: a major exhibition will be one of the many events celebrating this important anniversary in German history. The exhibition will be shown in Berlin, Wittenberg and Wartburg in Eisenach, so there will be three opportunities to see it. You can discover all three on our second route.

[www.germany.travel/luther-route2](http://www.germany.travel/luther-route2)



## ROUTE 2 – FROM BERLIN TO FRANKFURT



### ROUTE INFORMATION

Length approx. 630 km  
Starts Berlin  
Ends Frankfurt



### TRAVEL

Airports Berlin, Leipzig-Halle, Dresden, Erfurt-Weimar, Frankfurt

Train stations\* Berlin, Wittenberg, Erfurt, Eisenach, Frankfurt

\* InterCityExpress station Airport

It's always worthwhile beginning a trip in Berlin. And that is also true of this route, which then goes on to Wittenberg, the town that played the central role in Luther's life as his home for more than 35 years.

Luther's wife Katharina von Bora has close ties with **Torgau**. She stayed in the town after fleeing from the convent and it is here that she is buried. Torgau honours her with its annual Katharina Festival, which takes place for the seventh time on 25 and 26 June 2016. In **Eisleben** the house where Luther died paints a vivid picture of everyday life in the late Middle Ages. Together with the house where he was born and the Church

of St. Peter and St. Paul where he was baptised, it is central to the Lutherstadt Festival, which will take place from 3 to 5 June 2016. His birthday is also cause for great celebrations, which will be held from 12 to 13 November 2016 and will include a large medieval market.

In nearby **Mansfeld** it is well worth visiting Luther's childhood home and a festival celebrating Luther's first day at school, which will be held on 2 April 2016. **Erfurt**, whose beautiful old quarter never fails to impress, is home to the Augustinian monastery where Luther lived as a monk for six years and the Prediger Church, which is the city's

main Protestant church today. No visit to **Eisenach** is complete without seeing Wartburg Castle, where Luther translated the New Testament, and Luther's House. Finally, in **Frankfurt**, a section of the Luther Trail bears witness to Luther's journey from Worms to Wartburg Castle in 1521 – and the many museums look back at the rich history and culture of a city more usually associated with banking and trade.



Brandenburg Gate in Berlin



Augustinian monastery in Erfurt

### Our tip

The largest of **Erfurt's** surviving abbeys is that of the Augustinian hermits. Built in 1277, this impressive example of medieval monastic architecture is closely linked with the name of Martin Luther, who lived here as a monk. The exhibition, including Luther's cell, can be visited as part of a guided tour.

# A meeting place for revolutionary thinkers.

**Hessen** – there's no way around us.



— Numerous monuments bear witness to the important part played by the Hessen region in the Reformation: Marburg Castle, for example, hosted the colloquy in 1529 that was the only time that leading church reformers such as Luther, Melanchthon, Zwingli and Bucer met face to face. Marburg is also where the first Protestant university was founded. Follow the Hessen pilgrimage trail and the Lutherweg 1521 route to discover places of interest associated with the Reformation such as the Luther Room in Bad Hersfeld and the Bible House museum in Frankfurt am Main. **Hessen - there's no way around us.**



[www.hessen.travel](http://www.hessen.travel)

# Reformation and cultural heritage.



**ROUTE 3 – FROM EISENACH TO ALTENBURG.** The Reformation left behind many traces – and sometimes they can be found in the places you would least expect. It is not only Wittenberg and the other official Luther towns that bear witness to this time but also Eisenach and Erfurt and many smaller locations in the Thuringia region. Cultural and architectural highlights enhance the route and create a sense of great authenticity.

[www.germany.travel/luther-route3](http://www.germany.travel/luther-route3)

Starting in Lutherstadt Eisenach, this route provides deep insights into the culture of the time.

Martin Luther spent several years at school in Eisenach. Years later, he took refuge at nearby **Wartburg Castle**. Fortuitous perhaps, as it was here that he found time to translate the New Testament into German. In 2017, Eisenach and Wartburg Castle will provide a fascinating backdrop to the “2017 National Special Exhibition”.

Today, the Luther family home can be visited in **Möhra**. The town of **Schmalkalden**, famous for the Schmalkaldic League, is also well worth seeing for its romantic medieval architecture and Wilhelmsburg Palace. The reformer and leader of the peasant’s revolt Thomas Müntzer was executed in **Mühlhausen** in 1525. A highlight of this route is Mühlhausen’s St. Mary’s Church, the second-largest hall church in Thuringia and an official Müntzer memorial. Our next stop is **Gotha**. Luther’s first documented stay here was in May 1515 and his last – possibly to meet Lucas Cranach – was in 1540.



Herzogliches Museum in Gotha (Cranach exhibition)

Luther was a student at the university in **Erfurt**, the ‘Rome of Thuringia’, and entered the Augustinian monastery here in 1505. Luther often stayed in **Weimar** and preached sermons in the town, which, like Gotha, will host the regional exhibition “The Ernestines: A Dynasty shapes Europe” between 24 April and 28 August 2016. Even more significant, however, is the famous portrait by the great Renaissance painter Lucas Cranach the Elder at Weimar Palace, which remains our definitive image of Luther **Altenburg**, where Luther’s ally Georg

Spalatin exerted great influence, was a focal point during the Reformation. The palace there is today a popular visitor attraction.

**Our tip**

*Cranach’s ‘Law and Gospel’ is among the works on display at the Herzogliches Museum in Gotha. This impressive testimony to the deep religious belief of the time was probably created in consultation with Luther.*

**ROUTE INFORMATION**

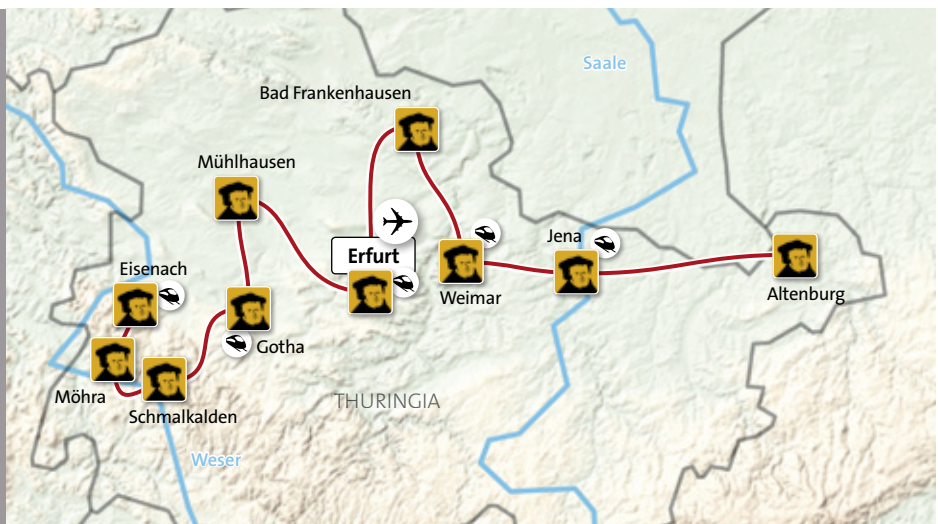
Length approx. 370 km  
Starts Eisenach  
Ends Altenburg

**TRAVEL**

Airports Erfurt-Weimar, Leipzig-Halle, Dresden

Train stations\* Eisenach, Gotha, Erfurt, Weimar, Jena

\* InterCityExpress station    ✈ Airport



St. Thomas Church in Leipzig

# Politics and rebellion.

**ROUTE 4 – FROM LEIPZIG TO DRESDEN.** Martin Luther came up against hostile opposition from all sides. Bishops and other church dignitaries were not alone in fighting against his reforms; secular leaders also saw his mission as an outrageous act of defiance. Our fourth route highlights some of the most important sites where Luther fought his battles – and was ultimately able to win through.

[www.germany.travel/luther-route4](http://www.germany.travel/luther-route4)



**ROUTE INFORMATION**

Length approx. 400 km  
Starts Leipzig  
Ends Dresden

**TRAVEL**

Airports Leipzig-Halle, Dresden  
Train stations\* Leipzig, Wittenberg, Dresden

\* InterCityExpress station Airport

In Leipzig, Luther had to undergo a great test of strength at the Leipzig Disputation in 1519, defending himself before the Catholic theologian Johannes Eck. The differences between the Catholic and reformed teachings seemed greater than ever and even though the disputation came to an inconclusive end, it still led to Luther's excommunication by Rome. It was only many years later, in 1539, that Luther was able to preach again in Leipzig, at the famous St. Thomas Church.

Along with Wittenberg, where Luther nailed his theses to the door of the castle church, Torgau was the political centre of the Reformation; it is no coincidence that the first Protestant church was built here. In Mühlberg, not far from Torgau, the Reformation Museum at Marienstern Abbey commemorates the defeat suffered by the reformed Schmalkaldic League at the hands of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V's army in 1547.

Katharina von Bora, Luther's wife, spent her childhood and youth at Nimbschen Abbey near Grimma, which is now a ruin, but still well worth a visit. "Reform and Revolution: Forging New Paths" is the title of an exhibition on display at the Max Pechstein

Museum in Zwickau in 2015 and 2016. Our route comes to a fitting end in Dresden, home to the Church of Our Lady, the largest Protestant domed building in Europe.

A magnificent statue of Luther stands outside the church, and it is also well worth

paying a visit to the Neustadt district to see the neo-Gothic Martin Luther Church. The must-see attraction is the famous Green Vault, not least because Luther's signet ring and goblet form part of the collection held here.

**Our tip**

*Dresden is renowned for its beauty, museums, Dresden Christstollen, and of course, the Dresden Kreuzchor boys' choir, one of the oldest boys' choirs in Germany and even Europe. The Church of the Holy Cross (Kreuzkirche) has been its artistic home for over 700 years. Since it graced the first Protestant service with its singing in 1739, church services, vespers and Kreuzchor concerts are a firm event on Dresden's cultural calendar.*



Dresden Kreuzchor

# Sermons and imperial diets: Luther's travels.

**ROUTE 5 – FROM FRANKFURT TO BERLIN.** The Reformation is, of course, inextricably linked with key Luther towns such as Eisleben and Wittenberg. Yet the success of the Reformation would be inconceivable without the many journeys Luther made to other parts of Germany. Luther was always willing to stand up to his opponents. This scenic route from Frankfurt to Berlin retraces some of his journeys and battles and promises many discoveries along the way.

[www.germany.travel/luther-route5](http://www.germany.travel/luther-route5)

Frankfurt, whose cathedral was for centuries the coronation church of the German emperors, is the starting point for this tour towards the south-west.

In **Worms**, one of the oldest cities in Germany, Luther defended his 95 theses before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in April 1521. Worms is also home to the world's largest Reformation memorial. Between 1526 and 1529, important imperial diets convened in **Speyer**, a city also known for its cathedral – the largest Romanesque church in the world. In **Heidelberg**, famous for its castle, Luther gave his first sermon after publishing his theses.

Our route then takes us to the Bavarian city of **Augsburg**. Luther stayed at the Carmelite abbey here when he defended his theses for the first time before the feared Cardinal Cajetan in 1518. The excommunication of Martin Luther was reiterated in **Nuremberg** in 1524, yet only a short time later Nuremberg became the first free imperial city to introduce the Reformation – an early triumph for Luther. In 1530 Luther lived for a few months in **Coburg**. His living quarters and the other sites associated with him can be visited today. Back in Thuringia, our route



Heidelberg Castle

take us to the pretty medieval town of **Schmalkalden**, where the Schmalkaldic League, an important alliance of Protestant princes, was founded in 1531. **Eisenach** and Wartburg Castle are well known for their associations with Luther, as are **Erfurt** and **Weimar**. Points of interest in Weimar include the former Franciscan abbey, Cranach altar and Weimar palace, where Cranach's famous portrait of Luther has pride of place. Via the market church in **Halle (Saale)**, where Luther's death mask and a cast of his hands are on display, our route takes us to Lutherstadt **Wittenberg** before ending in **Berlin**.

**Our tip**

*The Middle Ages were passé; a new age had dawned, and intellectually not one stone was left upon another. The upheavals of the early modern period altered peoples' perceptions of the world – theologically, geographically, scientifically and artistically. The extent of these upheavals can be seen at the Germanic National Museum in Nuremberg, in the superb exhibition "Luther, Columbus and the consequences – shift in world view in the 16th century" from 13 July until 12 November 2017.*

**ROUTE INFORMATION**

Length approx. 1,200 km  
Starts Frankfurt  
Ends Berlin

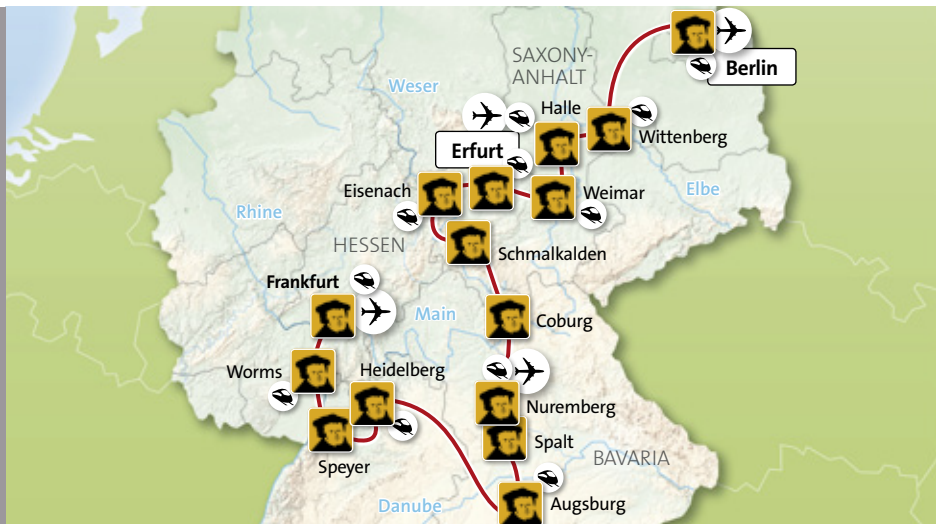


**TRAVEL**

Airports Frankfurt, Nuremberg, Erfurt-Weimar, Berlin, Leipzig-Halle, Dresden, Munich

Train stations\* Frankfurt, Worms, Heidelberg, Augsburg, Nuremberg, Eisenach, Erfurt, Weimar, Halle (Saale), Wittenberg, Berlin

\* InterCityExpress station    ✈ Airport



# Vision and reality.



Luther's death mask and a cast of his hands at the house where he died in Eisleben

**ROUTE 6 – FROM FRANKFURT TO BERLIN.** It was a long journey from Martin Luther's 95 theses to the wide acceptance of the Reformation by the people and rulers. Luther managed time and time again to win over cities and regions with his ideas, which usually required him to take long and arduous journeys. This route takes in many of the places that he visited, including some in present-day Hessen, before finally returning to the well-known Luther sites in Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Saxony.

[www.germany.travel/luther-route6](http://www.germany.travel/luther-route6)



## ROUTE 6 – FROM FRANKFURT TO BERLIN



### ROUTE INFORMATION

Length	approx. 1,000 km
Starts	Frankfurt
Ends	Berlin

### TRAVEL

Airports	Berlin, Leipzig-Halle, Erfurt-Weimar, Frankfurt, Dresden
Train stations*	Frankfurt, Worms, Bad Hersfeld, Eisenach, Erfurt, Weimar, Leipzig, Halle (Saale), Wittenberg, Berlin

 \* InterCityExpress station  Airport

This route also starts in Frankfurt, the birthplace of another great German: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

It's then on to **Worms**, venue of important imperial diets and location of the largest Reformation memorial in the world. **Marburg** in Hesse witnessed a meeting of giants in October 1529: at the Marburg Colloquy, Zwingli and Luther debated their differing interpretations of the role of The Last Supper. In nearby **Bad Hersfeld**, Luther held a sermon on 1 May 1521 at the abbey church, whose striking tower is the town's most famous landmark. Heinrich Fuchs, the

pastor at the time, is said to have been the first priest to ever marry. Events come to life on the "Luther Trail 1521" – not just in Bad Hersfeld but across the state of Hesse too.

We head back to Thuringia via **Eisenach**, where you'll find the Luther Room at the UNESCO World Heritage Wartburg Castle. Our route then takes us to **Erfurt** with its Protestant Augustinian monastery and cathedral, and on to the UNESCO World Heritage town of **Weimar**. In Weimar, you can visit the palace with its Cranach galleries and the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (Herderkirche) with its Cranach altar.

Via **Leipzig**, where Luther preached at St. Thomas Church in 1539, **Halle (Saale)** with its Martin Luther remembrance walking trail and **Torgau**, where the first Protestant church was built and Katharina von Bora is buried, we continue to the Luther towns of **Eisleben** and **Wittenberg**. Melancthon's House, Luther's House and the UNESCO World Heritage Cranach Courtyards provide the backdrop for Wittenberg's annual Luther's Wedding festival, which will be held from 10 to 12 June 2016. This route culminates in **Potsdam** and **Berlin**, both home to cultural, architectural and historical highlights.

### Our tip

*Leipzig and St. Thomas' Church are of particular interest because of their associations not only with Martin Luther but also with Johann Sebastian Bach, who lived and worked in the city for many years. The annual Bach Festival, which takes place from 10 to 19 June 2016, is held in his honour. Directly opposite St. Thomas' Church, the Leipzig Bach Archive invites visitors to discover more about the life and work of the master.*



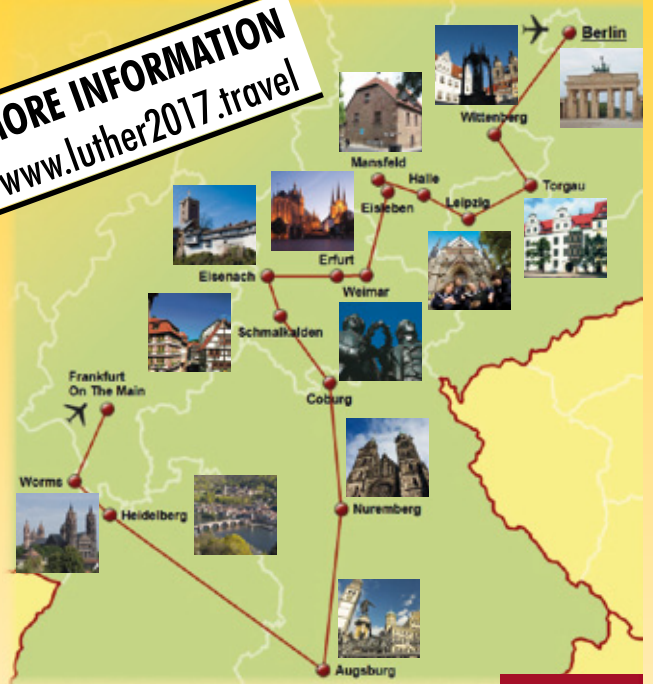
Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar

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**MORE INFORMATION**  
[www.luther2017.travel](http://www.luther2017.travel)



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IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD




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**In Luther's Tracks**

What happened on the night of the 3rd of December 1521 in Auerbachs Keller? This and many more interesting details will be experienced during the daily guided tour through the Historic Wine Rooms. The tour takes place daily at 2pm and is to be booked in combination with lunch or with coffee and cake. Due to limited numbers please reserve a place beforehand. We look forward to your reservation!

**Auerbachs Keller Leipzig** · Grimmaische Str. 2-4 · 04109 Leipzig  
 phone +49 (0)341.21610-0 · [www.auerbachs-keller-leipzig.de](http://www.auerbachs-keller-leipzig.de)



# Great change, small beginnings.

**ROUTE 7 – FROM FRANKFURT TO WITTENBERG.** Frankfurt and Leipzig, both waypoints on this route, were among the most important cities in the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. Yet time and time again, Luther sought out smaller towns and even villages to voice his ideas. This route includes the classic Luther sites but also many of these insider tips – places that were of vital importance for the acceptance of the Reformation.

[www.germany.travel/luther-route7](http://www.germany.travel/luther-route7)





Hauptwache square in Frankfurt

The starting point for this route is again Frankfurt, a popular destination for cultural trips thanks to its unique museum embankment.

It's then on to Marburg, where the Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli met with Martin Luther, and Bad Hersfeld, home to the largest Romanesque church ruins in the world. At Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Luther translated the New Testament into German in only eleven weeks. The new, permanent exhibition, "Luther and the Bible", gives an insight

into the thinking and action of the reformer in Luther's House, which has recently been reopened following careful restoration.

Zwickau is a waypoint on the Luther Trail in Saxony. Here, you can see the key Reformation sites on a circular walking tour. In Zeitz, where Luther held important sermons in 1542, 1544 and 1545, be sure to see the abbey church and Lutherides library, as well as the cathedral and St. Michael's Church with its original print of Luther's theses. In 1523 Katharina von Bora, who later

became Luther's wife, fled from a convent near Grimma where she had spent her childhood and adolescence. In Leipzig Luther took part in the Leipzig Disputation at Pleissenburg Castle in 1519. Just a year after Luther's birth in Eisleben, his family moved to Mansfeld. His family home is now a museum, and St. George's Church contains the only full-length Luther portrait. Torgau was the political centre of the Reformation and is where Katharina Luther died. The tour comes to a close with a real highlight: Wittenberg, possibly the most special of all the official Luther towns.

### Our tip

For a Luther site with a difference, visit the Lutherkeller in Zwickau, located directly beneath the Luther Church, right by the train station. Bar, band rehearsal room, table tennis cellar, cycle and carpentry workshop, live venue, preaching room: almost anything is possible here. A blues mass is also held here five times a year – Bible readings and live bands are just as much a part of the place as Martin Luther.

**ROUTE INFORMATION**

Length approx. 890 km

Starts Frankfurt

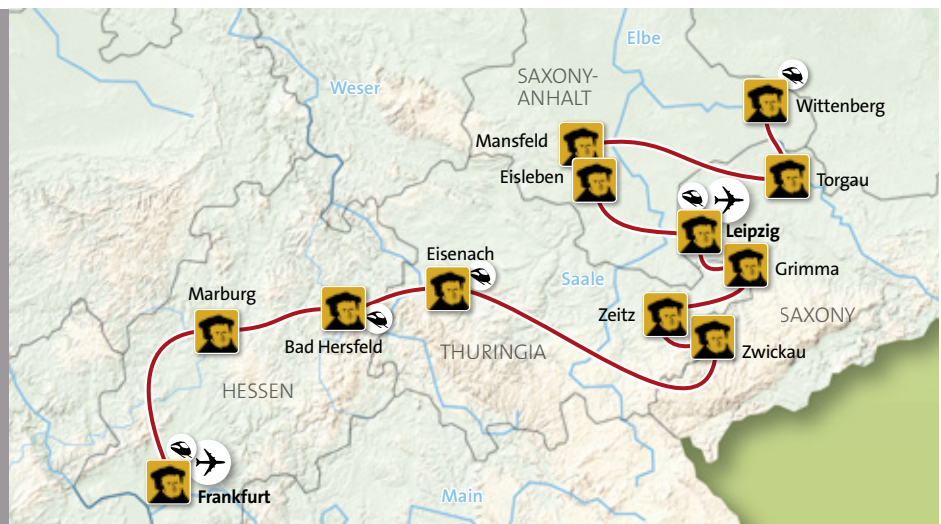
Ends Wittenberg

**TRAVEL**

Airports Frankfurt, Leipzig-Halle, Erfurt-Weimar, Berlin, Dresden

Train stations\* Frankfurt, Bad Hersfeld, Eisenach, Leipzig, Wittenberg

\* InterCityExpress station    ✈ Airport



# Martin Luther's stay in Coburg



## A glimpse of Martin Luther in Coburg

Coburg was once the southernmost stronghold of the region where the Reformation originated, and belonged to the territory governed by the Ernestine electors of Saxony. In 1530, Martin Luther spent six months in Coburg on the instructions of his ruler, John the Steadfast, while the latter with a retinue of knights, travellers and advisors set off for the Diet of Augsburg. There, the elector intended to negotiate with Emperor Charles V about issues of the Protestant faith. The emperor, on the other hand, had every reason to want to restore the Roman Catholic faith to the whole of Germany.

Luther, who was under an imperial ban and consequently outlawed, spent nearly six months in the protection of mighty walls at the Veste Coburg and commented on proceedings at the Diet from a distance. He lived in two of the princely rooms in the Steinerne Kemenate, or Stone Bower, still known at that time as the Hohe Kemenate (High Bower"), with a view of the Thuringian Forest. Today, visitors to the Veste can still get a good idea of how the Reformer's life here might have been.

He preached in the church of St. Moritz during the Easter of 1530. Martin Luther was only able to follow events in Augsburg from a distance, but he nevertheless made his presence felt. He is thought to have written 120 letters to his comrades-in-arms at the Diet, acquaintances and family members. During his stay, he worked on translations of the Bible and wrote 16 manifestos and tracts. Many of the documents from this intensive period of work still exist today – an intellectual treasure trove that makes Coburg an important Reformation site.

It was also at the Veste Coburg that he received his famous ring and seal: John the Steadfast's eldest son, the later Elector John Frederick the Magnanimous (1532-1547), gave the cleric a signet ring with the famous Luther Rose during one of his visits. From then on, Luther used this seal to denote that correspondence was penned by him.

Despite all his efforts, the endeavours at the Diet proved in vain: Emperor Charles V rejected the document defending the Protestant Faith (the Confession of Augsburg).

The hoped-for compromise was not yet attained. After more than five months, Elector John the Steadfast returned to Coburg on October 1, 1530, without a satisfactory result. Just three days later, he travelled back to Wittenberg with Martin Luther.

A date to note in your diary: in 2017, the Bavarian State Exhibition entitled Ritter, Bauern, Lutheraner ("Knights, Peasants, Lutherans") will be taking place in Coburg. Organised by HdBG International, Coburger Landesstiftung and the town of Coburg, the exhibition is on a par with the national exhibitions in Wittenberg, Berlin and Eisenach marking the end of the Luther Decade. The principal approach will not be a biographical one: instead, the exhibition will seek to portray Martin Luther, the Reformation and the emerging Counter Reformation as phenomena of their time. The exhibition venues are the Veste Coburg and the parish church of St. Moritz in the town centre.

**Further information:**  
[www.coburg-tourist.de](http://www.coburg-tourist.de)

# Beyond Germany's borders: roads to Europe.

## **ROUTE 8 – FROM FRANKFURT TO MUNICH.**

The Reformation didn't happen overnight. Reformation ideas existed long before Luther. The emergence of European humanism created a breeding ground on which new and often radical ideas developed. Which is why it is well worth looking beyond Germany's borders to France or Switzerland, for example. Back then, cities such as Strasbourg and Zurich were centres for book printing – and played their part in the proliferation of Luther's ideas.

[www.germany.travel/luther-route8](http://www.germany.travel/luther-route8)

## ROUTE 8 – FROM FRANKFURT TO MUNICH



### ROUTE INFORMATION

Length	approx. 820 km
Starts	Frankfurt
Ends	Munich

### TRAVEL

Airports	Frankfurt, Munich, Nuremberg
Train stations*	Frankfurt, Worms, Heidelberg, Freiburg (Lake Constance region), Munich, Augsburg

 \* InterCityExpress station  Airport

Frankfurt, right at the heart of Germany and quick and easy to get to, is an excellent starting point for this route as well.

The first stop is **Worms**, one of Germany's oldest cities, made famous by the Nibelung saga and home to the largest Reformation memorial in the world. A little further south, in **Heidelberg**, Luther made his first theological appearance outside Wittenberg after publishing his theses: on 26 April 1518, he led the Heidelberg Disputation, mounting another defence of his theses. In nearby **Strasbourg**, Martin Bucer, a reformer from Alsace, was also working to further the

### Our tip

*The Hus Museum in **Konstanz** documents the life and times of Jan Hus, who is greatly esteemed to this day as an advocate for freedom of conscience. Hus came to the city in 1414 to present his pre-Reformation theses at the Council of Constance, which sought to end the papal schism. This turned out to be a grave error, for he was burned at the stake for heresy. That didn't stop the Church from electing a new pope, however: the papal election of 1417 is thought to be the only one that has been held north of the Alps.*

cause of the Reformation, continually acting as a mediator between different Protestant movements. And in 1521 the Protestant priest Matthäus Zell began holding sermons at Strasbourg Cathedral.

In 1514 the great humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam began living and teaching in **Basel**, which had joined the Swiss Federation only a short time earlier, and in 1519 Ulrich Zwingli became a preacher and pastor at the Great Minster in **Zurich**. Back in Germany, the breathtakingly beautiful region in and around **Constance** is steeped in history. The same can be said of **Augsburg**, where the Carmelite abbey, Luther's home for a time, was the starting point of the Reformation. Even though the Reformation did not make much of a mark in **Munich**, this vibrant Bavarian city will certainly have lots to offer for those interested in Luther and his teachings.



# Martin Luther + WORMS



\* *“Here I stand.  
I can do no other.  
God help me. Amen”*

1521

## The Diet of Worms

It was in Worms that Luther made world history when he refused to retract his theses.\*

1526

## The Tyndale Bible

(English translation of the New Testament by William Tyndale)

The first edition was printed in 1526 in Peter Schöffer the Younger's workshop in Worms.

1868

## The world's biggest monument to the Reformation

Consecration of the Luther monument in the historical setting of Worms.

[www.worms.de](http://www.worms.de)



Worms Tourist Information  
+49 6241 853 7306  
[touristinfo@worms.de](mailto:touristinfo@worms.de)

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Frankfurt airport.



nibelungenstadt  
**worms**

## EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS 2016–2018

### NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

12 April – 5 November 2017

Berlin

The Luther effect. 500 years since the Reformation  
[www.dhm.de](http://www.dhm.de)

13 April – 2 July 2017

Lutherstadt Wittenberg

National exhibition  
'Luther! 95 People – 95 Treasures'  
[www.martinluther.de](http://www.martinluther.de)

4 May – 5 November 2017

Eisenach

National exhibition  
'Luther and the Germans'  
[www.wartburg.de](http://www.wartburg.de)

3 August – 5 November 2017

Lutherstadt Wittenberg

National exhibition  
'Luther! 95 People – 95 Treasures'  
[www.martinluther.de](http://www.martinluther.de)

### LUTHER 2017 EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

2 April 2016

Mansfeld

Festival in Mansfeld celebrating Luther's first day at school  
[www.lutherstaedte-eisleben-mansfeld.de](http://www.lutherstaedte-eisleben-mansfeld.de)

24 April – 28 August 2016

Gotha and Weimar

The Ernestines. A dynasty shapes Europe. Thuringian Regional Exhibition  
Gotha and Weimar  
[www.ernestiner2016.de](http://www.ernestiner2016.de)

30 April 2016 – 31 December 2018

Rothenburg ob der Tauber

With the sword or strong faith – Luther and the witches  
[www.kriminalmuseum.rothenburg.de](http://www.kriminalmuseum.rothenburg.de)

27 May – 12 June 2016

Halle (Saale)

Handel Festival  
[www.haendelfestspiele.halle.de](http://www.haendelfestspiele.halle.de)

3 – 5 June 2016

Eisleben

Luther Town Festival  
[www.lutherstaedte-eisleben-mansfeld.de](http://www.lutherstaedte-eisleben-mansfeld.de)

10 – 12 June 2016

Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Luther's Wedding, festival in Wittenberg  
[www.wittenberg.de](http://www.wittenberg.de)

25 – 26 June 2016

Torgau

7th Katharina Day  
[stadtwerke-torgau.de](http://stadtwerke-torgau.de); [tic-torgau.de](http://tic-torgau.de)

2 October 2016 – 30 September 2017

Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Media of the Reformation – Religions at war  
[www.kriminalmuseum.eu](http://www.kriminalmuseum.eu)

12 – 13 November 2016

Eisleben

Festival celebrating Luther's birthday with large medieval market  
[www.lutherstaedte-eisleben-mansfeld.de](http://www.lutherstaedte-eisleben-mansfeld.de)

13 July – 12 November 2017

Nuremberg

Luther, Columbus and the consequences – shift in world view in the 16th century  
[www.gnm.de](http://www.gnm.de)

31 October 2017

Worldwide and Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Gala event to celebrate Reformation Day 2017

### CHURCH EVENTS

31 October 2016 – 20 May 2017

International

European Roadmap  
[www.r2017.org](http://www.r2017.org)

20 May – 10 September 2017

Lutherstadt Wittenberg

World Reformation Exhibition  
[www.r2017.org](http://www.r2017.org)

24 – 28 May 2017

Berlin and Lutherstadt Wittenberg

26th German Protestant Church Festival  
[www.kirchentag.de](http://www.kirchentag.de)

25 – 28 May 2017

Magdeburg, Dessau-Roßlau, Halle/Eisleben, Leipzig, Erfurt, Jena/Weimar

'Kirchentag on the Way'

[www.r2017.org](http://www.r2017.org)

28 May 2017

Lutherstadt Wittenberg

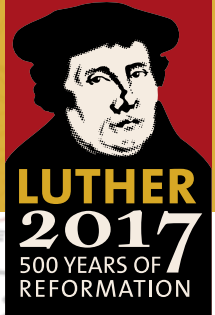
Special service  
[www.r2017.org](http://www.r2017.org)

June – September 2017

Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Camp for confirmation candidates and other teenagers  
[www.r2017.org](http://www.r2017.org)

IN THE  
BEGINNING  
WAS THE WORD



# THE NATIONAL SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

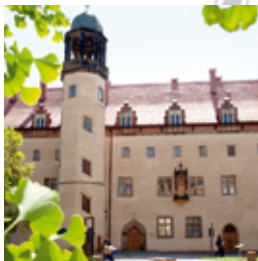
on the Occasion of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation



Berlin  
**The Luther Effect. 500 Years of the Reformation**

[www.dhm.de](http://www.dhm.de)

Deutsches Historisches Museum at Martin-Gropius-Bau  
12 April to 5 November 2017



Lutherstadt Wittenberg  
**Luther! 95 People – 95 Treasures**

[www.martinluther.de](http://www.martinluther.de)

Stiftung Luthergedenkstätten in Sachsen-Anhalt  
Part I 13 April to 2 July | Part II 3 August to 5 November 2017



Eisenach  
**Luther and the Germans**

[www.wartburg.de](http://www.wartburg.de)

Wartburg  
4 May to 5 November 2017



**WARTBURG**  
UNESCO WELTERBE · WORLD HERITAGE · PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

For more information, visit [www.luther2017.de](http://www.luther2017.de)



STIFTUNG  
**Luthergedenkstätten**  
IN SACHSEN-ANHALT

# ALL ABOUT LUTHER

**ONLY IN SAXONY-ANHALT!**

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LUTHER HOUSE · LUTHER'S DEATH HOUSE**

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**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

[www.martinluther.de](http://www.martinluther.de)

[www.facebook.com/luthergedenkstaetten](https://www.facebook.com/luthergedenkstaetten)

<https://twitter.com/thesenanschlag>

[www.luther-erleben.de](http://www.luther-erleben.de)





Leipzig

# *The Power of Words and Sounds*

Leipzig and the Reformation



St. Thomas Boys Choir members in front of the St. Thomas Church (Photo: Lutz Zimmermann)

Martin Luther's 95 Theses spread like wildfire – even without the help of television and the Internet. The fact that these revolutionary concepts were able to cause such a stir was largely thanks to the Leipzig printers who disseminated Luther's writings throughout the country. Another publicity boost came from the legendary verbal dispute between Luther and the theologian Johannes Eck in 1519. The "Leipzig Disputation" at Pleissenburg Castle signified Luther's final break with the Catholic Church. No wonder, then, that Leipzig is an important stop on the Luther Trail in Saxony. Where Martin Luther relied on the power of the

word, Johann Sebastian Bach trusted in the power of music, in his own way helping to bring the Reformation closer to the people. And he continues to do so today. For what better way is there to experience the spiritual power of that music than to attend a concert of the world-famous St. Thomas Boys Choir at St. Thomas Church – the place where Bach once worked?

**By the way: Leipzig is one of the venues for the "Kirchentag on the Way", set for May 25–28, 2017. Come visit us during the Jubilee Year!**



Rothenburg ob der Tauber: Romantic but real.



# Rothenburg in Renaissance and Reformation

## Highlights 2016 – 2018

- Guided Tour: Renaissance and Reformation in Rothenburg
- Exhibition: Media of the Reformation – Clash of Religions (Imperial City Museum)
- Exhibition: Luther and Witchcraft (Medieval Crime and Justice Museum)
- Conference: Riemenschneider in situ



Rothenburg Tourismus Service | Marktplatz | 91541 Rothenburg o.d.T. | Tel. 0049 9861 404800  
 info@rothenburg.de | www.tourismus.rothenburg.de | www.facebook.com/rothenburg.de

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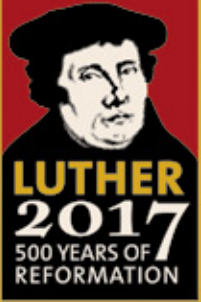


Federal Ministry  
for Economic Affairs  
and Energy

on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag



IN THE  
BEGINNING  
WAS THE WORD



[www.luther2017.com](http://www.luther2017.com)

# CELEBRATE THE LUTHER WAY

Continue tradition and experience the legacy  
of the Reformation in the places it began.



# PICTURE YOURSELF ...

... visiting the church where Martin Luther was baptized.



St. Mary's Cathedral, Erfurt

... standing in front of the door on which Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses.



Luther's cell, Wartburg Castle, Eisenach



Zentrum Taufe, Lutherstadt Eisleben

... praying in the cathedral where Martin Luther was ordained.



Theses door, Lutherstadt Wittenberg

... stepping inside the room where Martin Luther translated the New Testament in only 10 weeks.

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