

# BRASMEX-Europa GbR

## Roots of the German Culture



### 1<sup>st</sup> day: Monastery of Eberbach

Transfer by bus from Frankfurt airport to our hotel in Frankfurt. After a short recreation phase we will start for our visit of the monastery of Eberbach, known by the film "The name of the Roses". *Monasteries were the center of science and culture in the Middle Ages (this monastery was founded in the 12th century); only monks were able to write and read.* After dinner and a round trip through the buildings we will participate in a wine tasting of wines from the "Rheingau" (north side of the Rhine between Wiesbaden and Ruedesheim). Wine was the main source of richness of this monastery.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> day: Paulskirche, Goethe, Castles

In the morning we will visit the historical center of Frankfurt with its town hall "Römer" from the 15th century and *the church of St. Paul, where from 1848 to 1849 the first constitution for Germany was elaborated. Frankfurt is known for Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who was born here in 1749.* After lunch we will board in Ruedesheim for the ship tour along the world heritage of the "Mittelrhein". Here you will see all the castles on both sides of the river and the famous "Loreley". *Castles are not only signs for the limitation of economy by custom payments but also center of security and upper class life of those days.* In the afternoon we will reach Braubach with its castle "Marksburg". This castle never was conquered and therefore kept its original state. After a visit of the castle we will have dinner like in the Middle Ages with all the accessories of such an event. *Here you can imagine the life of the nobles of such period 11th, 12th century, their music and their poems, as presented by Wolfram von Eschenbach or Master Eckhart.* In the night we will continue our journey to our hotel in Cologne.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> day: Cathedral, palaces, Beethoven

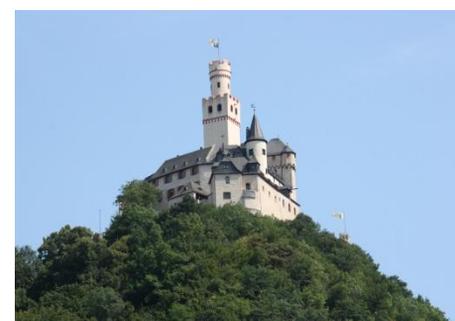
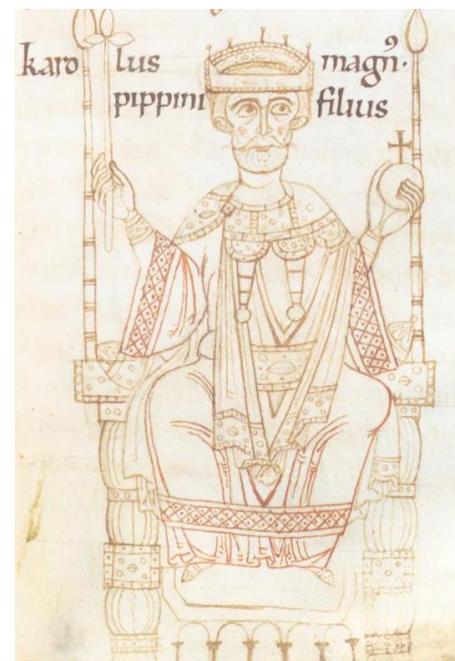
We will start the day with the traces from the Romans in Cologne, monuments of the Middle Age, like the cathedral (start of construction in 1248), the "Guerzenich", a festival hall since the 15th century, but also the *university, founded in 1388, whose most prominent master Albertus Magnus influenced the thinking of the Middle Ages.* From the days of the 13th century we will jump by 500 years into the time of the Rococo in Germany, visiting the palaces Augustusburg and Falkenlust in Bruehl. This trip within the centuries will be completed by the visit of the Birth place of Ludwig van Beethoven (born in 1770) in Bonn, the most famous German composer of the classical period.

### 4<sup>th</sup> day: Aachen and Trier

We will go back to the roots of Europe, to Aachen where *we will see the cathedral founded by Charlemagne (747 – 814 AD) and also the funeral of this first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.* Trier, our next station is known for its Roman monuments, its churches and nice medieval center. Trier is less known as birth town of Karl Marx. Our walking tour will start at the Porta Nigra, one of the Roman city gates. We will see the Basilica of Constantine (4th century), the cathedral (12th century) and the church of Our Lady (13th century) as well as the palace of the 17th century (Renaissance), all close together. After the market place we will visit the house of Karl Marx.

### 5<sup>th</sup> day: Romanic till Renaissance

In Speyer we will visit the cathedral, the largest still existing Romanesque church of the world. We will continue in the time with the Baroque city of Heidelberg and its castle of the Renaissance. *Heidelberg is also known for the first university (founded in 1385) in Germany. Universities started to*



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replace the monasteries as center of science. After lunch we will continue our journey towards Wurzburg.

### 6<sup>th</sup> day: Archbishop in Wurzburg

We will visit the world famous palace of Wurzburg World Heritage Residence of Wurzburg, one of the main monuments of the Baroque in Germany, and the monuments of the town. The afternoon will be free for your individual trip through the town until we will meet again for a wine tasting of wines from Franconia.

### 7<sup>th</sup> day: towns Bamberg, Nuremberg

In Wurzburg the Baroque residence is World Heritage; in Bamberg, our next station, the whole town is honored as World Heritage. *Here we will see how the city kept its Middle Age structure.*

On the hill we will visit the cathedral of the 12th / 13th century with its famous Bamberg horseman. Down in the town itself the picturesque town hall of 1386 and the timber framed houses will catch our interest. Along the river Regnitz the houses form the image of Bamberg as "Little Venice". On the way from Bamberg to Nuremberg we will make a short stop at the festival hall of Bayreuth to remember the great composer Richard Wagner. *The towns became the center of power in the Middle Ages. Some towns reported directly to the emperor. Nuremberg was one of the most important cities in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.* Directly aside the medieval castle of the emperor we will visit the house of Albrecht Durer, the most important German painter of the Renaissance. Also in Nuremberg the pocket watch was invented by Peter Henlein. After visiting this interesting old city we will return to our hotel in Wurzburg.

### 8<sup>th</sup> day: Wartburg and Weimar

*The castle of Eisenach (11<sup>th</sup> century), called Wartburg, is famous due to one of the guests of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the knight George, in reality Martin Luther who was hidden there and had time to translate the Holy Bible from Latin into German. Other famous guests of this castle were Walther von der Vogelweide and Wolfram von Eschenbach.*

We will continue our journey with a completely different period in time, the classical period in Weimar (18<sup>th</sup> century). *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller, the main representatives of German literature worked in this nice town.* After 1918, Weimar was also the home of the first Republic in Germany.

### 9<sup>th</sup> day: Martin Luther

After Weimar we will come back to the times of Martin Luther and will visit Eisleben where he was born and where he died. Late in the evening we will reach our hotel in Leipzig. Leipzig is known as music town, *based on the family Bach with the most famous son Johann Sebastian Bach, the leading composer of the Baroque in Germany, and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.* On the other hand Leipzig became rich as city of fairs; at the beginning fairs of furs, today fairs of industry. The landmark of Leipzig is the Monument to the Battle of the Nations, 1813 against Napoleon Bonaparte.

### 10. Tag: Barock in Dresden

*The reputation of Dresden as rich Baroque city is the product of the glamorous elector prince of Saxony Augustus II, the strong (1640-1733), and his son. They formed the specific Dresden Baroque that we will experience in the palace "Zwinger", the opera of Semper, the cathedral, Bruehl's terrace and the Renaissance*



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buildings in the historical center. *It was the time of Louis XIV in Versailles, who dominated the cultural life in Europe at those days.*

### 11<sup>th</sup> day: Reformation and Prussia

A last time we will driver through the centuries in order to understand the German culture. From Leipzig we will start towards Wittenberg where Martin Luther worked at the University of 1502 and started the Protestant Reformation in 1517 by nailing his 95 theses at the door of the All Saints', the Castle Church. We will visit the important stations and especially the market place with the monument of Martin Luther. We will not forget that also Lucas Cranach the Elder, one of the most famous painters of the Renaissance, and his son lived and worked in Wittenberg. In the afternoon we will reach the palace and garden of Sanssouci in Potsdam. Frederick II (1712-1786) let construct the palace from 1745 to 1747 (Rococo). He is buried there after a life dedicated to Prussians role in the world.

### 12<sup>th</sup> day: The German capital

In the morning we will visit the famous isle of museums in Berlin. *Here we can experience the curiosity of the 19<sup>th</sup> century concerning the ancient times*

*in other countries.* In the museum of Pergamon we will see the altar of Pergamon, a reconstruction of the gates of Babylon and a lot more about the ancient cultures. In the new museum we will have the chance to see the sculpture of Nefertiti. In the afternoon we will see the town from the bus and will stop at the points of interest, like Checkpoint Charly, Gendarmenmarkt, cathedral, Charlottenburg, German headquarters and Brandenburger Tor. Also the emporium "Kaufhaus des Westens, KaDeWe" it worth a visit.

### 13<sup>th</sup> day: Berlin

In Berlin we have two major rivers, the Havel and the Spree. On a boat trip on the river Spree we can see the cathedral of Berlin, the isle of museums and the headquarters of Germany. This boat tour will take three hours. In the afternoon you will have time at your disposal in this magnificent town.

### 14<sup>th</sup> day: Flight back home

On the last day we will have time free in Berlin for your disposition. In the afternoon we will meet again and drive to the airport for your flight back home.



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