



**Bach's Organ World
Tour of Germany
July 23 – August 3, 2018 (12 days, 10 nights)
Itinerary**

Tour Members will have the opportunity to play many of the organs visited

Monday, July 23

Departure

Overnight flights to Berlin, Germany (own arrangements or request from Concept Tours).

Tuesday, July 24

Arrival/Berlin

“Guten Tag” and welcome to Berlin! Meet your English-speaking German tour escort who'll be with you throughout (latest arrival time for group rendezvous tba). Transfer by private bus to **Berlin**, with a first orientation tour and some free time for lunch on own. One of Europe's largest metropolitan areas, Berlin can be navigated easily by its well-planned public transportation system. The city was divided until the fall of the *Berlin Wall* in 1989. While the disparities between the former Eastern and Western halves are still apparent in some instances, the spirit of unification is evidenced by a number of completed restoration and construction projects. Check in to your hotel after 2 pm.

Welcome dinner and overnight.



Hotel: Leonardo Berlin Mitte

Bertolt-Brecht Platz 2, 10117 Berlin

<https://www.leonardo-hotels.com/leonardo-hotel-berlin-mitte>

T: +49 (0)30 - 374 405 000

F: +49 (0)30 - 374 405 008

Wednesday, July 25

Berlin/Dresden

Organ visit at the *Berliner Dom*. Enjoy a recital by the Cathedral's organist followed by the chance to come up to the console to make yourself familiar with the organ.

Board your private bus for transfer to Dresden (approx. 2.5 hours). Check in to hotel for 2 nights, then have an afternoon walking tour of **Dresden**, a *Kunststadt (City of Art)* along the graceful *Elbe River*. Dresden's glorious architecture was reconstructed in advance of the city's 800th anniversary in 2006. Highlights include the elegant *Zwinger Palace* and the baroque *Hofkirche (Court Church)*.

Group dinner and overnight in Dresden.



Hotel: Leonardo Dresden Altstadt | Magdeburger Strasse 1a | 01067 Dresden

<https://www.leonardo-hotels.com/leonardo-hotel-dresden-altstadt>

T: +49 (0)351 - 486 700

F: +49 (0)351 - 486 701 00

Thursday, July 26

Dresden

Morning visit and organ demonstration at the *Hofkirche* on the last instrument built by the renowned organ builder Gottfried Silbermann. Opportunity to play the organ and talk with the organist afterwards.

Balance of the day is free for your own interests. Suggestions for visits: the *Frauenkirche* (Church of Our Lady); the majestic *Semper Opera House*; the *Grünes Gewölbe* (Green Vaults), one of Europe's most impressive treasures; and the *Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister* (Painting Gallery of Old Masters) with Raphael's *Sistine Madonna* and other masterworks. Stop at the *Brühlsche Terrasse* to relax and have a coffee.

Dinner on your own. Overnight at group hotel.

Friday, July 27

Leipzig

Depart to **Pomßen** to see and hear one of Saxony's oldest organs in the centuries-old Romanesque *Wehrkirche* (Fortified Church). Then visit the *Schlosskirche* in **Altenburg** to see and play the Trost organ that Bach played in 1739. Continue to **Leipzig**. This grand city of German culture has always been a major musical center. Johann Sebastian Bach, of course, was a major figure during his last years, as well as Felix Mendelssohn 100 years later and Richard Wagner, born here in 1813. Leipzig is also home to one of Germany's most important universities and has long been a center for publishing and trade. East Germany's peaceful revolution in the fall of 1989 began here. Late afternoon arrival and meet your local guide for a sightseeing tour. Highlights include *Thomaskirche*, where Bach served as Cantor and Director of Music for the last 27 years of his life; the baroque *Nikolaikirche*; *Mendelssohn House*; and *Zum Arabischen Coffe Baum*, which opened in 1694 and was a meeting place for Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Goethe, and others.

Check in to your hotel for 3 nights. Evening free, with dinner on your own and overnight.



Hotel: arcona LIVING BACH14

Thomaskirchhof 13/14, 04109 Leipzig

<https://bach14.arcona.de/en/>

Tel. +49 (0)341 49614-0

Fax +49 (0)341 49614-100

Saturday, July 28

Leipzig

Excursion today. First stop is **Naumburg** to visit the *Naumburg Dom* with its 13th century *Stifterfiguren* (Founders' Statues). Then walk to *Stadtkirche St. Wenzel* to

attend *the* “Orgel Punkt 12” recital, followed by ample time to play the magnificent Hildebrandt organ, the organ with the closest connection to J. S. Bach. Onto the small town of **Störmthal** and its village church to play its Hildebrandt organ (still in original condition), which was inspected and dedicated by Bach. Return to Leipzig in late afternoon.

Option to attend Evensong at Thomaskirche at 6:00pm.

Group dinner at 7:30 tonight at the world famous *Auerbach’s Keller*. Overnight at group hotel.

Sunday, July 29

Leipzig

Attend 9:30 am service at *Thomaskirche*. Balance of the day is free in Leipzig for sightseeing on your own (visit the *Museum of Musical Instruments of the University of Leipzig* at the *Grassimuseen*; the *Bach Archives*; *Mendelssohn House*, *Schumann House*). Overnight at group hotel.

Monday, July 30

Wittenberg

Check out and depart Leipzig. Stop in **Halle**, known internationally for its music and festivals, and as the birthplace of Georg Friedrich Handel. Visit the *Marktkirche*, where Friedemann Bach was organist, to play the Reichel organ. Option to visit the *Händelhaus* Museum and its instrument collection. Continue to **Wittenberg**, a key town of the Protestant Reformation where Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Articles to the doors of the *Castle Church* (*Schlosskirche*) in 1517. Though the original burned in 1760, the rebuilt church contains the text (cast in bronze) as well as Martin Luther’s tomb. Visit *Schlosskirche* to learn about and play its 1864 Ladegast organ.



Group dinner and overnight in Wittenberg.

Hotel: Best Western Stadtpalais, Collegienstraße 56/57, 06886 Wittenberg

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-details.95270.html

T: +49 (0)3491-4250

F: +49 (0)3491-425100

Tuesday, July 31

Berlin

Free morning in Wittenberg, with option to visit *Lutherhaus* and *Melanchthonhaus* museums. After lunch on your own, depart for **Berlin**. Before venturing into the city center, you’ll visit the Amalien-Organ at the *Kirche zur Frohen Botschaft* in the Berlin suburb, Karlshorst.

Check in to your first hotel for 3 nights. Dinner on your own and free evening.

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Wednesday, August 1

Brandenburg/Berlin

Today, venture out into the Brandenburg “organ landscape” with visits to **Brandenburg an der Havel** and **Tangermünde**. At the *Brandenburg Cathedral (Dom Sts. Peter und Paul)*, you’ll see and hear (and possibly play) the organ built for the Dom by Joachim Wagner in 1725. The oldest instrument of the tour is the 1624 organ built by Hans Scherer the younger at *St. Stephen’s Church (Stephanskirche) in Tangermünde*.

Transfer back to Berlin (approx. 2 hours). Free evening with dinner on your own. Overnight at group hotel.



Thursday, August 2

Berlin

Morning guided tour; highlights include the *Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate)*; the *Reichstag (Parliament)*; *Checkpoint Charlie* and its museum (with artifacts from the city’s post WWII period); a fragment of the notorious *Berlin Wall*; *Die Siegessäule (Victory Column)*; the *Tiergarten* (Berlin’s largest park); *Gendarmenmarkt* (Berlin’s most beautiful square) and *Potsdamer Platz (Potsdam Square, the old and new center of Berlin)*. The rest of the day is free for your own explorations. Visit one of Berlin’s many fine museums: the *Gemäldegalerie*; the *Neue Nationalgalerie*; the *Antikensammlung* or the *Pergamon*; the *Ägyptisches Museum* and *Bodemuseum*, or the *Holocaust Museum*.



Tonight enjoy a **festive farewell dinner** at a fine local restaurant in Berlin. Overnight at group hotel.

Friday, August 3

Flight Home

Transfer to *Tegel Airport* for your flight(s) home. **Welcome home!**

Your Tour Leader:

Lee Ridgway has been active in Boston as an organist, harpsichordist, and choral conductor for over 40 years. For 25 years he was music director at historic First Parish, in Lexington, Massachusetts, and prior to that served 10 years at Trinity Episcopal Church, in Topsfield, Massachusetts. He now free-lances in semi-retirement. Lee has studied and performed on numerous historic organs in Europe, North America, and Mexico, including instruments on the Bach’s Organ World tour. He participated in two earlier tours with Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkner, experiencing in greater detail the tour instruments’ histories, sounds, and quirks of playing. Lee’s bachelor’s degree is from the University of Oklahoma, studying with Mildred Andrews. His master’s degree in harpsichord is from the New England Conservatory, where he studied with John Gibbons.

This tour will be our 6th Bach’s Organ World Tour and Lee Ridgway’s 2nd as leader.

Please Note: This tour involves a significant amount of walking on hilly and/or uneven terrain.