

DRESDEN

JEWEL OF SAXONY



The Frauenkirche

MONDAY 19 - FRIDAY 23 MAY 2025

During the 18th century Dresden became the “Florence of the North”, attracting the best Italian artists and craftsmen who flocked to the Saxon Court. Elector Augustus the Strong in particular amassed treasures of immeasurable value and the extensive projects which he commissioned ensured that the capital of Saxony was to become a jewel of Baroque architecture. Dresden’s architectural monuments and collections of fine and applied arts are truly magnificent, and although it was badly damaged during the intense bombing raids of 1945, sympathetic reconstruction has now restored the city’s heart. The skyline is striking, and Dresden has once more regained its status as one of Germany’s most beautiful and culturally rewarding cities.

MONDAY 19 MAY 2025

Independent travel arrangements to London Stansted.

We will check in for our flight with Ryanair to Berlin Airport, due to depart at 12.40 and arrive 15.25 local time. *Please note that flights are not included in the tour price and that the schedule is subject to change by the airline.*

On arrival we will be met by our local coach and guide for the transfer to **Dresden** (c. 2 hours) where we will check into the centrally-located 4 star **Hyperion Hotel Dresden am Schloss** for 4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. A **welcome drink** will be taken, followed by **dinner** in the hotel restaurant.

TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local guide and embark on a **walking tour** of the historic centre of Dresden to include the Theatre Square, the site of the Semper Opera House, the Procession of Princes, the Royal Palace, Brühl Terrace and Old Market Square.

We will continue to the spectacular **Zwinger Palace**, a unique jewel of German baroque built between 1710 and 1732 for Augustus the Strong to serve both as a pleasure palace and as a museum for cherished collections. It now boasts a fine gallery of Old Masters and an excellent porcelain collection. The collection of the **Old Masters Gallery** is of a supremely high standard, with seminal works by Raphael among many others. The Venetians are represented by Titian, Veronese, Tintoretto and

Giorgione; 17th century Dutch and Flemish art includes paintings by Rubens, Rembrandt and Vermeer, with other featured masters including Frans Hals, van Dyck and Jacob Jordaens. This splendid collection is complemented by an exciting range of 15th and 16th century German art, with altarpieces by Albrecht Dürer and Lucas Cranach the Elder. Local interest is to be found in two Cranach full-length portraits and the series of 25 views of Dresden by Canaletto's nephew, Bellotto. There will be free time to take lunch.

This afternoon we will rejoin our coach for the short journey to Pillnitz for a **guided tour** of the **Gardens of Pillnitz Palace**, designed in the fashionable Chinese style with the spectacular Pillnitz Greenhouses.

We will return to Dresden by **paddle steamer**.

Coffee and cake will be served on board whilst we enjoy the beautiful landscape of the Elbe River Valley.

This evening there will be the opportunity to attend the **10th Symphony Concert** by the Staatskapelle Dresden (Saxon State Orchestra) at **The Semper Opera House**. *Concert tickets are not included in the basic tour price and can be added for an additional £75 per person. Please select this optional extra on your booking form.*

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our guide for a full day of visits in Dresden. This morning we will visit **Residenzschloss**, a historic palace and museum complex, to view the wonderful **Green Vaults**. The Green Vaults (Grünes Gewölbe) exhibit a dazzling display of precious items from the late Renaissance and Rococo periods; it is undoubtedly one of the richest collections of decorative arts in the world. Among the many priceless treasures on display is the exquisite Court of Delhi on the Birthday of the Great Moghul, an astonishing recreation in gold, silver, emeralds, rubies, pearls and diamonds. Other masterpieces include a Gold Coffee Service of 1701, and the highly decorative Bath of Diana, which is studded with precious stones, and virtually the entire Saxon crown jewels. Within Residenzschloss we will also see the Royal State Apartments, the Hall of the Giants and the Turkish Chamber.

Audio guides will be provided for our visit to the **Historic Green Vault** that was built for Augustus the Strong at the beginning of the 18th century. In keeping with the architectural style, the objects are exhibited against magnificent decorative walls and on exquisitely carved tables. Free time to take a late lunch.

After lunch we will visit the **Frauenkirche**. The "Church Of Our Lady" is arguably the most important Protestant church in Germany, and was built between 1726 and 1743. Composers such as Bach and Wagner performed here. The church's characteristic dome, known as the 'stone bell' collapsed on 15 February 1945 following a ferocious fire that swept through the city after the final wave of Allied bombings. The official

reconstruction of the Frauenkirche began in 1994 and in 2005 it was re-consecrated and now serves as a symbol of international reconciliation. Evening at leisure.

THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will travel by coach to **Meissen**, which is often referred to as ‘the cradle’ and is Saxony’s oldest town. Meissen is an attractive medieval town on the River Elbe, situated west of Dresden. We will visit the world-renowned **Meissen Porcelain Factory**.

Although Augustus the Strong treated the method of production of ‘white gold’ as one of the closest-kept state secrets, today it is possible to watch how the porcelain is created in the Staatliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Meissen.

The museum’s exhibition hall clearly illustrates the development of porcelain production in the town: Böttger’s brown stoneware, the cobalt blue onion design, the Indian décor, the *Full Green Vine* garland, which celebrated its anniversary in 1992 and Count Brühl’s 2,200-piece *Swan Service* are just a few of the renowned Meissen china services on display. Following the visit there will be free time to take lunch in the town centre.

After lunch we will continue with a **short walking tour** of Meissen to include a visit to the breathtaking **Albrechtsburg Castle**. Located high on the Burgberg (Castle Hill), it is thought to be the earliest example of a residential castle in Germany.

This afternoon we will travel to Radebeul to visit the winery at **Wackerbarth Palace**. The palace was erected in 1730 and served as the last home of the Count of Wackerbarth, a minister of Augustus the Strong. Today, the palace houses the Saxon State Wine Estate and extensive wine cellars. Following a **guided visit** of the cellars we will enjoy a **wine tasting**.

We will return to Dresden by coach. **Dinner** will be taken together this evening in a local restaurant.

FRIDAY 23 MAY 2025

We will check out of our hotel after breakfast. There will be some time at leisure this morning before we meet our local guide and coach for travel to the village of Moritzburg. Set in the midst of a delightful landscape of



Schloss Moritzburg

woods and small lakes, it was here that the Wettin rulers established **Schloss Moritzburg**, their hunting lodge, in the early 16th century. Parts of the original building were pulled down by Augustus the Strong who proceeded to convert it into a prestigious Baroque edifice, and the work was carried out under the direction of Matthäus Pöppelmann, who was also responsible for the Dresden Zwinger. The Schloss is surrounded by an extensive park with ponds and statuary furniture whilst inside the building itself paintings, porcelain objects and wall coverings give some idea of the splendour of the Baroque Court. A **farewell lunch** will be taken together in a local restaurant.

We will transfer to Berlin Airport for our return flight with Ryanair to London Stansted, due to depart at 21.00 and arrive at 21.50. *Please note that flights are not included in the tour price and that the schedule is subject to change by the airline.*

Independent onward travel arrangements.

As this tour has been planned many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.

Please be aware that this tour involves a reasonable amount of walking and standing. It therefore may be unsuitable for those with mobility problems.

Heritage
GROUP TRAVEL

Charlotte House, 12 Charlotte Street
Bath, BA1 2NE
Tel: **01225 466620**
www.grouptravel.co.uk



TOUR PRICE

£1,520 per person sharing a twin/double room (*excluding flights*)
£260 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Dresden
2 dinners
1 lunch
Boat trip with tea/coffee and cake on paddle steamer
Tour and wine tasting at Wackerbarth Palace
All guiding as per the itinerary
All local coach transfers in Germany as per itinerary
All booking and entrance fees as per the itinerary
VOX audio headsets
City tax
Gratuities

HOTEL DETAILS

Hyperion Hotel Dresden am Schloss (4 star)
Schlosstrasse 16
0167 Dresden

www.h-hotels.com/en/hyperion/hotels/hyperion-hotel-dresden

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote. *Please ensure that any policy has adequate cover for COVID-19 related issues.*

YOUR FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3707. All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

We hope to use the following flights with Ryanair:
19/05 - Stansted/Berlin Brandenburg - 12.40 (15.30) FR147
23/05 - Berlin Brandenburg/Stansted - 21.00 (21.50) FR144
All flights are subject to schedule change by the airline.

The tour price shown **excludes** airfares as these can vary on a daily basis. Heritage Group Travel can book flights on your behalf and will pass on the airfare at cost price plus an administration fee of £10 per person. We anticipate flights to be in the region of £350-£400 per person but should fares excessively exceed this amount we will contact you. In the unlikely event that the tour does not materialise your deposit will be refunded in full. Please indicate on the booking form if you would prefer to make your own travel arrangements. We ask you **not** to book your flights until you have received written confirmation that your booking has been accepted and that the tour will be going ahead.

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 25 paying participants.

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

British Nationals should be in possession of a valid 10 year passport: visas are not required for travel to Germany. Other Nationals should contact the German Embassy to confirm current visa requirements.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and deposit of **£500 per person**, to **Heritage Group Travel**, as soon as possible and no later than **Monday 25 November 2024**. As places on the tour are limited, bookings will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. Final travel details (itinerary flight ticket and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel. The final balance is due by **Monday 24 February 2025**.