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CULTURAL VISIT TO MUNICH -17th – 21st May 2010

Dear Member,

Following the extremely successful visit last year to Bonn / Bad Honnef to trace the footsteps of Konrad Adenauer it was suggested that the next cultural experience for BGA members should be a visit to Munich.

A cultural visit to Munich has now been arranged by Ute Wegener, the former BGA Executive Committee member who successfully organized the last year's visit and is now living in Munich, and Mike Bright, BGA member.

There are strong cultural links between London and Munich which will be explored during our visit. Three of the evening highlights will be a meeting and dinner with the Munich **Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft** on 18th May with a prominent speaker, a performance of **AIDA** on 19th May at the **Bayerische Staatsoper**, and a reception at Ute Wegener's flat and/or an invitation to the British Consul.

We would now like to ascertain the level of interest from BGA members for this visit following which we would finalise the programme and give participants the full details. We anticipate the outline programme to be as shown below.

You can choose either the full programme OPTION 1 or part programme OPTION 2. There are good value daily flights with either easy Jet or Aer Lingus for you to choose from and book for yourselves, allowing plenty of flexibility.

OPTION 1: 4 NIGHTS

Monday 17th May

Leave Gatwick 14.00. Arrive Munich 16.15 Return Fare between £65 and £96. Detailed travel arrangements to Hotel an der Oper will be advised with final programme. This lovely hotel provides warmly decorated, cosy accommodation in the city's old quarter close to the Opera: prices are between £120-140 for a single and approx.. £170 for a double. Meet at hotel reception 7.00 pm for Dinner at **Zum Spöckmeier**, a 1st Class traditional Bavarian Restaurant. See: www.spoeckmeier.com

Tuesday 18th May

Morning: overview of Munich by bus.City Tour including history of National Socialist buildings Königsplatz.

Afternoon: Schloss Nymphenburg, the former summer residence of the rulers of Bavaria; not far from the city, in the middle of one of Munich's most beautiful parks. Five generations of Wittelsbach rulers were involved in the construction of this Baroque castle.

Evening: **Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft** are looking forward to our participation at their 7pm meeting. We will have a speaker on the subject of "Who Was William Shakespeare?" followed by dinner with members.

Wednesday 19th May

Morning: Museum visit: either **Die Alte Pinakothek**, or Die **Pinakothek der Moderne** (Members can choose).

Afternoon: 2 pm tour of at the **Bayerische Staatsoper** including backstage tour. Early dinner at **Orlando**, Restaurant am Platzl, followed by **Opera AIDA** at the Bavarian State Opera.

Thursday 20th May

Either: free for shopping and/or visit to Rathaus;

Or: a day-visit to **Kloster Andechs** (near the Tegernsee), a Benedictine monastery that was founded by Duke Albrecht III in 1455.This was the beginning of 550 years of monastic history in Bavaria that was only interrupted by the period of secularisation beginning in 1803. In 1846, however, the property was bought by King Ludwig I to be used as an estate for his Saint Boniface Abbey that was to be founded in Munich. It was the start of a new golden age.

Evening: reception at Ute Wegener's flat near the Königsplatz and/or a visit to the British Consul who is a Vice President of the **Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft**. Dinner venue to be advised.

Friday 21st May

Morning: Visit the **Münchner Residenz and Hofgarten**. The **Munich Residenz** served as the seat of government and residence of the Bavarian dukes, electors and kings from 1508 to 1918.

Early afternoon: Return to the airport for your flight back at 17.15

OPTION 2: 2 NIGHTS

Tuesday 18th May

Leave Gatwick 14.00. Arrive Munich 16.15 Return Fare between £65 and £96. Or 06.40 Gatwick - Munich Aer Lingus Flight.

Hotel an der Oper (Details as above). All meet in Hotel reception at 18.30 for travel to the **Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft** for the 7pm meeting. We will have a speaker on the subject of "Who Was William Shakespeare?" followed by dinner with members as in Option A.

Wednesday 19th May

Morning: Museum visit: either **Die Alte Pinakothek**, or Die **Pinakothek der Moderne** (Members can choose).

Afternoon: 2 pm tour of at the **Bayerische Staatsoper** including backstage. Early dinner at **Orlando**, Restaurant am Platzl, followed by Opera AIDA at the Bavarian State Opera.

Thursday 20th May

Either free for shopping and/or visit to Rathaus;

Early afternoon: Return to the airport for your flight back at 17.15 or if you have a reservation on the Aer Lingus return at 21.00 you can take advantage of the **Kloster Andechs** excursion.

Bookings for the hotel and particularly for AIDA are extremely popular and we are advised that we must to make final bookings early in January. Therefore we require a response by 15th January 2010 at the latest please.

We are requesting that those interested send a non-returnable deposit of £120.00 per person by this date together with your selection of either OPTION 1 or OPTION 2. As with the Bad Honnef visit you will shortly receive the detailed programme and timings showing how the deposit will be disbursed (advance Opera ticket purchase and tour fees) with any balance credited to the accommodation cost. Meals other than breakfast are as taken and £20 for Dinner and £10 for lunch should be budgeted.

This is a unique cultural opportunity and we must respond quickly; places will be limited so please fill in and send back the form below as soon as possible together with your deposit of £120 per person to the British - German Association at 34 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB

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I / we would like ____ place (s) for the :

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Please tick : OPTION 1 or OPTION 2

and enclose my cheque for £_____payable to "British-German Association"

Name:_____

Address:_____

Telephone and mobile_____

E- mail address:_____

If you have any questions about the proposed visit please call the BGA Office on Tel: 0207 235 1922 or Mike Bright on 01444 450470 or 07801 645873. Email: dmt@fastnet.co.uk