

The Dresden Trust/British German Association

THE CULTURE OF CITIES

**A Cultural Odyssey (9 - 18 May 2011), focusing on the Building and post WWII
Rebuilding of German Cities**

BACKGROUND AND OVERALL PLAN

The historic cities of the German Länder, in today's Federal Republic remain a showcase of German culture, despite the awesome ravages of World War II. Together with the British German Association and academic experts in the field, the Dresden Trust accordingly plans a selective yet comprehensive tour to provide an insight into German city culture and the achievements – often good, sometimes indifferent – of city and state authorities in the wake of the great damage inflicted by war. Learning and relaxation, culture and companionship will combine to produce an unforgettable experience.

The journey begins in Frankfurt-on-Main, where the historic city – scene of the first all-German essay in representative government 1848/1849 – after first producing a mini Manhattan, is now seeking to recover something of its historic past. It continues through picturesque, if somewhat unevenly restored, Würzburg to Nuremberg where the memories of Nazi rallies, ruthless air bombardment and post-war trials have mercifully given way to imaginative rebuilding.

After a brief stop-over in Bamberg, one of Germany's loveliest and least war-damaged cities, it proceeds – via Coburg, the long time residence of Queen Victoria's youngest grandson – to the romantic medieval trading city of Erfurt. Through Weimar, the city of Goethe and Schiller, it moves on to Leipzig and thereafter to Dresden, the capital city of Saxony where an interesting combination of modernist and traditional rebuilding has arisen from the ashes of war.

Subject only to any alterations that availability and practicality dictate, the detailed itinerary will be as follows:-

Days 1/2 Frankfurt - Monday 9 May to Tuesday 10 May

Day 1 Flight from Gatwick to Frankfurt

- Introductory lectures by (Dr Dankwart Guratsch) (*Die Welt*), and one of Frankfurt's city planners; dinner and free evening

Day 2 • City tour, organised by the City Planning Offices*

- Podium discussion on Frankfurt's history, economy and planning*

Day 3 Würzburg – Wednesday 11 May - early departure from Frankfurt by coach to Würzburg:

- Welcome by Eva-Christa Bushe, erstwhile *Moderator* of the Frauenkirche Friendship Groups and by a representative of the City Council*
- Guided city tour which will include a visit to the *Residenz* and the *Dom*
- Dinner followed by onward journey to Herzbruck/Nuremberg

Days 4/5 Nuremberg et al - Thursday 12 May

- Day 4
- Welcome and introductory talks in Nuremberg by Dr Markus Rothaar and by a representative of the city's *Altstadt Freunde**
 - City tour led by representatives of the city's Anglo-German Society* – to include the castle, the *St Sebald Kirche* and the *Dürer Haus*
 - Dinner – followed by an optional trip to the *Dutzenteich* (the one-time, now decaying, Nazi parade ground)
 - Second night in/near the City

- Day 5 **Friday 13 May** - early start from Nuremberg en route to **Bamberg** for a *Kaffee Pause* and a three/four hour private tour, on foot, of this beautiful city. Proceed, past **Coburg**, through the beautiful Thuringian Forest to **Erfurt**. Early evening arrival In Erfurt -
- Welcoming meeting with city authorities
 - Dinner and overnight accommodation

Day 6 Saturday 14 May - where there will be

- City tour of Erfurt focusing on the blend of the surviving old and newly rebuilt parts of the city – including the reconstructed old university where Martin Luther studied
- Later morning departure for **Weimar**, where an introductory lecture session on Weimar's history and present planning* will be presented by a retired city planner. After lunch a guided tour of the castle, the Goethe and Schiller Houses and the rebuilt Wilhelmena Library
- Return to Erfurt for overnight accommodation

Day 7 Sunday 15 May - proceed to Leipzig for a tour of a. the Thomas and Nikolai Churches and b. the redeveloped City and University (lecturers'/guides' names to be announced). Late afternoon, onward journey to **Dresden**. In Dresden:

- Brief welcome in the Town Hall by *Helma Orosz* the Lady Mayoress (*Oberbürgermeisterin*) and by the city's *Baudezernat* i.e. the Mayor in charge of overall city planning
- Introductory talk about Dresden's Renaissance by architectural historian Professor Jürgen Paul
- Dinner and accommodation in Dresden's very centrally located QF Hotel

Days 8, 9, 10 Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 May

- Day 8 Monday 16 May
- a conducted city tour which will include the *Frauenkirche*, the *Schloss/Grünes Gewölbe*, *Zwinger/Gemäldegalerie*, *Semper Oper* and *Neustadt*
 - Dinner – private tours can be arranged if requested

- Day 9 Tuesday 17 May
- Lectures given by (Dr Robert Krier) visiting from Berlin and by (Professor Günter Zumpe of the Technical University)
 - Trip on the River Elbe to Pilnitz and Pirna, or by coach to Meissen
 - Festive Dinner: guest speaker (Dr Heidrun Laudel)

Day 10 Wednesday 18 May

Coach via Moritzburg to Potsdam and then to Berlin's Schönfeld Airport.
Evening flight to Gatwick arriving ± 19.00

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

By air from Gatwick to Frankfurt and from Berlin to Gatwick.

Coach travel - *Firma Kreisa* and accommodation arranged by *Congress Management Dresden* (Desdemona Bock): accommodation will be in 3-4 star hotels (single or double rooms – twin or double bedded according to individual choice – with en-suite facilities in all places). Breakfast and an evening meal are provided day by day, leaving participants to make their own luncheon arrangements.

Qualified and experienced city planners, architects and historians will provide informed commentary throughout (the names given here in brackets have yet to be confirmed). Most sessions will be in English but where necessary, simultaneous translation will be provided.

The cost per person will be in the region of £1,000; individual travel insurance is advised.