

MUNICH TO BERLIN

AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW
IN GERMANY

JUNE 2-15, 2018

TOUR LEADERS:
PETER ROSE & CHRISTOPHER MENZ

ABR
AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW



TAILORED SMALL
GROUP JOURNEYS

- › EXPERT TOUR LEADERS
- › MAXIMUM 20 IN A GROUP
- › CAREFULLY PLANNED ITINERARIES



ACADEMY
TRAVEL

MUNICH TO BERLIN

AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW IN GERMANY

Tour dates: June 2-15, 2018

Tour leaders: Peter Rose & Christopher Menz

Tour Price: \$8,890 per person, twin share

Single Supplement: \$2,250 for sole use of
double room

Booking deposit: \$500 per person

Recommended airlines: Etihad

Maximum places: 20

Itinerary: Munich (4 nights), Weimar (2 nights),
Dresden (2 nights), Berlin (5 nights)

Date published: June 5, 2017

OVERVIEW

Australian Book Review – one of Australia's leading cultural magazines – is pleased to offer a 14-day tour to Germany for readers and arts lovers, *ABR* supporters and their friends. The program begins in Munich, the capital of Bavaria, then moves to Weimar, home of Goethe, and then on to baroque Dresden. Our tour ends in the dynamic capital of Berlin. This exclusive tour is led by *Australian Book Review's* Editor and award-winning author Peter Rose, and former curator–museum director and experienced tour leader Christopher Menz.

A rich and varied sightseeing program has been created to include five brilliant performances - three operas and two orchestral concerts. There is a strong art focus, with visits to the major art galleries in Munich, Dresden and Berlin. The itinerary of course has a literary theme, with visits to the Goethe House and the beautifully restored Anna Amalia Library in Weimar. A highlight will be a major *ABR* literary event in Berlin. The tour is rounded out with several meals and private events arranged through *ABR*. Accommodation is in four-star hotels, conveniently located for sightseeing and performance venues.

We explore the rich traditions of these cities as well as the visual splendour of superlative art galleries, museums, palaces, and natural landscapes, giving us a kaleidoscopic perspective of German history and culture.

YOUR TOUR LEADERS



Peter Rose has been Editor and CEO of *Australian Book Review* since 2001. One of Australia's leading literary figures, he is an award-winning poet, memoirist and novelist. His books include a family memoir, *Rose Boys* (2001), which won the National Biography Award in 2003. His most recent novel is *Roddy Parr* (2010). Peter has been visiting Europe often since 1974. He is now regarded as one of Australia's leading opera critics, having greatly expanded *ABR's* coverage of all the arts.



Christopher Menz has led several music and literature tours to Europe and the US for Academy Travel and *Australian Book Review*, for which he is a regular arts reviewer and the development consultant. Christopher is a former director of the Art Gallery of South Australia and before that held curatorial positions at the National Gallery of Australia, Art Gallery of South Australia, and National Gallery of Victoria, specialising in decorative arts. He has studied German art and culture and is a regular visitor to Germany.

"I had a wonderful trip which was extremely varied and immensely interesting. Both Peter and Christopher are outstanding tour leaders!"

Feedback from the *ABR/Academy Travel ABR* Tour to USA, September 2016



ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS



For further information and to secure a place on this tour please contact Frederick Steyn at Academy Travel on 9235 0023 or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email frederick@academytravel.com.au

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



OUTSTANDING OPERA

Germany has a remarkable tradition of performances of opera and orchestral music of the highest calibre. On this tour, we see three exceptional operas, including Verdi's masterpiece *Rigoletto*, in Dresden, and two rarely-performed operas; Janáček's *House of the Dead*, in Munich, and Offenbach's *Bluebeard* in Berlin.



KANDINSKY AND THE 'BLUE RIDER'

The Lenbachhaus in Munich has the world's largest collection of art of the Blue Rider, one of Germany's and indeed Europe's most important groups of avant-garde artists in the early 20th century. The core of this treasure consists of the generous endowment made by the painter Gabriele Münter, who was Wassily Kandinsky's companion until 1914.



WAGNER'S BAYREUTH

Almost everything in the city of Bayreuth is related in some way to Richard Wagner. The legacy of Wagner (1813–83) includes an annual festival of Wagner operas in the Festspielhaus, the concert hall he built, and Haus Wahnfried (Richard-Wagner-Museum), where the composer lived and is buried.



WEIMAR

Weimar's history as a cultural center is centuries old. Renaissance painter Lucas Cranach the Elder worked here in the 16th century, and from 1708 -1717, Bach was court organist. In 1775, Goethe came to reside at the court of Dowager Duchess Anna Amalia and her son, Karl August II, and he attracted intellectuals, such as Herder and Schiller.



DRESDEN

Distinguished by the celebrated art museums and classic architecture of its reconstructed Old Town. Completed in 1743 and rebuilt long after WWII, the baroque church Frauenkirche is famed for its grand dome. The Versailles-inspired Zwinger Palace houses museums including the Old Masters Gallery, with masterpieces such as Giorgione's *Sleeping Venus*.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Included meals are shown with the symbols B, L and D.

SATURDAY JUNE 2

ARRIVE MUNICH

Meet your tour leaders Peter Rose and Christopher Menz for early evening drinks and dinner in the hotel. Overnight Munich (D)

SUNDAY JUNE 3 *HOUSE OF THE DEAD*

ART AND OPERA IN MUNICH

After a talk on tonight's opera, we spend the day in Munich's world-class art quarter, first visiting the Alte Pinakothek which holds one of the most significant art collections in the world. Among the European masterpieces on view are paintings by Dürer, Titian, Rembrandt, Leonardo da Vinci, Rubens and Murillo. Our next stop is the Neue Pinakothek, where French impressionists Monet, Degas, Manet are all well represented. Our day ends at the Pinakothek der Moderne, home to four outstanding museums under one cupola-topped roof: art, graphic art, architecture, and design. Overnight Munich (B)

Performance details

Venue: Bavarian State Opera

Program: Janáček's *House of the Dead*

Performers: Peter Rose (Goryanshikov), Ales Bricein (Morosov), Bo Skovhus (Shishkov)

MONDAY JUNE 4

MUNICH AND THE CUVILLIÉS-THEATRE

After a guided walking tour of the Bavarian capital, we have lunch at one of the many top restaurants. Afterwards, we visit the Cuvilliés-Theatre with a local guide. Built from 1751 to 1753 by François de Cuvilliés in rococo style, many lavish opera productions were performed here, including the first performances of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, in 1781. Overnight Munich (B, L)

TUESDAY JUNE 5

NEO-CLASSICISM TO FASCISM

In the middle of the 19th century, Munich was one of the most important art centres in Europe, and in the 1880s, Lenbach was one of the most famous artists in Germany. Today Lenbachhaus is home to the stunning collection of art from the early-20th-century Der Blaue Reiter (Blue Rider) group: Kandinsky, Klee, Jawlensky, Macke, Marc, and Münter. Next we visit the Glyptothek museum, which houses a magnificent collection of Greek and Roman sculptures. Our final stop today is the Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism, a museum focusing on the fascist era. Overnight Munich (B)

Images left: The Bavarian State Opera House; Dürer, the most amazing self-portrait at the Alte Pinakothek; inside the rococo Cuvilliés-Theatre

WEDNESDAY JUNE 6 WAGNER'S BAYREUTH

Today we travel to Bayreuth, an elegant provincial city where Wagner chose to build his Festspielhaus, a theatre specifically designed to house his great music dramas. We will also visit Wahnfried, the villa built for him by King Ludwig, and the newly-restored Margravine's Opera House, another jewel of rococo architecture. In the late afternoon we arrive in Weimar with time to take a stroll through the town before dinner. Overnight Weimar (B, D)

THURSDAY JUNE 7 WEIMAR CLASSICISM

The city of Weimar was a focal point of the German Enlightenment and home of the leading characters of the literary genre of Weimar Classicism, the writers Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller. We take a guided tour of Weimar, then in the afternoon visit the beautifully reconstructed Anna Amalia Library followed by the Goethe House, where Johann Wolfgang von Goethe worked, studied, researched and penned *Faust* and other works. Our days touring ends at the Nietzsche Archive, dedicated to the life and work of philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Overnight Weimar (B)

FRIDAY JUNE 8 *RIGOLETTO* ART AND OPERA IN DRESDEN

This morning we depart for Dresden, a city of baroque splendor sitting on a wide sweep of the Elbe River. We arrive in Dresden and take a guided walking tour of the historic Old Town, visiting the Frauenkirche, the Dresden Castle and the Zwinger Palace. The latter contains the superb Old Masters Picture Gallery with masterpieces by Raphael, Giorgione, Titian, Van Eyck, Rubens, Rembrandt, Vermeer and others. This evening at the historic Semperoper we see Verdi's operatic masterpiece *Rigoletto*. Overnight Dresden (B, L)

Performance details

Venue: Semperoper Dresden

Program: Verdi's *Rigoletto*

Performers: Stephen Costello (Duca di Mantova), Markus Marquardt (Rigoletto), Elena Gorshunova (Gilda)

SATURDAY JUNE 9 DRESDEN TREASURES

After a morning talk, we continue our exploration of Dresden starting with the Albertinum, the New Masters Gallery, which displays an arc of painting by some of the great names in art from the 18th century onwards. Caspar David Friedrich and Claude Monet's landscapes compete with the abstract visions of Marc Chagall and Gerhard Richter. After a break for lunch, we visit the Historic Green Vault, a treasure-trove of fine and decorative arts, including one of the world's finest collections of jewels. Overnight Dresden (B)

Images right: Jawlensky's Portrait of Alexander Sakharov, 1909, Lenbachhaus; inside the Anna Amalia Library; a poster of Goethe's Faust





Above: a detail of Edouard Manet's *In the Conservatory*, 1879, housed at the Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin

Below: Berlin's Reichstag building is topped by Sir Norman Foster's modern dome



SUNDAY JUNE 10 **BLUEBEARD** OPERA IN BERLIN

Mid-day we make the short journey to Berlin, a fascinating city with a rich and complex history. We have lunch together after an orientation walk. The later afternoon is free to relax before this evening's opera, the rarely performed *Bluebeard*. Overnight Berlin (B, L)

Performance details

Venue: Komische Oper

Program: Offenbach's *Bluebeard*

Performers: Wolfgang Ablinger-Sperrhacke (Bluebeard), Christiane Oertel (Queen Clémentine), Vera-Lotte Böcker (Princess Hermia)

MONDAY JUNE 11 **PIERRE BOULEZ-SAAL** BERLIN

Berlin is one of the most interesting and diverse of all the great capitals of Europe, and is currently enjoying a major cultural renaissance. During our stay in Berlin *ABR* will stage a major literary event. This morning a local guide takes us on a walking and coach tour of Berlin. There will be a particular focus on the sites that shaped Germany's history in the 20th century, including the Reichstag and the Berlin Wall. There will be a concert at the Pierre Boulez-Saal (*schedule permitting*), the new Frank Gehry design concert hall. Overnight Berlin (B)

Performance details

Venue: Pierre Boulez-Saal

Program: To be announced

Performers: To be announced

TUESDAY JUNE 12 SCHLOSS TEGEL

This morning we head to the outskirts of Berlin to Schloss Tegel, a privately-owned residence that is an architectural gem by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, the Prussian court architect. Schloss Tegel was the summer residence for the von Humboldt family and where Wilhelm von Humboldt, the philosopher, linguist and founder of the Berlin University, and his brother, the natural scientist Alexander von Humboldt, spent their childhood. Overnight Berlin (B)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 13 MUSEUM ISLAND

On the site of one of Berlin's two original settlements, this unique complex of five state museums is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a must-visit in Berlin. See the German Historical Museum with its rich and superbly displayed collection on the history of Germany. We also visit the Egyptian Museum to see the famous bust of Nefertiti in the splendid Neues Museum, restored by British architect David Chipperfield, and the Old National Gallery to see German 19th-century Romantic art and the unsurpassed collection of landscape paintings by Caspar David Friedrich. Overnight Berlin (B)

THURSDAY JUNE 14
BERLIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
FAREWELL BERLIN

Our time in Berlin culminates with a farewell lunch atop the Reichstag, seat of the German parliament. After lunch we head to the Gemäldegalerie art museum to tour the stunning collection of European paintings that includes masterpieces by Botticelli, Raphael, Caravaggio, Breughel, Vermeer and Rembrandt. We then walk across to the Philharmonie concert hall to see one of the world's leading conductors, Sir Simon Rattle, with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in concert in his farewell season. Overnight Berlin (B, L)

Performance details

Venue: Berlin Philharmonie

Program: Works by Dvořák, Turnage and Brahms

Performers: Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Sir Simon Rattle (conductor), Krystian Zimerman (piano)

FRIDAY JUNE 15
DEPARTURE

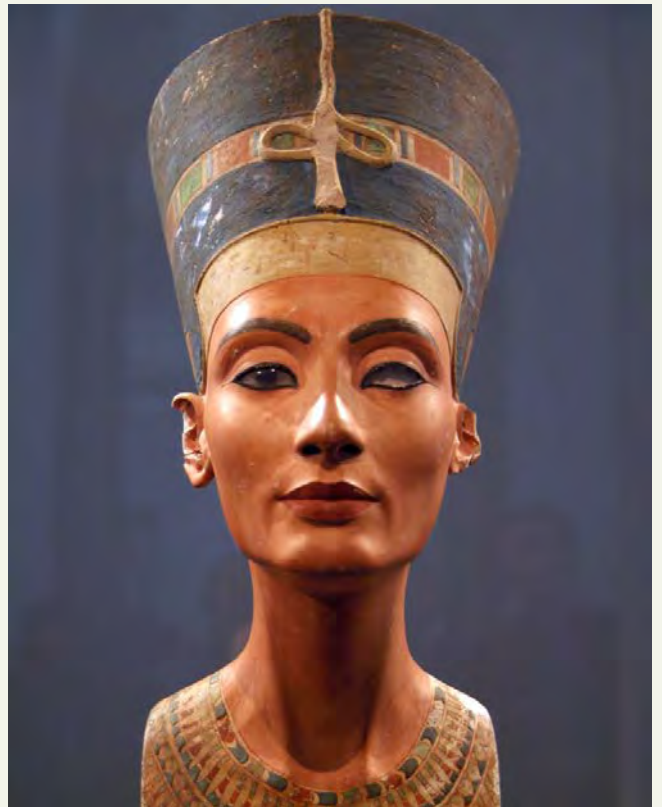
The tour ends after breakfast. Departing group members transfer to Berlin airport for outgoing flights (B)

HOTELS

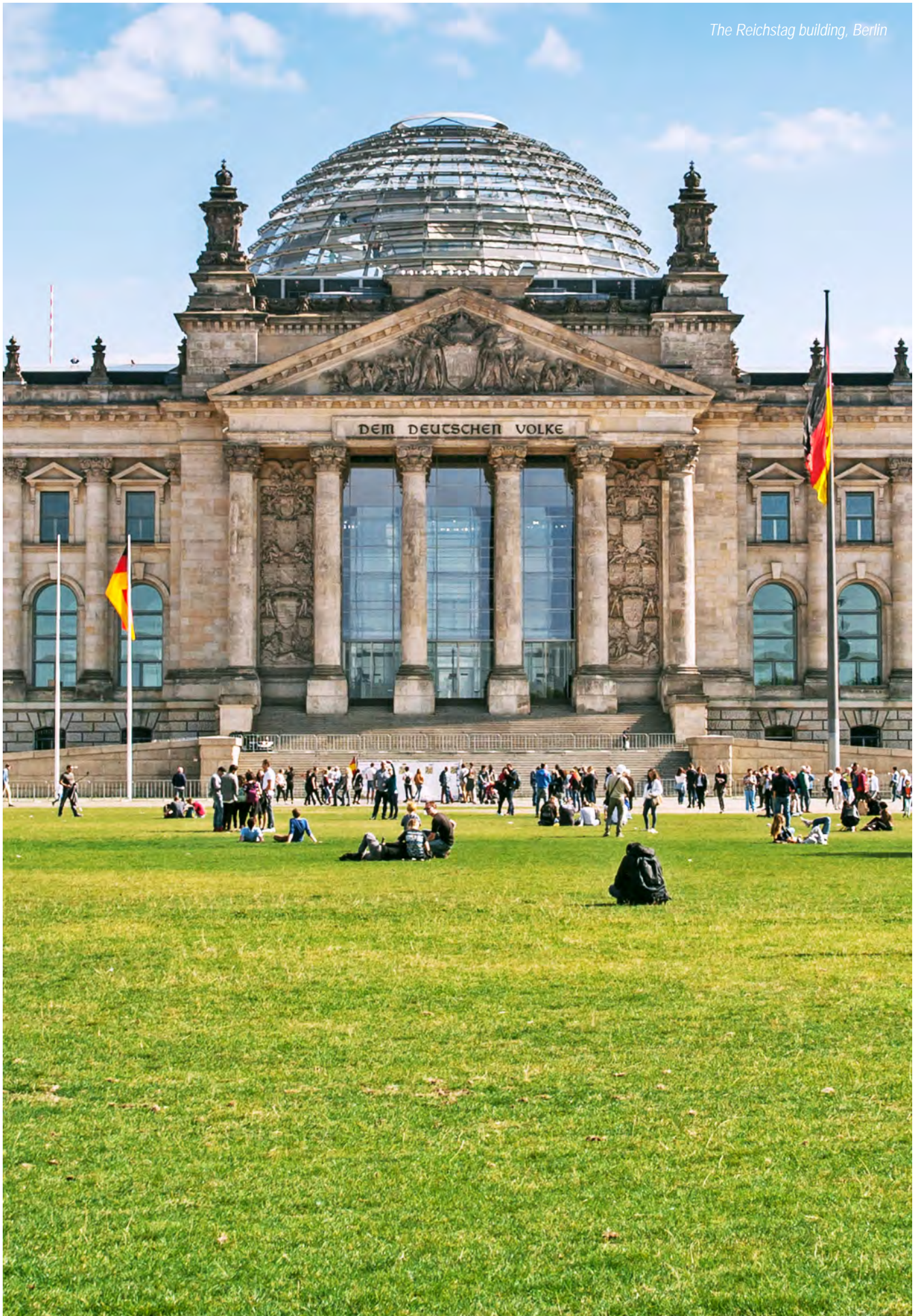
Hotels have been selected principally for their central location. Many within walking distance to the museums, galleries and performance venues.

- Munich, Hotel Torbräu (4 nights)
www.torbraeu.de
- Weimar, Hotel Russischer Hof (2 nights)
www.russischerhof-weimar.de
- Dresden, Steigenberger Hotel de Saxe (2 nights)
www.de.steigenberger.com/dresden/
- Berlin, Radisson Blu Hotel (5 nights)
www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel.berlin

Images right: Bode Museum at Museum Island; the 3,300-year-old Nefertiti bust has become a cultural symbol of Berlin; Sir Simon Rattle at the Philharmonie



The Reichstag building, Berlin



TOUR PRICE

The tour price is \$8,890 per person, twin share (land content only). The supplement for a single room is \$2,550 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure a place on the tour.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Included in the tour price

- All accommodation in selected 4-star hotels
- Breakfasts daily, plus lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Land travel by air-conditioned coach
- Tickets to the best seats available for the performances listed
- Extensive tour notes
- Background talks
- Services of two Australian tour leaders throughout tour
- All entrance fees to sites mentioned on itinerary
- Qualified local guides where appropriate
- Porterage of one piece of luggage at all hotels
- Tips for all services included in the itinerary

Not included

- International air fares, taxes and surcharges (see below)
- Travel insurance
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Expenses of a personal nature

AIR TRAVEL OPTIONS

The tour price quoted is for land content only. Etihad offer daily flights to London. Please contact us for further information on competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares for this tour. Transfers between airport and hotel are included for all passengers booking their flights through Academy Travel. These may be group or individual transfers.

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information and to secure a place on this tour please contact Frederick Steyn at Academy Travel on (02) 9235 0023 or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email frederick@academytravel.com.au

WEATHER ON TOUR

June is a pleasant time to travel in Germany with spring temperatures ranging on average from the low 20s, dropping to 10 -12°C at night. However, you should pack for a few days which are cooler than this, as well as a few warmer ones. Rainfall is fairly evenly spread across the year, and it is reasonable to expect rain on at least a few days, though not enough to disrupt our program.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TOUR

GRADE TWO ★★

It is important both for you and for your fellow travellers that you are fit enough to be able to enjoy all the activities on this tour. To give you an indication of the level of physical fitness required to participate on our tours, we have given them a star grading. Academy Travel's tours tend to feature extended walking tours and site visits, which require greater fitness than coach touring. We ask you to carefully consider your ability to meet the physical demands of the tour.

Participation criteria for this tour

This Grade Two tour is designed for people who lead active lives and can comfortably participate in up to five hours of physical activity per day on most days, including longer walking tours, challenging archaeological sites, climbing stairs, embarking and disembarking trains and/or boats, and a more demanding tour schedule with one night stops or several internal flights.

You should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 4-5 kilometres at a moderate pace with only short breaks
- stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
- tolerate uncomfortable climatic conditions such as cold, humidity and heat
- walk up and down slopes
- negotiate steps and slopes on archaeological sites, which are often uneven and unstable
- get on and off a large coach with steep stairs, train or boat unassisted, possibly with luggage
- move your luggage a short distance if required

A note for older travellers

If you are more than 80 years old, or have restricted mobility, it is highly likely that you will find this itinerary challenging. You will have to miss several activities and will not get the full value of the tour. Your booking will not be accepted until after you have contacted Academy Travel to discuss your situation and the exact physical requirements of this tour. While we will do our best to reasonably accommodate the physical needs of all group members, we reserve the right to refuse bookings if we feel that the requirements of the tour are too demanding for you and/or if local conditions mean we cannot reasonably accommodate your condition.