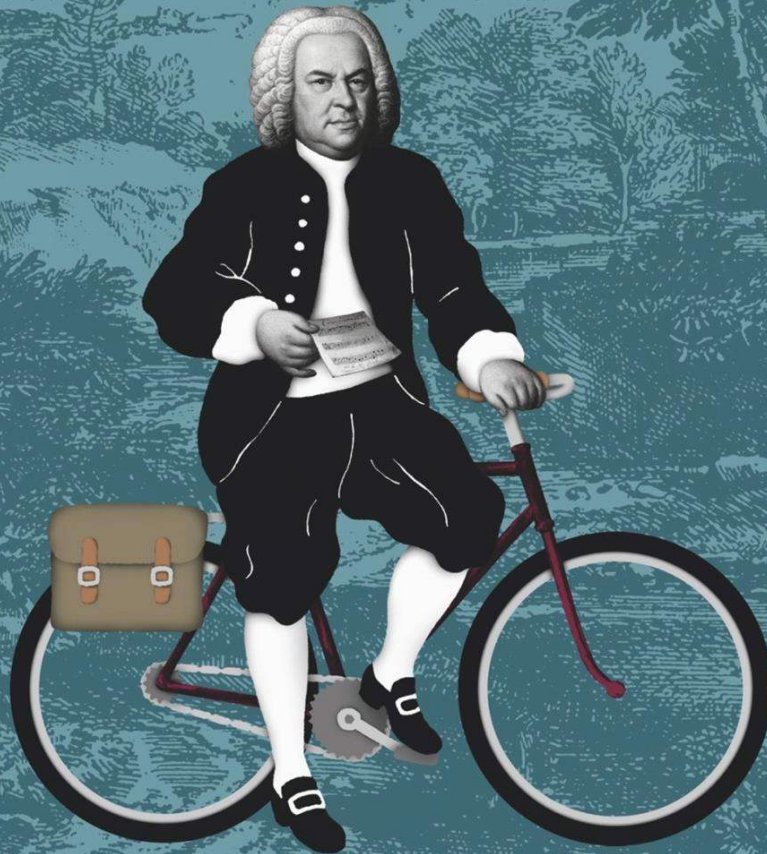




Bach by Bike 2024



bookable only via Bach by Bike!

**EXCLUSIVE BIKE JOURNEY ON THE TRAIL OF JOHANN
SEBASTIAN BACH**

TRAVEL INFORMATION 2024

Dear friends of music and cycling,

Bach by Bike welcomes you to the season 2024! We are pleased to offer five musical cycling tours mostly along the footsteps of Bach's life.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) lived all his life in what is today Thuringia, Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt. As a world-famous composer, it is extraordinary that his life and work took place almost entirely within this limited area.

Mareike Neumann and Anna-Luise Oppelt, two young Bach- and bike-enthusiasts, took the opportunity to develop a unique journey from Bach's birthplace Eisenach to his place of death, Leipzig. Come with us and "experience" Bach by Bike! The tour includes not only Eisenach and Leipzig, but also Mühlhausen, Wechmar, the Bach family's ancestral hometown, and Gotha, Ohrdruf, Arnstadt, Dornheim, Erfurt, Weimar, Naumburg, Weißenfels, Halle and Köthen.

On long-distance bike paths, you will discover the charming landscapes of the Thuringian Forest, Ilm Valley, the wine-producing area Saale/Unstrut and the Saxonian Burgenland. You will explore museums, memorials and many original, preserved places, such as Dornheim Church, Bach's wedding church. In addition, you will meet people who, often on voluntary basis, protect Bach's heritage. Guided tours of organs, exclusive visits, intimate concerts and - for those who enjoy singing - sight-reading of Bach chorales during breaks will round off the trip.

The tours include festivals or concerts: In 2024 we cycle to Bachfest Leipzig, Köthener Bach Festival and Beethovenfest Bonn. Here you will listen to top-class concerts. Additionally, we offer a tour at Pentecost to a concert of Bach by Bike Ensemble at Weißenfels and a tour along the places of young Bach's life in Thuringia.

The tours will be conducted exclusively by Bach by Bike. We have developed a sustainable tour concept and pay our tour guides, musicians and local partners fair wages.

Our travel package includes an all-round service with luggage transport, lunch packs or picnics and selected and bicycle-friendly hotels along a beautiful route. Upon request and depending on availability you can book rental touring bikes or e-bikes.

Have a wonderful trip on an exclusive bike travel on the trail of Johann Sebastian Bach!

Bach by Bike – Mareike Neumann und Anna-Luise Oppelt

Mareike Neumann Anna-Luise Oppelt



DETAILS AND MORE INFOS: www.bachbybike.com



PENTECOST TOUR to CONCERT IN WEIßENFELS

Halle – Weißenfels – Naumburg, 65 km

MAY 18 – 20, 2024, 3 days

DAY 1: INDIVIDUAL ARRIVAL

HALLE/SAALE – WEIßENFELS, 45 KM

Upon your self-organized arrival, we meet at the Market Church at Halle/Saale at 12 pm. Here Johann Sebastian Bach examined the organ and was offered the position of the organist. His first son, Wilhelm-Friedemann, was the organist here for 18 years.

During an organ tour we explore both organs in this fascinating church in the middle of the old town of Halle. Here our luggage transportation awaits you, so you can start the cycling tour only with your day-luggage.

Leaving Halle, we cycle along the Saale River to Merseburg. At the famous Dome we will enjoy another organ tour at the impressive romantic Ladegast-Organ with its 5687 pipes. Come evening, we arrive at Weißenfels where we stop off to the sounds of Bach's Hunting Cantata at the Jägerhof, the place it was performed for the first time.

*2 nights at Hotel Jägerhof in Weißenfels**

DAY 2, CONCERT IN WEIßENFELS

On Pentecost Sunday, the Bach by Bike Ensemble will perform at a walking-concert in cooperation with the Heinrich-Schütz-Haus and the other local museums of Weißenfels at the international museum day. You will listen to music composed for or in Weißenfels.



Today, the bikes pause and we will walk through the small town with its rich musical history.

We start off in the garden of the Novalis memorial museum, walk on to the second concert at Heinrich-Schütz-Haus and end the day at the castle church of Castle Neu-Augustusburg. Before and in between concerts, there is plenty of time to explore the museums individually.

DAY 3, WEIßENFELS – NAUMBURG, 18 KM

We say goodbye to Weißenfels and cycle beautiful 18 kilometers along the Saale-cycling-route to Naumburg. At 12 pm, an organ concert at the famous Hildebrandt-Organ in St. Wenzel awaits us. Bach examined this organ in 1746 and it is supposed to sound like his ideal wishes.

After the concert the tour ends, and you will receive your luggage. You can then visit the Naumburg Dome individually and embark on your journey home. We wish all guests a safe journey home!

**or similar hotel*

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- **2 nights** at mid-range hotels incl. breakfast
- **Guided tour**
- **Luggage transport**
- **All entrance fees to museums and churches:** Halle Market Church, Dom Merseburg, Museum Weißenfels
- **Organ tours** in Halle Market Church, Merseburg Dom Ladegast-Organ, Naumburg St. Wenzel Hildebrandt-Organ
- **Concert in Weißenfels**
- **List of equipment**

Changes reserved.

PRICES:

Double room per Person: 490,- €

Single room supplement: 60,- €

Minimum number of participants: 15

We have developed a sustainable tour concept and pay our tour guides, musicians and local partners fair wages.

Optional extras:

- **Rental touring bike or rental e-bike;** including delivery/pick-up: 140,- € / 180,- €

Meeting point:

We meet on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the Market Church in Halle/Saale at 12 pm. Here you can hand your luggage to our transportation service and receive your rental bike. 14 days before the beginning of the tour, you will receive the last travel documents with detailed information of travel itinerary and the mobile telephone numbers of your tour guides.

Address:

Ringhotel Jägerhof
Nikolaistraße 51
06667 Weißenfels/Germany
Tel: +49-3443-3340

Bach by Bike-emergency telephone:
+49-228-24000224/ +49-30-97986340

TOUR 1 TO THE BACHFEST LEIPZIG

Eisenach – Leipzig, 300 km

Saturday, June 8 – Monday, June 17, 2024, 10 days

DAY 1: INDIVIDUAL ARRIVAL AND EISENACH

Upon your self-organized arrival, we meet at the hotel in Eisenach at 2 pm. Afterwards, we take a tour around the city where Johann Sebastian Bach was born and visit the Bachhaus Eisenach. Explore the original places, streets and alleys where young Bach grew up.

*1 night at Hotel Glockenhof in Eisenach**

DAY 2, EISENACH – OHRDRUF, 60 KM

We depart from Eisenach and cycle along the Hörsel, passing through the gentle rises and falls of the mythical Hörsel hills. Around noon we arrive at Wechmar, the Bachs' place of origin. There we visit the ancestral home of the Bachs, housing the largest family tree of the musicians' family. Come evening, we bike the short distance to Ohrdruf, and stay overnight in a hotel right next to the grounds of Ehrenstein Castle.

*1 night at Hotel Schlossgartenpassage in Ohrdruf**

DAY 3, OHRDRUF – ARNSTADT, 25 KM

In the morning, we explore Ehrenstein Castle and the idyllic village of Ohrdruf. Bach stayed here as a pupil with his elder brother. A unique highlight is the preserved library within the tower of Michaelis Church which holds hymnbooks and books of sermons dating back to Bach's time. After a brief stop in the Thuringian Forest we reach Arnstadt. Following Bach's footsteps, we walk around the historic city center, make our way towards the Bach House and visit the Bach Church to hear organ music and an introduction to the history of the building.

*1 night at Hotelpark Stadtbrauerei Arnstadt**

DAY 4, ARNSTADT – DORNHEIM – ERFURT – WEIMAR, 52 KM

The next morning, we visit the Bach exhibition at Arnstadt's Schlossmuseum (Palace Museum). Around noon we depart to see Bach's wedding church in nearby Dornheim. After a guided tour of the church (where Bach fans from all over the world are still getting married today), we continue on our way along the Gera towards Thuringia's capital, Erfurt. Here you are shown the most important places of interests concerning Bach and stroll through the city centre before reaching our destination for the day, Weimar.

*1 night at Hotel Amalienhof in Weimar**

DAY 5, WEIMAR – BAD KÖSEN, 50 KM

In Weimar you are guided around the surviving Bach sites, including the city castle and city church, where many of Bach's children were baptized. During the afternoon, we take the idyllic Ilm Valley bike trail going past castles, such as the summer residence of Weimar's dukes and duchesses. After passing the Thuringian Wine Gate we arrive at the mouth of the Ilm, which feeds into the Saale. We leave the Ilm behind and follow the trail along the Saale, passing by romantic castles until we reach Bad Kösen with its impressive graduation works.

*1 night at Hotel Zum Mutigen Ritter Bad Kösen**



DAY 6, BAD KÖSEN – NAUMBURG – WEIßENFELS, 26 KM

Further on our way, the route leads us along the lower vineyards of Saale/Unstrut until we arrive in Naumburg. We visit St. Wenzel with the famous Hildebrandt organ. After lunch we cycle to Weißenfels and visit the Heinrich Schütz House. Finally, we stop off to the sounds of Bach's Hunting Cantata at the Jägerhof, the place it was performed for the first time.

*1 night at Hotel Jägerhof in Weißenfels**

DAY 7, WEIßENFELS – LEIPZIG, 60 KM CYCLING

The next morning, we will be on a guided tour of the chapel of Neu-Augustusburg Castle. Later, we cycle east towards the White Elster. If the weather is nice, we will stop at the Baroque castle Wiederau for lunch and enjoy coffee and cake whilst listening to a cantata dedicated to Wiederau. The tour continues on the Elster bikeway through the Leipzig lake district to Leipzig. In the evening we will listen to a Concert of Bachfest Leipzig "Choral Cantatas" at Nikolai Church with Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra directed by Ton Koopman.

*3 nights at Hotel Michaelis in Leipzig**

DAY 8, BACHFEST LEIPZIG

After an extensive tour around the city's many Bach sites, there will be an opportunity to visit the Bach Museum and explore the city individually. In the evening, we will get together to listen to a scenic performance of Bach's St. John's Passion in the Peters Church with Bonn Barock directed by Karin Freist-Wissing.

DAY 9, BACHFEST LEIPZIG

During the day, there are many opportunities to visit church services and other concerts of the Bachfest as well as individually. At 6 p.m., we meet at St. Thomas Church for the final concert of the Bachfest, Bach's Mass in B-Minor performed by Collegium Vocale Gent conducted by Philippe Herreweghe and enjoy the rest of the evening together.

DAY 10, DEPARTURE

After breakfast everyone will embark on their individual journey home. We wish all guests a safe journey home!

**or similar*

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- **9 nights** at mid-range hotels incl. breakfast
- **Lunch packs** (on cycling days)
- **Guided tour**
- **Luggage transport** from first to last hotel
- **All entrance fees to museums and churches:** Bachhaus Eisenach, Bach Stammhaus Wechmar, Ehrenstein Castle Ohrdruf, Michaelis Church Ohrdruf, Bachhaus Arnstadt, Palace Museum Arnstadt, Traukirche Dornheim (Wedding Church), St Wenzel Church Naumburg, Heinrich Schütz House Weißenfels, Chapel of Neu-Augustusburg Castle Weißenfels, Bach Museum Leipzig
- City tours in Eisenach, Ohrdruf, Arnstadt, Weimar, Leipzig
- **Organ tour** and organ concert in Bach Church Arnstadt, Wender organ and in St. Wenzel Naumburg, Hildebrandt organ
- **3 concerts Bachfest Leipzig:**
 - Friday, June 14, 2024, 8 pm, Nikolai Church: Choral Cantatas
 - Saturday, June 15, 2024, 5 pm, Peters Church: St. John's Passion
 - Sunday, June 16, 2023, 6 pm, Thomas Church: Closing Concert, B-Minor Mass
- Sheet music and information leaflets on Bach's compositions
- List of equipment

Changes reserved

PRICE:

Double room per Person: 2390,- €

Single room supplement: 290,- €

Minimum number of participants: 15

We have developed a sustainable tour concept and pay our tour guides, musicians and local partners fair wages.

Optional extras:

- **Rental touring bike or rental e-bike;** including delivery to first and pick-up from last hotel, bike bags and locks: 150,- € / 300,- €
- **Rental helmet:** 35,- €



Meeting point:

We meet on Saturday, 8 June, 2024, at Hotel Glockenhof in Eisenach. At 2 pm we welcome everyone at the reception. 14 days before the beginning of the tour, you will receive the last travel documents with detailed information of travel itinerary and the mobile telephone numbers of your tour guides.

Address:

Hotel Glockenhof
Grimmelgasse 4
99817 Eisenach/Germany
Tel.: +49-(0)36912340

Bach by Bike-emergency telephone:
+49-228-24000224/
+49-30-97986340



TOUR THE YOUNG BACH

Mühlhausen – Weimar, 185 km

July 28 – August 4, 2024, 8 days

DAY 1, SELF ORGANIZED ARRIVAL AND MÜHLHAUSEN

We meet at 2 p.m. at the hotel in Mühlhausen and explore the medieval town together. Young Bach had his second employment here. We visit the Divi Blasii church with an organ tour guided by cantor Oliver Stechbart and St. Mary's Church as well as the city archive, where we will see the certificate of Bach's employment. In the evening we welcome you with an opening concert at the day of Bach's death.

*1 night at Hotel Brauhaus zum Löwen in Mühlhausen**

DAY 2, MÜHLHAUSEN – EISENACH, 45 KM

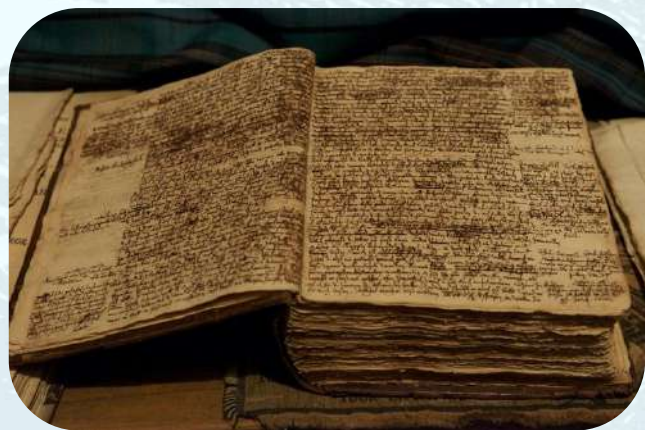
On our way to Eisenach we cycle through UNESCO World Heritage Hainich National Park, famous for its primeval beech forest. Enjoy the geographical center of Germany in Niederdorna and fantastic views of the Thuringian Basin. In the afternoon, we take a tour around the city where Johann Sebastian Bach was born. Explore the original places, streets and alleys where young Bach grew up.

*1 night at Hotel Glockenhof in Eisenach**

DAY 3, EISENACH – GOTHA, 40 KM

In the morning, we visit the Bachhaus Eisenach. In the afternoon we depart from Eisenach and cycle along the Hörsel, passing through the gentle rises and falls of the mythical Hörsel hills until we reach Gotha. Here we stay at the foot of the castle-mountain of Friedenstein Castle.

*1 night at Hotel am Schlosspark in Gotha**



DAY 4, GOTHA – WECHMAR – OHRDRUF 20 KM

In Gotha we visit Friedenstein Castle, where we will see the castle's chapel and the world's oldest baroque theatre, the Ekhof Theatre, with its original stage machinery. We continue the trail towards Wechmar, the Bachs' place of origin. There we visit the ancestral home of the Bachs, housing the largest family tree of the musicians' family as well as the original mill, formerly owned by great-grandfather Veit Bach. In the afternoon, we bike the short



distance to Ohrdruf, and stay overnight in a hotel right next to the grounds of Ehrenstein Castle.

*1 night at Hotel Schlossgartenpassage in Ohrdruf**

DAY 5, OHRDRUF – ARNSTADT, 25 KM

Today we explore Ehrenstein Castle and the idyllic village of Ohrdruf. Bach stayed here as a pupil with his elder brother. A unique highlight is the preserved library within the tower of Michaelis Church which holds hymnbooks and books of sermons dating back to Bach's time.

We briefly stop in the Thuringian forest and reach Arnstadt in the early afternoon. Following Bach's footsteps, we walk around the historic city center and then make our way towards Bachhaus Arnstadt and the Bach Church to hear organ music and an introduction to the history of the building.

*1 night at Hotelpark Stadtbrauerei Arnstadt**

DAY 6, ARNSTADT – DORNHEIM – ERFURT, 27 KM

We visit the Bach exhibition at Arnstadt's Schlossmuseum (Palace Museum). We start cycling by following along the way Bach's wedding party took to his wedding church in neighbouring Dornheim. After a guided tour of the church (where Bach fans from all over the world are still getting married today), we continue on our way along the Gera towards Thuringia's capital, Erfurt. In the evening you can stroll around the "Thuringian Rome" individually.

*1 night at Hotel Zumnorde in Erfurt**

DAY 7, ERFURT – WEIMAR, 25 KM

In the morning you are shown the most important places of interests concerning Bach. After the city tour, we reach our destination Weimar on a short stage along the "Thuringian city-chain". In Weimar, you are guided around the surviving Bach sites, such as the city castle and city church, where many of Bach's children where baptized.

*3 nights at Hotel Amalienhof in Weimar**

DAY 8, WEIMAR

In the morning we end our travel musically with a guided organ tour in Herder Church. After this there is some time to explore the city and the sights of Weimar Classicism and afterwards everyone will embark on their individual journey home. We wish all guests a safe journey!

**or similar*

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- **7 nights** at mid-range hotels incl. breakfast
- **Lunch packs or picnics** (on cycling days)
- **Guided tour**
- **Luggage transport** from first to last hotel
- **All entrance fees to museums and churches:** city hall-archive Mühlhausen, St Mary`s Church Mühlhausen, Church Divi Blasii Mühlhausen, Bachhaus Eisenach, Ekhof-Theater Gotha, Chapel of Friedenstein Castle Gotha, Bachstammhaus Wechmar, Veit Bach Mill Wechmar, Ehrenstein Castle Ohrdruf, Michaelis Church Ohrdruf, Bachhaus Arnstadt, Palace Museum Arnstadt, Traukirche Dornheim (Wedding Church)
- **City tours** in Eisenach, Ohrdruf, Arnstadt, Erfurt, Weimar
- **Organ tours** and organ concerts in Church Divi Blasii Mühlhausen and Bach Church Arnstadt, Wender organ and at Herder Church Weimar
- **Opening Concert** in Divi Blasii Mühlhausen at Bach`s day of death
- Sheet music and information leaflets on Bach`s compositions
- List of equipment

PRICES:

Double room per person: 2090,- €
Single room supplement: 220,- €

Changes reserved Minimum number of participants: 15

Address:

Hotel Brauhaus zum Löwen
Felchtaer Str. 2-4
99974 Mühlhausen / Thüringen
Deutschland
Tel.: +49 (0)3601 / 471-0

Bach by Bike-emergency telephone:
+49-228-24000224 / +49-30-97986340

Optional extras:

- **Rental touring bike or rental e-bike;** including delivery to first and pick-up from last hotel, bike-bags and locks: 110,- € / 260,- €
- **Rental helmet:** 35,- €



Meeting point:

We meet on Sunday, July 28, 2024 at Hotel Brauhaus zum Löwen in Mühlhausen. At 2 pm we welcome everyone at the reception. 14 days before the beginning of the tour, you will receive the last travel documents with detailed information of travel itinerary and the mobile telephone numbers of your tour guides.



TOUR TO THE KÖTHENER BACHFESTTAGE

Leipzig – Köthen, 75 km

August 29 – September 2, 2024, 5 days

DAY 1, INDIVIDUAL ARRIVAL AND LEIPZIG

We meet at the hotel in Leipzig at 1 pm. Johann Sebastian Bach spent the second half of his life here. After an extensive tour around the city's many Bach sites there is an opportunity to visit the Bach Museum.

1 night at *Hotel Michaelis Leipzig**

DAY 2, LEIPZIG – HALLE A.D. SAALE, 40 KM

In the morning we start cycling. We leave Leipzig behind and cycle along the dikes of the river White Elster, including a swimming stop at a lake if the weather is nice, until we reach the city center of Halle. Here, we visit the Museum of the eldest Bach son, Wilhelm Friedemann-Bach-House, and the Handel-House, Handel being one famous Bach contemporary. We end the day with dinner in a restaurant right on the banks of the Saale River.

1 night at *Hotel Ankerhof Halle a. d. Saale**

DAY 3, HALLE A.D. SAALE – KÖTHEN, 35 KM

We continue to the second stage of the trip to the residential city of Köthen. If the weather allows, we stop off at a lake. In the evening we are visiting a concert of Köthener Bachfesttage. Further details of the festival here: www.bachfesttage.de, details will follow soon.

2 nights at *Hotel Anhalt Köthen**



DAY 4, KÖTHENER BACHFESTTAGE

We will discover Bach's traces during a tour of the city. Afterwards you can explore the Bach exhibition at City Palace Köthen individually. We finish our tour with the final concert of the Köthener Bachfesttage. In the evening we will have a special baroque dinner like in Bach's time, allowing you to enjoy our baroque journey culinarily.

DAY 5, INDIVIDUAL DEPARTURE

After breakfast, everyone will embark on their individual journey home. We wish all guests a safe journey home!

*or similar

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- **4 nights** at mid-range hotels incl. breakfast
- **Lunch packs** or picnics (on cycling days)
- **1 dinner** in Köthen: Menu in baroque style
- **Guided tour**
- **Luggage transport** from first to last hotel
- **All entrance fees to museums and churches:** Bach Museum Leipzig, Handel-House Halle, Wilhelm-Friedemann-Bach-House Halle, City Palace Köthen
- **City tours** in Leipzig and Köthen
- **Concerts of Köthener Bachfesttage:** Details will follow soon.
- **List of equipment**

PRICES:

Double room per Person: 1090,- €

Changes reserved

Single room supplement: 130,- €

Minimum number of participants: 15

We have developed a sustainable tour concept and pay our tour guides, musicians and local partners fair wages.

Optional extras:

Rental touring bike or rental e-bike; including delivery to first and pick-up from last hotel: 100,- € / 130,- €

Meeting point:

We meet on Thursday, August 29, 2024 at Hotel Michaelis in Leipzig. At 1 pm we welcome everyone at the reception. 14 days before the beginning of the tour, you will receive the last travel documents with detailed information of travel itinerary and the mobile telephone numbers of your tour guides.

Address:

Hotel Michaelis
Paul-Gruner-Str. 44
04107 Leipzig
Tel.: +49-341-26780

Bach by Bike-emergency telephone:
+49-228-24000224/ +49-30-97986340

TOUR BEETHOVEN BY BIKE

BONN, 30 km

September 13 – September 16, 2024, 4 days

DAY 1, INDIVIDUAL ARRIVAL AND BONN

We meet at 5 pm at Sternhotel in Bonn. Here, next to the Rhine River, Ludwig van Beethoven spent his first 19 years of his life, went to university and was a viola player at the court chapel.

In the evening, we visit a concert of Beethovenfest Bonn. The detailed program of the Beethovenfest will be published in spring 2024.

3 nights at *Sternhotel Bonn****

DAY 2, BONN

In the morning, we will be guided through the city along Beethoven's footsteps. We will discover many details about his early years of life. After that, we visit the Beethoven Museum and, in the evening, we will listen to another concert of the Beethovenfest.

DAY 3, BEETHOVEN BY BIKE, 30 KM

Today a feast of music in the country awaits you at the left side of the Rhine, the Swist Valley. It is the area where young Beethoven used to be out and about in the beautiful nature of the countryside. At the Bonn main station, you will receive a rental bike if you wish. We will ride by train and bike to the starting point, Castle Miel. From here, you will be guided to all stations of the cycling concert Beethoven by Bike, 20 km along castles and palaces through distant villages. You will be discovering musical surprises and hidden concerts. In the evening, we return to Bonn by bike and train and spend the evening together at a relaxing dinner.

DAY 4, DEPARTURE

After breakfast, everyone will embark on their individual journey home. We wish all guests a safe journey home!

*or similar



INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- 3 nights with breakfast at 4-star hotel Bonn
- Guided tour
- Lunch pack
- All entrance fees: Beethoven Haus Bonn
- City tour in Bonn on Beethoven's traces
- 3 concerts of Beethovenfest Bonn:
Beethoven by Bike Feast and daytrip on Sunday, September 15, 2024
Further details will follow in spring 2024.
- List of equipment

PRICES:

Double room per Person: 690,- €

Single room supplement: 240,- €

Changes reserved

Minimum number of participants: 15

We have developed a sustainable tour concept and pay our tour guides, musicians and local partners fair wages.

Optional extras:

Rental city-bike: 19,- €

Rental-E-Bike: 39,- €

Rental-Tandem: 39,- €

Meeting point:

We meet on Friday, September 13, 2024 at ACHAT Sternhotel in Bonn. At 5 pm we welcome everyone at the reception. 14 days before the beginning of the tour, you will receive the last travel documents with detailed information of travel itinerary and the mobile telephone numbers of your tour guides.

Address:

ACHAT Sternhotel****

Markt 8

53111 Bonn/Germany

Tel.: (+49)0228-72670

Bach by Bike-emergency

telephone:

0228-24000224/ 030-

97986340

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

ROUTE:

The cycling route runs on official (long-distance) trails and roads with little traffic which are mostly asphalted without longer slopes. There are a few sections on gravel paths.

In Thuringia there will be a bit of an up and down and we will have to manage the one or the other ascent. The first stage of the tour "The young Bach" runs through the National parc Hainich; here we have some height differences to overcome on partly unpaved roads. In the following days the tour is very comfortable, and we cycle mostly along rivers. We do recommend using an e-bike to easily master the climbs and to enjoy the program of guided tours and museum visits in a more relaxed way. The tour is designed in a way that there is always a cushion of time for potential incidents, for example rain, breakdowns, etc. As a last resort, most day trips can be completed by train; you can switch to a regional train in most places, e. g. if the weather is getting bad.

Total cycling route:

Tour 1: 65 km

Tour 2: 300 km

Tour 3: 185 km

Tour 4: 75 km

Tour 5: 30 km



Clothing:

We visit museums or churches during the cycling stages. We recommend having clothes for all weather with you in the daily luggage. If the weather doesn't play along, we will try and go on cycling. We ask you kindly to bring rain wear with you.

Swimming:

We pass by rivers and lakes, where we are happy to stop for a swim on a warm day. We will announce this the evening before so that swimwear can be packed into the day luggage.



Arrival:

The rooms are ready to check in at 3 pm at the latest. You can deposit your luggage at the hotel before (except Tour 1).

By train:

Halle, Eisenach, Mühlhausen, Leipzig and Bonn have train stations. The hotels are within 15 min. walking distance or can be reached by public transport easily (except Tour 1).

By car:

Tour Weißenfels: we recommend traveling by train; you can park your car at a public garage in Halle and return there by train from Naumburg.

Tour Bachfest Leipzig:

It is not possible to park your car in Eisenach at Hotel Glockenhof for several days. We recommend free parking in the side roads or the public parking lot with video monitoring opposite the hotel „Alte Brauerei“ (please contact us directly).

Tour The young Bach:

If available you can park for 6,- €/day at Hotel Brauhaus zum Löwen in Mühlhausen. Please contact the hotel early.

Tour Köthener Bachfesttage:

Please get in touch with hotel Michaelis Leipzig, depending on availability: they have paid parking.

Tour Bonn:

Next to the hotel, there is the public garage at the market square.

Departure:

Naumburg, Leipzig, Weimar, Köthen and Bonn have train stations. They are within walking/biking distance or reachable by public transport.



ABOUT BACH BY BIKE:

Mareike Neumann and Anna-Luise Oppelt studied together at the Music University of Detmold. Since 2012 they initiated tours along the footsteps of Bach's life and are committed to an official signage of the Johann Sebastian Bach cycling track. They founded Bach by Bike in 2015. Bach by Bike was awarded with the international Music Cities Award 2021 in the category „Best Use of Music to Drive Tourism“ and the OPUS KLASSIK 2022 innovation award for sustainability.

Mareike Neumann is a professional violinist with Beethoven Orchestra Bonn. She is also a baroque violinist in early music ensembles such as Concerto Ispirato, Kölner Akademie and Concerto con Anima. In the contemporary music Ensemble Horizonte she collaborates with well-known composers and performs in special concert projects, radio broadcasts and world premieres. Concert tours led her to extraordinary festivals all over the world.

Anna-Luise Oppelt is an internationally acclaimed freelance mezzosoprano and lives in Berlin. She performs both in opera and concert at festivals such as Thüringer Bachwochen, the Salzburg Festival for Early and Contemporary Music, the Opera Incognita Munich and the Ensemble Orquesta in England. She is committed to interdisciplinary and international cultural exchange and was a grantee of Culture Moves Europe and a resident artist of the Post Truth Project Germany in 2023.

Mareike and Anna-Luise founded the Bach by Bike Ensemble in 2020 and were invited to perform at Kulturfeste Brandenburg, WESERFESTSPIELE, MDR-Musiksommer, Köthener Bachfesttage, Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci, Bachmuseum Leipzig and Beethovenfest Bonn. 2023 the ensemble was awarded with the silver Amadeus International Music Award Salzburg.

Both undertake extensive bike tours together, including Norderney to Detmold (2006), Passau to Berlin (2008), Orleans to Biarritz (2010), Berlin to Danzig (2013) and Klaipeda to Tallinn (2017), and for 12 years now have been guiding Bach and bike enthusiasts along this tour, an extraordinarily inspiring combination of nature and culture following Bach's footsteps.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

PREPARING FOR THE TRAVEL:

We recommend listening to Bach's music and to be eager to visit all the authentic places of origin. Apart from that, you only need to pack your bike and necessary luggage and off we go! There is a huge number of books about J.S. Bach and his life, which are also available in museums along the way. We especially recommend the book, „Exploring the world of J.S. Bach“ by Robert L. Marshall and Traute M. Marshall, published in 2016 (University of Illinois Press). And there is a new translation of “Bach and the Tuning of the World” (Alexander Verlag, 2020) by Jens Johler, available as e-book.

BOOKING OPTIONS:

You can book a single room or a double room for two persons. If available, you also have the option to choose a double room with a stranger of the same sex. For this option we need to know whether you are feminine or masculine in the registration sheet. Please also note the terms and conditions.

LIMITED MOBILITY:

In accordance with article 250 § 3 of the EGBGB (Introductory Act to the German Civil Code), we are required to inform you that our tours are not suitable for people with limited mobility. If you are unsure whether you are able to participate in the tour comfortably with an E-Bike, please do not hesitate to ask us. We are happy to provide personal assistance!



LANGUAGE:

Our tours are conducted in German. Our tour guides speak English and are happy to provide translation to international guests during the tours. Some tours are translated verbally, or you will receive a translated handout.

TOUR OPERATOR:

Bach by Bike – Mareike Neumann und Anna-Luise Oppelt GbR

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GROUP SIZE AND MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

The minimum number of participants for our tours is 15. If the minimum number is not reached, we reserve the right to withdraw from the tour contract. The corresponding declaration must be sent to you at least 29 days before the scheduled beginning of the tour. The average group size is approximately 15 to 25 people.