



# Bach by Bike 2025



bookable only via Bach by Bike!

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

**TRAVEL INFORMATION 2025**

## *Dear friends of music and cycling,*

Bach by Bike welcomes you to the season 2025! We are pleased to offer two musical cycling tours 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 2025 we cycle to the Bachfest Leipzig and the Köthen Autumn Festival. Here you will listen to top-class concerts. At Bachfest Leipzig, you will listen to Sir John Eliot Gardiner a.o. and a concert with Bach by Bike Ensemble at a cycling-concert created by us especially for the Bachfest, where also Ton Koopman will perform. At Köthen Autumn Festival, you will visit a concert with the Thomaner Choir and Thomaskantor Andreas Reize besides other concerts.

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. We also create individual tours for your group, please message us directly.

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](http://www.bachbybike.com)



## TOUR 1 TO THE BACHFEST LEIPZIG

### Eisenach – Leipzig, 300 km

**Saturday, June 7 – Monday, June 16, 2025, 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 – GOTHA, 40 KM

We depart from Eisenach and cycle along the Hörsel, passing through the gentle rises and falls of the mythical Hörsel hills. In Gotha we will stay in a hotel next to the parc of Castle Friedenstein, which we will visit in the afternoon. We will be guided through the Castle-Chapel, where Bach performed, and visit the Ekhof-Theatre, one of the world's oldest baroque theatres with still functioning stage mechanics.

*1 night at Hotel am Schlosspark in Gotha\**

#### DAY 3, GOTHA – ARNSTADT, 25 KM

In the morning, we cycle to Wechmar, the Bachs' place of origin. There we visit the ancestral home of the Bachs, housing the largest family tree of the musicians' family.

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 with Bach-Cantatas conducted by Sir John Eliot Gardiner at St. Nikolai Church.

*3 nights at Hotel Michaelis in Leipzig\**

#### DAY 8, BACHFEST LEIPZIG, 38 KM

Today we will explore the southern lake region of Leipzig with a cycling concert created by us for the Bachfest Leipzig, leading to Störnthal, where Bach tested the Hildebrandt organ and composed a cantata. Concert stations include the Bach by Bike Ensemble and Ton Koopman.

#### DAY 9, 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 listen to Bach's St. John's Passion with La Cetra Baroque Orchestra and Andrea Marcon at St. Nikolai Church 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, Castle Friedenstein Gotha, Ekhoft-Theatre Gotha, 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, 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 13, 2025, 8 pm: Nr. 20 Bach-Cantatas with J. E. Gardiner, St. Nikola Church
  - Saturday, June 14, 2025, 9 am: Nr. 25 Bach by Bike, cycling concert with Bach by Bike Ensemble and Ton Koopman
  - Sunday, June 15, 2025, 8 pm: Nr. 70 St. John's Passion with A. Marcon
- Sheet music and information leaflets on Bach's compositions
- List of equipment

*Changes reserved*

### PRICE:

Double room per Person: 2490,- €

Single room supplement: 320,- €

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, June 7, 2025, 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 2 TO THE KÖTHEN AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Weimar - Köthen, 225 km

Saturday, 30 August – Monday, 8 September, 2025,  
10 days

### DAY 1, SELF ORGANIZED ARRIVAL AND WEIMAR

We meet at 3 pm. at the hotel in Weimar. In Weimar, you are guided around the surviving Bach sites, such as the city castle and city church, where many of Bach's children were baptised. Here we start the travel musically with an organ tour.

*1 night at Grand Hotel Russischer Hof Weimar\**

### DAY 2, WEIMAR – NAUMBURG, 58 KM

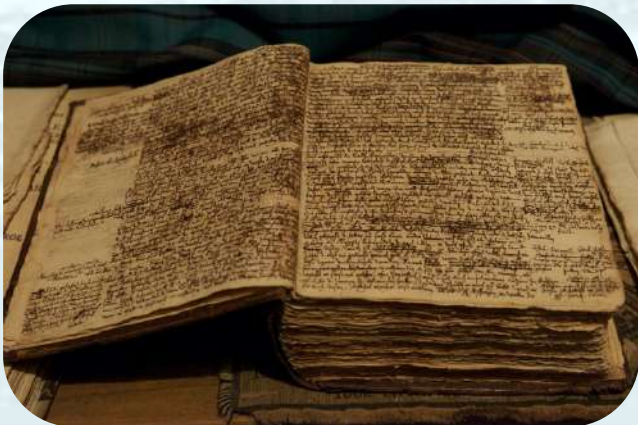
We take the idyllic Ilm Valley bike trail going past castles, such as the summer residence of Weimar's dukes and duchesses. Finally, we get to the Thuringian Wine Gate and the spa town of Bad Sulza. A few kilometres onwards, we leave the Ilm behind and for the rest of the day follow the trail along the Saale, passing by romantic castles until we reach Bad Kösen with its impressive graduation works. Further on our way, the route leads us along the lower vineyards of Saale/Unstrut until we arrive in Naumburg.

*1 night at Hotel zur alten Schmiede Naumburg\**

### DAY 3, NAUMBURG – WEIßENFELS, 20 KM

In Naumburg a guided tour of the famous Hildebrandt organ awaits us, which conveys the singularity of Bach's sound ideal until today. You can also visit the city with the famous dome individually. After lunch we cycle to Weißenfels. Here we will visit the museum of famous composer Heinrich Schütz. 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 Weißenfels\**



### DAY 4, WEIßENFELS – LEIPZIG, 60 KM

The next morning we visit the chapel of Neu-Augustusburg with a guided tour. Later, we cycle east towards the White Elster. We 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. If the weather is nice, we stop for a bath in the lake Cospuden. The evening is at your free disposal.

*1 night at Hotel Michaelis Leipzig\**



### DAY 5, LEIPZIG

After an extensive tour around the city's many Bach sites, there is an opportunity to visit the Bach Museum and explore the city individually.

*1 night at Hotel Michaelis Leipzig\**

### DAY 6, LEIPZIG – HALLE A. D. SAALE, 40 KM

We leave Leipzig cycling along the dikes of the White Elster. If the weather is nice, we take a lunch break with a bath at a lake.

Afterwards we will reach the city center of Halle, check-in into our hotel and visit the Museum of the eldest Bach Son, the Wilhelm-Friedemann-Bach-House, and the George-Frederic-Handel-Museum, Handel being one famous Bach contemporary. We spend the evening together at a restaurant next to the Saale-river.

*1 night at Hotel Ankerhof Halle\**

### DAY 7, HALLE A. D. SAALE – KÖTHEN, 45 KM

We continue to the final stage of the trip to the residential city of Köthen after a stop at the lake Edderitz. In the evening, we will visit a concert of the Köthen Autumn Festival with the motto "Bach's musical roots" with cantatas by J. S. and Johann Christoph Bach at the St. Agnus Church, the church where Bach and his second wife Anna Magdalena went to service.

*1 night at Hotel Anhalt in Köthen\**

### DAY 8, KÖTHEN AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Today we discover Bach's traces during a guided tour of the city where he held his fourth employment at the royal court. Afterwards we visit the Bach exhibition in the city palace. In the afternoon, there is a lecture by Bach-specialist Prof. Dr. Peter Wollny. In the evening, a concert at the beautiful hall of mirrors in the palace with chamber music by Bach, Telemann and Vivaldi awaits us.

*1 night at Hotel Anhalt Köthen\**

### DAY 9, KÖTHEN AUTUMN FESTIVAL

On Sunday morning there is a festive service with a Bach cantata. At 11.30 am, we listen to an organ concert at St. Jakob Church. After lunch break, we visit the final concert of the festival with the famous Thomaner Choir and Thomaskantor Andreas Reize. We will spend the evening together and will have a special baroque dinner like in Bach's time.

*1 night at Hotel Anhalt Köthen\**

### DAY 10, DEPARTURE

After breakfast everyone will embark on their individual journey home.

*\*or similar*

## INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- **9 nights** at mid-range hotels incl. breakfast
- **lunch packs or picnics** (on cycling days)
- **1 dinner** on the last day in Köthen (Bach Menu)
- **Guided Tour**
- **Luggage transport** from first to last hotel
- **all entrance fees to museums and churches:** St. Wenzel Church Naumburg, Heinrich Schütz House Weißenfels, Chapel of Neu-Augustusburg Castle Weißenfels, Bach Museum Leipzig, Wilhelm-Friedemann-Bach-House Halle, Handel-HouseHalle, City Palace Köthen
- **City tours** in Weimar, Leipzig, Köthen
- **Organ tour and organ concert** in Herder Church Weimar and St. Wenzel Church Naumburg, Hildebrandt organ
- **4 concerts of Köthen Autumn Festival (Köthener Herbst):**
  - Friday September 5, 7.30 pm: Opening Concert, St. Agnus Church
  - Saturday September 6, 7.30 pm: Chamber Concert, Mirror Hall Palace Köthen
  - Sunday, September 7, 11.30 am: Organ Concert, St. Jakob Church
  - Sunday, September 7, 5 pm: Final Concert with Thomanerchoir Leipzig, St. Jakob Church
- Sheet music and information leaflets on Bach's compositions
- List of equipment

Double room per person: 2390,- €

Single room supplement: 350,- €

*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.*

### Address:

Grand Hotel Russischer Hof  
Goetheplatz 2  
99423 Weimar/Germany  
Telephone: +49 (0)3643-7740

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



### Optional extras:

- **Rental touring bike or rental e-bike;** all bikes include bike bags or baskets and locks: 180,- € / 300,- €

### Meeting point:

We meet on Saturday, 30 August 2025, at Grand Hotel Russischer Hof in Weimar. At 3 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.

## 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: 300 km

Tour 2: 225 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:**

Eisenach and Weimar 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 1 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 2 Köthen Autumn Festival:**

Please get in touch with Hotel Russischer Hof, depending on availability: they have paid parking. Also, there are several public garages with paid parking in the city center of Weimar.

**Departure:**

Leipzig and Köthen 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 mezzo-soprano 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 resident artist of the MozartLabor of Mozartfest Würzburg in 2024 and a grantee of Culture Moves Europe 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. In 2024, they created a wandeling concert for the museums of Weißenfels and a cycling concert day for Beethovenfest Bonn. In 2023, the ensemble was awarded with the silver Amadeus International Music Award Salzburg.

Both undertake extensive bike tours together, including Norderney to Detmold, Passau to Berlin, Orleans to Biarritz, Berlin to Danzig and Klaipeda to Tallinn, 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

Adenauerallee 80  
D-53113 Bonn

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und +49(0)30-97986340 / mobile: (0)176-20072014

### 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.