

LutherCountry, Germany: Ready for the Reformation?

Where Located halfway between Berlin and Frankfurt, this NTA-member DMO is promoting the LutherDecade, which is the 10-year buildup to 2017 and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Acting as a natural barrier between Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia are the low, wooded Harz Mountains that feature the Harz National Park wildlife sanctuary.

What to Do

The region not only offers the historical locations of the Reformation but also features UNESCO World Heritage sites, outdoor recreation, some of the oldest Christmas markets in Europe and traditional German food.

Although Martin Luther (1483-1546) lived five centuries ago, his presence still can be felt. Travelers can walk in the reformer's footsteps, examine notes he wrote on the pages of his Bible, see the table where he ate and worked, the pulpit where he preached and the room where he translated the New Testament.



ROBERT SCARIN

Wartburg Castle

Terra Lu Travel, a Homberg, Germany-based NTA receptive operator, includes significant Luther locations on its A Week in Luther's Steps tour. Groups visit the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, where Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the door, and travel to Eisleben, where Luther was born and died. Travelers also visit other significant churches in Luther's life such as the one where he was baptized and the one where he preached his last sermon. Other stops include his birth house and the Luther Monument.

The highlight of Day 5 is a stop in Erfurt, which begins with a leisurely

walk through town to visit St. Mary's Cathedral, the Merchant's Bridge, the historical university Martin Luther attended and the Augustinian monastery where he lived as a monk. Wartburg Castle, where Luther translated the New Testament into German, is visited on the tour's final day.

Terra Lu has a menu of faith-based and heritage-themed tours such as 450 Years Heidelberg Catechism; Oberammergau and Luther Sites; and Luther, Black Forest and Neuschwanstein.

Who to Contact

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Jordan: Land of Moses and John the Baptist



Where Jordan includes many places whose names have become part of history by virtue of the simple deeds and profound messages of prophets who walked the land, crossed its rivers and performed miracles during their lives.

What to Do

Bethany Beyond the Jordan was the site of John the Baptist's settlement and is thought to be where Jesus was baptized. The area also is associated with the biblical account of how the prophet Elijah ascended to heaven in a whirlwind on a chariot of fire.

The Dead Sea is one of the most dramatic places on earth. Its stunning natural environment is marveled by its powerful spiritual symbolism. Many stories from the Old Testament were set along the sea, and it remains a sacred pilgrimage spot because of the healing powers of its waters.

Mount Nebo in western Jordan overlooks the Dead Sea, the Jordan River Valley, Jericho and the distant hills of Jerusalem. Although Moses would never enter the Holy Land of Canaan, he viewed it from Mount Nebo, and a small church was built on the mountain in his honor in the fourth century.

Petra is best known as the place where Moses struck the rock and brought forth water during the Exodus. The area includes Jabel Haroun, where Moses' brother Aaron died, which now includes a temple and is a pilgrimage site. Petra also was a stop for the wise men who took frankincense, gold and myrrh to honor Jesus' birth.

Dead Sea Beach is a UNESCO World Heritage site that's known for its stunning Egyptian-style mosaics. Just outside the walled city is the recently unearthed Church of Saint Stephen. The site contains a well-preserved mosaic floor, which is the largest one ever to be discovered in Jordan.

Who to Contact

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