

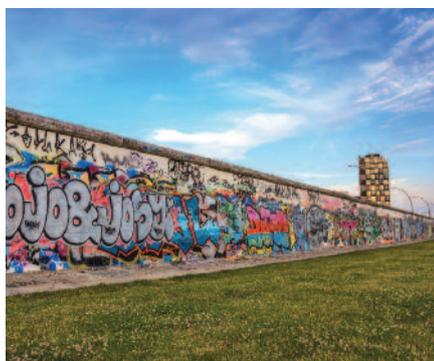
POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

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Germany – 30 Years after Reunification

Dates:

November 2019, Sunday 3rd to Saturday 9th

Dresden, Potsdam, Berlin

Led by Gerald Knaus

Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin wall, we look at Germany today. We focus on the impact of reunification, its enormous success, as well as its pitfalls. Germany is unquestionably still the most powerful country within the EU, and we ask where it is headed now?

We travel from **Dresden** to **Potsdam** and end in **Berlin**. We examine the huge investment made to bring the two former states into line politically and economically with each other. Politicians – both current and former leaders – shed light on the process and leading analysts and think tanks also contribute.

We also visit some of Germany's key institutions both regionally and in the capital Berlin and look at the more recent political fallout with the rise of a more populist brand of politics. Could this affect Germany as it has done elsewhere in Europe?

The tour is led by **Gerald Knaus**, the founder and chairman of the European Stability Initiative, one of the EU's leading political think tanks.

6 nights- 2 nights Dresden, 2 nights Potsdam, 2 nights Berlin

Price: £3940.00

Single Supplement: £500.00

Most meals and all accommodation are included in the price. Flights are not included and need to be arranged with your own travel agent. We will advise you as to which flights best fit the itinerary nearer to the tour.

Like all our tours the itinerary is focused on current affairs. Events on the ground may change and the final schedule may be adjusted accordingly.

Itinerary

Day One – Sun 3 Nov – Dresden

The tour starts in Dresden – an ideal place to look at the conditions and questions faced by Germany at reunification. We meet in the evening for an introductory dinner with Political Tours experts, where we look at the week ahead as well as the questions first faced by a united Germany in 1990. *Overnight in Dresden*

Day Two – Mon 4 Nov – Dresden

Dresden stands witness to both huge investments in the East and growing frustration among ordinary voters. The city has received significant investment and we see some of its progress. Despite the success there has been massive migration of the young to elsewhere in Germany or Europe. Resentment has increased among the unemployed and elderly left behind, contributing to a rise in the hard right. We visit large-scale housing projects on the edge of the city. We meet an NGO, which actively monitors the rise of right and neo-Nazi tendencies in Saxony. In the afternoon we leave Dresden and head to the surrounding countryside. German farmers are one of the most powerful lobby groups in Europe, and a good barometer of conservative thinking. What do they make of Merkel's leadership? *Overnight in Dresden*

Day Three – Tues 5 Nov – Dresden to Potsdam

We depart late morning for the 2.5 hour drive to Potsdam where we will look at the challenges faced in the early 1990s. As the economy of the GDR collapsed, Brandenburg was faced with large-scale unemployment and poverty. *Overnight in Potsdam*

Day Four – Wed 6 Nov – Potsdam

We visit regional parliament and meet senior politicians who explain what happened. We see some of the changes first hand. *Overnight in Potsdam*

Day Five & Six – Thurs 7 & Fri 8 Nov – Potsdam to Berlin

After breakfast we drive to Berlin (1 hour). Over the next two days we get a national overview of German politics with access to some of the capitals leading politicians, analysts and think tanks.

We look at the impact of the influx of migrants to Germany and its impact on Chancellor Merkel's leadership. Meet with editors and correspondents from the leading German newspapers – FAZ, Die Zeit, Bildt – for independent and different perspectives.

We discuss the future of Germany's role in Europe. Visit to the Bundestag to meet MPs from leading parties: CDU, Greens, AfD and Social Democrats.

We also visit the Brandenburg Gate, the last remaining bit of the Berlin Wall. *Two nights in Berlin*

Day Seven – Sat 9 Nov – Tour ends after breakfast