

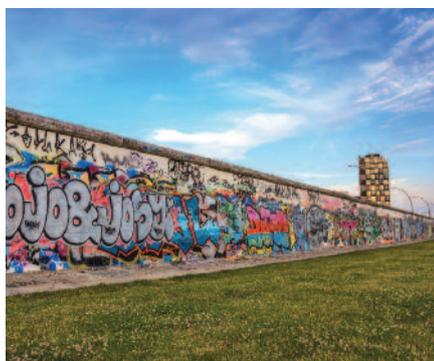
POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

t +44 (0) 843 289 2349

e info@politicaltours.com

w www.politicaltours.com



Germany – 30 Years after Reunification

Dates:

November 2019, Sunday 3rd to Saturday 9th

Berlin & Dresden

A team of experts including one of Europe's leading political analysts, contribute to the tour.

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 start and end in **Berlin**. We also travel to **Dresden**. 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 founding director of the European Stability Initiative, one of the Europe's leading think tanks that has worked on EU enlargement and foreign policy.

6 nights

Accommodation

We stay in 4-5 star centrally located hotels in both cities.

2 nights Berlin, 2 nights Dresden, 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.

POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

t +44 (0) 843 289 2349
e info@politicaltours.com
w www.politicaltours.com

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 – Berlin

Arrivals and check in to the hotel. The tour starts in the evening, with an introductory dinner with Political Tours experts. We look at the week ahead as well as the questions first faced by a united Germany in 1990. *Overnight Berlin*

Day Two – Mon 4 Nov – Berlin

We start the tour near the remnants of the Berlin wall before heading to the Bundestag for briefings with senior politicians on the challenges faced by Germany at reunification and their legacy today. The Merkel era is nearly over, and traditional German politics is fragmenting, with the environmentalist Greens surging into second place in the polls, and the right-wing anti-immigration Alternative for Germany winning 94 seats in the Bundestag. We get an overview of where Germany stands today.

After lunch we head to suburbs of what was East Berlin, Marzahn-Hellersdorf – the classic scenery of endless soviet style housing.

There has been a significant investment here, but frustrations remain; votes that initially went to the hard left are now veering to the right. The area was subject to a report by the Open Society Foundation:
<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/white-working-class-communities-berlin> .

We meet local journalists and voters before returning to the centre for dinner. *Overnight Berlin*

Day Three – Tues 5 Nov – Berlin – Dresden

We head to Dresden (two and half hours) and check into our hotel in the city centre. Dresden stands witness to both huge investments in the East and growing frustration among ordinary voters. There has been large-scale migration of young to elsewhere in Germany or Europe. After a very brief tour of the restored city centre (bombed by the RAF and USAF) – we get an introduction to the city's politics. 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. *Overnight Dresden*

Day Four – Wed 6 Nov – Dresden

The Economy, The Hard Right

In the morning we meet with the local founders of PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West) or the AFD Saxony – leaders of the new-right in Germany (local elections will have taken place in 2019). How have their politics taken seed locally and is their success a long-term trend? We also meet an NGO, which works against hard right tendencies in Saxony.

After lunch we look at Germany's huge economic success; Dresden and the wider region is home to some key industries – in the automobile sector and farming. We have options to visit an auto manufacturer or supplier or a farm – Porsche and Volkswagen suppliers are based close to Dresden – both are facing challenges. Dinner with local speakers. *Overnight Dresden*

Day Five – Thurs 7 Nov – Dresden – Berlin

In the morning 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 which has been dominant in Germany for so long.

Next we return to Berlin where we get an overview of Germany's leadership under Chancellor Merkel, by far the most influential politician in Europe for the past decade and more. She presided over slow but steady economic growth and strict budget discipline in Berlin, while insisting on drastic austerity for eurozone debtor nations such as Greece. Most controversially at home, she opened Germany's borders to more than a million refugees, prompting both praise and condemnation. We meet two leading newspaper editors/journalists and look back over Mrs. Merkel's time in office. What will follow? Dinner with experts in Berlin. *Overnight Berlin*

POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

t +44 (0) 843 289 2349
e info@politicaltours.com
w www.politicaltours.com

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.

Day Six – Fri 8 Nov – Berlin – Germany and the EU *beyond Merkel*

Over the day we get a national overview of German politics with access to some of the capital's leading politicians and think tanks. Where is Germany headed now and what will be its role within the EU? Meet leading diplomats and speakers based in Berlin to discuss the future of Germany in Europe and the challenges to its leadership. At dinner we review the week. *Overnight Berlin*

Day Seven – Sat 9 Nov – Tour ends after breakfast

The tour ends on the morning of Day Seven after breakfast.