

# conrad:berlin

## **a catholic career, a lutheran life.**

When professionals from the travel business go over Conrads C-V they will discover that he had his most buisy years in 2000 and 2010. These were the "holy years" with events in Citta de Vaticano, Rome, Assisi and Oberammergau. When you continue reading then you find out that Conrad had been working in many european well known pilgrimage places between Lourdes (France) and Czenstochowa (Poland). It will surprise you that Conrad is not catholic at all. He is a member of the church that Americans would call LUTHERAN. (The german name is: EVANGELISCHE KIRCHE).

When he was 14 years young he took the lessons of Luthers Catechism of the KONFIRMATIOSUNTERRICHT. By that he also recieved very detailed information about the roman-catholic church to lay the foundation for the understanding WHY the reformation broke out. In this way Conrad is very german: Being concious that there are always to major groups, two opinons, two beleive systems.

"Lutheran Germany" is not about religion only, it is a culture. In the protestant north-east the cultural relations to Skandinavia are sometimes stronger than to catholic south of Germany. By translating the New Testament into German, establishing German as an official and respected language, Martin Luther is mainly responsible for the formation of the german nation.

By focusing on the declaration of the Bilble's words the protestant religious music culture came to blossom. I guess now you think about Johann Sebastian Bach. The same intention explains why many lutherian beautifull churches were built like parliaments: Everyone should be able to hear and to understand the words of God – no matter if in words or as in Music. The shining example for this type of church is the Dresden Frauenkirche.

Since 2013 Conrad also wellcomes visitors from France who are interested into lutheran life, which they often only know from the historic books about the Hugenots. For french people there is no reformation, "C'est la reforme!". When Conrad does reformation tours in french he has to intruduce this topic from the very beginning. French people often do not know that there exists an equivalent religious instiution parallel to the catholic church, with 35 millions of members. Until today there are no lutheran church buildings - for french people these are all "temples protestants".

During communism, nearly all important places of lutheran Germany and the

reformation were hidden behind the iron curtain and became more and more forgotten. Now lutheran Germany is "back"! In the end of the 1990s Conrad designed this little brochure about potential Luther tours. (About 15 years ahead of time.)

But now it's time to celebrate 500 years of reformation and to enjoy the regained freedom and democracy with thankfulness.

## EISENACH

Until today, the WARTBURG castle, where LUTHER translated the Bible, is NOT accessible for wheelchairs. The path between the coach parking and the castle is quite steep. Minibusses can be booked through the Eisenach Information. Eisenach is also the birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach. He was the most important composer for lutherian church music. Down in Eisenach, there are TWO museums. The LUTHERHAUS and the BACHHAUS: Don't mix them up. The city limit of Eisenach is identical with the former iron curtain between the SU and the US. The legendary "Fulda gap" is near by. On the area of the autobahn pit stop Eisenach -"Hoerschel" you can find the central german version of "Checkpoint Charlie".

## ERFURT

Finally the medieval main building of the Erfurt university is reconstructed. Here LUTHER was immatriculated. Together with the cathedral "Erfurter Dom" the Krämerbrücke (Germany's Ponte Vecchio) and the Luthers church "Kaufmannskirche" you may have a beautiful walking tour among the timbered houses. I guess however that the Augustinerkloster, where Luther spent some time as a eremit monk, is a bit far for walking. Remark: The city was permitted to follow the reformation, although Erfurt was governed by the catholic archbishop of Mainz.

## EISLEBEN

The city is easy to do. One medieval church has a modern running fountain inside. This is supposed to symbolize the importance of Baptism.

## WITTENBERG

The city is a one mile long pedestrian street with two coach parkings (and toilets) at each end. Here you have the Lutherhaus and the Cranachhaus . Cranach was german renaissance painter at Luthers lifetime. So in the Stadtkirche, opposite of the monuments of Luther and Melancton, you can find an altar, painted by Cranach, showing scenes from the Bible as well as Luther and his protector grand elector Moritz of Saxony. The door of the Schlosskirche, where Luther posted the 95 theses on October 31. 1517 is a remake from the 19th century. Inside Schlosskirche, there you find a new reformation jubilee carpet,

HANDMADE by the Queen of Denmark.

Let's discover Germany away from dirndl and lederhosen !

Conrad will take you by his heart.