

All Guided Tours in Overview

#### **Guided Tours in Dresden**

### "Florence of the North" - Dresden's historical Old Town

Dresden is one of the most beautiful cities of culture and art in Europe. Located in the lovely Elbe valley, the 800 year's old Royal residence is famous for the splendour of its Palaces, houses and churches, the wealth of its treasures of art and its unique connection to nature. The town shows its highly interesting past and present in a very lively way to everyone who can see, listen and feel her. Let us discover the historical "Florence of the North" on a walking tour through the Old Town. We will see the famous Zwinger Palace, the Theatre Square with the Semper Opera, and the Picture Gallery of Old Master's... also the Royal Palace, the Catholic Court Church and, of course, the impressive Church of Our Lady; a place of very special quality and power. From the Bruehl Terrace, called the Balcony of Europe by the German poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe, you will enjoy a breathtaking view over the unique landscape of the Elbe Valley.

#### Exodus and new beginning - Dresden in World War II

Over many miles the red shining was to be seen when Dresden was bombed and burned in February 1945. The fire storm changed the town, the people who lived in it and the life there forever. What happened and why? ... How did people deal with this experience? ... How did life find a way back into the destroyed town? Which way did it go until today? ... What did stay? What has changed? What did arise new? ... And what is NOW? - These and many more questions, as well as your own questions, will move us on our tour through the old and the new Dresden.

## The New Town of Dresden - Baroque and Scene

The "New King's Town near Dresden", shortly called "New Town", is located at the other side of the Elbe, across from the Old Town. After a fire destroyed this part of the city in the 17th century, Elector Augustus the Strong had it rebuilt after his personal ideas of a modern baroque town. You may find wonderful baroque houses and quarters there, which are not to be found in the Old Town anymore. The magnificent Japanese Palace with its garden stands on the banks of the Elbe, not far from the place, where Canaletto painted his famous baroque Dresden views. We also make our way to the Outer New Town of Dresden, which shows the face of the 19th century. It is one of the most colorful and lively places of Dresden – a world full of games and contrasts. There are numerous galleries and funky shops to be find, as well as innumerable pubs, clubs and bars. The wonderful Kunsthof Passage leads you into a magnificent realm of fantasy.

### **Dresden at Night - a romantic experience**

Enjoy the special flair of the evening in Dresden, while we walk through the wonderful illuminated city, away from the hectic and busy chaos of the day. You will experience a fascinating view of the city and learn more interesting facts about its history, buildings and people. Afterwards, you could end the day with a glass of wine in one of the many cozy restaurants.

#### **Christmas at Dresden**

Dresden is always worth to visit, even in winter time. The snowy city in it's silence offers a magical sight. On a walk through wintry Dresden, you will experience another, new side of the famous "Elbflorenz". In the Advent season, Dresden is shining in a sea of lights and colours. The Christmas markets invite you to stroll, and tell you in a lively fashion about the old Christmas traditions of the region – from the "Christstollen" bakery to the arts and crafts of the Ore Mountains.

#### Pillnitz Palace - Summer residence of the Saxon Court

In the eastern part of Dresden, directly on the banks of the Elbe in the middle of an enchanting landscape, there lays the exotic-looking Pillnitz Palace – the far-eastern dream of Augustus the Strong. As a palace for pleasure, summer residence of the Saxon electors and kings, botanical collection and research centre and today as a museum, the palace complex experienced an exciting as well as varied history. Enjoy the wonderful Palace Park with its precious trees - including the oldest surviving camellia north of the Alps – the pleasure garden, surrounded by the exotic palaces and the Lilac Courtyard with its numerous lilac trees. The step into these gardens takes us into another world.

#### **City Tour Dresden**

You come to Dresden with your coach? I come with you and show you the city on a bus tour. In addition to the historic city center, you can see the castles on the slopes of the Elbe, the famous Loschwitz Elbe bridge "Blue Wonder", suburbs, located in beautiful countryside and, of course, the Elbe Valley itself. We also take a look at the side of the New Town, where you can find Pfund's Dairy, the world's most beautiful milk shop. You determine the duration of the journey. After the tour, you can take a closer look at the city center of Dresden on a walk, or do a short walking tour to the famous Zwinger Palace. And if you want to get to know more about Dresden, we can continue the trip and visit the exotic Pillnitz Palace with it's fantastic gardens.

#### **Theatre and Museums Tours**

### Semperoper - Life on Stage

The Saxon State Opera Dresden, better known under the name "Semperoper", is an absolute highlight of any Dresden visit. It is said to be one of the most beautiful opera houses in the world. The famous theatre building was destroyed twice, and reconstructed twice, last time after the bombing of Dresden in World War II. It is the home of the Saxon State Orchestra, one of the oldest orchestras in the world with a very long and rich tradition. During a guided tour through the Semperoper, you will hear interesting things about the building and the artistic interpretation of the house, the amazing reconstruction of the ruin during GDR days, interesting facts about the music history and opera tradition and, of course, about the actual programme.

### The Royal Palace - Its history and collections

The Royal Palace of Dresden is currently developing into an important centre of European museum's culture. For almost 800 years, the Palace has been existing as a monument of Saxon history. The Palace represented the princely power, it was the administrative home of one of the most powerful territorial states in the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, and it housed precious art collections. It was badly damaged during the bombing of Dresden in 1945, but the demolition of the ruins were prevented by the Dresdeners. For many years the Palace has been rebuilt, step by step. Today, the result is a museum's centre of European rank. The magnificent Green Vault, the exotic Turkish Chamber, the impressive Giant's Hall with the big tournament groups, the Renaissance wing with it's different exhibitions, the prestigious Gallery of the Princes, as well as the Cabinet of Printings and Drawings and the Coin Cabinet are already opened. More exhibitions of the Historical Museum will follow. Learn more about the exciting history of this architectural ensemble, which has grown over many centuries as a symbol of constant change – and arrive in the present days of the Royal Palace. Take a look at the different exhibitions and rooms, experience the English Steps in all their splendour, or walk over the courtyards.

## The Green Vault - Treasury Chamber of the Saxon Rulers

A dream of gold, silver and precious jewellery awaits you in the treasury chamber of the Green Vault in Dresden – unique and magical, fantastic and glamorous. Experience the world of representation of Royal power, as well as the outstanding beauty and perfection of artistic creativity. On our walk through the New Green Vault, you will discover the fine art of the goldsmiths and silversmiths, jewellers and ivory artists, the stone cutters and enamellers. Learn why treasures can have different faces and experience the art of goldsmiths and jewellers as masters of illusion.

#### **The Turkish Chamber – Fascination and Horror**

With the "Turkish Chamber", which is a part of the electoral Saxon armoury, you will experience one of the most magnificent and biggest collections of Ottoman art in Germany. Over many centuries, the Saxon electors and kings have collected a magnificent array of foreign art works. On the one hand, the Europeans feared the warlike Ottomans, who tried to occupy the city of Vienna twice. On the other hand, they were impressed by their foreign way of life and the oriental art and fashion. Come into the fascinating world of Ottoman art, culture and way of life and see how apparent strangeness and contrary ideas are often closer to us than we think.

## The Picture Gallery of Old Masters - The language of painting

As one of the greatest and most exquisite collections of the Saxon electors and kings, the Picture Gallery of Old Master's established the fame of Dresden as a city of arts all over the world. Dive into the world of famous and unique European masterpieces from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to the Baroque era. Look, how Raphael's "Sistine Madonna" makes us becoming silent, and find out what Giorgione's "Sleeping Venus" is all about. Discover the bright light of a child in Correggio's "Holy Night" and the art of diplomacy in Tizian's "Zinsgroschen". See what is written between the lines in the famous pictures by Rubens, van Dyck, Rembrandt and Vermeer. Here you may experience the strong hero Hercules in a very different way, and see, how Rembrandt mirrors you with a mischievous wink.

#### **Around Dresden**

## The Fortress of Königstein

The Fortress of Königstein is what is called a "place with a past". Once, this imposing fortress high on the mountain was a military guard over borders and rivers, a place of refuge in times of danger, as well as Saxony's most feared state prison. If people of former times felt scared when only it's name was mentioned, "The Königstein", is now a magnet for many visitors of the Saxon Switzerland. The history of this extraordinary place spans almost 800 years. The Königstein is considered one of the largest and historically most valuable mountain fortresses in Europe. Never entered, it lays high above the Elbe. It was also the site of magnificent festivals, seeing high state guests come and go. So many important decisions have been made here – there are many sides to discover. The half-day trip takes us by bus from Dresden via the old trading town of Pirna to the fortress. At the top, we discover the fortress on a walking tour. You will get to know interesting facts about the history of the Königstein and learn more about the life of people and animals on the former military base from the beginning to the present day.

#### National Park "Saxon Switzerland"

Experience one of the most beautiful landscapes in Germany – the National Park "Saxon Switzerland". Wildly rugged cliffs, deep valleys, the gently rolling course of the river and a unique nature characterizes the Elbe Sandstone Region. Painters, musicians and poets were inspired by this unique landscape. The daytrip takes us by coach from Dresden over the old trading town Pirna first to the impressive Fortress of Königstein. We dive into the history of the almost 800 years old fortress, which is considered to be one of the largest mountain fortresses in Europe. From there, it goes along the Elbe over the spa town of Bad Schandau to the Bastei, the surely most famous view point in Saxon Switzerland. From the high rock you can enjoy a wonderful sight over the Saxon Switzerland and the Ore Mountains to Bohemia. Our path leads us now from the Bastei to the Palace of Pillnitz, the exotic summer residence of the Saxon electors and kings. On a little walk, we discover the beauties of the amazing palace complex, before returning to Dresden.

# About me

For many years, I accompany people individually through the beautiful city of Dresden and it's enchanting surroundings. Exploring together the living connection between culture and nature, past and present. There is plenty of room for open communication and spontaneous discoveries.

Dear readers, I invite you to go on your own, personal journey. Discover the obvious and the hidden things with me, experience a new perspective and dare to look behind the facades.

I am looking forward to meet you.

# Kontakt

Antje Falk art historian/ tour guide

Hegereiterstr. 6 01324 Dresden Germany

phone: 0049 176 55 11 30 86 **www.dresden-culture.de** 

Copyright: Antje Falk

