

Convention plans

Back to Germany in 2019!

At the 2018 SCI Annual Convention in Richmond, VA, the board of trustees voted with a large majority to return to Germany in 2019. During the last two German Conventions, in 2002 and 2008, we explored southern Germany, Munich and Bavaria, and the nice Swabian surroundings of Bad Schussenried. In 2019 we will have new experiences and new impressions in northern Germany, viewing more of beautiful Germany and learning more of German history and traditions.



Image credit: Freepik.com

Berlin - the old and the new capital of reunified Germany - was chosen to host the 2019 Stein Collectors International annual meeting; Berlin is actually without any doubt the most exciting city within Germany. **You will be surprised by what Berlin offers for all of you!**

SCI has asked Master Steinologist and professional tour operator Dr. Beatrix Adler to prepare the tour program for the get-together in Berlin, followed by an optional 8-day round trip through the New German Federal States (formerly the GDR - and since 1990, reunified Germany).

Exact dates are not yet determined, but we expect the time to be between mid-July and mid-August with reasonable airfares and the best hotel rates that we can negotiate for a centrally located city hotel. This will also be an opportunity to bring your grandchildren to Germany, too!



Discover Berlin and it's beautiful surroundings.

The one-week program in Berlin will be more a sightseeing tour through the city - and not a usual convention inside a convention hotel (although the SCI required business meetings will take place). We will not rent expensive inside meeting spaces, hospitality and stein sales rooms, but explore the many interesting sights in both former Eastern and Western parts of Berlin. There will be three bus trips with local guides. Day 1 will take us to Berlin Mitte, from Alexanderplatz (with the World Clock and TV Tower) to the Brandenburg Gate.



Alexanderplatz



Brandenburg Gate



Checkpoint Charlie - Dividing Line Between East and West

Day 2 concentrates on West Berlin between Charlottenburg Palace, Kudamm and the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church.

Day 3 is focused on East Berlin, with Checkpoint Charlie, the Berlin Wall at East Side Gallery and Potsdamer Platz - to name only the top sights!

There will also be a one day excursion to Potsdam, famous for Sanssouci Palace and gardens, the former summer residence of Frederick the Great, and for Cecilienhof, having been the location of the Potsdam Conference in 1945. Both places became a World Heritage Site in 1990 under the protection of UNESCO.



The Glass Cupola atop the Reichstag

Photo credit: Architravel

We will also have a special tour of the German parliament Reichstag and visit the glass cupola, have the afternoon tea at the legendary Hotel Adlon, and there will be enough free time to explore museums (Berlin offers more than 50), antique shops, fashion boutiques or the Berlin zoo on your own.

Dinners are planned to be on top of the Berlin TV Tower (with a phenomenal view over the whole city), in the Berlin Hofbräuhaus at Alexanderplatz, on a Spree River cruise and in Augustinerbräu Restaurant at Gendarmenmarkt. There will be more free time to explore German beer culture in one of the many small breweries who produce their own craft beer -



On the Spree River

Photo credit: GetYourGuide.com

or you spend a sunny afternoon in one of Berlins many idyllically located beer-gardens.

Optional: 8 days post convention tour

For those who would like to extend visiting Germany, we will have an optional 8 day “former GDR discovery tour” (starting and ending in Berlin). It will bring you to Magdeburg, Erfurt and Weimar (with their picturesque city centers), to world famous Wartburg, Leipzig, Naumburg (with the unique Uta statue in the cathedral), Altenburg and Freiberg (known for producing beautiful stoneware steins), beautifully reconstructed Dresden.



Dresden

Highlights will include Schloss Pillnitz, home of the Dresden ceramic museum with an outstanding display of steins; Meissen, where we will visit the world famous porcelain factory; and a cheese tasting in the Molkerei Pfund, the most beautiful dairy in the world, richly decorated with hand-painted tiles made by Villeroy & Boch (see *Prosit*, December 2017).



Start putting your group together now. There are direct flights from many big cities in the US into Berlin international Airport (Tegel - TXT), and if you can arrange a group of nine people (minimum) within your local chapter, you may be able to negotiate a cheaper group rate with the airlines! More details will be published in the December issue of Prosit.

