



From

Prices valid until
 30th December 2026

days

Duration

Germany

Destination

Level 2 - Moderate

Activity

Discovering the Life of Beethoven | Small Group Tour

Discover Beethoven's life and music

Odyssey offers easy, convenient, and relaxed escorted small group tours across Western Europe and beyond. We explore Germany's fairytale natural beauty, and world famous cities within the framework of Beethoven, all with some truly spectacular scenery along the way. This and more is all waiting to be explored on one of Odyssey's small group tours of Germany, designed for the senior traveller, and led by experienced, and enthusiastic like minded people



Gain a deeper appreciation of German composer Ludwig van Beethoven on this small group tour as we journey across Austria and Germany.

Widely regarded as one of the world's greatest composers, Ludwig van Beethoven (1170-1827) was a leading figure in the transitional period between the 18th century Classical and 19th century Romantic ages of Western classical music. His important works and best-known compositions were Symphony No. 5, with its beloved first four notes; and Symphony No. 9, famous for its stirring choral finale featuring the words of Friedrich Schiller's poem, Ode to Joy.

Beethoven was born into a musical family in the city of Bonn, Germany, and his first music teacher was his father. Johann van Beethoven wanted to turn his son into a musical prodigy (a la Mozart) but Beethoven would only attract attention for his musical genius in his adolescence. In any case, when Mozart met Beethoven, the former announced that Beethoven would make "a great name for himself in the world"—a pronouncement that would prove true.

Beethoven studied under the opera composer and conductor Christian Gottlob Neefe and the composer Joseph Haydn, but added unique innovations to his work that put more emphasis on music as expressions of mood and feeling. He continued composing even while battling deafness, producing awe-inspiring pieces that move audiences to this day.

Our tour allows you to discover Beethoven in more depth, by putting him in context within the history and culture of 19th century Germany.

Small Group Tours Beethoven Itinerary

The tour begins in the city of Bonn, where Beethoven was born. We spend the first few days taking in churches, fine architecture, and city precincts where Beethoven formed his unique artistic sensibility. We also visit the Parish church in which many of his compositions were first

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performed. We make a guided tour of an organ workshop, and visit Augustburg Palace and a museum dedicated to Robert Schumann, one of the Romantic era's most famous composers to whom Beethoven was a significant influence.

We also explore Drachenfels Castle, a ruined castle atop an enormous rock. The castle became popular with tourists when it was immortalised by Lord Byron in his long poem, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. The castle became a pilgrimage destination for artists, musicians and writers during the Romantic era.

We take a walking tour in the city of Vienna, particularly to key sites where Beethoven composed and performed. Vienna was where Beethoven studied composition under Joseph Haydn, and consequently gained a reputation as a virtuoso pianist.

One of the highlights of this music tour is the opportunity to attend four concerts during the eight nights of the trip. Performances of Beethoven's work include the Opening Concert at the Beethovenhalle and two more performances in this season. We also enjoy a recital event at the Vienna *Staatsoper* (State Opera House).

For more information about this tour, check out the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' pages above. To make a booking, [please call](#), [send us an email](#), or simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

Music lovers may also enjoy our [Bach tour](#), our [opera tour](#), and our other [music and performing arts tours](#). Travellers may also be interested in our other tours to [Germany](#) and [Austria](#).

Make sure to take a look at our article on [Music and the Austrian Habsburgs](#).

Highlights

1. Explore Beethoven's cities of Bonn and Vienna, where he lived

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2. Delve deeper into the life of Beethoven through a series of artistic and cultural experiences
3. Tour the Beethoven House in Bonn, as well as the Beethoven house in Heiligenstadt
4. Visit Cologne Cathedral, where some of Beethoven's works were first performed
5. Experience the extraordinary Beethoven Festival in Bonn, celebrating the composer's life and works

Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Bonn

Overview:

After making our own way to Bonn, we meet at the hotel for a welcome dinner and tour orientation.

Accommodation:

4 nights at Sternhotel Bonn or similar

Day 2

Locations: Bonn

Overview:

Today, we explore Bonn on foot, taking a tour of the city that incorporates many of the main sights related to Beethoven. We visit Beethoven House, the Parish Church of St Regimius (where many of Beethoven's early works were first performed), and the Old Cemetery.

In the afternoon, we learn about the life and works of Robert Schumann — who was himself great influenced by Beethoven — at the Schumann



Museum.

In the evening, we enjoy a spectacular performance at the Beethovenhalle and have dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation:

Sternhotel Bonn or similar

Day 3

Locations: Bonn

Overview:

After breakfast, we take a guided tour of the Organ Workshop Klais. The family-run company that operates this Workshop designs, builds and restores pipe organs. Founded in 1882 by Johannes Klais senior, the Workshop provides fantastic insight into the ongoing significance of pipe-organ music in Germany.

Later in the day, we visit Augustburg Palace and Hunting Lodge Falkenlust — both are UNESCO cultural World Heritage Sites since 1984. They are connected by the spacious gardens and trees of the Schlosspark. Augustusburg Palace and its parks also serve as a venue for the [Brühl Palace](#) Concerts.

Accommodation:

Sternhotel Bonn or similar

Day 4

Locations: Bonn

Overview:

Today, we enjoy a cruise on the Rhine River to Königswinter, via Bad Honnef.

We experience the majesty of Drachenfels Castle, a ruined castle atop an enormous rock. The castle gained popularity in the romantic era after it was featured in Lord Byron's long poem, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. Subsequently, this rock and castle became an important German tourist

and Romanticist pilgrimage destination.

In the evening, we enjoy another unforgettable performance of Late Romantic works at the Beethovenhalle, back in Bonn.

Accommodation:

Sternhotel Bonn or similar

Day 5

Locations: Vienna

Overview:

Today we travel by coach to Cologne, where we meet our local guide for a tour of this extraordinary city. Sightseeing includes a tour of Cologne Cathedral, Germany's most popular tourist destination. Despite being left incomplete during the medieval period, Cologne Cathedral now stands as an architectural masterpiece that recently gained status as a World Heritage Site.

From Cologne, we fly together to Vienna, where we check into our new hotel and enjoy dinner.

Accommodation:

4 nights at Hotel am Konzerthaus or similar

Day 6

Locations: Vienna

Overview:

We enjoy a tour of Vienna with a local guide, taking in the main sights, including a visit to the Beethoven memorial.

We also visit the Central Cemetery where we can pay respects at Beethoven's grave.

In the afternoon, we visit the Beethoven House in Heiligenstadt, where, in 1802, he wrote the "Heiligenstädter Testament". This letter, wherein he expressed despair over his advancing deafness, was never sent to his brothers.

In the evening, we experience a classic ensemble concert, which features music from Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, and — of course —

Beethoven.

Accommodation:

Hotel am Konzerthaus or similar

Day 7

Locations: Vienna

Overview:

After breakfast, we head to the House of Music for a guided tour of the Vienna Staatsoper, Vienna's premier opera venue.

Accommodation:

Hotel am Konzerthaus or similar

Day 8

Locations: Vienna

Overview:

After breakfast, we have the morning free to explore Vienna at our own pace.

We then visit the Pasqualati Museum before coming together for an evening concert at Vienna Staatsoper, and a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation:

Hotel am Konzerthaus or similar

Day 9

Locations: Vienna

Overview:

After breakfast, we say our farewells and the tour draws to an end.

Inclusions / Exclusions

Tour Inclusions

- 8 nights of hotel accommodation.
- 8 breakfasts and 4 dinners.
- All excursions, sightseeing, and entrance fees as per itinerary.
- Domestic flight between Bonn and Vienna in economy class.
- Concert tickets to see performances of Beethoven works.
- Local guides, as well as the services of an Odyssey tour leader.
- Detailed preparatory material.

What's not included in our Tour

- Return international airfare and departure taxes.
- Comprehensive international travel insurance.
- Items of personal nature such as laundry and phone calls.

Level 2 - Moderate

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.