

Dresden & Saxon Switzerland by Rail

From £1,199 per person // 9 days



A relaxing holiday including the beautiful city of Dresden along with the mountainous terrain of Saxon Switzerland linked by steam ship along the river Elbe. Great for walkers and culture seekers alike. Your itinerary includes a night in Cologne en route and a stop in the medieval city of Erfurt on your way home.

The Essentials

- Travel by train via Cologne to Dresden on the River Elbe
- Enjoy time at leisure in the majestic capital of Saxony
- Continue to the stunning region of Saxon Switzerland for a 3-night stay
- Return to the UK via pretty Erfurt

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade hotels and rail journeys
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 8 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Timed tickets to the Historic Green Vaults in Dresden
- Comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Easy-to-follow travel documentation
- Despatch of tickets by email, post or collection from our London office

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Cologne

Make your way to St Pancras today to start your journey to Eastern Germany. This holiday will include connecting rail travel from your local station (as long as you can make the journey to Cologne all in one day) so just let us know where you're starting out from. Catch a Eurostar to Brussels and then connect by high-speed InterCity Express to Cologne. On arrival, check in for an overnight stay at the Mondial am Dom MGallery (or similar).



Day 2 - Cologne To Dresden

After a leisurely start today, pick up a picnic lunch to have on the train and leave Cologne, continuing eastwards on a direct service via Hannover and Leipzig to Dresden. Arrive in the early evening and check in for a 3-night stay at the NH Hotel Altstadt (or similar). Settle in at your hotel and then perhaps head out into town for some dinner in the lovingly rebuilt Old Town area.



Days 3 & 4 - Dresden

Enjoy Dresden on foot. The city is home to a wealth of culture such as the collections in the Zwinger Palace and the Old and New Green Vaults. Don't miss a walk over the Augustus Bridge to see the 'Canaletto View' back towards the city. You might also like to include a stroll around the Baroque-style Grosser Garten or an evening performance at the grand Semperoper. Included in the package is a timed ticket to the Historic Green Vaults, which is a must for anyone interested in art. On one of your free days, you can use your rail passes to travel to the historic town of Meissen by easy suburban railway. You can visit the Meissen Porcelain visitor centre daily. Alternatively, take the local train to Freital-Hainsberg and enjoy a day trip on the historic Weisseritz Railway, one of Saxony's oldest narrow gauge railways. Tickets for the historic railway are payable locally.



Day 5 - Dresden To Kurort Rathen

In spring, summer and autumn, historic steam ships make the four hour journey along the Elbe towards the Czech border (tickets for this are included). Hop off at Kurort Rathen for two nights at the base of the Bastei Rocks, in Hotel Steiger (or similar). In winter, the S Bahn trains runs along the same route and you can take a 15-minute ferry across the river to Kurort Rathen. This runs year around.



Days 6 & 7 - Saxon Switzerland

Enjoy two days at leisure in the stunning region of Saxon Switzerland. Popular attractions include the Bastei, a dramatic rock formation overlooking the Elbe River valley with a wooden bridge which has offered spectacular views over the area to visiting tourists for two centuries. You can also hop across the river on the historic ferry and take a boat or S Bahn along the river to Bad Schandau or Konigstein for more sightseeing or walks.



Day 8 - Kurort Rathen To Erfurt

Take the historic yaw rope ferry across the river to Kurort Rathen Oberrathen station and take the S Bahn to Dresden. A direct train then takes you to Erfurt, a pretty medieval town in Thuringia. Here, you have an overnight stay at the Best Western Hotel Excelsior (or similar). Erfurt is the capital of the German region of Thuringia and boasts one of the best-preserved medieval centres in the country. You might like to stop an extra night here so that you have more time to look around.



Day 9 - Erfurt To London

Leave Erfurt after breakfast this morning and make your way back to the station and catch a train to Frankfurt. There's time to have lunch in the station here before you continue your journey to Brussels. In the Belgian capital, check in for your return journey to the UK by Eurostar.

Pricing

From £1,199 per person

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.