

3-Days Dresden



Day 1 – Baroque Dresden & Old Town Highlights

- **Morning**
 - Start at the Zwinger – explore its Baroque courtyards, the Old Masters Gallery (Raphael’s Sistine Madonna), and the porcelain collection.
 - Walk over to the Dresden Semper Opera (Semperoper) – admire from outside or join a guided tour.
- **Afternoon**
 - Visit the Residenzschloss (Royal Palace) – home to the Green Vault (jewel treasures) and the Royal State Apartments of August the Strong.

- Stroll past the Fürstenzug (Procession of Princes) – the world’s largest porcelain mural made from Meissen porcelain.
- See Dresden Cathedral (Hofkirche).
- **Evening**
 - Dinner at a traditional Saxon restaurant such as “Sophienkeller”.
 - At night stroll along the Brühl’s Terrace with views of the Elbe River.

Day 2 – Elbe & New Town (Neustadt)

- **Morning**
 - Visit Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) – climb to the dome for panoramic views.
 - Visit “Festungs Xperience” – a breathtaking 360-degree projection and atmospheric audio technology unleashing the secrets of Dresden Fortifications.
 - Cross the Elbe via Augustus Bridge into Neustadt.
- **Afternoon**
 - Explore Kunsthofpassage – quirky courtyards with creative art installations (don’t miss the “singing” drainpipes).
 - Lunch in Neustadt (many bohemian cafés & beer gardens).
 - Visit Japanese Palace & Saxon Folk Art Museum or just stroll along the riverbanks.
- **Evening**
 - Relax in Neustadt’s vibrant nightlife district – bars, live music, or craft beer pubs.

Day 3 – Palaces & Gardens

- **Morning**
 - Take Excursion to Pillnitz Palace & Gardens (30 min from center by tram/bus/boat). Enjoy baroque gardens, riverside views, and the palace museums.
- **Afternoon**
 - Return to Dresden. Visit the Albertinum (modern art museum with works by Caspar David Friedrich & Klimt).
 - Walk to the Elbe embankment for picturesque views of the Old Town skyline.

- **Evening**

- Dinner cruise on the Elbe River aboard a historic paddle steamer, passing vineyards and castles.

Option to extend: Day 4 – Day Trip to Saxon Switzerland or Meissen

- **Option A: Saxon Switzerland National Park**

- Take a train to Rathen (35 min) and cross the river using the little ferry.
- Hike to the Bastei Bridge – breathtaking sandstone cliffs and views.
- Lunch at the Panorama Restaurant, which offers a great view.
- Return to Dresden in the evening.
- Alternatively: Two Dresden Sightseeing Tour Companies offer a bus transfer to Bastei Bridge and Fortress Königstein (not available Tuesdays).

- **Option B: Meissen (Wine & Porcelain)**

- Train to Meissen (30 min).
- Visit the Meissen Porcelain Factory & museum. Maybe book ahead the option of painting your own mug or vide poche as a unique souvenir.
- Explore the medieval old town of Meißen with Albrechtsburg Castle and the gothic Meissen Cathedral.
- Sample local Saxon wines and later, return to Dresden for a relaxed farewell dinner.

Tips For First-Time Visitors

- Get a Dresden Welcome Card for free transport & museum discounts.
- Dresden is very walkable – bring comfortable shoes.
- Many museums are closed on Mondays – plan accordingly.
- Try local specialties: Dresdner Stollen (Christmas bread, but available year-round in bakeries), Eierschecke (layered cake), and Saxon wine.