

After seeing Cologne, take the steamer for Coblenz, a sail of about eight hours. I do not think it profitable to make the trip longer than that at once. One can become satiated with the grandest scenery in the world so that it will seem only common-place. At Coblenz a night can be spent, the old town visited, and a trip made to Ehrenbreitstein, just across the river. The next day take the steamer to Mainz (Mayence) stopping over a boat to visit the Niederwald monument, the proudest in Germany.

From Mainz cross to Frankfurt-on-the-Main, spending two or three days. From here the route to Berlin lies through a most beautiful country, skirting the Thuringian forests passing through Eisenach, Erfurt, Weimar, and other Luther cities. A few hours should be taken at Eisenach to visit the Wartburg, and a day at Weimar, "The Athens of Germany," to visit the spots made almost sacred by Goethe, Schiller, Herder, and Wieland.

Arriving at Berlin, as some little time will be spent there, the question of hotel becomes important. I find Baedeker thoroughly reliable in his account of hotels. Select the kind you can afford to take, being careful not to take too cheap a one; that never pays. Make all arrangements explicitly before settling down and then take possession. There is plenty to see in Berlin, such as the National Art Gallery, the Thiergarten, the castles, the university, the exposition park, and many other places, for which I again refer the reader to Baedeker.

From Berlin I would go to Dresden, where a week could be profitably spent. An hour every day should be given to the all-absorbing, entranced study of Raphael's matchless Sistine Madonna. No one wants to see it once and then leave it forever; but the footsteps will lead to that room where throngs gather day by day to study this marvelous picture, while no voice above a whisper or low undertone is ever heard in that room. My experience is that two or three hours at a time are all that one can profitably spend in a picture gallery; and so on the same principle that I advised only a few hours at a time on a Rhine steamer, I advise but a few hours a day in a gallery. There is plenty to see in every town which will divert and at the same time attract.

From Dresden the trip could be extended to Nuremburg, a city of quaint architecture, having a fine old city well, and many other things interesting to Americans. From here one can go to Switzerland, or Munich, or to Paris, as inclination may suggest.