Tour: German Environment

Destination: Berlin & Cologne, Germany

Itinerary: 6 days /5 nights in destination (by air)
           8 days /5 nights in destination by coach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Evening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Travel to Berlin, Germany; hotel check-in, Visions Welcome &amp; Safety Meeting</td>
<td>Berlin City Walking Tour (if booked)</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>BMW Motorradwerk tour</td>
<td>Visit Ministry of the environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Visit Müllverbrennungsanlage Ruhleben</td>
<td>UTZ tour Adlershof</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Bus to Feldheim and visit to local wind farm</td>
<td>Bus to Cologne</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Bus to Wuppertal Institute fur Natur und Umwelt</td>
<td>Bus to Gelsenkirchen Solarstadt Guided Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Depart for the UK</td>
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As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an “example” of a schedule and that the activities included may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.
Day 1
Dinner
Travel to the capital city of Berlin, Germany. Transfer to your hotel, check-in and get settled. After our Visions Welcome & Safety Meeting, we’ll get started on our explorations.

Sample Hotel: Meininger Hotel Berlin Mitte Humboldthaus or similar
Meininger Hotels offer excellent student accommodations at great value. Students sleep in multi-bedded rooms; staff sleep in single or double occupancy, based on your quote. Breakfasts and dinners are taken at the hotel. Packed lunches are available for purchase, dependent upon your preferences.

Welcome to Germany! Herzlich Willkommen in Deutschland!

BERLIN - the German capital, is renowned for its exceptional variety of attractions, its flourishing cultural scene and a way of life that’s both fast-paced and relaxed. Nowadays, people look to Berlin for the latest trends in lifestyle, music and art and a lot of start-up companies. Inspired by this outpouring of creativity, growing numbers of artists are arriving in the city from around the world, making it one of Europe’s most exciting destinations.

After arrival and check-in, we’ll kick off our tour with an optional walking tour of the city (extra charge)

Berlin City Walking Tour - Enjoy a walking city tour of Berlin and get to know some of its famous sights such as the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Memorial-Church, Gendarmenmarkt, East-Side Gallery, the Philharmonic Hall, Tiergarten, Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, Unter den Linden, Alexanderplatz, Mauerpark, Hackesche Höfe and the Museum-Island with the Pergamon Museum. Some sights may be a long walk – if you wish we can add (at additional cost) a coach for the evening for this tour.
In the evening, we’ll have a delicious dinner at our hotel and an evening to relax.

**Day 2 – Meet the Germans**
*Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own*

After breakfast at our hotel, we’ll have an early transfer for our first STEM experience at the **BMW Motorbike plant**

**BMW Motorradwerk** – is the parent plant of the BMW Group’s motorcycle division where motorcycles have been produced since 1949. Over 1600 employees now assemble up to 700 motorcycles per day in the 220,000 square metre plant.

![BMW Motorradwerk](image)

The BMW Group’s products inspire with unmistakable design, dynamism and agility. An exciting and fascinating experience is to look behind the scenes and experience the production processes live. The factory tour program is as diverse as the interests of our visitors.

Following the workshop, your motorcoach will transfer you to the **Ministry of the Environment**.

**Ministry of the Environment** - As Germany’s main environmental protection agency, the task of the Ministry of the Environment is to ensure that citizens have a healthy environment with clean air and water, free of pollutants to the greatest extent possible. Main concerns include waste avoidance, climate protection, and pesticide approvals. Presentation at the Ministry of the environment in the Berlin Mitte. These presentations take place in the second residence of BMU, with a tour through the remarkable building after learning about the structure and functions of the ministry and their political work.

![Ministry of the Environment](image)

In the evening, dinner will be at your hotel followed by some serious fun with **3D Blacklight Mini-golf**!
Day 3 – Energy Technology in Berlin
Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

After breakfast at our hotel, we’ll have an early start today for your first STEM visit at the Müllverbrennungsanlage Ruhleben (waste incineration plant)

With a mission to keep the city of Berlin ecologically, economically and socially clean, the Müllverbrennungsanlage Ruhleben (also known locally as the BSR) takes the waste of 2 million households every single year. Students will receive detailed information on all aspects of waste management.

Next we head for the Zentrum für Umwelt-, Bio- und Energietechnologien at Adlershof.

Here students will learn how architecture can make ecology work. The building has a photovoltaic system, a rainwater utilization system and has been constructed of ecological building materials. External cladding or perforated aluminum panels can be rotated according to the position of the sun. High ceilings which can be ventilated can change the ambient temperature by up to 4C. At UTZ Adlershof you will listen to a lecture about the energy revolution and its impact on the economy and its growth. In the process you’ll learn something about future-proof energy concepts, energy efficient ways of building and living and much more. During that you will tour about the location to see examples and implementations of the concepts you hear.

Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.
**Day 4 – Let’s head to Cologne**

*Breakfast and dinner*

Today it is time to say ‘Auf Wiedersehen’ (goodbye) to Berlin as we pack up and board the coach. First stop will be Feldheim for a presentation at the wind farm.

Here, 55 wind turbines with a total installed electrical capacity of 122.6 MW are operated by Energiequelle GmbH, as is the separate power grid. As at the end of 2009, Germany had a total of 21,164 wind turbines with a total power capacity of 25,777 MW, which means that wind energy occupies a dominant position among renewable energies in the field of electricity generation. Wind energy currently accounts for a 7% share of total electricity consumption in Germany. More than 30 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions were mitigated in Germany in the year 2008 alone as a result of wind power generation. The aims of the federal government are for the share of power generation with renewable energies to increase to at least 30% by the year 2020, with further continuous increase in the years thereafter. Wind energy will play a key role in this endeavour. Feldheim has taken this all one step further – and is now energy self-sufficient as a result of the wind farm.

After the visit, continue the drive to Cologne (total journey time approx. 7 hours Berlin to Cologne) – and check into your hotel. Dinner tonight will be in a local restaurant.

Sample hotel – *Pathpoint Hostel Cologne* or similar

Located very centrally in Cologne, the Pathpoint Hostel is favoured by many of the city’s visitors. Located in a former church, rooms for students will be up to 8 beds whilst staff will sleep in twin occupancy rooms. The hostel has a large communal area with internet terminals and a quiet corner. Breakfast will be provided each day at the hostel.
Day 5 – Visit to Wuppertal and Gelsenkirchen

Breakfast and dinner

Board the coach for the trip to Wuppertal – home of the world’s only suspended railway – the famous Schwebebahn. Wuppertal is known first and foremost for its Hanging Railway. The best way to experience the hanging railway is to use it. You’ll see the beautiful sights of Wuppertal and get a whole new perspective from seeing the river or the industrial plant of Bayer from above out of the Panorama-windows of the daily used Schwebebahn. The hanging railway has a long history, as the project started at the end of the 18th century and in 1900 Kaiser Wilhelm II. went from Döppersberg to Vohwinkel with it, accompanied by his wife and entourage. The original carriage of that trip, known as the “Kaiserwagen”, was renovated and is still used for private tours. (Optional add-on – charges payable locally).

Here we will visit the Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy to learn about sustainability research. Visiting the Wuppertal Institute you will hear a speech, starting with information about their work in general, continuing with a lecture about a topic adjusted to the interests of young people, such as the recycling of mobile phones and their raw materials.

NOTE: Please note, that these lectures are always subject to change if the expert of a certain topic is not available, so the specific topic can only be clarified as soon as the exact date of travel, the groups size, age and so on are known.

This will be followed by a visit to the Station for Natur und Umwelt – the largest municipal institution for environmental education in the province of North Rhine-Westphalia. Each year more than 35000 visitors experience the plants and animals in the 7ha nature reserve. At the Station Natur und Umwelt in Wuppertal you have the possibility to participate in a practical lesson regarding the topic of environmental education. The classification of plants and animals will for example be part of it, to show the students the impact and aftermath of the human lifestyle for our environment and to furthermore attach them to the topic of environmental protection on a hands-on and emotional level. These practical lessons can be individualized, regarding the age of the students and the time of the visit, as that will give you more possibilities regarding the specific topic.

After a break for lunch (not included), we’ll continue to Gelsenkirchen to the Solarstadt.
Gelsenkirchen is home to Germany’s largest solar plant. The Förderverein "Solarstadt Gelsenkirchen e.V." was founded in 2004. Being an information and cooperation platform for all participants of "Solar City Gelsenkirchen", the association merges all activities to implement the overall concept of "Solar City Gelsenkirchen". Furthermore, it aims at raising awareness for renewable energy and climate protection and at improving international cooperation. Visiting the Solarstadt Gelsenkirchen you will hear a very interesting speech about the history and the projects put into effect at Solarstadt during the last few years. History starting with the inauguration of the world's largest roof-mounted solar power plant in the Science Park in 1996, continuing with information about the different production facilities and research institutions, ending with stories about the 3 solar settlements in Gelsenkirchen, the very first climate protection colony in North-Rhine-Westphalia and the most recent news in that regard. Following a discussion afterwards you’ll visit the parks solar power plant.

After our visit here, we’ll drive back to Cologne with dinner in a local restaurant.

**Day 6 – Time to head for home**

*Breakfast only*

After breakfast at your accommodation, its time to check out and either board your coach for the UK, or head to the airport for the return flight.

Don’t be sad because as the Germans say, “You always meet twice in life!”

Auf Wiedersehen
As an add on (additional charges would apply) why not extend your stay to give your students a day at Germany’s biggest amusement park – Phantasialand
German Environment

Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What’s Included:
- Return flights or motorcoach transfers
- 3-nights’ accommodation in Berlin/2 nights in Cologne
- Airport transfers & group transportation to activities if travelling by air
- Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on your night of arrival and ending with breakfast on your day of departure
- 24-hour emergency cover
- All inclusions as shown in the above itinerary:
  - ✓ Guided visitation of BMW Motorradwerk
  - ✓ Presentation at the Ministry of the environment
  - ✓ Visit of Müllverbrennungsanlage Ruhleben
  - ✓ Lecture and visitation of Zentrum für Umwelt-, Bio- und Energietechnologien at Adlershof
  - ✓ Guided tour of wind farm Feldheim
  - ✓ Speech at Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy
  - ✓ Educational lecture Station Natur und Umwelt
  - ✓ Guided tour of Solarstadt Gelsenkirchen
  - ✓ 3D blacklight mini-golf with 3D glasses (evening activity – glasses payable locally €1.50 per pair)
  - ✓ Optional walking tour of Berlin – extra charge
  - ✓ Optional Energy Lab at Solarstadt Gelsenkirchen – extra charge

What’s Not Included:
- Lunches
- Snacks or beverages between included meals
- 3-D glasses (€1.50 per pair)
- Fares to travel on the Wuppertal Schwebebahn
- Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
- Transfers to/from home airport if travelling by air
- Cost of visas, full or collective passports
- Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary
- Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room,
- Any gratuities – coach drivers, maid/ bellman services, Visions Ambassador, local guides

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

United Kingdom: info@visionsineducation.co.uk / 01444 810399
The Americas: info@visions-in-education.com / 417.231.4892