



Tour Information



The Art and History of Berlin and Potsdam





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

You do not need a visa for short trips to Belgium. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

German Embassy:

23 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PZ.

Tel: (020) 7824 1300. Fax: (020) 7824 1435.

Web site: <http://www.german-embassy.org.uk>

Consulate: Tel: 09065-508 922 (£1 per minute) or (020) 7824 1465/6. Fax: (0171) 824 1449.

Opening hours: 0900-1130 Monday to Friday.

Important Changes to Requirements for British Nationals Travelling to the EU

The introduction of the Entry/Exit System (EES) will gradually be introduced by 12th October 2025 and is expected to be fully implemented by 10th April 2026. EES is a new electronic system that will replace the manual stamping of passports and will be used to register non-EU nationals entering and exiting EU countries. When passing through passport control upon arrival, you will need to present your passport and also have your photograph taken and fingerprints scanned. If you are travelling via Eurostar from St Pancras or via the Port of Dover, please note that a dual British-French border control is in operation. This means your photograph and fingerprints will be collected before boarding in the UK, and you will not need to go through this process again upon arrival in the EU. **EES is free of charge, and you are not required to submit anything prior to travel.** Please note, at the time of publishing, there is no information on the start date for specific ports of entry after 12th October. **Check-in times should not be affected by these changes.**

Irish passport holders and British passport holders with EU residency are currently exempt from these requirements.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.abta.com/tips-and-advice/planning-and-booking-a-holiday/upcoming-changes-travel-europe>



Tickets

Included with your detailed itinerary is an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number. You will need to quote/show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. **Online check-in is not available for this booking.**

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 5 cm and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20 cm.

Please contact the airline for further information.

<http://www.britishairways.com>

Transfers

On arrival in Berlin, transfer by coach to Arcotel John F Berlin Hotel (approx. 30 minutes).

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



Accommodation

Arcotel John F Berlin Hotel

Four-star centrally located hotel just a five minute walk from Museum Island, and Berlin's famous Unter den Linden, perfectly located for all sites on our tour. This modern hotel offers a bar, restaurant, fitness room, sauna, courtyard, and elegant rooms with all modern facilities including TV, safe, WIFI, air-conditioning/heating, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

For more information please visit the hotel's website: <https://johnf.arcotel.com/en/>



Food

The archetypical German snack used to be cooked sausage (*wurst*) with a bread roll. It has been replaced by pizza and sandwiches, but you won't have to look far to find pretzels, sauerkraut or schnitzel of course, but there's genuine reinvention and creativity behind much of the cuisine these days.

The main meal of the day in Germany tends to be lunch with a light snack eaten at about seven in the evening. Breakfast served in homes and hotels usually consists of a boiled egg, cold cuts, cheese slices, jam, honey and a large variety of bread rolls.

The typical German snack, grilled, fried or boiled sausages (*Bratwurst*) with a crusty bread roll or potato salad, are available from snack bars (*Wurststand*), butcher shops, bakers and cafés. Bread rolls filled with sausage slices, hot meat filling (such as *Leberkäse*), pickled herring, gherkins and onion rings or cheese are also popular.

Other specialities include: *Eisbein mit sauerkraut*: a cured and boiled leg of pork accompanied by mashed potato; *Schwäbische maultaschen*: large savoury meat-stuffed ravioli from Stuttgart;

Käsespätzle: hote egg noodle tossed with cheese; *Eintopf*: a hearty warming stew made by cooking vegetables, pulses and meat in a broth.

Throughout Germany, cakes play an important role in the cuisine, and Hesse is no exception to this. *Frankfurter Kranz* (butter cake), *Baumkuchen*, *Kreppel* (donuts), *Blechkuchen*, *Wasserweck*, *Streuselkuchen* are mere examples of the unlimited variety and flavours to be found in Germany's *Bäckerei*.



Drink

The national drink is beer in its many forms. Regional flavours vary from light *pilsner*-type lagers to *Weißbier* and heavy stouts.

Schnapps is another German favourite and comes flavoured with the likes of cherries, plums, raspberries or pears.

Waiter or waitress service in restaurants is normal. Bars have table and/or counter service, although customers will often find that the drinks bought are simply marked down on a beer mat to be paid for on leaving. It is customary to tip bar and restaurant staff, with an average 5-10%, rounding up the bill. Please note that it is not typical to leave the tip on the table after paying the bill. More common is to tell the waiter the amount including tip you want to pay before paying (via cash or credit card).

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Lunch – one lunch included

Dinner – two dinners included



Destination

Germany's capital, Berlin is one of Europe's great cities yet until the 17th century was a small town of little significance. Its art and architecture range from grandiose Romanticism to post-modern with a generous dash of Art Nouveau at the turn of the last century. Join Nicholas Merchant to explore this evolution with a succession of visits to different quarters and a wealth of world class museums and galleries.

For more information about Berlin:

<http://www.visitberlin.de/en>

Details of sights included in the itinerary:

The Jewish Museum

The Jewish Museum Berlin is a prominent institution dedicated to showcasing the history, culture, and experiences of Jews in Germany and Europe, from the Middle Ages to the present day. It is one of the largest Jewish museums in Europe and a significant architectural landmark in Berlin.

The museum's main building, designed by Polish-American architect Daniel Libeskind, is renowned for its striking and unconventional architecture. Completed in 1999 and opened to the public in 2001, the building itself is a powerful narrative element, characterized by its zigzagging shape, sharp angles, and deliberately disorienting spaces. Libeskind's design, titled "Between the Lines," aims to convey the fractured and often tragic history of Jewish life in Germany, particularly the void left by the Holocaust.

Berlin's Botanical Gardens

The Berlin Botanical Garden has a rich history dating back to the 17th century. The first botanical garden in Berlin was established in 1679 near the Berlin Palace. However, due to urban expansion, a new, larger garden was planned in Dahlem at the end of the 19th century. Construction of the current garden in Dahlem began in 1897 and it officially opened in 1910. It was designed by the botanist and plant geographer Adolf Engler. During World War II, the garden suffered significant damage, but it was subsequently rebuilt and expanded.

Museum Island

Berlin's Museum Island is a magnificent work of art in its own right, an extraordinary ensemble of five

world-renowned museums on an island in the River Spree right in the heart of the city centre. The **Neues Museum** is famous for the bust of Nefertiti. The **Alte Nationalgalerie** containing paintings by Caspar David Friedrich and the Impressionists. The **Altes Museum** is devoted to Greek, Roman and Etruscan artefacts. The **Bode Museum** is dedicated to the works of Donatello, Canova and Bernini. The **Pergamon Gallery** is closed for renovation with a partial reopening expected in phases, with the first phase scheduled for spring 2027, which is intended to include the North Wing and Central Section.

The Museum Island has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its unique ensemble of buildings and cultural artefacts. The opening of the Altes Museum in 1830 made historically significant collections and art accessible to the general public for the first time. Over the next century, four other museums were added to the island, leading to its being dubbed "Museum Island" from the late 1870s. The roots of the ensemble date back to the Enlightenment and its educational ideals and the buildings reflect the evolution of modern museum design over more than a century.

Berlin Television Tower

The Berlin Television Tower, known locally as the Fernsehturm, is an iconic landmark in Berlin, Germany. Standing at 368 meters (1,207 feet), it is the tallest structure in Germany and the second-tallest structure in the European Union.

The tower was constructed between 1965 and 1969 by the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) government. Its primary purpose was to serve as a symbol of socialist power and technological advancement, visible from almost every part of the divided city. The design team included architects Hermann Henselmann, Jörg Streitparth, and Fritz Dieter, among others.

A key feature of the Berlin Television Tower is its observation deck and revolving restaurant, located at a height of 203 meters (666 feet) and 207 meters (679 feet) respectively. The restaurant completes a full rotation approximately every 30 minutes, offering panoramic views of the city. The tower receives over a million visitors annually, making it one of Berlin's most popular attractions.

The Fernsehturm is not only a tourist attraction but also a functional broadcasting tower, transmitting numerous radio and television programs. Its distinctive spherical observation deck, often

referred to as the "Tele-Globe," is a recognizable part of Berlin's skyline.

Charlottenburg Palace

The Charlottenburg Palace (Schloss Charlottenburg) is the largest and most magnificent palace in Berlin, Germany. Built in the late 17th century, it served as the summer residence for Prussian royalty and is a stunning example of Baroque and Rococo architecture.

Commissioned by Sophie Charlotte, the wife of Elector Friedrich III (later King Friedrich I of Prussia), in 1695 and expanded over the years, especially under Frederick the Great, it was severely damaged in WWII but meticulously restored.

Architectural highlights include:

Old Palace (Altes Schloss): The original Baroque structure with lavish interiors.

New Wing (Neuer Flügel): Added by Frederick the Great in 1740, showcasing Rococo splendor (e.g., the Golden Gallery).

Porcelain Cabinet: A room adorned with priceless Chinese and Japanese porcelain.

Mausoleum: Houses the tombs of Queen Louise and other royals.

Belvedere Tea House & Pavilion: A charming Rococo-style garden pavilion.

Royal Porcelain Factory

The Royal Porcelain Factory is one of the most prestigious porcelain manufacturers in Germany, renowned for its high-quality craftsmanship and artistic designs. It was founded in 1763 by Frederick the Great in Berlin, Prussia, after acquiring a struggling private porcelain factory and became a state-owned enterprise, producing luxury tableware, figurines, and decorative items for European nobility. It has survived wars and economic challenges, including WWII, when production was temporarily halted. The factory is known for its elegant neoclassical and rococo designs in fine kaolin clay for durable, translucent porcelain and features a cobalt blue sceptre mark (KPM) as a guarantee of authenticity.

Some of the most famous collections and styles include the Kurland Service – Commissioned for the Duke of Courland.

Rocaille – Ornate 18th-century Baroque designs.

Urbino – Modern, minimalist tableware.

Figurines – Including mythological and pastoral scenes.

Today, the factory still operates in Berlin, combining traditional techniques with contemporary art and collaborates with designers like Enzo

Mari and Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky. The products remain popular among collectors and luxury markets.

Sans Souci Palace

Sans Souci is a famous rococo palace located in Potsdam, near Berlin, Germany. It was the summer residence of Frederick the Great (Frederick II of Prussia) and is one of the most iconic landmarks of Prussian architecture. It was built between 1745–1747 under the direction of Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990.

Some of the many highlights of Sans Souci Palace are Frederick the Great's Retreat which was designed as a private escape where the king could relax, the terraced Vineyard Gardens, the Marble Hall, the Voltaire Room dedicated to the French philosopher, who was a guest of Frederick and the Library which features a rare collection of books.

Your lecturer

Nicholas Merchant is a freelance lecturer on the Decorative and Fine Arts. He lectures extensively throughout the United Kingdom and Europe as one of the accredited lecturers of the Arts Society formerly National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts. In addition he has lectured in the United States, South Africa and recently by zoom to New Zealand.

His wide knowledge of the Decorative Arts has been acquired through initially working for some of the leading auction houses including Sotheby's and Phillip's (now Bonhams) where he qualified as a Valuer through the Chartered Institute of Valuers (now Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors). Utilising his knowledge and love of his subject he subsequently was involved in the book-trade, specialising in reference books on the decorative and fine arts. His own business in this area introduced him to many of the leading antique dealers both in the United Kingdom and overseas. This business, likewise, took him not just to the principal London exhibitions but to Paris, Frankfurt and New York.

In 2004 Nicholas joined the panel of, the then, National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts and has since acquired a reputation as a lecturer whose convivial style of addressing his audience is guaranteed to entertain and inform. Nicholas not only lectures for the Arts Society but also for some of the principal cruise lines, such as Noble-

Caledonia and Hebridean Princess, travelling notably to Germany, Italy and the Adriatic. The Baltic he has visited on a number of occasions, even conducting his own tour to St Petersburg. On each occasion Nicholas prepares power-point presentations relevant to the destinations. He also leads several tours for Travel Editions each year.

He was, until recently, the West Yorkshire representative for the Art Fund helping to raise money to keep art treasures in Britain. He now lectures extensively on-line not only in the UK but to New Zealand and South Africa. He is also the Northern Representative of the Friends of the British Antique Dealers Association.

Nicholas' hobbies include book-collecting, travel, the history of country houses.

Enjoy three lectures during your trip:

'Berlin: A General Overview'

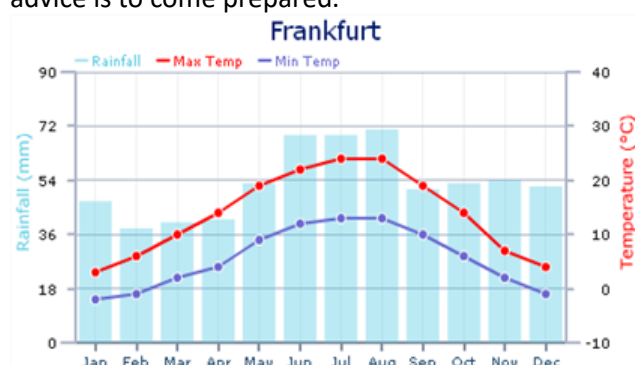
'Alchemy and the European Quest for Porcelain'

'Potsdam, a Prussian Versailles'



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Germany at this time of year is variable and can be cold/wet. Our best advice is to come prepared.



Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – German.

Religion – Protestant (34%), Roman Catholic (34%).

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Ascension day; Whit Monday; Corpus Christi; German Unity day (03 Oct); All

Saints' day (01 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec); St Stephens day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug. We advise you take a continental adaptor with you.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. Please note that ordering tap water in a restaurant or bar is considered rude – bottled still or sparkling water is common.

Shops and Museums – Shops can regulate their own opening hours within these times 0600-2000 Monday to Friday; 0600-1600 Saturday. Smaller shops may close 1200-1430 for lunch. Please note than some museums close on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a

tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed, or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Germany.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside the above hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7441 343850

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Embassy

Wilhelmstrasse 70/71

10117 Berlin

Germany

Email: ukingermany@fco.gov.uk

Tel: +49 (0) 30204570

Opening hours

Embassy: Mon-Fri 0900-1730

Consulate: Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri 0930-1200 (by appointment)

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