



PRESS RELEASE

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Potsdam: Berlin's blue and green neighbour

Go active in and around Potsdam's nature

Potsdam is full of colour. Blue waters meet a green city full of parks and gardens, new and old. As you move beyond the city centre towards the rural suburbs of Fahrland, Satzkorn, Marquardt, Uetz-Paaren and Golm, the greenery gradually transforms into fields, forests, orchards and villages. The waterways of the Havel twist and turn their way through this beautiful landscape with its unspoilt nature and opulent culture. Just next door is the pulsing metropolis of Berlin, only 20 minutes by car, bus or train.

In Potsdam, you can easily escape the hustle and bustle and relax or be active in nature. The best way to switch down a gear is on a bicycle – and there are hundreds of kilometres of great cycle ways to take you into Potsdam's green and blue heart. Thanks to the huge variety of activities on offer and the wealth of natural and cultural treasures, Potsdam gives its guests the chance to create trips or holidays with an enticing blend of action, culture and relaxation. Visitors can seamlessly switch between a cycle tour and a leisurely stroll, between a canoe trip and a guided tour through the historic centre or the UNESCO World Heritage sites. In the evening, it is time to relax and enjoy some of the delicious regional cuisine in our many great restaurants.

A paradise for watersports enthusiasts

The Potsdam area is one of the most beautiful watersports regions in Germany, a true magnet for leisure boating. Its 20 lakes and rivers are a paradise for sailors, canoeists, motor- and houseboat enthusiasts. Independent travellers can get around under their own steam, as Potsdam's numerous marinas, boat and canoe hire companies allow them to enjoy the waters by the hour or day. And you don't even need a boat license! The latest aquatic craze is stand-up-paddling. True surfing enthusiasts are not put off by the lack of waves, but stand on their boards and glide across the Havel water using paddle power.

It is all about the journey – guided walks and tours

Potsdam is ideal for exploration on foot, armed only with a map or a smartphone. There are attractions on every corner. Even sites outside the city centre are easy to reach by bus or tram. Orientation is easy using specially designed tourist transport maps, where named lines connect the most important sites. To get a real insight into the city and its sites, visitors can join one of the many informative themed walks and city tours. The guided walks through Potsdam's old town, from the "Historic Centre" to Museum Barberini, from the Parliament to the Alte Fahrt or "Potsdam's backyards", are just some of the many exciting tours that offer an authentic Potsdam experience packed with visual highlights and anecdotes.



By “pedales“ through the green city

Nobody needs a car to enjoy a day in Potsdam! Everything is just a short, stress-free bike ride away. All historical parks and gardens have clearly signposted routes for cyclists, and visitors can easily view the baroque Prussian palaces and fascinating formal gardens from the seat of a bicycle. To cool down on one of Brandenburg's many hot summer days, the next bathing lake is never far. Cycling can also be perfectly combined with a kayak tour. “Pedales” cycle and kayak hire sends Potsdam's visitors straight from the train station through Prussia's royal summer residence, past Sanssouci through the Neuer Garten with the Cecilienhof palace to the Glienicke Bridge and the baroque city centre. From there, weary cyclists can give their tired legs a rest, as they carry on in their kayaks by paddle power. Meanwhile bike and equipment are safely parked in the central railway station's 24-hour bike park. Dinner in one of the many restaurants and cafes is the perfect way to round off an active day.

In Potsdam, exercise and culture make for an inspiring fusion. A highlight of this year's Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci (June 9-25 2017) is the “Bicycle concert”, themed “Seven Lakes – seven churches”. On June 11 2017, this award-winning festival tradition will take participants on two family friendly cycle tours that feature concerts, guided tours, readings, installations and site visits around the city.

Tree top thrills and city treasure hunt by GPS

With a length of 1.7 kilometres and 170 different elements, the family friendly Adventure Park Potsdam is one of Germany's biggest tree top adventure courses. 12 exciting rope courses, between one to twelve metres above the ground, offer a challenge to children, amateurs and professionals alike. Highlight of the Park is the 200-metre-long zip wire.

What are those Potsdam tourists up to in the middle of the city, armed with GPS, a road atlas and a city guide? Exploring of course! Adventure Park Potsdam offers a specially designed city treasure hunt “Alter Fritz”, allowing small groups of intrepid explorers to experience Potsdam in a unique way. Fun, suspense and sightseeing the modern way!

Equally trendy is stand-up-paddling. Standing up on their boards, sporting enthusiasts can take in Potsdam's highlights from the water. This isn't always a dry pursuit, but experienced stand-up-paddlers have even been spotted taking photographs!

By bicycle around the Schwielowsee and a brief visit to Potsdam's neighbour

For those who like to combine paddling with pedalling, the F1 cycle route is a picturesque 34 km trip around the Havel lakes of Templiner See and Schwielowsee. The route stays close to the water for most of its length, winding through leafy woodlands and picturesque villages. There is plenty of opportunity to take in both culture and nature along the way. For a taste of the region, why not take a cycle tour to the nearby lake-side town of Werder to sample its fruit wine and fresh Havel fish? Each spring, visitors flock to Werder to enjoy the delightful pink and



white blossom in the town's many orchards. Its week-long tree blossom festival, the largest country fair in Brandenburg, attracts several hundred thousand visitors each year.

Surrounded by culture in the Havelland

When people talk about Potsdam's surroundings, they really mean the big horizons of the Havel landscape. These were first described in prose and made famous over 150 years ago by the German novelist and poet Theodor Fontane, who dedicated an entire volume of his "Walks through the Mark Brandenburg" to the Havelland and its extensive river valleys.

The village of Caputh at the Schwielowsee, one of Potsdam's close neighbours, is the location of Albert Einstein's summer house. Here he found peace and recuperation in nature. It is now a museum and accessible to the public. During the summer months, the nearby Caputh palace and park serve as the backdrop to numerous cultural events, always against the blue canvas of its waterside location. In August and September, Caputh opens its doors to art lovers, as artist's studios and private homes invite visitors to their annual art show. Only 4 kilometres away is the Havelland's artists' colony of Ferch. It is easy to feel inspired here, particularly during a visit to the Japanese Bonsai garden. In Geltow, the old weaver's workshop invites visitors to look behind the scenes, as its owner provides delightful insights into the ancient craft of handloom weaving. Not far away in Petzow, at the Schwielowsee, we find one of the most beautiful rural ensembles of palace, park and church, dating back to the first half of the 19th century. All of these rural gems are easily accessible from the F1 cycle route.

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