



PRESS RELEASE

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Potsdam: Berlin's green and blue neighbour

Lots to do on land and water in Brandenburg's World Heritage city

A landscape of rivers and lakes and within it: a green island. Having long been home to the cultural treasures of Prussian royalty, Potsdam is now itself a work of art. Large parts of the city have been declared UNESCO World Heritage sites, attracting tourists from Germany and around the world. Dukes and kings may be long gone, but Potsdam's lakes and parks remain as popular as ever, bustling with watersports enthusiasts and culture lovers. By bike, by boat or on foot, visitors can enjoy Potsdam's parks, palaces and stunning views. From the architectural gems of the Belvedere atop the Pfingstberg and the dome of St. Nicholas' church you can even see all the way to Potsdam's near neighbour, Berlin.

Potsdam – a fusion of art, culture and history

Potsdam welcomes its visitors with a trendy mix of historical sites, arts and crafts, distinctive architectural quarters, memorials, museums and open-air concerts, all in front of the panoramic back-drop of the historic city itself. The cityscape is dominated by 17 palaces and great houses, nestled in the woody landscape of the Havel river. Potsdam's historic centre and its famous palaces and gardens merited its designation as UNESCO World Heritage site in 1990. At its heart is the picturesque Old Market Square (*Alter Markt*). The charming baroque square boasts not only St. Nicholas' church with its colonnaded roof and panoramic views, but also Potsdam's reconstructed city palace, completed in 2014 as home of Brandenburg's regional parliament (*Landtag*). The city's cultural heart beats at the Schiffbauergasse. This cultural district by the shores of the Tiefer See buzzes with creativity and is the centre of Potsdam's liberal arts and theatre scene.

Potsdam's new gem: Museum Barberini

The new Museum Barberini in Potsdam's historic centre opened its doors at the start of 2017. In 2200 square metres of exhibition space, in 17 halls spread over three levels, it showcases Hasso Plattner's collection of artwork from the former German Democratic Republic and from after 1989. In addition, its programme of special exhibitions will feature both old masters and modern art on loan from international collections starting with its two inaugural exhibitions "Impressionism. The Art of Landscape" showing works from Claude Monet to Gustave



Caillebotte, and “Modern Art Classics: Liebermann, Munch, Nolde, Kandinsky“. The Palais Barberini is located close to the Stadtschloss (city palace) and in its original form dates to 1771/72. It has recently been reconstructed as part of the regeneration of Potsdam’s historic centre.

Potsdam – water meets world heritage

In the capital of Brandenburg, visitors can experience a fascinating blend of water, culture and city break, and be active on, in and by the water among UNESCO world heritage. Independent travellers can get around under their own steam, as Potsdam’s numerous marinas, boat and canoe hire companies allow them to enjoy one of Europe’s most beautiful watersports regions by the hour or day. Its 20 lakes and rivers, like the Havel, Nuthe, Templiner See, Tiefer See and Schwielowsee, are a paradise for sailors, canoeists, motor- and houseboat enthusiasts and offer a completely different way of visiting Potsdam’s opulent palaces and green parks. For more watery fun, why not try a hop-on-hop-off-tour on Potsdam’s watertaxi routes, some stand-up-paddling, a splash about at a local lakeside beach or a peaceful glass of wine with your delicious Havel-caught fish on one of the many waterside terrace restaurants?

Exhibition: “Pückler. Babelsberg. The Park-Enthusiast Prince and the Empress“

For a truly regal view, visitors can enjoy one of the most beautiful garden creations of the 19th century German nobleman and landscape gardener Prince Pückler-Muskau: Babelsberg Park. Architecture, horticulture and landscaping interweave artfully here. As is typical for Pückler and his contemporary Lenné, each twist and turn of the park’s winding paths reveals a new vista of the surrounding river landscape and the Glienecke Bridge. Follow these paths through the flower garden to the gothic fountain, the rose garden and the moss garden. The eccentric prince’s bag of garden design tricks, as well as his relationship with his Empress, who referred to him as the „magician“, are the focus of the new exhibition “Pückler. Babelsberg. The Park-Enthusiast Prince and the Empress“. For the duration of this special exhibition, from April 29 to October 15 2017, and for the first time in many years, Babelsberg Palace will open its doors to reveal its still unrenovated interiors, offering visitors privileged views of the lovingly restored park just as Prince Pückler intended.

“Lights, camera, action!” – On location in Potsdam

Potsdam has been the cradle of German cinema since the first movies were produced in Babelsberg 100 years ago. Steeped in tradition, the Babelsberg Film Studios have now become a modern media and high-tech centre. Visitors can explore Potsdam’s cinematic history and see many original movie locations on foot, from the seat of a bicycle or by hopping



onto a video bus. With a wealth of events, exhibitions and guided tours, Potsdam gives its visitors a chance to immerse themselves in the world of the moving image, both past and present. Filmpark Babelsberg offers an exciting billing. Visitors can visit the park's 4D action cinema, its stunt shows or even make their own movie! The Film museum Potsdam explores 100 years of movie history in Babelsberg.

Go active in and around Potsdam's nature

Nobody needs a car to enjoy a day in Potsdam! Everything is just a short, stress-free bike ride away. It is not all about Potsdam's exciting attractions, it's also about the joy of getting there. Particularly appealing is the self-guided cycle tour "Old Fritz". Half a day's cycling takes in most of the sites of Kaiser Frederick's Potsdam. Outings, sightseeing tours or visits to exhibitions can all be comfortably experienced on foot, by bike, bus or watertaxi. Visitors can switch seamlessly 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. What counts is variety and the pleasure of exercising out in nature. In that respect, Potsdam and its surroundings have much to offer. One of the most beautiful cycle tours is the 32 km long "F1" which circles the Schwielowsee along unspoilt lake shores, through leafy woodlands and the picturesque villages of Caputh, Ferch and Geltow.

Enjoy a quirky shopping experience on Potsdam's boulevards, historic streets and open-air markets

With its galleries, independent bars and cafes and stylish boutiques, Potsdam is a magnet for adventurous shoppers. Wherever you find yourself in Potsdam's historic centre, you can combine shopping with a visit to a gallery or craft shop. Take a stroll down Brandenburger Straße between the Peter and Paul church and Potsdam's own Brandenburg Gate, visit the Dutch Quarter with its mews arcades or explore the quirky shops among Babelsberg's historic weavers' cottages. In the open-air markets around Nauener Tor, Bassinplatz and Weberplatz, you can buy locally grown fresh produce: fruit and vegetables from local fields and orchards, fresh fish from the Havel, cheese from the Uckermark, or the famous Teltow turnips and Beelitz asparagus. During the month of December, there are traditional Christmas markets in five historic sites: the crown estate of Bornstedt, the historic royal coach house (Kutschstall) at the Neuer Markt, Babelsberg's Weberplatz, in the Dutch quarter and in the historic city centre.



Scientific Potsdam – a hot house for innovation

More than 40 scientific institutes, including the Hasso-Platter-Institute, Potsdam's renowned Institute for Climate Impact Research in the Albert Einstein Science Park and its 3 universities, set the benchmark for Brandenburg and the whole of Germany. Potsdam is a booming hub for science and impresses through its close links between research and teaching. The WIS Science Floor at the Bildungsforum, the "most intelligent house in town" and ProWissen Potsdam e.V., offer up-to-date information and an exciting programme of exhibitions, presentations and events exploring science in Potsdam.

A look ahead to 2018: Potsdam – 1000 years and a quarter of a century

In 2018 Potsdam celebrates its 1025th birthday– not a particularly significant number, but nevertheless a very special year. Next year will be dedicated to the question of how Potsdam looked and felt 25 years ago, during the time of reunification. Special events and exhibitions will give opportunities for reflection, for anecdotes and stories of this time.

Details of guided tours, walks and sightseeing tours can be found on the tourism website of the city of Potsdam.

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