



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Potsdam – water meets world heritage**

#### **Potsdam offers a unique blend of water, culture and city break**

A landscape of rivers and lakes and within it: a green island. Wherever you find yourself in the city, you are never far from a view of the blue Havel. There is lots to do on land and water in Berlin's green and blue neighbour. Where the kings of Prussia once resided, visitors can now experience a fascinating blend of water, culture and city break, and be active on, in and by the water.

#### **Experience Potsdam's cultural landscape from the water**

Its 20 lakes and rivers are a paradise for sailors, canoeists, motor- and houseboat enthusiasts. The serpentine lakes of Krampnitzsee, Lehnitzsee and Fahrländersee wind their way through Potsdam's north and offer a completely different way of visiting Potsdam's opulent palaces and green parks. 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. And you don't even need a boat license!

Havel skippers can enjoy a canvas of blues and greens, as they sail past countless attractions and impressive buildings. The route takes them past the Landtag, Brandenburg's parliament building whose reconstruction behind the former city palace façade was completed in 2014. Cruising under the Humboldt bridge brings them to the Tiefer See, where the Hans Otto Theatre shows its bowl-shaped red roof. Passing one of the many the riverside beaches or "Strandbads" by the Babelsberg Park and Palace, they reach the famous green steel construction of the Glienicke Bridge. This is better known as the "Bridge of Spies", an infamous cold war border crossing between East and West, and location of the 2015 Oscar-winning Spielberg movie of the same name. Just behind it gleam Schloss Glienicke and Villa Schöningen.

#### **Magical water features and the "Black Sea" at Babelsberg Palace**

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. Following extensive restoration, Babelsberg Park can finally be enjoyed just as Prince Pückler intended almost 200 years ago. Architecture, horticulture and landscaping interweave artfully here. Along with the lovingly restored palace terraces and blooming pleasure grounds, a walk to



the “Black Sea“ with its dark, mirror-like surface or the “Wilhelm-waterfall“ flowing down its man-made cascade are the highlights of the visit. 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 park from within.

### **Rafting around the island**

Those who dare to have a true holiday adventure can take their family on a rafting tour around Potsdam’s green island. Intrepid explorers have access to 45 km of Havel-side nature and world heritage treasures. Among the wealth of possible destinations are the picturesque village of Caputh with a visit to Albert Einstein’s summer house, the historic centre of Werder by the Havel and Queen Luise’s summer palace in Paretz. Motorised rafts can be hired from Raft Hire Diki Tours or at Huckleberry’s Raft Station, centrally located in the Schiffbauergasse.

Just adjacent to the Schiffbauergasse, centre of Potsdam’s lively art and culture scene, is the Marina at Tiefer See and the “Bootshaus” restaurant. Potsdamers and visitors can watch the boats go by, as they enjoy the delicious food and harbour-side atmosphere. Another essential address for boating enthusiasts is the Yachthafen Potsdam at the Templiner See by the Zeppelinstraße, which offers moorings, charter boats, trailer entry and a yacht crane.

### **Full steam ahead on the old Gustav**

Those who don’t want to take the helm themselves don’t need to miss out. Potsdam’s fleet of passenger ships, the Weisse Flotte (White Fleet), has an extensive programme of river cruises. For a boat trip with a difference, why not try the grandfather of cruise ships, the historic steam boat Gustav built in 1908? The starting point for themed cruises, such as the brunch, moonlight or murder mystery cruises, is the harbour at the Lange Brücke in the city centre. On April 23 2017, Potsdamers and visitors alike can enjoy the harbour party here and watch the parade of the entire White Fleet.

For five weekends a year, the palaces and parks on the shores of the Havel light up the night with magical illuminations. On those very special nights, the White Fleet’s “Nocturnal palace impressions” tour offers you the opportunity to experience the lavish display of lights, classical music and baroque fireworks from the water, while you enjoy a special 3-course “palace” menu.



## **Explore the city by watertaxi**

Taking a ride on one of Potsdam's watertaxis makes for an entertaining site-hopping trip. Gliding quietly between their 13 stops, the iconic black and yellow boats take their passengers to cultural and touristic hotspots in Potsdam and its surroundings. Among these are Heilandskirche (the Church of our saviour) in Sacrow, the Glienicke Bridge, Babelsberg Palace and the Cecilienhof palace, where Stalin and Churchill met in 1945 to shape the new Europe. For a different kind of liquid refreshment, alight at the Forsthaus (Forester's house) in Templin, where two innovative brewers serve the region's best known organic beer. There is no limit to what you can do on your hop-on-hop-off tour!

## **Potsdam goes crazy for the blue stuff**

It is not surprising that all this water inspires so much watery fun! Things get seriously wet during the city's canal sprint, which attracts canoeists from all over Germany. Few can hope to remain dry at Potsdam's annual water games, where crews of canoes, kayaks and dragon boats fight it out using their paddles. 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. For traditionalists, there is always the good old pedalo!

## **Lake-view restaurants and waterside stays**

Right by the shore of Templiner See and at the site of Potsdam's aerodrome is the futuristic building of the Kongress Hotel Potsdam, inspired by the zeppelin airships that were once built here. Guests can relax over a cocktail or chilled drink and take in the stunning lake view. For the best view, climb up on the roof terrace of the airship hotel!

In the Meierei at the Neuer Garten park, guests can enjoy a home-brewed beer with their view of the Jungferensee. The micro-brewery in this historic dairy has become a true magnet for guests who love the famous German beergarden atmosphere. Along with the award-winning beer, the Meierei serves rustic regional fayre.

But in Potsdam, outstanding regional cooking does not confine itself to the lake shore. The Theaterschiff, Potsdam's very own theatre ship, moored permanently at the Schiffbauergasse, offers delicious food on deck and theatre performances below deck. The city's white fleet of river cruise boats, operated by Potsdam's Schifffahrt, runs a programme of culinary themed tours, such as the brunch-cruise, the murder mystery or the Seven Lakes dinner. No longer a secret is the sunny beergarden of the Bürgershof in Klein Glienicke, overlooking the water and not far from Babelsberg Park. Here you can chill out on over 4000 square metres of lawn, park and lakeside grounds and sit in your deckchair with a perfect view of the UNESCO world heritage sites. Parents and their children can enjoy the extensive playground.



Those longing for even deeper relaxation are well served by the Inselhotel on the island of Hermannswerder. This peaceful retreat has a unique floating lake sauna, as well as its own bathing pier and mooring places for boats. Take a break from a hard day's sight-sailing in the hotel's Aquamarin-Spa and wellness area. Let it all float away in the unique Nightingale soundscape... Guests of the resort Schwielowsee in Petzow, a part of Werder (Havel), may believe they have entered paradise. Here you do not simply stay, you reside.

Or why not simply enjoy a glass of wine on "Anna Amalia's" lake terrace at the Pirschheide? The restaurant is part of the Royal Campsite Sanssouci. This multi-award-winning and top-rated campsite is located on the waterside and still only a short distance from the historic city centre.

### **Beaches and lounges**

Students, young Potsdamers and tourists alike are drawn to one of the many lake and riverside beaches scattered all over the Potsdam area. The so-called "Strandbad" tradition may be at least 100 years old but has lost none of its attraction. On one of Brandenburg's many hot summer days, visitors can enjoy the sandy beach at the Stadtbad Park Babelsberg or a chilled drink at the beachside Strandbar Potsdam. The Fabrik Garten in the Schiffbauergasse cultural quarter attracts with its beach volleyball pitch, communal BBQ facilities and intimate Havel-view. With the sun out, splashing in the water or relaxing in a deckchair, the summer holiday vibe is unmistakable. The Lounge-Floss is your ultimate chill-out raft on Potsdam's waters. Nightclub, party raft and cool lido, this heated and covered floating lounge offers year-round fun whatever the weather. The lake-side bathing beach at Caputh with its cocktail bar at the end of a pier has an almost Caribbean flair. So why travel far when Lake Schwielowsee is so close?

### **Dip in your toes with Joop and co.**

The many bathing lakes are refreshingly cool even in hot summer temperatures and are never further than a walk or bike ride from the city. Only a few metres from the centre is the Heiliger See, where you can sometimes spot one of the many German celebrities who live nearby, such as internationally renowned Potsdamer and fashion designer Wolfgang Joop. The public bathing site at the Neuer Garten offers plenty of green space for relaxation.

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 woodlands and granting beautiful views along the way.



### **Follow the yellow wave symbol to world class service**

Those out and about on the waters of Potsdam, Brandenburg and Berlin won't fail to spot the yellow wave symbol. This friendly symbol indicates "You are welcome – please moor here!" This initiative by marinas, public and guest moorings, shore side restaurants, cafes and bars is intended to make boating trips as pleasant and convenient as possible. You can even tie up your boat and go shopping for provisions, as one of the local supermarkets boasts its own mooring. A water touring map with useful tips and recommendations can be obtained free of charge from local tourist information centres or ordered directly from [www.potsdamtourismus.de](http://www.potsdamtourismus.de).

### **Further event highlights in 2017:**

#### **“Bicycle concert” of the Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci**

Culture enthusiasts pedal to their concert during the annual “Bicycle concert” of the Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci. “Seven Lakes, seven churches, plenty of music and along the water all the way!” is the theme of this year's event. 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. Tours start at 10 am at the Brandenburger Tor/Luisenplatz.

#### **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”.

#### **Nocturnal Palace Impressions – a romantic Havel spectacular**

For five weekends in 2017 guests may board one of the ships of the White Fleet to be transported back to the time of Frederick the Great. The convoy of ships will glide into the sunset along the shores of the Havel, where the lavishly illuminated palaces and parks light up



the night. The evening culminates in a brass concert in front of a torch-lit Heilandskirche, while baroque fireworks from the Glienecke Bridge transform the Havel into a sea of lights.

For further details on concerts, festivals, exhibitions, performances and open air events, please see the extensive calendar of events on: [www.potsdam-tourism.com](http://www.potsdam-tourism.com). Here you also find contact details for all organisers, operators and tourist advisors.

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