

POTSDAM TOUR



8 to 9 hours



Private driver, car
& expert guide



Venture with your guide from your hotel and pass through the heart of West Berlin, see the ruined remains of the once magnificent Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and how it stands, a testament to the ruins of old surrounded by the modernity of today. Pass under the tree lined boulevard of Kurfürstendamm and into the Grunewald, the mansion colony of Berlin. Transcend from the urban into nature and pass into the once hunting forest of Electors and Kings before emerging at the Wannsee, the idyllic lake where the fate of millions was settled in 1942. Leave Berlin by the Glienicker Brücke the infamous "Bridge of Spies," and enter Potsdam.

Stop at the Potsdam Alter markt and gaze at the beauty of the Nikolaikirche, and wonder at the newly rebuilt Stadtschloss, learn of how Potsdam is rising from the ashes of the second world war and the communism that followed and is reconstructing its, once thought lost, grandeur. Enter the charming neighborhood of the Dutch quarter before heading to the resplendent summer palace of Frederick the Great, Sanssouci.

Enter Sanssouci as Frederick would have done over two hundred years ago and tour one of the most important examples of rococo architecture, marveling at the portrait of the Great King by Anton Graf that once hung above the desk of Adolf Hitler. Leaving the palace, explore the vine laden terraces of Frederick's summer retreat and enter the separate picture gallery with its collection of Caravaggio, Rubens and other masterpieces of Italian, Dutch and Flemish masters.



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Take a break and relax at one of Potsdam's restaurants before continuing on. With 15 palaces on offer there is more to see in the afternoon. Perhaps visit the last entirely baroque palace of Europe and symbol of ostentatiousness, the Neues Palais. Built by Frederick the Great, after his triumph in the Seven Years War, to establish his Prussian kingdom as a major player in the new status-quo of European politics, the Neues Palais would go on to become the palace where the last Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II resided and signed the fateful declaration that would plunge Europe into war and spell the downfall of the Hohenzollern dynasty.

Another alternative would be to visit the Cecilienhof Palace, the last palace constructed in Prussia, built for Crown Prince Wilhelm and his wife Cecilie, that became infamous as the location of the Potsdam conference, where the big three of Stalin, Truman and Churchill sat down to decide the fate of Germany and Europe in the new post world war nuclear world.

Track 17

Before leaving Berlin to Potsdam, guests visit one of the most moving memorials to the holocaust in Berlin located in the suburban railway station of Grunewald. This memorial is known as track 17 or 'gleis 17' in German. From 'track 17' hundreds of freight trains packed with deportees left for the concentration camps spread around Eastern Europe

Potsdam

Potsdam is to Berlin what Versailles is to Paris. For centuries the summer residence of the Kings of Prussia, Potsdam is an elegant residential town with a beautiful Baroque centre, more than a dozen palaces surrounded by landscaped parks filled with pavilions, churches, temples, pagodas, grottos and a wonderful array of architectural follies. Since 1990 part of the assigned UNESCO world heritage.

Visit "Sanssouci" palace, King Frederic the Great's summer residence and one of the finest rococo palaces in Europe and the "Cecilienhof" palace, site of the Potsdam Conference of 1945 where Stalin, Truman and Churchill were discussing Europe's and Germany's future.





Lunch is recommended at Krongut Bornstedt / Restaurant Juliette / Wannseeterrassen.

Drive through the charming 17th century Dutch and 19th century Russian quarters.

House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial

En route back to Berlin, visit the Wannsee House of Conference. The Wannsee Conference was a meeting of senior officials of the Nazi German regime, held in this Berlin suburb on January 20, 1942. The purpose of the conference was to inform administrative leaders of Departments responsible for various policies relating to Jews that Reinhard Heydrich had been appointed as the chief executor of the „Final solution to the Jewish question“. The Wannsee Memorial presents information about the conference at its historic site and the genocide of the European Jews.

