

BERLIN

HISTORY, ART & MUSIC

OVERVIEW

Berlin is a unique, intriguing city with an infamous past and a vibrant present. Divided for more than a generation, the city's reunification sparked a modern renaissance that created one of Europe's most interesting capital cities, with a thriving cultural scene home to internationally renowned museums of antiquities and fine arts.

This 12-day residential style tour delves into Berlin's history, from its time as seat of power for Prussian kings to its current role as capital of the economic powerhouse of Europe. Led by cultural historian and Berlin resident Thomas Abbott, we'll also explore the city's wealth of ground-breaking art and distinctive architecture across in-depth walking tours and guided visits, complemented by immersive background talks.

For the tour's duration, we'll stay in well-appointed one-bedroom apartments in the hip Hackescher Markt neighbourhood, within easy reach of great restaurants, shops and iconic spots. Our time in Berlin is rounded out with a day trip to nearby Potsdam, Frederick's second capital, performances in two of the city's premier venues, and an exploration of the Berliner culinary scene on an evening food tour.



TOUR LEADER

Thomas Abbott is a specialist in architectural history from the Baroque to the 20th century, with a wide knowledge of the arts. Thomas has lived in Berlin since 1988.

TOUR DATES

October 14-25, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$8,940 per person, twin share
\$2,150 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

Berlin (11 nights)

INCLUSIONS

11 nights' accommodation in a centrally located 4-star hotel. All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners. Best available tickets to **2** performances. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Start & Finish

The tour starts at 4.30pm on Monday 14 October, at the Adina Apartment Hotel, Hackescher Markt. The tour ends after breakfast on Friday 25 October, at Adina Apartment Hotel, Hackescher Markt.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Monday 14 October

Arrival

The tour starts in the late afternoon. We'll meet in the foyer for an orientation walk to become acquainted with the shops, cafes and bars of our lively district. We will also explore some of the area's iconic street art. In the evening, we have a welcome dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Berlin (D)

Tuesday 15 October

Berlin's Monuments

Berlin is today one of Europe's most intriguing cities, evolving from a city divided between East and West to a unified melting pot of art, food, nightlife and politics. After an introductory talk on the early history of Berlin, we visit the iconic Reichstag, the seat of German parliament and a key building in Berlin's story since its opening in 1894. We walk up Sir Norman Foster's spectacular glass dome that has topped the building since 1999, learning about the building, its surrounds and the cityscape as we ascend. We then make our way to one of Berlin's most notable landmarks, and the architectural symbol of Prussia's power in the 18th and 19th centuries, the Brandenburg Gate, followed by a stroll along the Friedrichstraße to Gendarmenmarkt, arguably the city's most beautiful square. After a break for lunch, we continue along Berlin's main avenue, Unter den Linden, to see the major monuments and museums that line this grand boulevard. Returning to the hotel, the evening is at leisure. Overnight Berlin (B)

Wednesday 16 October

Museum Island

Friedrich Wilhelm IV described his vision for Berlin's Museum Island as a cultural acropolis, a sacred sanctuary for the arts and sciences that would cement the Prussian capital as the Athens of the north. Today a UNESCO World Heritage site, Museum Island's ensemble of venues represents the pinnacle of Germany's museum collection, spanning 6,000 years of art and history. We begin today with a guided tour of the highlights of the Neues Museum (New Museum), home to the world-famous bust of Nefertiti. Following a break for lunch in the new James Simon Gallery, we continue with a tour of the impressive Near Eastern collection in the Pergamon Museum, whose highlights include the extraordinary Ishtar Gate from Babylon, the Roman Market Gate of Miletus from the early 2nd century A.D, and the filigree Mshatta Façade from a Jordanian desert castle. The late

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Berlin's Complex History

Explore the city's infamous past and vibrant present with walking tours and site visits across East and West Berlin, once divided for more than a generation and now a thriving cultural capital.

Masterpieces in Berlin

See why the city in the years since the wall came down has become Europe's contemporary cultural capital, with its vast range of museums and galleries housing the old masters, important Modernist works and contemporary art.

Berlin's Museum Island

Spend two days admiring the remarkable and vast collections at Museum Island, a unique ensemble of five museums in the centre of Berlin on the River Spree, now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Potsdam's Palaces

Enjoy a full day in the charming, baroque Potsdam, visiting Frederick the Great's Sanssouci Park, the former residence of the Prussian royals, and Cecilienhof Palace, set in the beautiful park of Neuer Garten.

Music in Berlin

Enjoy a performance at the oldest opera house in Berlin, the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, and a concert at the Philharmonie Berlin, home to the world-famous Berliner Philharmoniker.



Reichstag dome



Nefertiti Bust



Charlottenburg Palace

afternoon is free to continuing exploring or return to our nearby hotel. Overnight Berlin (B)

Thursday 17 October

Humboldt Forum & Berlinische Galerie

This morning we visit the newest cultural institution in Berlin – the Humboldt Forum. Part of the Berlin State Museums, it is situated in Schlossplatz which has seen more social, architectural, political and cultural changes over the last 800 years than almost any other site in Berlin. Originally a Dominican monastery, then Hohenzollern palace, a parade ground, and more recently Palace of the Republic during the Soviet era, the reconstruction of the baroque Berlin Palace now houses the Ethnological Collections and Museum of Asian Art as well a vast array of exhibitions highlighting the diverse history and nature of the site. After a break for lunch we then take the subway to the one of a kind Berlinische Galerie, located in a former glass warehouse. Founded in 1975 as an association for art lovers, this unique, Berlin-focussed, multi-disciplinary collection brings together fine art, photography and architecture. After touring the collection, we return to the hotel with time to freshen before enjoying an evening performance at the opulent Staatsoper (subject to availability). Overnight Berlin (B)

Performance I

Venue: Staatsoper Berlin

Program: To be advised

Friday 18 October

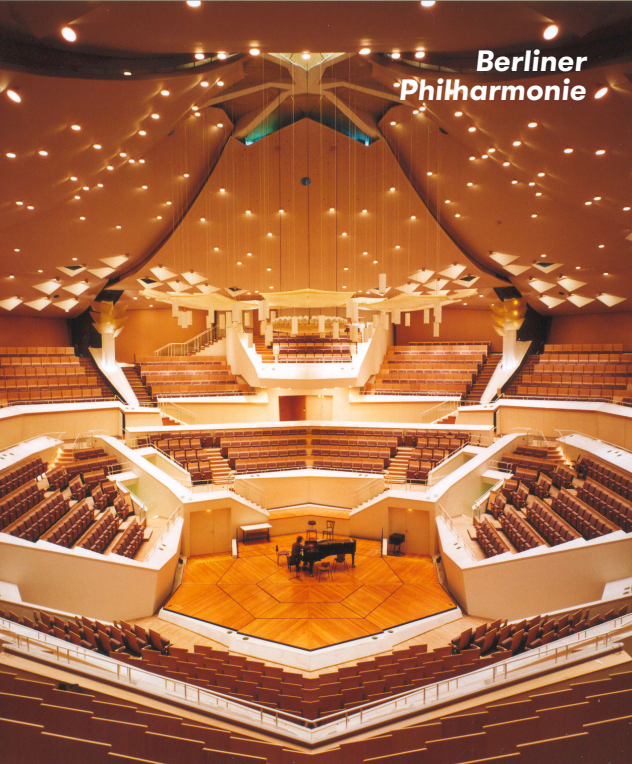
Ku'damm & Charlottenburg Palace

We begin today with a walking tour of the Ku'damm district, which had, in the 1920s, been the centre of Berliner nightlife, and later became the heart of West Berlin. Our walking tour of the district ends with a visit to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial church, The Bikini House where architecture meets history and Studio Atelier of Jeanne Mammen, one of the best known painters and graphic artists in Berlin, with her paintings of the 1920's. After a break for lunch, we then travel to nearby Charlottenburg. This rococo palace - begun by Friedrich I of Prussia and completed by his grandson, Friedrich the Great – was inspired by Versailles and is a testament to the ambitions of the Hohenzollern dynasty to rival the older royal families of Europe. We also visit the nearby Käthe Kollwitz Museum that owns one of the largest collections of works by the German artist, who lived and worked in Berlin's Prenzlauer Berg for over 50 years. This evening we enjoy a taste of German cuisine at Julchen Hoppe, an Old Berlin restaurant in the Nikolaiviertel. Overnight Berlin (B, D)

Saturday 19 October

Kulturforum

Following a morning lecture on Weimar Art and the Bauhaus School, we travel to the Kulturforum – a collection of cultural buildings built up in the 1950s and 1960s at the edge of West Berlin, after most of the once unified city's cultural assets had been lost behind the Berlin Wall. The area is characterized by its innovative modernist architecture with the most famous being the recently restored Neue Nationalgalerie, designed by



**Berliner
Philharmonie**

Mies van der Rohe. After visiting the collection of German Art we will visit the Bauhaus section at the Decorative Arts Museum. Following time for lunch in Potsdamer Platz, the afternoon is at leisure before tonight's concert at the spectacular Berliner Philharmonie, home to the acclaimed Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (subject to availability). Overnight Berlin (B)

Performance II

Venue: Berliner Philharmonie

Program: To be advised

Sunday 20 October

At leisure on Museum Island

Today is free for you to continue exploring the collections of Museum Island, only a short walk from our hotel. Your included museum pass will grant you entry across the across the entire complex, including the Altes Museum (Old Museum), a masterpiece of classicist architecture with a wealth of Greek, Etruscan, and Roman antiquities; the magnificent Bode Museum, with sculptures from the Renaissance to the Baroque; and the Corinthian temple-shaped Alte Nationalgalerie (Old National Gallery), whose highlights include the recently restored paintings by Caspar David Friedrich. Overnight Berlin (B)



Bode Museum

Monday 21 October

Berlin in the 1930s & 40s

The rise and fall of the Third Reich left an indelible mark on Berlin and Berliners, felt even today. While much of the Berlin of this period was destroyed in the Allied air raids of 1944 and 1945, its traces continue to have a presence and a role in delineating historical memory. Today, after a morning lecture, we explore the Berlin of this period, beginning with a historical and architectural walking tour of the Wilhelmstrasse area, ending with a visit to the Topography of Terror. This museum and documentation centre constructed on the location of the former headquarters of the SS, SD and Gestapo, preserves the material remains of the site, and charts the different forms of oppression practiced by the Nazi party. This afternoon we will visit the Jewish Museum, housed in the famous building designed by Daniel Libeskind. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Berlin (B)

Tuesday 22 October

Potsdam and Sanssouci

Today we take a step back in time to Potsdam, the residence of the kings of Prussia and the Kaisers. The town takes its current form from Friedrich the Great, who as the new King of Prussia, applied Enlightenment principles of order, harmony and man's relationship to nature to shape a new capital befitting the newest king in the age of reason. Our tour begins at his summer residence, the UNESCO World-Heritage-listed Palace of Sanssouci. After exploring this masterpiece ensemble of architecture, sculptures and garden art, we enjoy lunch together in Potsdam's Old Town. In the afternoon we visit Cecilienhof Palace, where at the Potsdam Conference the allied leaders divided up Europe and set the borders of what would become the Cold War shortly afterwards. Upon return to Berlin, the evening is at leisure. Overnight Berlin (B, L)



**Sanssouci
Palace**

HOTEL

Berlin Hackescher Markt Adina Apartment Hotel

(11 nights)

For the duration of this tour, we stay in well-appointed one-bedroom apartments in Hackescher Markt. The hotel includes daily breakfast, along with access to the gym, sauna and whirlpool. Since unification, Hackescher Markt has been a lively inner-city district with many small bars, restaurants, shops and galleries. The district offers the convenience of inner-city life, including a twice-weekly market, and has excellent public transport connections to the rest of Berlin.

www.adinahotels.com

WEATHER

October is a pleasant time to travel in Germany, with autumn temperatures ranging on average from the low 20s, dropping to 10°-12°C at night. However, you should pack for a few days which are cooler than this, as well as a few warmer ones. Rainfall is evenly spread across the year, and it is reasonable to expect rain on at least a few days.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade Two

This tour is designed for people who lead active lives and includes almost daily walking tours. You should be able to:

- comfortably participate in up to five hours of physical activity per day, including walking at an easy to regular pace, with only short breaks
- keep up with the group at all times
- negotiate stairs and bridges
- stand for one to two hours in galleries and museums at a time



Wednesday 23 October Cold War Berlin

Berlin's division after WWII made it a symbol of the Cold War, and more recently a representation of a divided world that is the focus of several miniseries and docudramas in English and German. After a morning lecture on the period, we explore the divided city in detail. We begin at the Berlin Wall Memorial, located on Bernauer Strasse, where it extends along 1.4kms of the former border strip. The only section of the Berlin Wall to be preserved in its full depth, the Memorial allows visitors to see the various elements as it looked at the end of the 1980s. We then take a walking tour of the Alexanderplatz district. The centre of former East Berlin, the district has retained some of its socialist-era buildings, and recent developments highlight some of the complexities in the relationship between historical memory and urban development. After a break for lunch, we embark on a private guided tour of the former Tempelhof Airport, the lifeline of West Berliners during the Berlin Airlift of 1948/49. The main terminal building dates from the height of Nazi power during the late 1930s. We finish the day exploring Berlin's thriving culinary scene as a local expert foodie takes us to the vibrant neighbourhoods of Kreuzberg and Neukölln, renowned as the 'heart & soul' of the city's nightlife. Overnight Berlin (B, D)

Thursday 24 October Contemporary Berlin

The fall of the Berlin Wall is one of the most significant, and well-remembered, political events of the past 50 years. The dismantling of the wall, however, is no less remarkable than the speed of Germany's revitalisation post-unification and the phenomenal rise of Berlin as the culturally cool, cosmopolitan heart of a new Europe. Today we explore the new Berlin, commencing with Sammlung Boros, an extraordinary exhibition space in a converted WWII air raid bunker. The private Boros Collection features contemporary art from 1990 until the present. Making our way to the former Jewish Quarter of Berlin, there is free time for lunch in one of the area's trendy cafes before our visit to the KW Institute for Contemporary Art – the gallery that has been driving the Berlin Biennale. In the afternoon we take a guided walk through the surrounding neighbourhood to seek out the turbulent history of the Jewish people in Berlin. Returning to our hotel, we farewell Berlin tonight at one of the excellent restaurants in Hackescher Markt. Overnight Berlin (B, D)

Friday 25 October Departure

The tour ends after breakfast this morning. (B)



ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Jamal Fairbrother** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email: jamal@academytravel.com.au