SPECIALIST
JOURNEYS



Berlin at New Year
Prussian palaces and world-class museums

Few cities in the world carry the weight of history quite like Berlin. Scarred and rebuilt, divided and reunited, repeatedly remade yet unmistakably itself, the German capital is a place where the past is never truly buried. It offers such a concentrated survey of how power, ideology and aesthetics have intersected across two centuries.

Berlin welcomes the turn of the year with characteristic exuberance, and to celebrate it here, in a city that has survived so much and emerged, battered but vital, is to feel its particular resonance all the more keenly.

Key highlights

- Discover royal Prussia at its finest with visits to Sanssouci Palace, the New Palace and the magnificent Schloss Charlottenburg
- Experience world-class art across millennia, from ancient treasures on Museum Island to masterpieces by the great European painters at the Gemäldegalerie
- Gain deeper cultural insight through encounters with Berlin's modern history and artists

SPECIALIST JOURNEYS

Day One: UK - Berlin
Arrive into Berlin and meet your expert Guide Lecturer and fellow travellers at your hotel.

Meals: Dinner

Day Two: Potsdam
Today we travel to **Potsdam**, the royal retreat of the Prussian court. Here we visit the **Sanssouci Palace**, Frederick the Great's summer residence. In the afternoon, we visit the **New Palace**, a contrasting statement of Hohenzollern imperial ambition

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Three: Museum Island & Bode Museum
We spend our morning at **Museum Island**, a site progressively developed over a century into a complex of five extraordinary institutions. Our morning is devoted to three of them. We begin at the **Altes Museum** to view its important collection of Greek and Roman antiquities before moving next to the **Neues Museum**. Our morning concludes with the **Pergamon Panorama** and after lunch, we cross to the northern tip of the island and the **Bode Museum**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Four: Schloss Charlottenburg & Käthe Kollwitz Museum
This morning, we visit **Schloss Charlottenburg**, the largest and most splendid of Berlin's royal palaces, and the finest surviving example of Baroque and Rococo court architecture in the city. In the afternoon, we turn from royal magnificence to a very different kind of artistic encounter at the **Käthe Kollwitz Museum**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Five: Berlin
We start at the **Gendarmenmarkt**, Berlin's most beautiful square, then head along Friedrichstrasse to the **Brandenburg Gate**. Nearby is Wilhelmstrasse, once the hub of Nazi power. Next, we visit Potsdamer Platz and **Checkpoint Charlie**, the iconic Cold War crossing point. In the afternoon, we explore the **Reichstag**, historic seat of Germany's parliament.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Six: Berlin
Our final full day in Berlin is devoted to one of the great art collections of the world. The **Kulturforum** was conceived in the 1960s as West Berlin's cultural counterpart to the inaccessible Museum Island in the East. At its heart is the **Gemäldegalerie**, whose collection of European paintings from the 13th to the 18th century ranks among the finest anywhere on the Continent.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Seven: Berlin - UK
After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London or continue your trip at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Activity level - **Moderate** ●●○

Your Expert Guide Lecturer

Tom Abbott



Thomas Abbott, originally from Minnesota in the United States of America has happily resided in Berlin for over thirty years. While in Minnesota, Carleton College graduated Tom with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in psychology and minoring in the history of art and history. Tom furthered his studies at the Louvre School of the History of Art in Paris and completed his graduate studies in art and architectural history in Berlin. He maintains professional relationships with the Foundation of Prussian Palaces and Gardens, The Foundation of Prussian Cultural Property (Museum Island Berlin) and the Attingham Summer School. In addition to his academic accomplishments, Tom has led many highly successful cultural and art history tours throughout Berlin, Germany, and Europe. A special occasion for all involved are Tom's inspiring tours to Berlin as well as Munich, Dresden, Vienna, and Venice. Maintaining an encyclopaedic knowledge of European art in all forms from the medieval to the contemporary with a special interest in both the German baroque and the German and Austrian modern. Tom is also a specialist in The Bauhaus and the art and architecture of the Weimar (1920's) Germany as well as the ideas and architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright in the USA. Tom has lectured for and guided many Art Societies from the United Kingdom and Australia and many alumni associations from the USA. With the leading cultural tour operators of the United Kingdom Tom has led highly successful tours and programs ranging from the Hanseatic Heritage of Northern Germany to the Art Nouveau of Nancy, France to of course all aspects of Berlin.

Your tour includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities
- Return flights from London
- Private group transfers to/from the airport & hotel
- Local travel aboard a private air-conditioned coach
- 6 nights in the Classik Hotel Alexander Plaza
- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner