

From  
**£4,548** GBP

Single Room

£5,349 GBP

Twin Room

£4,548 GBP

Prices valid until  
30th December 2023**12 days**

Duration

**Germany**

Destination

**Level 2 - Moderate**

Activity

## Berlin walking tour

May 01 2023 to May 12 2023

### Berlin Walking Tour: 12 days of exploring the city

During this Berlin Walking Tour we'll explore the rich history of the city on foot. At every turn are traces of a past plagued by conflict, and stories of powerful resistance. The Berlin Wall stood in place from 1961 to 1989, separating Germany , East from West. But after its collapse, the city transformed, and an influx of creativity and vibrancy is palpable



Berlin walking tour

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27-Jan-2023

wherever you go.

This 12 day walking tour explores the history of the Berlin using the Wall as a reference point. As we track its path, we stop in at checkpoints and memorial sites throughout this Berlin tour: for famous crossings, and for tragic events. We will learn about the Cold War and the events of World War II, but we will also experience Berlin's beauty and culture in the present day.

Exploring the city of Berlin on foot gives us a local's perspective, meaning we see what tourists miss. Our Berlin city tour uses the "wall" as a way to experience the diversity and spectacular sights of modern Berlin. Berlin is home to great rivers including the Spree river and majestic forests, and stunning architecture from the Rococo to the Modern and contemporary. We even get to experience some 18th century history, wandering amongst the summer palaces of Prussian Kings.

Each day we start the day's walk at a different location in Berlin, from which we explore on foot. The days themes as you walk range from looking at the Berlin city as the German capital or alternative Berlin as we explore street art and museumisland with your tour guide Your days are accompanied by a local tour guide with expertise on the history of Berlin, guiding you to some of the spectacular sights that contribute to Berlin's history .

Finally, at the end of the day, we return to the comfort of our apartments, living as a Berliner would.

## Highlights of our Berlin Walking Tour

Highlights of this tour include learning about Berlin's history. We do this through visits to museums and memorials. And we see a section of the Wall that has been transformed into the world's longest open-air gallery, covered in street art that expresses the experiences of Berliners during the long period in which their city was divided into West

and East Berlin.

We tap into Berlin's art scene with visits to a contemporary art gallery housed in a former train station. And we enjoy the city's culture in its more traditional forms, with performances of ballet or opera, and the world-renowned Berliner Philharmonica.

For this 12 day walking tour the group is based in serviced apartments in central Berlin. Each day we have a local historian join us to guide us for the day walks which typically last for 3 to 5 hours plus a break for lunch. This small group tour uses the Berlin public transport network to move around the city to start each day.

Our tour of Berlin also gives you plenty of time to explore for yourself. First time visitors can take in the classic sights of Berlin: the tree-lined Unter den Linden, leading up to the Brandenburg Gate, and the Reichstag Building, the 1933 burning of which was used by Hitler to justify the establishment of a dictatorship. More experienced tourists can get off the beaten path on a self-guided tour in an ever-moving and always rewarding city.

We also take a guided walking tour of Potsdam, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, on a day trip, where we see the grand 19th century Villa Schoninghen and [Sanssouci Palace](#), the Rococo summer palace of Frederick the Great.

We created a list of [recommended books about Berlin](#). for those visiting Berlin! You can also explore our country profile about [Germany](#) where you'll find all other Odyssey tours departing to the country.

For more details, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, [please call](#) or [send an email](#). Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

## Enjoy Odyssey's long stay tours to explore city programs

Since 2012 Odyssey has offered long stay tours based in some of the greatest cities of the world. It began with exploring French history by rail inspired by Ina Caro's book.

Since that first long stay city tour Odyssey had added the following great cities to the list:

- [Rome](#)
- [Barcelona](#)
- [Paris](#)
- [Florence](#)
- [Discovering Berlin](#)
- [History of France by rail](#)
- [Contemporary Japan](#)
- [Lisbon & Barcelona](#)

These programs are centred in cities where you have indicated that you would like to return to explore further. They are places of cultural and historic importance where in a different life or different time you would have enjoyed a period of living in these cities. So whilst you may not be able to live here today, you can spend 3 weeks living as a local exploring with a local guide all that each city has to offer. A chance to return to explore some of the greatest and truly fascinating cities of the world.

## About seniors walking tours from Odyssey Traveller

Odyssey Traveller offers a range of [walking tours](#) each year paced for senior travellers. The collection of walks are for active mature and

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senior travellers, particularly those who seek out walking tours that are typically off the main circuit. We also published articles to help senior travellers prepare for such tours:

- articles on [Selecting walking shoes for women](#)
- article on [footwear and walking shoes](#)
- article on [what to pack when travelling](#).
- article on [maintaining muscle fitness in senior and mature age travellers](#)
- article on [selecting socks for walking](#)
- article on [preparing for a walking holiday](#)
- article on [Pilgrim walks in Europe](#)

## Articles about Berlin, Germany and published by Odyssey Traveller

The following list of articles published by odyssey Traveller for mature aged and senior travellers to maximise their knowledge and enjoyment of Berlin and Germany when visiting;

- [A history of Berlin for Tourists.](#)
- [A guide to Germany](#)
- [Fifteen must see sights in Berlin](#)
- [A list of ten books for people thinking of visiting Berlin](#)
- [Ten of the Best art galleries in Europe to visit.](#)
- [The Bauhaus School](#)

## External articles to assist you on your visit to Berlin

- [Understanding Germany](#)

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- UNESCO World heritage sites; Potsdam & Berlin, places to visit.
- Berlin divided
- Secret Tunnel in Berlin Is an Echo From the Cold War

## Tour Notes

- Small group walking tour Limited to 12 people

## Highlights

1. Marvel at the creativity of the open-air East—side gallery
2. Learn about Berlin's history with visits to museums and monuments
3. Experience Sanssouci, the summer Palace of Prussian Kings
4. Escape from the city's pace at Eiskeller in the stunning Spandauer Forest
5. Enjoy a performance by world-renowned Berliner Philharmonica

## Itinerary

### Day 1

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

We meet at the hotel for tour orientation, followed by a three –course welcome dinner.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

## Day 2

**Locations:** Lubars to Schonhulz

### Overview:

Today, we take an introductory, 9km walk along the Berlin Wall. We begin at Lubars and head to Schonhulz. Along the way, we visit the Checkpoint Qualitz, which is the memorial tablet for the border opening in 1989. We see Blankenfelde Krankensammellager – the collection camp for sick workers. We visit the Soviet War Museum, which houses the biggest Soviet cemetery in Berlin. It is also the biggest Russian cemetery in Europe, outside of Russia. Finally, we pay our respects at the Memorial Cross for the Berlin Wall victims, who died at this site during the Cold War.

In the evening, we attend a performance of the ballet or opera, pending programming.

### Accommodation:

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

## Day 3

**Locations:** Wollankstrasse to Nordbahnhof

### Overview:

Wollankstrasse metro station was located in East Berlin, but only people from West Berlin were permitted to use it. Today, we visit the station as we continue our walking tour from Wollankstrasse to Nordbahnhof. We walk along the stunning “Cherry tree alley”, which features trees donated to Berlin in 1990 for the reunification effort. If we are lucky, we might catch them in full bloom! We check out the Bornholmer Straße border crossing, which was the first to be opened during the fall of the Berlin Wall on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 1989.

Next, we visit the Berliner Mauerpark (The Wall Park) in Berlin’s Prenzlauer Berg district. It is located on part of the former heavily-guarded “death strip” or “no man’s land” between the two parallel concrete walls that formed the Berlin Wall. A 300-metre-long section of the inner wall has been preserved as a monument. Today, it’s an example of very attractive graffiti! The wall was unusually high at this point because of the many visitors to the neighbouring stadium, home

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of the East Berlin football team, Dynamo Berlin.

After the collapse of the wall in 1989, the former “death strip” was turned into a large, green open space. Today it is one of the most popular parks in Berlin, featuring a regular flea market, live music and various public events.

Later, we visit Berlin documentation centre. Its exhibition, covering 420 square meters, is dedicated to the history of Berlin's division. Then, we explore the Chapel of reconciliation. Located on the grounds of the former border strip, it was erected at the very site where the Reconciliation Church once stood. After the Wall was built in 1961, the Protestant Church of the Reconciliation Parish was situated within the death strip, and so, was inaccessible. It became a disturbing symbol of the division of Germany and Europe. In 1985, the East German government gave the order for the church to be blown up. After German reunification, the church property was returned to the Reconciliation Parish with the condition that it be used for religious purposes.

Dinner will be provided tonight.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

**Day 4**

**Locations:** Mitte to Lichtenberg

**Overview:**

Subject to availability, this morning we will visit Gesundbrunnen station, a former WWII bunker. We will visit the former Stasi prison known since 1994 as the Hohenschönhausen Memorial. It is situated in the former Ministry for State Security's “Untersuchungshaftanstalt”, which used to be the main remand prison for citizens under investigation. The reality of life under the Stasi – GDR's secret police – was revealed to the world with the 2007 Oscar winning film “The Lives of Others”.

The remainder of your day is free to explore the city at your leisure.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar



## Day 5

**Locations:** Nordbahnhof to Potsdamer Platz

**Overview:**

The day will commence with an exhibition on border and ghost stations at Nordbahnhof. On our 7km walk from Nordbahnhof to Potsdamer Platz, we will pass along Gartenstrasse and Liesenstrasse to view the border crossings Chausseestrasse and Invaliden. Both were sites of dramatic escape attempts, one in 1963 and the other, not long before the collapse of the Wall in 1989. Then, we will have the opportunity to visit the powerful Holocaust memorial, located in Berlin's government district.

This afternoon, we change pace by checking out Berlin's vibrant art scene. An influx of artists post-reunification has meant a twenty-year creativity boom in the capital. This creativity influences everything, from the city's architecture to its vibrant nightlife. We will check out the collection of Berlin entrepreneur Dr Erick Marx, whose pieces – from Rauschenberg to Warhol – are housed in the Hamburger Bahnhof. A former train station that was built in 1847, the National Gallery also has a permanent collection here of modern and contemporary art.

Dinner is provided tonight.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

## Day 6

**Locations:** Potsdamer Platz to Warschauer Street

**Overview:**

Today, we transfer by bus to Potsdamer Platz. Our walking tour takes us to the Topography of Terror Memorial. A large documentation centre in the heart of Berlin, its focus is the state apparatus responsible for the regime of terror during the Nazi period in Germany and occupied territories. Here, at the former Prinz-Albrecht-Straße 8 was the head office of the Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo / Secret Police). The original building was destroyed during the Second World War. Its location on the US-Soviet border meant the site was disused during the Cold War, frequently a dumping ground for rubble. Today, the longest

surviving piece of the Berlin Wall is directly next to the site.

Afterwards, we continue our exploration of Berlin's checkpoints, including Heinrich-Heine-Straße, and the famous Checkpoint Charlie. A white line on the street Friedrichstraße, drawn in the night between September 6 and 7, 1961, marked the border between East and West Berlin. Checkpoint Charlie was the best-known crossing point. We view the famous East-Side Gallery. What was once a section of the Berlin Wall is now the world's longest open-air gallery, stretching 1.3km, and featuring over one hundred different paintings.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

**Day 7**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today, the day is free for you to explore Berlin at leisure. In the evening, we will attend a performance by the Berliner Philharmonica, which is consistently ranked as one of the best orchestras in the world.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

**Day 8**

**Locations:** Warschauer Street to Schoneweide

**Overview:**

Today, our walk takes us from Warschauer Street to Schoneweide. En route, we'll see the Molecule Men, an aluminium sculpture made by American artist Jonathan Borofsky. Located right in the river, it shows three bodies embracing. It is a symbol of the joining of the three districts of Kreuzberg, Friedrichshain and Treptow across the former watery border. We see the double-deck Oberbaum Bridge crossing Berlin's River Spree, considered one of the city's landmarks. We visit the Soviet War Memorial in Berlin's Treptower Park. It was built to the design of the Soviet architect Yakov Belopolsky to commemorate 7,000 of the 80,000 Soviet soldiers who fell in the Battle of Berlin in April–May

1945. It opened four years after World War II on May 8, 1949. The Memorial served as the central war memorial of East Germany.

We visit the border crossing Sonnenallee: Compared to other checkpoints, the border crossing at Sonnenallee attracted little attention during the years of division – until the film “Sonnenallee,” made after the fall of the Wall. Along the canal, we also visit the memorial stone of Chris Gueffroy, the last person to die trying to escape across the Berlin Wall. We will walk to Hufeisenseidlung before transferring back to our hotel.

Dinner will be provided this evening.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

**Day 9**

**Locations:** Schöneeweide to Schönefeld

**Overview:**

Today, we visit a Documentation Centre to learn about the history of Nazi forced labour in Berlin-Schöneeweide. We head to Hinterland wall – a 28-meter-high artificial hill created by the rubble of buildings destroyed in the war. It was used as a garbage dump until 1958. Remains of the Hinterland wall (inner wall) can still be seen at their original location.

We will learn about the Berlin spy tunnel near Rudower Hohe. And we visit the checkpoint at Waltersdorf Chaussee/Rudow Chaussee, which, in addition to transporting people to and from the Berlin-Schönefeld airport, was also opened for passage of West Berliners into the German Democratic Republic.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

## Day 10

**Locations:** Gropiusstadt to Potsdam

### Overview:

Today, we take a day excursion along the Southern route of the Berlin Wall. Along the way, we'll see the Modernist high-rise architecture of Gropiusstadt, a district in Neukölln.

We visit Checkpoint Bravo ("Checkpoint B"), and then Klein Glienicke – a village in the border district. During the period of the partition, Klein-Glienicke was, in effect, an exclave, a "special security zone" of the GDR. Since 1990, parts of the village have been protected as UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Next, we will see the Glienicke Bridge across Germany's Havel River. During the Cold War, as this portion of the Havel River formed the border between West Berlin and East Germany, the bridge was used several times for the exchange of captured spies and thus became known as the Bridge of Spies. Events here inspired the 2015 Hollywood thriller of the same name.

We will also visit nearby Villa Schöningh. On behalf of the Prussian King Frederick William IV, in 1843, Ludwig Persius designed this house in the Italian Villa style for Kurd von Schöningh, the chamberlain of Prince Carl of Prussia. Now a museum, it houses permanent, and visiting, collections of art and artefacts. A segment of the Berlin Wall in front of the Villa is part of the Berlin-Potsdam's UNESCO World Heritage site. A classic English park is a short walk away, as is Pfaueninsel (Peacock Island). This was the summer residence of the Prussian Kings. We will catch a short ferry across to marvel at its preserved grandeur, juxtaposed with the island's rustic working farm.

Finally, while in Potsdam, we will visit Sanssouci, summer palace of the King of Prussia, Frederick the Great. Thought to rival Versailles, this Rococo-style palace is smaller than its French Baroque counterpart, but just as impressive.

Dinner is provided tonight.

### Accommodation:

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

## Day 11

**Locations:** Wannsee to Eiskellar

**Overview:**

Today, we venture along the Western route of the Berlin Wall. We transfer, by bus, to Wannsee, before taking a ferry to Kladow. On arrival, we walk to Sacrow to visit the Church of the Redeemer (Heilandskirche). Located at the border, the barrier was built straight across the lot of the church property and the bell tower was used as part of the protective wall of concrete.

Next, we walk to Staaken, stopping off to view a former border train station. We then transfer to Spandauer Forst for a walk to Eiskeller. The beautiful Eiskeller is named for “ice cellar”; it’s considered to be Berlin’s coldest spot during winter. During the division, it was a West Berlin exclave, surrounded on all sides by the Wall. Today, Spandauer Forst is a peaceful escape from the bustle of the city, home to rare plants and animals including kingfishers, hawks and beavers.

Tonight, we have dinner in a local restaurant for our final night of the tour.

**Accommodation:**

Schoenhouse Apartments or similar

## Day 12

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Our tour concludes after breakfast.

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What’s included in our Tour**

- 11 nights of hotel accommodation.
- 11 breakfasts and 6 dinners.
- Applicable entry fees and services of local guides.

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- Service charges and gratuities.
- Touring by comfortable and modern coach or public transport.
- Transport and field trips as indicated.
- Services of a Tour Leader.
- Detailed tour information booklet.

#### **What's not included in our Tour**

- Return international airfares and departure taxes.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.

#### **Level 2 - Moderate**

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.