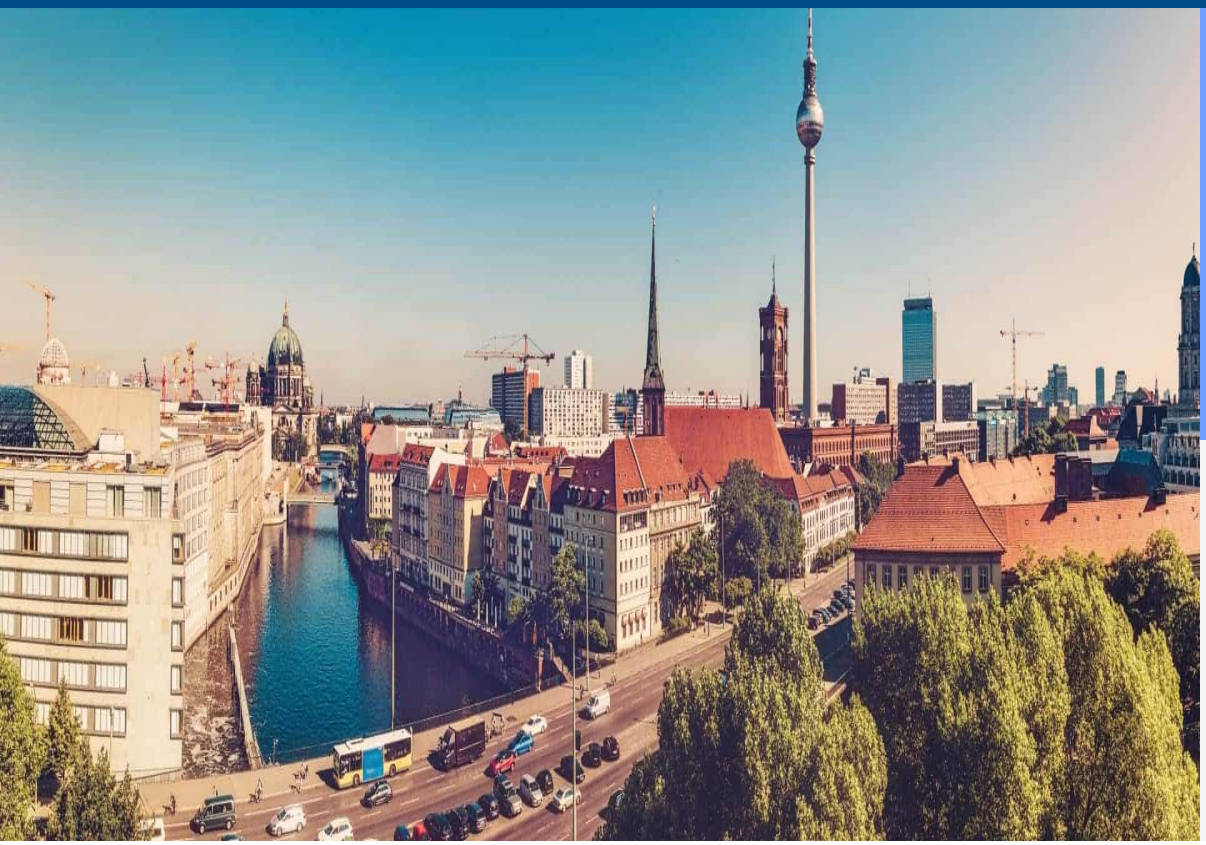
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20 days
Duration

Germany
Destination

Level 2 - Moderate
Activity

# Discovering Berlin Small Group Tour | 20 days living in Berlin

Apr 01 2024 to Apr 20 2024




## Berlin Small Group Tour for Seniors

Discover Germany's capital city Berlin, with our Berlin small group tour for seniors. Spend 20 days living in this city. Berlin is one of the world's most beloved cities. It is steeped in complex history, but committed to keeping memories present so that the past can be learned from. When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, an influx of creativity spread throughout the city, and this vibrancy is still palpable today. Parts of the wall were

preserved for historic value, others converted into an open-air gallery. But on this small group tour, you will not only have the opportunity to learn about the city's history, you will also experience life as a Berliner.

You will stay in comfortable, self-contained apartments, used as a base from which we explore a different theme or location each day. This includes Berlin's surrounds, like Potsdam and Leipzig.

We explore museums from ancient history to twentieth century architecture and design. We visit historic sites like Wannsee House, where the Nazis and SS held their fateful 1942 meeting, and decided upon the so called "final solution". Few cities in the world offer such an intricate balance between history and the exciting contemporary. And few are as devoted to moving forward, but always with respect to the past. This small group tour gives you opportunities to learn, experience, see, smell, taste, cosmopolitan Berlin.








## Highlights of this Berling small group tour

On this small group tour of Berlin, we visit the famous Checkpoint Charlie – a key exchange site of the Berlin Wall which has since been converted into a museum. The Story of Berlin Museum is another highlight. This interactive museum holds over 800 years of history, arranged into 23 themed rooms. It is designed to allow visitors to experience life in Berlin across the eras. Similarly, the DDR Museum offers immersive experiences of life in Soviet-era East Germany.

On a day trip to Potsdam, we visit Sanssouci. This is the summer palace of Frederick the Great, built between 1745 1747. The name *Sans souci* references a French expression for 'without worries', symbolic of the King's intention to treat this as a site of relaxation, rather than power. It is thought to rival Versailles: though smaller than its French counterpart, it is equally luxurious.

We also have the opportunity to visit the Memorial to the Jews of Europe. Designed by architect Peter Eisenman and engineer Buro Happold, the memorial consists of 2711 concrete slabs of concrete, or stelae. Reminiscent of coffins, they vary in height, creating a moving

visual sense that invites contemplation. We also experience ‘modern’ Berlin, visiting the Olympic Stadium.

Included in the touring program are 3 concerts during your time in this city.

Odyssey prepared a list of recommended books about Berlin for those planning to visit the city.

You can also browse our Germany country profile for more information and for other tours that might be interesting for you.

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.



## 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
- UNESCO World heritage sites; Potsdam & Berlin, places to visit
- Berlin divided
- Secret Tunnel in Berlin is an Echo from the Cold War







**Tour Notes**

Itineraries may change if flight schedules, site availability, and other inclusions have to be amended prior to departure.

## Highlights

1. Learn about the Berlin Wall at Checkpoint Charlie Museum
2. Learn about the history of Berlin through it's museums & galleries
3. Visit Sanssouci - summer palace of Frederick the Great
4. Attend up to 3 classical concert performances including a Cabaret in Berlin
5. Travel to Leipzig, where we learn about the city's musical connections

## Itinerary







**Day 1**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

We make our way individually to the hotel. In the evening, we meet and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 2**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

On our first full day, we enjoy a full day orientation. We begin with a half day guided city tour, during which we visit a number of the city's main sites, including the Brandenburg gate. In the afternoon, we take a tour of the Story of Berlin Museum.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 3**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today is dedicated to a World War II tour, during which we visit the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, visit the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the Allied Museum, the Holocaust Museum, and Wannsee House.

The Checkpoint Charlie Museum, named after a renowned crossing point of the Berlin Wall, has documented escapes from East to West Germany, as well as writing and objects relating to the wall.

Also known as the Holocaust Memorial, the Memorial to the Jews of Europe is one of the world's best known memorial sites. It is comprised

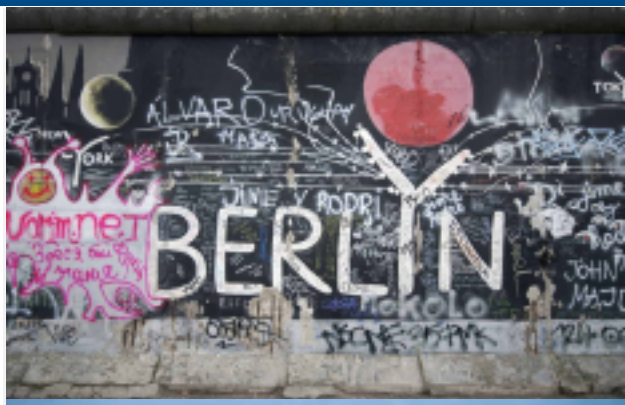
of 2711 rectangular concrete slabs covering 1.9 hectares.

Wansee House is the mansion in which Nazi and SS leaders gathered to plan the holocaust. Today, it is a museum that exhibits documents from the Wannsee Conference at which the planning took place, media presentations that cover the history of Jewish persecution, and a centre for the study of Nazism.

**All or part of this day is optional.**

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.








**Day 4**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today we tour the city learning about the architecture and the social history pre WWI. We also visit the seat of German Government, enjoying a guided tour of the Reichstag.

Tonight there we will attend a performance of Ballet, Opera, classical music or Cabaret.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 5**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today we embark on a full day excursion to Potsdam, including entrance to Cecilienhof Castle and Sanssouci Palace. Cecilienhof is an ornate palace, in the style of an English Tudor manor house, built between 1914 and 1917. Famously, it was the location of the Potsdam conference in which allied forces discussed what would happen to Germany after World War II.

Sanssouci Palace is an extraordinary eighteenth century palace in lush green surrounds. Built by Frederick the Great, to serve as his summer home, it is accompanied by a terraced vineyard and a great park. We



return to Berlin in the evening and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 6**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today, we return to an aspect of Berlin's history, with a guided tour that focuses on the city under the communist regime. We visit the Berlin Wall Documentation Centre, the East Side Gallery, and the DDR Museum. The interactive DDR Museum provides immersive experiences of life in East Germany, prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Our local guide introduces to the world of espionage and the exchange of spies.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 7**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

This morning, we experience a German food tour, which includes a visit to the flagship Ritter Sport shop. Set across three levels, you'll discover all there is to know about chocolate here in Germany's capital. Lunch is at a local currywurst restaurant.

The afternoon is at your leisure.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 8**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today we explore One of Berlin's most idiosyncratic art spaces, **Boros Sammlung** is a gallery hidden inside a monolithic, five-floor Second World War concrete bunker. The exhibition changes every four years.

This afternoon we walk a section of the Berlin's 19th-century Landwehr Canal. This walk takes you through a collection of inner city districts including Kreuzberg's café-lined embankments, Paul-Lincke-Ufer and Maybachufer. We pass Mies ran der Rohe's striking Neue Nationalgalerie; the 1930s modernist ShellHaus building as well as the city's celebrated Bauhaus Archiv.

Tonight we attend the second of 4 evening performances in Berlin.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 9**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Berlin is one of the most artistically sophisticated cities in the world, and today is dedicated to exploring the city's galleries. We begin with the Pergamon museum, then visit the Musical Instruments Museum.

This afternoon we enjoy a 2 hour city walk of one of the key historic areas of Berlin.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 10**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

In the morning, we travel to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, and take a tour with a local guide. The camp operated between 1936 and

1945, and saw the deaths and executions of around 30,000 people.

In the afternoon, we take a river cruise in Berlin.

**This day is optional for travellers.**

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 11**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today is dedicated to exploring the era of the Secret Police in Berlin, from the Nazi regime to the Stasi that operated in the east, when the wall stood. We visit the Topography of Terror Museum, then the Hohenschonhausen Memorial, and the Stasi Prison Museum.

The Topography of Terror Museum is in the location of the original Gestapo headquarters, and exhibits document the terror wrought by the security arm of the Nazi regime. The Hohenschonhausen Memorial exists on the site of the Stasi's main political prison, the institution depicted in the film *The Lives of Others*.

In the evening we have dinner at a local restaurant.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 12**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

This morning we head to the world heritage listed Island of museums. We have a guide give us an introduction to key pieces tours in the two museums we are visiting, the Hamburgerbahnhof Museum, the Neues Museum. The Pergamon Museum, which houses antiquities, is known

for the magnificent Pergamon Altar.

In the afternoon is at your leisure.

Tonight we will attend our third concert.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 13**

**Locations:** Berlin and Dresden

**Overview:**

Today is entirely at your leisure.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 14**

**Locations:** Berlin- Dresden return

**Overview:**

Today we take a full-day excursion to Dresden. While there, we visit Albertinum, a gallery showcasing art from the Romantic period to the present day. We view the Castle Eckberg, before heading to the Green Vault. The Green vault is a historic museum featuring an enormous number of treasures that once made up the private collection of Augustus the Strong, the ruler of Saxony. It may, in fact, be the largest treasure vault in the world!

We then view the Procession of the Dukes, a large mural originally painted between 1871 and 1876, painted on the stables at Dresden Castle. At the end of the day we return to Berlin.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 15**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today we enjoy a tour focusing on Germany's ancient history. We begin with a guided tour of the German History Museum. We then tour Charlottenburg Castle, a magnificent palace built and expanded in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The palace is surrounded by beautiful gardens, which are in turn surrounded by woodlands. We also visit the Berlin Cathedral, and enter the Barberini Museum.

We have dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 16**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

The theme of today's tour is 'modern Berlin'. We explore some of the city's modern and contemporary art galleries, as well as the Bauhaus archive and museum, which is dedicated to architecture and design. Later, we visit the Olympic Stadium. It was originally built for the 1936 games, but has since hosted the men's and women's FIFA world cups.

Tonight we will attend our 3 of 4 concerts on this program.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 17**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today is the final 'free day' scheduled. You might like to spend it revisiting some of your favourite locations, or perhaps to catch up on

some rest.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 18**

**Locations:** Berlin and Leipzig

**Overview:**

We take a full-day excursion to Leipzig, today. The vibrant capital of Saxony is located 160 km southwest of Berlin. It is very popular amongst lovers of music, for its connections to composers Bach and Mendelssohn. We visit the two museums devoted to these important figures.

Later, we return to our apartment in Berlin.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 19**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Today we join our guide for a trip to Spandau. Spandau as a place pre-dates Berlin. Our guide shows around this enclave which is surrounded on 3 sides by water his morning to learn about the history and people. Our walking tour the middle ages, the renaissance through to the present day.

Afternoon is free to visit or re-visit places at your leisure.

This evening there is a farewell dinner.

**Accommodation:**

Apartment accommodation to be determined.

**Day 20**

**Locations:** Berlin

**Overview:**

Our tour concludes after breakfast.

## Inclusions / Exclusions

**What's included in our Tour**

- 20 nights accommodation in a serviced apartment.
- 1 lunch, and 5 dinners.
- 4 concerts or cabaret performances.
- Transport using local rail and public transport.
- All excursions, entrance fees, and local guides.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.
- Services of Tour Leader for the duration of tour.
- Detailed information booklet.

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

- International airfares and departure taxes.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.
- Porterage.

**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.