



## Berlin: Art, Architecture, Music and Design

*Berlin possesses some of the finest art galleries and museums in the world and offers the highest standard of music and opera performances. It is endowed with a range of historic, as well as, first-rate contemporary architecture. In addition, it is also one of the most exciting cities because of its recent and rapid change, economic developments and historical challenges.*

*Once one of the grandest capitals in Europe, it was divided into two parts and became the focus of Cold War antagonism. Since the Wall was breached, in 1989, the city has been transformed beyond recognition.*

*From being a city with very little charm, it was turned into a vibrant, friendly city - the very model of a modern major metropolis. The two halves have been knitted together, historic buildings reconstructed and restored.*

*The art collections, formerly split, dispersed and often housed in temporary premises, are now coming together in magnificently restored or newly-built galleries. Berlin possesses international art and antiquities of highest importance, as well as, one of the kind collections of German art. The number, variety and quality of museums make Berlin among the world's most desired destinations for art lovers.*

*The year 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Bauhaus design school. Because of this, many galleries, museums and other institutions in Berlin make the ideas of the Bauhaus visible and tangible.*

*Berlin has three opera houses, over 1500 theatres and stages, more than 175 museums and collections, roughly 300 galleries, in excess of 250 public libraries, 130 cinemas and a multitude of other cultural possibilities. Berlin is a city where truly outstanding performances can be virtually guaranteed.*

**Day 1:** Arrive Berlin Tegel. Take an orientation tour by coach: the New Embassy quarter, Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Pariser Platz and Unter den Linden. Dinner in the hotel.

**Day 2:** Walk through the oldest part of the city to 'Museums Island', a group of major museum buildings. Visit the Neues Museum, the stunning new home to the Egyptian Museum, restored and recreated by British architect David Chipperfield and the Alte Nationalgalerie, which superbly displays European painting of the 19th century, including the finest collection of German Romantics. Some free time before an evening concert performance.

**Day 3:** Visit Charlottenburg - Charlottenburg castle, the earliest major building in Berlin, is an outstanding Baroque and Rococo palace with splendid interiors. The Berggruen Collection of Picasso and classic modern art is also displayed. Guided visit of the production and store room of the Staatliche Gipsformerei (Replica Workshop) which is the largest institution of its kind in the world.





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High-quality art replicas of works mainly from the collections of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, but also from other European museums, have been produced here for almost 200 years. Evening concert.

Day 4: Europe's greatest building project in the 1990s, Potsdamer Platz showcases an international array of architects (Piano, Isozaki, Rogers, Moneo). Scattered around the nearby 'Kulturforum' are museums, the State Library and the Philharmonie concert hall (Hans Scharoun 1956–63). Free afternoon, an opportunity to visit the Museum of Musical Instruments or the Gemäldegalerie which houses one of Europe's major collections of Old Masters.

Day 5: Potsdam - Excursion to Potsdam which in the 18th century developed into Brandenburg-Prussia's second capital and acquired fine buildings, parks and gardens. Sanssouci, created as a retreat from the affairs of state by Frederick the Great, is among the finest 18th-century complexes of gardens, palaces and pavilions to be found anywhere. Visit his single-storey palace atop terraces of fruit trees, the Chinese Tea House and the orangery, and see the city centre with its Dutch Quarter and Neo-Classical buildings. Return to Berlin.

Day 6: Explore Berlin Mitte - Private collection and gallery visits and a visit to a studio of a local artist. Stroll around the Scheunenviertel (Old Jewish quarter) to the Hacksche Höfe and explore the Berlin of the 1920s and the Jewish life in Berlin. Attend a jazz concert night or visit Clärchens Ballhaus – Berlin's most legendary dance hall, opened in 1913, when there was that mad hype about tango, it has survived two world wars, communist spies and even a Quentin Tarantino movie production.

Day 7: Bauhaus – a myth. A word that not only makes the heart of architecture fans beat faster. Walter Gropius, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Marcel Breuer, Paul Klee, Johannes Itten, Marianne Brandt and Gunta Stölzl are just a few of the names that stand for one of the most influential art movements in the field of 20th century architecture, art and design. Visit the Arts & Crafts Museum Bauhaus collection and the Lemke House - a timeless beautiful building by Mies van der Rohe that picked up on the key features of modern Bauhaus architecture - and some of the representative Berlin Modernism estates – outstanding examples of the residential architecture of the 1920s. Learn about social housing and the challenges of sustainable social urban development of nowadays. Farewell dinner in a typical local restaurant.

Day 8: Homeward journey.

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*Program can be adapted to your wishes. Exchange with young artists, a painting workshop, or a meeting with a contemporary witness of the GDR times - to learn about life during this period and the peaceful revolution in Germany – etc. can be arranged. All services are subject to availability at the time of booking.*

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