

**Potsdam**

*for Beginners*



All rights reserved. This book or any part thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the expressed permission of the University of Potsdam, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. This includes in particular any form of reproduction, translation, microfilming, filming, distribution and storage on DVDs, CD-ROMs, CDs, video and any other electronic systems as well as Internet platforms.

**© University of Potsdam**

Press and Public Relations Department,  
Am Neuen Palais 10, 14469 Potsdam  
[presse@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:presse@uni-potsdam.de)

**Texts**

Matthias Zimmermann

**Translation**

Juliane Voigt

**Editor-in-Charge**

Birgit Mangelsdorf

**Layout**

Verlag am Ilse-See, Großräschen  
[www.verlag-am-ilse-see.com](http://www.verlag-am-ilse-see.com)

**Print**

DRUCK + SATZ, Großräschen  
[www.drucksatz.com](http://www.drucksatz.com)  
Font: ScalaSansOT, 8 pt

# CONTENTS

Start! .....	5
The Potsdamers – A Declaration of Love .....	6
City Map .....	8
Public Transportation and Traffic .....	10
Potsdam – Town (Hi)Story .....	18
Live Nicely? Search Thoroughly! .....	36
478 ... ..	38
Celebrations All Year Long – a Cultural Calendar..	40
Movie Palaces .....	48
Theater and Music Wherever You Go .....	52
Palaces of Words .....	56
The Information Landscape .....	60
Suit up, We Are Going to a Party! .....	64
Restaurants, Cafés, Bars ... ..	68
Put Children Into Power! .....	76
Potsdam’s Nature .....	82
A City of Science .....	88
Higher Education – Studying .....	94
Tons of History .....	104
Potsdam With Visitors .....	110
Everything for Free? .....	124
Being a Part of it .....	128
Run Around Town – Sport .....	132
My Potsdam .....	136
Characteristics of P. ....	144
Further Reading .....	148
Photo Credits .....	149

# POTSDAM IS A CITY FOR ALL TIMES. (OF THE YEAR)



# START!

*New in town? Welcome! Potsdam is a city worth not only a day trip but to stay for years – and all times (of the year). There is always something going on, and it is also ongoing. At least for those who look around, who go outside and discover the city – and who do something actively.*

Potsdam welcomes the new Potsdamer, whether you are visiting or setting up camp. No matter how long you stay: it is always worth to walk through the alleys, knock on some doors, to look around with curiosity. Green at every corner, surrounded by water, old but always on the move: Potsdam has too many sides than can be portrayed here on these few pages. But neither dread nor ignorance should get in the way of getting to know Potsdam. Therefore, the author of this book undertook some explorations of the city, drew some routes on the city's map for you. The following pages show what is possible in Potsdam and where you could begin to explore the city on your own. It is a start, an invitation to take this book with you through Potsdam – in order to put it aside whenever you have found 'your' café, neighborhood and favorite place in the city. Welcome – and have fun exploring!

*THE POTSDAMERS –  
A DECLARATION OF LOVE*

YA DON' KNOW  
WHERE TO GO?  
COME, I'LL SHOW YA!



People visiting Potsdam might run into them right away. Or over their feet: the Potsdamers. Either way you will hear a gruff “Watch it!” But then they will remember their very distinct hospitality and offer help: “Ya don’ know where to go? Come, I’ll show ya!” Let them help you. They will know where you want to go. It’s their city. Even if they do not always look friendly the Potsdamers are generally – exceptions excepted – hard on the outside, soft on the inside.

In any case the Potsdamers are residents of a capital: No, not a Berliner, a Brandenburger! And they are

The Potsdamers are  
hard on the outside,  
soft on the inside ...

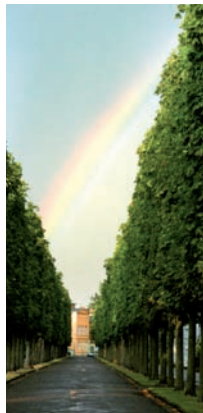
proud of it. Sure many things are smaller than in the megacity Berlin but it is their city after all. And they do not have it cheapen by anybody, unless they do so themselves. The Potsdamers like to nag and they like to do it often but only for a short while and not without a reason. They would love to have the ‘complaining tree’ from the times of the “Old Fritz” (Frederick the Great). It was a linden, which once grew at the city palace and whoever stood underneath it long enough was allowed to bring his problem forward to the monarch. The tree fell after the Second World War, the palace shortly afterwards. Now the palace is rebuilt. That would be a good opportunity to replant a new linden – for more grassroots democracy.

The Potsdamers are also park-persons with heart and soul. The palaces in the city are all well and good, but the parks are more important to them because one can spend quality time there, not only in the summer. And that there are so many parks makes it even better.

The Potsdamers are not an ‘endangered species’. The city bursts at the seams and keeps growing steadily. But caution is advised: non-natives and wanna-be-Potsdamers are easily recognized by their luxurious walk and their still over-interested gaze. And if you step on their foot, they apologize to you. But you will get there ...

And be warned, those who come here often decide to stay. The average Potsdamer has been living here for 20 years.

**WHO COMES HERE  
DECIDES TO STAY.**







Sacrow



Schloßpark Sacrow

Volkspark Glienicke



Park Babelsberg

POTS DAM



Campus Griebnitzsee



Ufa

0 500 1000 1500 m

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC



*Whether by car, bike, bus or train – either way of transportation goes well in Potsdam. And those who look for something special discover the city on foot or by water taxi along the Havel.*



Potsdam is split. Although the wall is no more, the Havel flows through the city from Northeast to Southwest and divides it into two parts. These parts are connected by two bridges – Humboldt-Brücke in the north and Lange Brücke (= long bridge) in the south – over which all traffic rolls. Cars, public transportation or bike: either one will get you to your destination in Potsdam. And those who want to get to know their city better just have to walk home, which is not far from any point in the city. Information on anything regarding traffic is available online at [www.mobil-potsdam.de](http://www.mobil-potsdam.de). Special highlight: the water taxi, with 13 stops along the different stretches of the Havel.

### **Car**

Many intersections in the city were said to be bottlenecks and caused long traffic jams during rush hour. Due to improved traffic planning the situation has eased almost everywhere. But you should still avoid the city center during rush hour (8–10 am and 4–6 pm). If you want to know where to expect traffic jams in the coming days, go to the city's website ([www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de)),



where you can see the traffic forecasting for the coming week; something that can save you time and nerves. Because of the remodeling of the historic center and several pedestrian zones it is rather difficult to get to the city center by car. Even more challenging is it to find a parking spot. Many are reserved to residents and almost all the others are metered. To not buy a parking ticket can get you an even more expensive one: the police are quite quick and thorough.

### **Bike**

Potsdam is not Amsterdam, where cyclists sometimes even have right of way compared to automobiles. But in the last years a lot has been done in Potsdam and the infrastructure for bikes has been improved a lot; at least in and around the city center. If you don't have to get from Golm to Waldstadt – which is all the way across the city – to take the bike is not only healthier but often faster than to go by car. And since cyclists can use for example the concrete road through Park Sanssouci bike rides are often also a lot more scenic. But one thing is essential for all bicycles: It has to be





**TO GO BY BIKE  
IS NOT ONLY  
HEALTHIER  
BUT OFTEN FASTER**

roadworthy. If you get stopped by the police because your light is not working, you will have to pay. Also driving on the wrong side of the road – be it on the bike lane or the road itself – is punished with a fine.



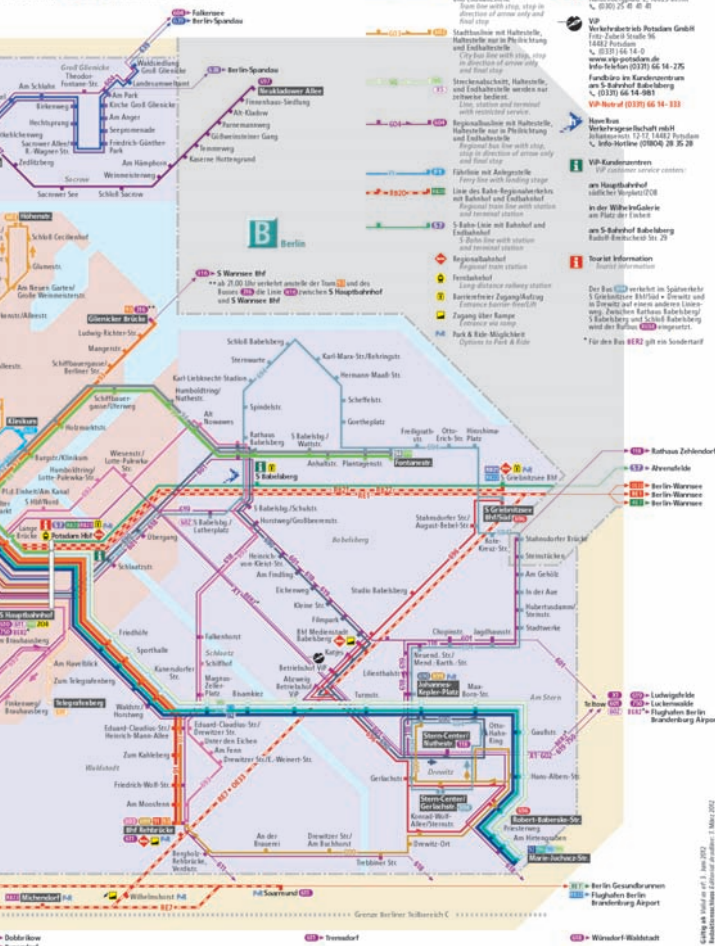
## Bus and Train

The public transportation network run by the “ViP Verkehrsbetrieb Potsdam GmbH” covers almost the entirety of Potsdam. Within the city limits one can easily do without a car. The main junction of the city’s and regional transportation is Potsdam central station, where not only the tram and bus routes run together but one can take the S-Bahn to Berlin or make use of the regional train transportation of the Deutsche Bahn. Due to a daytime service (5 am–1 am) and a night service (approx. 1 am–5 am) busses, trams, and trains run around the clock on a daily basis. You will find all current information – from network maps to route information – online ([www.vip-potsdam.de](http://www.vip-potsdam.de)). Tickets and more information are available at the customer service centers at Potsdam central station, the Wilhelmgalerie at Platz der Einheit (city center) as well as at the S-Bahn station Babelsberg.

The heart of Potsdam’s public transportation system is the tram, which connects all parts of the city via five main lines and two additional lines: until 8 pm almost every ten minutes. Over half of the operated trains – currently 24 – are wheelchair accessible low-floor trains; these are specially marked in the timetables. In addition to the tram 26 bus lines connect the inner and outer city districts. All busses run by the ViP are equipped with ramps for wheelchairs. A direct connection to Berlin is provided by the S-Bahn. The S7 line starting at Potsdam central station has two more stops within Potsdam’s city limits: Babelsberg and Griebnitzsee. The regional trains not only stop at Potsdam central station but also at Potsdam-Rehbrücke, Medienstadt Babelsberg, Charlottenhof, Park Sanssouci, Golm, Griebnitzsee and Pirschheide. From Potsdam central station direct connections to the city center of Berlin, Schönefeld airport and many other destinations in Brandenburg are provided.







**Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH**  
Hardenbergplatz 2, 10623 Berlin  
(030) 25 40 00

**VIP**  
Verkehrsbetriebe Potsdam GmbH  
Foto-Zentrum 36  
14622 Potsdam  
(0303) 66 14 0  
www.vip-potsdam.de  
Info-Service (0303) 66 14 275  
www.vip-potsdam.de

**Funkbüro im Kongresszentrum am S-Bahnhof Babelsberg**  
(0303) 66 14 088  
VIP-Info (0303) 66 14 133

**Neue Bus**  
Verkehrsgesellschaft mbH  
Johannistempel 12-17, 14482 Potsdam  
Info-Service (0304) 29 35 29

**VP-Kundenzentren**  
VIP customer service centers:  
am Hauptbahnhof  
siehe bei Vorkletscher

**in der Wilhelms-Galerie**  
am S-Bahnhof Babelsberg  
Kasseler-Str. 29

**Tourist Information**  
Tourist information

Der Bus **BE2** verkehrt im Spätnachmittag im Spätnachmittag (S-Bahn) und ist in der Regel auf einen anderen Linienweg. Zusätzlich verkehrt S-Bahnlinie S 100 und S 101 im Spätnachmittag und den frühen Morgenstunden.

\* Für den Bus **BE2** gilt ein Sonder Tarif





## POTSDAM – TOWN (HI)STORY



From Babelsberg to Golm: Potsdam is a village, made up of villages.

Let's just tell it like it is: Potsdam is a village. With almost 160,000 residents it is a large one indeed but without a doubt a village. Palaces, gardens, parks and lakes add to its glory – but it remains a village. A palace as residence for the parliament, research with international reputation, six times winner of the German women's soccer championship: Potsdam is anything but a white spot on the map. But it is still a VILLAGE. To clear the air on that: This is no critique but a compliment. People living in Potsdam don't just live in any city but in "their" Potsdam: their neighbor-

hood, their village – often proudly, in the face of some shortcomings even stubbornly, but they almost always like living there. Potsdam has grown over centuries, sometimes faster, sometimes slower, sometimes with an abrupt rise like the newly-built quarters in the West. Again and again villages have been incorporated, which used to be outside of the city gates.

From Babelsberg to Golm: Potsdam is a village, consisting of villages. Thus it is not surprising that most parts of the city have kept their original character, with their own center, independent culture and individual ‘personality’. No two neighborhoods are alike; one lives differently in each of them. Patrician homes from the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the one side, small weaver cottages next to protruding mansions on the other side, with colorful “Plattenbauten” (buildings made from precast concrete slabs) in between. And right in the middle the Havel, flowing around stately gardens with palaces and smaller castles. Potsdam’s districts could not be any more different. Each district is unique considering its **fronts**, its **best sides** but also its **shortcomings**. And **you get to like each area** for the individualities of the neighborhood.



# MY POTSDAM, MY NEIGHBORHOOD, MY VILLAGE





### City Center

**Fronts:** Today's city center basically comprises the old Potsdam between the Havel in the south and the northern city limits, which can be made out by the three remaining city gates – Brandenburger, Nauener and Jägertor (= Brandenburg, Nauen and Hunter's Gate). Even though some historic buildings have been destroyed by bombs during the Second World War, you still find houses from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century in the city center. Thanks to the low-rise architecture the streets seem wide and spacious. Many buildings have been restored in recent years; a privilege of a popular historic city center.



**Best sides:** In this district out of everything Potsdam has to offer, one place or another, is in immediate vicinity: concert hall, museums, churches, municipality, central station, two hospitals, parks, and of course cafés and restaurants; as well as the declared 'center':

the pedestrian zone Brandenburger Straße, the central shopping street.

**Shortcomings:** About 20,000 people live in the city center. But especially on the weekends you do not only get to meet the locals. City dwellers on a shopping stroll and tourists looking for the Dutch Quarter turn the city into a madhouse at times. It is even less fun when you come by car. Those who are able to get a parking spot on Friday night are probably in the mood to celebrate. Moreover, the rents are no longer a trifle for new residents. Potsdam is very popular.

**You get to like this area,** because the city center is a city in itself which lacks nothing. Not even greenery, which cannot be expected from every city center. If you move here, you will learn one thing at once: Because everyone comes to the center, you do not have to get out of it – which makes you miss out on the other neighborhoods. Therefore: Look beyond the (inner) city limits from time to time!





Potsdam West – town houses and old cobble stone streets from the Wilhelminian era.

### Potsdam West

**Fronts:** On the one side there is the Havel, on the other side there is Park Sanssouci – the parts west of the city center are lying between heaven and paradise. Moreover, further west it connects to the Wildpark (former hunting grounds), one of the most beautiful urban woodlands. The district Brandenburger Vorstadt (Brandenburg suburb) consists mainly of Wilhelminian style town houses along cobble stone streets over which high tree tops form a green cupola. The apartments were reconstructed in the past years and are amongst the most sought-after in the city. Due to the close proximity to the Am Neuen Palais campus of the University of Potsdam there are many student flat shares in this area. With its young families, original cafés “P-West” is considered the Greenwich Village of Potsdam. And only recently “Viktoriagarten” opened here, the first book store of the district.

**Best Sides:** Spoilt for choice: Should I go swimming or for a stroll in the park? Or rather roam the (almost) infinite vastness of the Wildpark? Or should I stay in my neighborhood and take a look what new things the neighbors devised? Again and again ateliers, cafés and small shops appear, which are worth a visit. The active residents of the neighborhood network initiate great things all year long: anything from a street carnival and flea markets to soccer tournaments and open-air-cinema to animated Christmas calendars.

**Shortcomings:** The popularity has its price: Whoever wants to have a part of this bliss and is new to the “West” has to reckon with “entering” the rent index at the high end; unless they are able to find an un-renovated old building and settle there. The apartments on Zeppelinstraße are a bit lower priced but it is also the loudest street in the city.

**You get to like this area** – in fact without any ifs and buts. Who can call a royal park their front garden? Especially for students who study at Am Neuen Palais campus it is a godsend. But all the others that have ended up here do not seem too sad as well.



**POTSDAM WEST  
BETWEEN  
HEAVEN  
AND PARADISE**





## Northern Suburbs

**Fronts:** The north and northeast of Potsdam consist of three suburbs which used to be outside of the city gates: Nauener, Jäger- and Berliner Vorstadt. From Park Sanssouci in the west and lake Jungfernsee in the east the architecture alternates between former military buildings, large mansions and Wilhelminian style houses.



You can live quite nicely in remodeled military barracks in the suburb Jägervorstadt – where there was once the electoral pheasantry and later the royal hunter farm. While the Nauener Vorstadt with its patrician houses sprawls north to the Pfingsberg and the Volkspark, the Berliner Vorstadt is bounded by the lakes Heiliger See, Jungfern- and Tiefer See. Especially in the opulent mansions at lake Heiliger See some live “a cut above”. But anybody can go swimming here!

**Best Sides:** The title “suburb” says it all: Residents live close to the city center and it’s not far to its amenities. At the same time it is only a stone’s throw to the amenities of the “periphery”: the New Garden and lake Heiliger See, the Pfingst- and Ruinenberg (Pentecost and Ruins Hill) – Potsdam’s most popular sledding hill – or the spacious Volkspark. The Berliner Vorstadt is home to the cultural quarter “Schiffbauergasse”, one of the most important cultural centers.

**Shortcomings:** Those close to the center are not right in the middle of it. The northern suburbs are typical residential areas. The streets are rarely bustling; you go into the city for that. Also, the rather noble residential buildings have their price. Especially in the Berliner Vorstadt, gate to the neighboring metropolis, only those who have the necessary cash can afford to live here.

**You get to like this area** because you will lead the life of Riley: especially classy and quiet. Apart from lake Heiliger See, where it’s really busy during the summer, and the culturally active Schiffbauergasse, the North is rather quiet.





THESE ARE THE FORMER VILLAGES BORNIM,  
BORNSTEDT, EICHE, GRUBE, NEDLITZ, SACROW.  
POTSDAM NORTH

### Potsdam North

**Fronts:** The capital of the federal state of Brandenburg has grown rapidly in the past years. Not only thanks to people who moved here but also because of added districts in the north. Potsdam North consists of the former villages Bornim, Bornstedt, Eiche, Grube, Nedlitz and Sacrow. If you have visited them once, you will discard the “former”. A trip there seems like a day in the country. Except for Bornstedt, which is right north of Park Sanssouci and is connected to the tram network by now, and Eiche in the West, the incorporated villages have kept their rural character. In the far north-east between the lakes Jungfern- and Sacrower See lies Sacrow – an enclave almost detached from the world. Even if you don’t want to live in this idyll, you should visit from time to time: The park created by Lenné with its palace and the Erlöserkirche (Church of the Redeemer) are amongst the most beautiful places in Potsdam.

These incorporated parts of Potsdam have kept their rural character.

**Best Sides:** The northern suburbs offer life in the countryside and although not really among yourself anymore, it is still quite intimate. Therefore numerous single family homes with garden lots in traffic reduced zones are developed. Fields, forest or the Volkspark are usually close by.

**Shortcomings:** If you live here, you should own a car, have cyclist's legs or enough time to wait for the bus because most trips take time. Naturally you will have to go to the doctor, shopping or to the movies in the city.

**You get to like this area,** if you like it quiet or if you want to live in the countryside. You can also make your dream of your own house come true. And to be honest – at least by car – it's rarely more than 15 minutes into Potsdam.





## Babelsberg

**Fronts:** Of all the districts in Potsdam, Babelsberg (named after a small hill at the Havel) is not only the largest but what you would call a “city in a city”. Separated from the old Potsdam by the Havel the small towns located here were independent until they were incorporated in 1939. The trip “across the water” to former Neuendorf feels like a small trip around the world for residents of the city center. Babelsberg offers everything a lone wolf or renegade would need: its own center with a cultural building, a hospital, shops, cafés and restaurants, the most well-kept cinema of the city, the gorgeous Park Babelsberg with a public beach, the Karl-Liebnecht-Stadium for soccer fans and housing for almost every budget. Some of the most spectacular mansions can be found in the exclusive residential area Neubabelsberg in the north along the banks of lake Griebnitzsee, which is why even Truman, Churchill and Stalin have stayed there. Those mansions, the

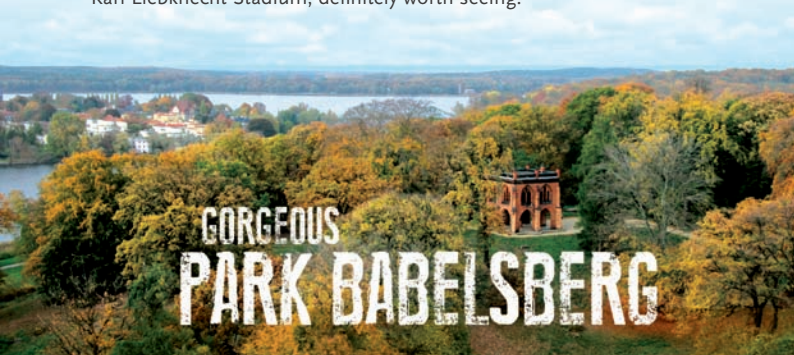


small weaver cottages of the former Bohemian village Nowawes and the patrician homes in the newer parts of Babelsberg create a very distinct architectural mix.

**Best Sides:** It only seems like you live “behind the hill” – there is nothing missing except maybe a theater and a concert hall. On the contrary: The bustle remains in the city center but the Babelsberg resident still has everything right at the doorstep; including the S-Bahn station to Berlin and their very “own” tourist highlight: the Media City Babelsberg with its film studios and Filmpark.

**Shortcomings:** Those living along the train tracks may have the most direct connection to Berlin but they also hear that; just like the residents around the stadium can always tell when a team scored a goal. Since the pleasant Babelsberg flair got around, the residential market booms. Affordable apartments are increasingly hard to find.

**You get to like this area** – as a Babelsberger because you will be Potsdamer only in the second place. You will find such a closeknit neighborhood (almost) nowhere else – you will feel that. A home game of the soccer team SV Babelsberg 03 on Sundays feels like the whole neighborhood migrating to the “Karli”, the Karl-Liebknecht-Stadium, definitely worth seeing.





### **Stern – Drewitz – Kirchsteigfeld**

**Fronts:** The large suburban housing estates Stern and Drewitz, built during GDR times, are rising in the far east of Potsdam. These buildings are made of precast concrete slabs and don't look like much at first. But a lot was done in those two districts in the past 20 years and the quality of life has improved considerably. While in the district Stern everything happens around the Kepler-Platz – from schools, day-care centers and youth clubs to community center and public pool – the district Drewitz is the location of Potsdam's largest shopping mall, the Stern Center. In the east you will find green oases like the Nuthe fields and a hidden quarry pond. Further west both districts connect to the large woodlands called Parforceheide. South of Drewitz you will find the residential area Kirchsteigfeld, which was planned before 1989 but built in the 1990s. It was “made over” into a colorful city in the countryside.

A lot was done in these districts in the past 20 years.

**Best Sides:** The GDR “Plattenbauten”, which are a lot better than their reputation, have been reconstructed to a large extent and enhanced just like their surroundings. Thus the newly built districts of Potsdam offer much sought-after living quarters for a small budget; and green space (almost) at the doorstep. Since the districts are completely connected to the public transportation network, the city center is only a comfortable 15 to 20 minute ride away.

**Shortcomings:** Those who want to live right in the middle of it have to move to the city center. The eastern extension of Potsdam is close but not “just around the corner”. You will realize it when looking for cultural activity which is concentrated in the center of the city.

**You get to like this area** even more than you think: square, practical, good. And it is no concrete jungle at all.





### Potsdam South

**Fronts:** Starting at Potsdam central station several districts extend to the southeast which constitute Potsdam South. These districts are recognizable as an extension of the city that was developed bit by bit. All housing developments on the right of Heinrich-Mann-Allee have the close proximity to Potsdam Forest in common, extensive woodland pervaded by many paths. The housing developments north of the main street line up along the river Nuthe, whose low meadows offer a surprisingly varied natural spectacle. While many of the building ensembles – like “Kolonie Daheim” or “Stadtrandsiedlung” – were built during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the newer districts like Schlaatz as well as Waldstadt I and II were developed in the times of the GDR. Back then it was important to build plenty of new apartments as quickly as possible. Nowadays the developers are also keen on designing nice surroundings. In the district



Schlaatz, which has a positive multi-cultural image today, there are many activities for a neighborly get-together around the community center and the “Haus der Generationen und Kulturen” (house of generations and culture). The district Teltower Vorstadt, which lies closer to the city limits, and the idyllic peninsula Hermannswerder, which you can see from the Havel banks in the city center, also make up the South of Potsdam.



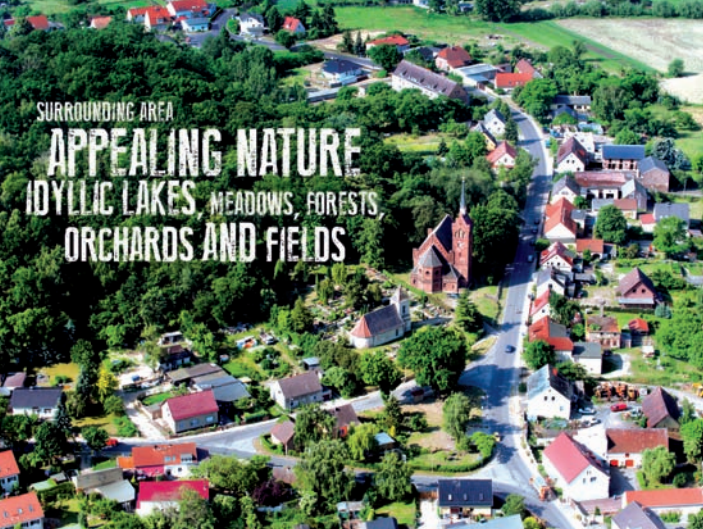
**Best Sides:** An affordable apartment with a view is something you unavailingly look for in the older districts of the city but which you can find here. And especially the low meadows at the Nuthe and the forests surrounding the hills Ravensberge or the nature reserve Moosfenn are more than just a green front garden.



**Shortcomings:** Those who cultivated their opposition to the “Platte” will not become happy in the new housing developments. Also those who want to relish in culture and good food will have to go into the city center: Restaurants are as few as places of cultural interest.

**You get to like this area** because it is a little different everywhere and more colorful each day. Those who move to the southern edge of the districts will probably become forest roamers while those moving to Schlaatz will more likely become Nuthe aficionados.





SURROUNDING AREA  
**APPEALING NATURE**  
IDYLIC LAKES, MEADOWS, FORESTS,  
ORCHARDS AND FIELDS

### **New Districts**

**Fronts:** In 2003 Potsdam experienced a sudden growth spurt regarding its size: with Golm, Fahrland, Neu Fahrland, Groß-Glienicke, Marquardt, Satzkorn and Uetz-Paaren seven new districts were incorporated in the north and northwest. All of them have a rather rural character. And it is still more of a village-life in these areas. Except for the city limits sign not much has changed. And it is probably alright with those who live there; and also those who move to these districts. The countryside surrounding them is rather appealing: idyllic lakes, meadows, forests, orchards and fields. Golm deserves a special mentioning: Because of the university campus and science institutes of the Max Planck and the Fraunhofer society, the largest science park in the federal state of Brandenburg has emerged here.

**Best Sides:** Each new district comes up with its own peculiarities, and almost all of them point to the special

Brandenburg's  
largest science park  
is located in Golm.

natural surroundings: the lakelands at the remote Grube and near Uetz-Paaren, the orchards outside of Marquardt, the nature reserve “Döberitzer Heide” inhabited by wild horses between Satzkorn and Groß Glienicke or the five lakes surrounding Neu Fahrland. Even for non-newcomers worth a trip or two.


**Shortcomings:** Even though the public transportation service Potsdam tries to establish a connection between the outskirts of Potsdam and the city center, a trip into town by bus is not only a stone’s throw. But it is still manageable.

**You get to like this area,** if you want to get away from the bustle of a federal state’s capital. Since that bustle can be considerable even in a mid-sized city like Potsdam, especially during tourist seasons, the more rural districts are an oasis of peace.



## LIVE NICELY? SEARCH THOROUGHLY!

*One of the hardest ordeals for new Potsdamers is probably the long road to their own couch. Multiple websites on the Internet offer a good overview for those seeking a home.*

.....

Only about one percent of the present apartments are vacant and available for newcomers. And housing is not affordable for everyone everywhere. Therefore start your search early, know what you want and hang in there.

### **The Right District**

Before you start looking for an apartment you should think about which district is the right one for you. The way to work, to university or to the day-care center can be considerably shorter or longer depending on where you live. While it is less noisy in the areas with single-family houses in the suburbs there is also less going on than in the bustling districts near the center.

### **The Average**

Potsdam is not inexpensive especially when it comes to housing. In 2011 one paid an average 5,71€ per square meter in basic rent. But the rental prices can vary severely between the city's districts as well as between more or less renovated buildings. Potsdam's rent index offers a good overview on what is usually



paid where and for which degree of reconstruction. The index can be found on the website of the municipality ([www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de)).

### **Search Correctly**

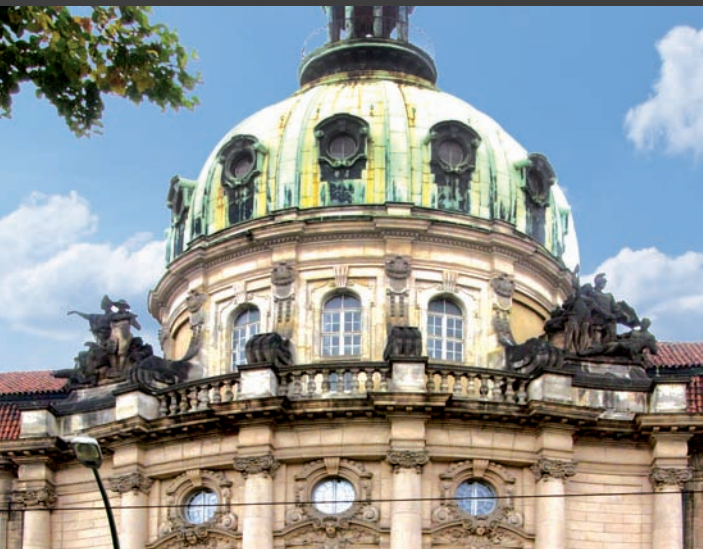
It is best to start your search early so as not to be pressed for time and then having to take the first den that comes along. Especially when you are searching from a distance popular websites ([www.immobienscout24.de](http://www.immobienscout24.de) or [www.immonet.de](http://www.immonet.de)) provide good assistance. On many of these sites you can save your search request so that you get a notification about new listings. Alternatively, you can put in a request with the big housing companies. (This may even save you the commission, which is usually payable for apartments listed at online marketplaces.) Apart from the municipal GEWOBA ([www.gewoba.com](http://www.gewoba.com)) and the privately owned housing company Semmelhaack ([www.semmelhaack.de](http://www.semmelhaack.de)) there are also the various residential building cooperatives. You will find an overview at [www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de). Those who want to share an apartment should go to specialized websites such as [www.wg-gesucht.de](http://www.wg-gesucht.de) or [www.studenten-wg.de](http://www.studenten-wg.de). They can also check the bulletin boards at the university but should definitely start looking a few months before the semester starts. Students who want to stay at one of the student dorms should contact the Studentenwerk – an organization that provides social, financial and cultural services for students ([www.studentenwerk-potsdam.de](http://www.studentenwerk-potsdam.de)).

### **The “WBS-Schein”**

The WBS – a permit that entitles you to rent an apartment established with public funds – is a chance to get affordable state-aided housing. The certificate is given out by the Potsdam city administration after checking the level of income of all persons living in that household. Further information at [www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de).



478 ...



... is not Potsdam's all-purpose formula but rather the number of rooms you could enter in the city hall if you were allowed. If you want or must know how the Potsdam administration goes about business, you should visit the "control and operations room" of the city.

### **The City Hall ...**

... is located at Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 79/81, outbound right behind Nauener Tor on the left. The building cannot be missed. The enormous front made of sandstone and the huge green dome can be seen for miles around.

You have to register within two weeks after your move.

Moreover, the bus and the tram stop are right in front of it. It was finished in 1907 and has always been the place of the regional government. The mentioned 478 rooms accommodate not only the city's administration and the citizen's service but also the registry office. The foyer, with a lofty height of 16 meters and the two-sided stairway guarantees the visitor a grand entrance.

### **The Citizen's Service Office ...**

... is located on the right above the foyer. Getting lost is not possible. If you end up in the plenary hall on the first floor, you are wrong though. At the citizen's service office you can get done pretty much anything from wage tax cards to fishery permits. Just take a number, wait shortly (really!) and you will be helped. Among other things you can have documents notarized, certificates of conduct issued or obtain your identity card and passport or have them extended respectively. You can get resident parking permits as well as many other documents and certificates. You can even find (!) the lost-and-found-office here. Worthwhile: On the website of the city you can find out what information and documents you will have to provide for a complete request. Some things can even be done online completely. An overview of all services can be found at [www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de).

### **For Newcomers ...**

... there is one "civic duty": register! You should officially register your place of residence within two weeks after you have moved. Those who have a dog you will have to register it, too. Other than that you can "bring" more with you to Potsdam, for instance your car. All new Potsdamers will get a Prussian blue bag with information brochures, newspaper and coupons for theaters and museums as a welcome gift. If you are a guest scholar visiting one of the research institutions, you can get help at the Welcome Center Potsdam ([www.welcome-center-potsdam.de](http://www.welcome-center-potsdam.de)).

# CITIZEN'S SERVICE OFFICE



## CELEBRATIONS ALL YEAR LONG – A CULTURAL CALENDAR



*One should celebrate when one has the chance. Those who want to plan less and party more should just go ahead – because there is (almost) always something going on in Potsdam. The cultural schedule of the city seems like a marathon of the arts.*

---

Somewhere between dance, theater, music and other merry festivities there is something for everybody. Some of the nicest evergreens and dazzling upstarts are listed here: a selection, which guides you noncommittally through the year.

### **Music**

Orchestras, choirs, bands, solo musicians on stage and at street corners – Potsdam makes music almost all the time. What's noteworthy in the city is up to you.

There is for example baroque and classical music. Every year in June famous artists from all over the world are invited to the city by the organizers of the “Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci” (a music festival, [www.musikfestspiele-potsdam.de](http://www.musikfestspiele-potsdam.de)).

For two weeks there are dozens of concerts, readings and guided tours at historic places – in gardens, palaces and churches. A motto always sets the thematic tone which connects the various events.





A multifaceted soundscape arises throughout the whole city at the beginning of summer: it's the "Fête de la Musique" ([www.fete-potsdam.de](http://www.fete-potsdam.de)), always on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you want to "jazz up" the late summer, you should cock your ears in September when the city is occupied with the "Potsdamer Jazztage" – quite literally because there are 20 concerts at 20 different venues in four days. "Jazzoholics" won't have time to sleep in these days. Congenial: Since 2012 the Jazztage, the "Tag des offenen Denkmals" (the German contribution to the European Heritage Day) and Potsdam's "Kunst-Genuss-Tour" (= Art-Indulgence-Tour) have joined forces and take place at the same time – as "Potsdamer Dreiklang" (Potsdam Triad; [www.potsdamer-dreiklang.de](http://www.potsdamer-dreiklang.de)).

The Festival "Vocalise" ([www.vocalise.de](http://www.vocalise.de)) presents itself rather strong-voiced and braves the fall storms for two weeks each November. The concerts and oratorios are held in the Friedenskirche (Church of Peace) and the Erlöserkirche (Church of the

# MUSIC





## DANCE, THEATER & MOVIE CULTURAL SPHERES

Redeemer) as well as at the Nikolaisaal. Not(e)able fact: professional and lay musicians, choirs and soloists master the program together. The protagonist is always the human voice.

Especially in the city center as well as Potsdam West and Babelsberg incoming and local bands celebrate on the streets and in the many bars and pubs. It's music without borders.

At the "Waschhaus", the musical arena at the cultural quarter Schiffbauergasse, you can rock 'n' roll all year long. Festival goers should visit the local 'Woodstock' on the peninsula Hermannswerder: "Rock am Wasserturm" ([www.rockamwasserturm.de](http://www.rockamwasserturm.de)) takes place in August. This festival is not only notable for its music but also that it is committed to the encounter of people with and without handicaps.

## Dance, Theater & Film

To all those who haven't already guessed it at the city limits sign: Potsdam is a cultural city. Especially when it comes to theater, film and dance there are several festivals here which are known well beyond regional borders. An oldie but goldie is the International Theaterfestival "Unidram" ([www.unidram.de](http://www.unidram.de)). This forum for independent theater from Eastern, Western and Central Europe assembles fascinating productions at the "T-Werk" at Schiffbauergasse for about a week early in November. Nowadays theater companies from all over the world travel to Potsdam and present their unique mix of poetic or bizarre puppetry, modern dance or experimental music and stage plays. Go there! The concerts and parties are also worth a visit.

## THEATER FESTIVAL UNIDRAM

At the "Potsdamer Tanztage" (Potsdam Dancing Days; [www.fabrikpotsdam.de](http://www.fabrikpotsdam.de)) the main focus is – not surprisingly – on dance performances. The international dance scene sets up camp at the "fabrik", also at the cultural quarter Schiffbauergasse, every June. Exceptional: The audience can get really close; not only at the performances but also afterwards during talks with the dancers and choreographers.

The ageless oldie amongst the grand events is the International Student Film Festival "sehsüchte" ([www.sehsuechte.de](http://www.sehsuechte.de)). It is planned and organized by students of the Konrad Wolf University for Film and Television in Babelsberg and has – regardless of the political upheaval – completed its 42<sup>nd</sup> edition in 2013. If you want to see hundreds of amazing movies by young directors in about a week, you will have to visit one of the best German repertory cinemas: the Thalia in Babelsberg. You can get addicted!



# POTSDAMER SCHLÖSSERNACHT



## Events

Exploring parks, staying up all night, shaping urban spaces – the cultural year in Potsdam has you spoilt for choice. If you are well organized, you won't have to spend one weekend on your couch. Those less organized won't have to either.

A spectacle one is drawn to – figuratively – like the moth to the light is the “Potsdamer Schlössernacht” ([www.potsdamer-schloessernacht.de](http://www.potsdamer-schloessernacht.de)). This highlight takes place in August and draws about 33,000 guests and although ticket prices are not cheap they are usually sold out within no time. For a good reason: Thousands of lights turn park Sanssouci into a first rate magical location. Many paths, stairs and terraces lead to concerts, readings and dance performances. But the outshining stars of the night are the illuminated park and magnificent buildings. At the end there is a concert at the New Palace and fireworks at midnight –

Thousands of lights turn Park Sanssouci into a first rate magical location on this one night in August.

which you can also enjoy from afar in case you didn't get any tickets.

A day with additional value offers the "Potsdam Day of Science" which runs under the motto "Tausend Fragen, eine Stadt" – thousand questions, one city ([www.tausendfrageneinestadt.de](http://www.tausendfrageneinestadt.de)). On a Saturday at the beginning of June universities and research institutes from Potsdam and the surrounding area present their work. From morning to evening guests can try out things for which you usually have to wear a lab coat. And they can ask those who really should know the best.

In July Potsdam's 'Broadway' and the surrounding streets in the city center turn into one huge party location. The city perks itself up for the "Erlebnisnacht" ([www.potsdamererlebnisnacht.de](http://www.potsdamererlebnisnacht.de)) – and enjoys itself.

In April you will hear wooden clogs clacking through the streets of the Dutch Quarter. For one weekend the "Tulpenfest" (Tulip Festival) is celebrated in the quarter, which is the largest accumulation of Dutch buildings outside the Netherlands. Thousands of flowers, Dutch crafts and music make for an Amsterdam feeling. Although the canals are missing "Mrs. Antje from the Netherlands" (an advertising character) is there! And you get lots of "Poffertjes" and "Pannekoeken" and even more cheese.

One weekend in June an underused area of the city undergoes a cultural renaissance: LOCALIZE ([www.localize-potsdam.de](http://www.localize-potsdam.de)) is a festival organized by students of the University of Potsdam and the University of Applied Sciences. They spot empty urban spaces as "an experimental ground for cultural formats". Previous locations have been the empty rooms of the library, which was about to be renovated, as well as empty Dutch buildings or the un-flooded city





canal. Performances, exhibitions, music and theater breathe new life into these unfinished spaces for a short time. Exciting snap-shots of life!

Other festivities during the year are: “Rhythm against Racism” (April), “Baumblütenfest in Werder” (April/May, [www.baumbluete.de](http://www.baumbluete.de)), “Rock in Caputh” (May, [www.rockincaputh.de](http://www.rockincaputh.de)), “Intersonanzen” – Brandenburg festival for new music (May/June, [www.intersonanzen.de](http://www.intersonanzen.de)), Bohemian Weaver Festival (June, [www.boehmischesweberfest.de](http://www.boehmischesweberfest.de)), “Stadtwerkefest” – sponsored by the municipal energy supplier (June/July, [www.swp-potsdam.de](http://www.swp-potsdam.de)), “City for One Night” at Schiffbauergasse (June/July, [www.schiffbauergasse.de](http://www.schiffbauergasse.de)), four different Christmas markets (December), “Potsdamer Hofkonzerte Sanssouci” ([www.potsdamer-hofkonzerte.de](http://www.potsdamer-hofkonzerte.de)), “Bachtage” – concerts dedicated to the composer Bach ([www.bachtage.de](http://www.bachtage.de)), “International Organ Summer Potsdam” ([www.kulturfeste.de/feste/orgel.html](http://www.kulturfeste.de/feste/orgel.html)) and many more.





# LOCALIZE



## MOVIE PALACES



Film buffs are very well taken care of in Potsdam.

Potsdam is a Mecca of film: Since 1912, when the first clapperboard sounded for Asta Nielsen's "Totentanz" at the Babelsberg Film Studios, movies have been made in the city. More than 3,000 have been produced at companies like Bioscop, Ufa, DEFA and Studio Babelsberg. Thanks to recent film productions and the Konrad Wolf University for Film and Television (the largest in Germany and also located in Babelsberg) the city does not have to rest on its traditions. The cameras keep rolling.

And the projector rolls as well. Film enthusiasts are very well taken care of in Potsdam. There are three cinemas in the city, which couldn't be more different and make for an unbelievable choice of movies. During the summer quiet corners even turn into open-air cinemas. The service "all at a glance" is provided by the website [www.kino-potsdam.de](http://www.kino-potsdam.de).

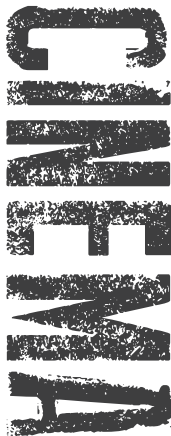
### **At the Museum**

You will get the probably unique opportunity to watch a movie in a former stable at the "Filmmuseum Potsdam" ([www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de](http://www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de)). It is right next to the new city palace. A permanent exhibition on the celluloid history of the city leads to the oldest film studio of the world. The team also assembles a handpicked program of old and new movies which are not usually shown in the common movie theater chains. Additionally, they showcase the work of movie masters, special screenings as a complement to an exhibition and – a real highlight – silent movies with live music from the Welte theater organ. The museum is currently closed for renovation but will reopen in Spring 2014.

### **Shown by the Muse**

The city's temple of the muses – not only according to the name – is the "Thalia" movie theater ([www.thalia-potsdam.de](http://www.thalia-potsdam.de)) in Babelsberg, right at the S-Bahn station. It has been awarded prizes for its choice of movies year after year and is one of the best repertory cinemas in Germany. You will get to see movies for which you otherwise would have to travel to film festivals.

At the Thalia it might happen that someone gets up after the screening and reveals him or herself as the director – and encourages a discussion about their piece of work. And in April the largest student film festival in Europe, "sehsüchte", settles in and uses the four screens of the "film art theater".





### **Just in Case**

You will get to see Blockbusters, 3D-Action and sneak previews of movies, which are shown regularly weeks later, at the “UCI Kinowelt” at Potsdam central station. Potsdam’s only multiplex offers something for everybody.

### **Beneath the Sky**

Deck chair, starry sky, an ice cream on a warm summer night – and cinema at the water! Those still missing a tick on the to-do-before-you-die-list should try the open-air cinema at the “Waschhaus”. The praiseworthy operators of the “Thalia” in Babelsberg and the party experts of the “Waschhaus” cooperated for the first time in 2013 – for the best open-air cinema in the city. And they bring with them the best movies of the year. And deck chairs. And ice cream. But other places turn into open-air cinemas as well during the summer: the “Volkspark”, the city center at Neuer Markt, the backyard of your neighbors – the choice is big and varies every year.

Deck chair, a starry sky ice cream on a warm summer night – and movies by the water.



# ALL AT A GLANCE

[WWW.KINO-POTSDAM.DE](http://WWW.KINO-POTSDAM.DE)



## THEATER AND MUSIC WHEREVER YOU GO

# LOTS OF DRAMA ON THE STAGE

*There is always drama going on in Potsdam – and most of the times actually on stage. The theater scene of Potsdam is in fact quite colorful and easy to find.*

The majority of venues and hosts has settled at the cultural quarter Schiffbauergasse ([www.schiffbauergasse.de](http://www.schiffbauergasse.de)). But that doesn't mean that they don't raise the roof at other venues when the curtains are lifted.

### **Hans Otto Theater (HOT)**

After lots of drama regarding the theater – they were playing on provisional stages throughout Potsdam for almost 15 years – the state capital now has a “grand” new building at lake Tiefer See and the Schiffbauergasse quarter since 2006. In addition to the vanguard red “shell” the Hans Otto Theater ([www.hansottotheater.de](http://www.hansottotheater.de)) also has a second venue by now, the Reithalle. They also show productions at the baroque palace theater at the New Palace from time to time. On the extensive schedule you will find a wide repertoire for the adult audience as well as numerous plays for children and teenagers. During the program “nachtboulevard”, on the stage of the Reithalle, ‘friendly’ arts like literature, music or film are presented. Whether the HOT is ‘hot’ you will have to decide for yourself. A special offer is provided





for students and trainees: five performances of your choice for one special price.

### **T-Werk**

The “T-Werk” is not even a stone’s throw away from the HOT ([www.t-werk.de](http://www.t-werk.de)). Founded in 1997 it is the result of the association of two theater clubs. Apart from eccentric performances of narrative and choreographed theater there are also many offers for children and teenagers at the “center for theater and theater pedagogy”. The festival “UNIDRAM” as well as “Potsdamer Märchennacht” and “Lange Nacht der Freien Theater” stick out as events of the “T-Werk”.

### **fabrik**

Also located at Schiffbauergasse new Potsdamers find the so-called ‘dance factory’. Where a Berlin industrialist had cardboard made until 1907 is today the home of the “International Center for Dance and Performance”. The “fabrik” (= factory) is a place where you can participate ([www.fabrikpotsdam.de](http://www.fabrikpotsdam.de)). There are numerous events where you can watch the pros

Something special at the T-Werk: the festival UNIDRAM and the “Long Night of Free Theaters”.



# DANCE COMPANIES ARRIVING FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



of every dance style. Once a year, during “Tanztage”, there are dance companies arriving from all over the world. After the performance you can first have a discussion with the artists – and then dare to visit one of the workshops.

## LET'S DANCE!

### Kabarett Obelisk

If you are looking for “Kabarett Obelisk” ([www.kabarett-potsdam.de](http://www.kabarett-potsdam.de)) – the city’s ‘humor institute’ – where one would assume it according to its name (the obelisk at the entrance to Park Sanssouci) you have gotten the first joke for free. It has long since moved to the city center and the ensemble bravely fights the serious side of life; which they have been doing for over 30 years now.



## Theater Ship

The world seen through a bull's-eye? A roof-deck on the Havel. A swimming stage? The "Theater Ship" offers all that ([www.theaterschiff-potsdam.de](http://www.theaterschiff-potsdam.de)). "Sturmvogel" – 52 meters long and six meters wide – used to anchor on the old waterway, between "Freundschaftsinsel" and the city center, but will move to the river banks at Schiffbauergasse in December 2013. On the lower deck, during the summer sometimes also on the upper deck, you get to see performances by the ship's ensembles and many others. If the stage doesn't sway enough, you should go to the on-board pub and you might get rolling sooner or later.



## Improvisation Theater at the KuZe

Theater just the way I want it! "No way" is a no-go in Potsdam. At the "KuZe" ([www.kuze-potsdam.de](http://www.kuze-potsdam.de)), the student cultural center on Hermann-Elflein-Straße, you can shoo the members of the improvisation theater "Improbanden" across the stage every last Thursday of the month.



## Nikolaisaal

The "Nikolaisaal" is a musical center with a 'classic' cut on Wilhelm-Staab-Straße ([www.nikolaisaal.de](http://www.nikolaisaal.de)). Potsdam's largest and most modern concert hall has been skillfully fitted into the historic quarters. It provides room for more than 600 guests. You get to hear classical as well as pop and jazz concerts, film and chamber music. The in-house orchestra is the "Kammerakademie Potsdam".



## Music in Churches

Music is made regularly and impressively at many of Potsdam's churches. The most well-known musical initiatives regarding the houses of prayer are the "Neue Kammerorchester Potsdam" and the church choir of the Erlöserkirche ([www.nkop.de](http://www.nkop.de), [www.potsdamer-kantorei.de](http://www.potsdamer-kantorei.de)) as well as the oratorio choir at the Friedenskirche in Park Sanssouci ([www.oratorienchorpotsdam.de](http://www.oratorienchorpotsdam.de)).

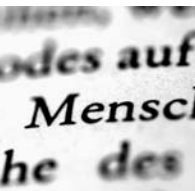
Music is made impressively at Potsdam's churches ...

## PALACES OF WORDS



Writers have always been productive in Potsdam: from authors like Peter Weiss, born in Nowawes (today Babelsberg) in 1916, to Antje Rávic Strubel, also born in Potsdam in 1974, who recently wrote a “manual” for her hometown.

There is also a lot of reading going on: quietly in reference books, loudly to and for others, in libraries, mansions, gardens, theaters and concert halls. Quiet reading can be done pretty much anywhere, but there are also “reading Meccas” you can visit. Reading loudly needs devotees and places, which are worth knowing.



## **Municipal and State Library**

The library located in the heart of Potsdam, at Platz der Einheit, is the largest in Brandenburg and was established in 1974. Since its reopening in September 2013 the municipal and state library ([www.bibliothek.potsdam.de](http://www.bibliothek.potsdam.de)) is even more than just that: In cooperation with the adult education center and the new “science floor” at the top it is now the “Bildungsforum” (= education forum) of Potsdam. For literature enthusiasts there are books in many shapes and sizes, all-year exhibitions and readings.

## **Brandenburgisches Literaturbüro (Literature Office Brandenburg)**

Good literature is well organized in Potsdam: in an office, the one for literature. The “Brandenburgische Literaturbüro” ([www.literaturlandschaft.de](http://www.literaturlandschaft.de)) promotes books and their creators throughout the whole state. The team invites authors to various events everywhere in Brandenburg. Of course, many of them make a stop in Potsdam; often at the domicile of the literature office, the Villa Quandt at the Pfingstberg. The Theodor-Fontane-Archive is also located there, which organizes literary events several times during the year. They are always concerned with Fontane – of course!

## **Book Scene**

True heroes of literature are – apart from those who conceive it, write it down and make it come alive – the book sellers. If you want to choose a ‘book dealer’ of your trust you will have a tough choice to make. Either you will find one right at your door step – which is not a problem in the city center (“Internationales Buch”, “Sputnik” or “Stiftungsbuchhandlung”), Potsdam West (“Viktoriagarten”) and Babelsberg (“Bürgerl” or “Script”). Or you will have a chat with each of them and find out where to get your literary ‘stuff’. If you expect more than just printed pages but rather a cultivated



Located in the heart of Potsdam, at Platz der Einheit, the largest library of Brandenburg – built in 1974.





happening with the authors now and then, here are two special suggestions: The “Lord of the Books” in the city is Carsten Wist, who owns “Literaturladen Wist” ([www.wist-derliteraturladen.de](http://www.wist-derliteraturladen.de)) on Brandenburger Straße in the city center. He was one of the firsts to make sure that Potsdam appeared on the map of major literary events and insider tips at all. Depending on the popularity of the author, he invites people to his shop or even the Waschhaus Arena at Schiffbauergasse. The two booksellers who own “Viktoriagarten” ([www.viktoriagarten-potsdam.de](http://www.viktoriagarten-potsdam.de)) in Potsdam West are rather new in town but set about with vigor and a certain ‘je ne sais quoi’ to cultivate the ‘book experience’. Support your local book dealer!

### “Reading in the Garden”

An insider’s tip, which isn’t really one anymore, is the brilliant idea to open private gardens in the city during the summer to consummate literature together. The



Urania “Wilhelm Förster” ([www.urania-potsdam.de](http://www.urania-potsdam.de)) organizes many of these ‘green readings’. If you cannot decide between nature and art just go there.

# ‘GREEN READINGS’ IN POTSDAM’S GARDENS

## Having Someone Read (to You) ...

... is possible at many places in Potsdam. Those dedicated to literature invite the grand and special of the writer’s guild – to mansions, libraries, (book) shops, backyards or cafes. It is hard to keep track but you will find a selection for example in the city magazine “events” ([www.stadtmagazin-events.de](http://www.stadtmagazin-events.de)).



## THE INFORMATION LANDSCAPE



*A central station, a theater, a soccer stadium, a pub. What else do you need to supply yourself with news?*

## HEARING VOICES

The times when a well-working rumor mill kept a city going seem to be over. There's buzz and gossip at every corner. And there are many ways to stay informed about all of them: newspapers, radio, TV, internet. If you want to know what makes the city tick, when and where, just look into it or listen up.

### **In Black and White – Newspapers**

As a state capital Potsdam 'allows' itself two daily newspapers. So you have to choose if you don't want to read everything twice. The largest daily newspaper in Brandenburg is the "Märkische Allgemeine Zeitung", which offers 15 local sections apart from the general inter-regional section and thus provides all of Brandenburg with news. If you want to read the local news online you will find the articles at [www.maerkischeallgemeine.de](http://www.maerkischeallgemeine.de) every day. The 'smaller' one of the Potsdam gazettes is "Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten". The general section is provided by the Berlin newspaper "Tagesspiegel". Apart from that it deals mostly with Potsdam related issues. It can also be read online ([www.pnn.de](http://www.pnn.de)).

The largest daily newspaper of Brandenburg is the "Märkische Allgemeine Zeitung".



### Surfing the Waves – Radio

The voices you get to hear in Potsdam are varied and pleasant. One of the most popular radio stations in the area around Berlin broadcasts directly from Babelsberg, where the “Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg” (Berlin-Brandenburg Broadcasting) set up camp: “radioeins” ([www.radioeins.de](http://www.radioeins.de)). Sophisticated broadcasting concepts, good music, journalistic depth and – such is the self-labeling – “only for grown-ups”. The counterpart for the younger audience – “Radio Fritz” ([www.fritz.de](http://www.fritz.de)) – and the older one – “Antenne Brandenburg” ([www.antennebrandenburg.de](http://www.antennebrandenburg.de)) – are also part of that broadcasting company. Since 2007 there is also a private neighborhood-radio station “14482 Babelsberg Hitradio” ([www.babelsberg-hitradio.de](http://www.babelsberg-hitradio.de)) which can be heard over the FM broadcast band. But there are also various independent radio aficionados who are ‘riding’ the airwaves under the label “Freies Radio Potsdam” (Free Radio Potsdam, [www.freiesradiopotsdam.wordpress.com](http://www.freiesradiopotsdam.wordpress.com)).

### Moving Pictures – TV

Since 2003 Berlin and Brandenburg are one unit, at least when it comes to media. Back then the “Sender Freies

KNOWING  
WHAT MAKES  
THE CITY TICK



Berlin” and “Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Brandenburg” merged and became one public service broadcasting authority. “rbb” television ([www.rbb-online.de](http://www.rbb-online.de)) is produced in Babelsberg just like most of the radio programs. What’s worth seeing in Potsdam can also be ‘looked up’ on the private channel “Potsdam TV”, which broadcasts daily starting at 6 pm ([www.potsdamtv.de](http://www.potsdamtv.de)).



### **Potsdam Live – City Magazine**

The whole city life at a glance offers the city magazine “events” every month. It’s free and displayed at various points throughout the city. Apart from the essential calendar of events – and the popular snapshots of Potsdam’s nightlife – there are also many Potsdam-related articles ([www.stadtmagazin-events.de](http://www.stadtmagazin-events.de)). The second city magazine lines up as “a magazine for Berlin-Brandenburg”: “friedrich” ([www.friedrich-potsdam.de](http://www.friedrich-potsdam.de)). It is also free and it centers mostly on art and culture.

# ART AND CULTURE



*SUIT UP,  
WE ARE GOING TO A PARTY!*



Potsdam turns and turns and turns – sometimes even for 360 degrees. Not always a gentle cycle. Those who want to party might do it a little differently in Potsdam than elsewhere: at a laundry, a tent or a dance café. Objections? Good. In favor? Good!

### **Waschhaus**

The first address in town regarding parties is the “Waschhaus” ([www.waschhaus.de](http://www.waschhaus.de)) at the cultural quarter Schiffbauergasse. It was built as the royal garrison steam laundry and used as such by the GDR laundry company

Those who want to party, might do it a little differently in Potsdam than elsewhere.

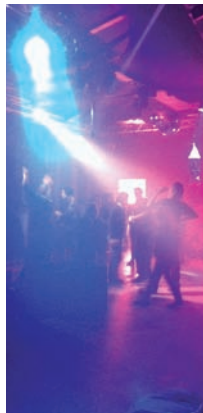
VEB Rewatex until 1988. The rough charm of Prussian industrial heritage has remained. Especially the large decorated chimney can be seen from afar. Since 1993 the culture and party caravan moves through the halls: concerts, dance, literature, theater – and parties. Apart from the big concert and cultural events there is dancing and partying regularly at the Waschhaus. During the weekly “Ruby’s Tuesday”, which provides a stage for unknown bands, the house is bursting at the seams. On the first Tuesday of the month there is an open stage night. Everyone is invited to the stage, who thinks they can do something that everyone should see: whether it’s music, poetry, comedy or theater. If the weather gods allow it, the Waschhaus invites you to an open-air cinema summer during the warmer months. Often with a smooth transition to a party.

### freiLand

Concerts, parties and cultural events offers the “freiLand” ([www.freiland-potsdam.de](http://www.freiland-potsdam.de)) on Friedrich-Engels-Straße. Various groups and initiatives have found a home on the 12,000 square meter area of the culture society. The program is colorful accordingly and takes place all week long. DJ lounge, poetry slam or tea dance – something for everyone! By the way: Students get discounts.

### DANCE!

Those having the dance bug should try their luck at the “Waschhaus” as described above. There is something for every musical taste whether you want to sway to Reggae tunes or head-bang to Metal music. You can also party and chill at “Club Laguna” ([www.clublaguna-potsdam.de](http://www.clublaguna-potsdam.de)) in the city center. If you don’t want to shake a leg but rather dangle it, find a seat in their garden or ease into the comfortable couches. It is similar at the “fabrik” ([www.fabrikpotsdam.de](http://www.fabrikpotsdam.de)), where you cannot only watch someone dance but also dance yourself. During “Tanz in der fabrik” you can move



“AFTER WORK” WITH DJ  
OR “DANCE NIGHT ON A BARGE”



## BANDS AND PARTIES

in a beach-like atmosphere at the banks of the Havel near the beach volleyball field, or you don't. At “Bar Gelb” ([www.bargelb.de](http://www.bargelb.de)), on Charlottenstraße next to “Kabarett Obelisk”, you not only get cocktails but you will also get to see DJ's at the turntables regularly.

### Party Along

You can party with students especially in those locations that exist thanks to student and other voluntary initiatives: at the “NiL” ([www.planet-nil.de](http://www.planet-nil.de)) for example, directly on Am Neuen Palais campus. The vaults of the student cellar, which by the way exists since 1971, are opened during the week and it's run by students. From concerts to film and literature evenings and open stage there is always something going on. Also organized and run by students is the “Pub à la Pub” ([www.pub-a-la-pub.de](http://www.pub-a-la-pub.de)) on Breite Straße. Apart from bar service they also have bands playing and parties from time to time.

### Also ...

Many pubs, cafes or other locations have regular events scheduled, where you can dance on the tables, brawl into the microphone yourself or just chill at the bar. The theater ship ([www.theaterschiff-potsdam.de](http://www.theaterschiff-potsdam.de)) offers "Live in the Bar – After Work with DJ" or a "Dance Night on a Barge". The "Gutenberg 100" ([www.gutenberg100.de](http://www.gutenberg100.de)) offers karaoke for those eager to sing. Once in a while there are also parties at "Club Charlotte", directly above the „Kabarett Obelisk“ on Charlottenstraße, and the "Walhalla" on Dortustraße. During the summer months there is a beach bar at the banks of the Havel in Potsdam West. Starting in October, when summer has finally struck its tent, a literal tent is built at the harbor at the bridge Lange Brücke: the "Palmenzelt" (= palm tent; [www.palmenzelt.de](http://www.palmenzelt.de)). During the winter you can warm up with hot Latin Music rhythms.

Dance on the tables, brawl into the microphone yourself or just chill at the bar ...



## RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS, BARS ...

*The shelves are up but the kitchen is not ready yet, so you want to go out for dinner. But where? You are new in town and haven't found your favorite café yet? Looking for cozy pubs with potential for lazing away a day in them?*

---



An extensive restaurant guide for Potsdam would be nice – however, this book still wants to cover many other subjects. But the following subjective selection will make your mouth water and offers a few pointers to a gastronomic city tour, a hasteless coffee shop stop or a decent pub crawl. In this case it is really a matter of taste. A small introduction to – probably – countless food and drink places offers for example this website: [www.gastronomie.info-potsdam.de](http://www.gastronomie.info-potsdam.de).

### **Restaurants**

Potsdam's gastronomy advocates itself as quite international. Not all cuisines of the world are represented. However, the culinary selection of the city does not have to hide itself. The abundance of Indian restaurants alone would justify its own map. The "India Haus" ([www.india-haus-potsdam.de](http://www.india-haus-potsdam.de)) is especially recommended, since it brought Tandoori Chicken, Dal and Raita as one of the first to Potsdam's Jägertor. Very authentic is "TomYam" ([www.siam-thaifood.de](http://www.siam-thaifood.de)), a small store at Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 13, which comes up with the variety of Southeast Asian cuisine,

Potsdam's gastronomy advocates itself as quite international.



including sushi. Here you will find the original charm of a Thai cookshop. The service is not always as good, but the food is over the top. At “My Keng” ([www.sushipotdam.de](http://www.sushipotdam.de)) on Brandenburger Straße you will also get sushi – as well as specialties from the Cambodian cuisine. Highly praised.

For those who want to treat their loved ones to pasta and pizza, without having to worry about their wallet content, should visit “Ristorante Contadino” at Luisenplatz. Good service, large pizzas. For a racy evening for two you should go to “Mea Culpa” on Dortustraße, where you will find Chuletas riojana, gazpacho andaluz and Canarian potatoes on the menu. Great atmosphere. If you feel like “pelmeni” and “borschtsch” you should go to “Matschkes Galeriecafé” ([www.atschkes-galeriecafe.de](http://www.atschkes-galeriecafe.de)). They tie in with the traditions of the Russian colony Alexandrowka, which was built for twelve Russian singers. They offer Russian and German meals in almost magical surroundings. The owners of the “Quendel” ([www.quendel-potsdam.de](http://www.quendel-potsdam.de)) regularly go on a culinary trip to various countries of the world and are not fixed on a certain cuisine. It’s on Sellostraße right across from





an entrance to Park Sanssouci, so you do not only eat well, you can also sit quite comfortably – during the summer preferably outside.

Of course, there is also German cuisine in the former Prussian metropolis. An abundance of it. It is hard to make a choice. If you have to go by well-sounding names: why not stop by at the “Laubenpieper” (= allotment holder) at the Pfingstberg, “Butt” (= flounder) on Gutenbergstraße or “Zum Fliegenden Holländer” (= Flying Dutchman) – of course in the Dutch Quarter? If you are on a budget, you can eat well in the many, many soup restaurants, bistros or snack shops, from “Belmundo” in the city center to “Bistro7” at S-Bahn station Babelsberg.

### Cafés

You will get served a good “coffee to stay” at many places in Potsdam. So it’s important to know a few



of those seating accommodations. Apart from Daily Coffee, World of Coffee and Starbucks Coffee there are also a few locations which still bear the old-fashioned “café” in their title – proudly and justified. One of them is the “Café Heider” ([www.cafeheider.de](http://www.cafeheider.de)) for example, located in one of the buildings of the Dutch Quarter, directly at Nauener Tor. Named after its first owner it has existed pretty much since the 1960s. A confectionery offering coffee and cake has been here since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It’s an institution with style, visible in its décor. Just around the corner, on Mittelstraße, you will find the cozy “Café Guam” ([www.cafe-guam.de](http://www.cafe-guam.de)), which is also settled into one of the Dutch houses. For those who are undecided or very hungry: 19 kinds of cakes are available. The café at the museum Alexandrowka ([www.alexandrowka.de](http://www.alexandrowka.de)), the Russian colony north of the city center, offers immigrated flavors. A warm summer’s day spent in the garden of the museum, which is located in one of the block houses, is a day well spent.

The “Wiener Café” (Vienna Café; [www.wiener-potsdam.de](http://www.wiener-potsdam.de)) lives up to its name: Mirrored walls, red velvet chairs and brass banisters allow coffeehouse feelings to get out of hand. You can act them out during their brunch for example. You can also brunch well at the “Café Hundertwasser” ([www.hundertwasser-potsdam.de](http://www.hundertwasser-potsdam.de)) located in the Logenhaus right across from the Dutch Quarter. And of course the colorful interior décor is in the style of the cafés eponym.

Definitely one of the nicest places in town to have a coffee – actually the nicest place for pretty much anything – is Park Babelsberg. Good thing that there is a café. And not just anywhere but in the small palace ([www.kleinesschloss.de](http://www.kleinesschloss.de)) located directly at the Havel! Without any ifs and buts it’s a place with style. You will also find coffeehouse flair in Babelsberg itself,



You can brunch well at “Café Hundertwasser” across from the Dutch Quarter.



right at the S-Bahn station: at “Lindencafé” ([www.lindencafe.de](http://www.lindencafe.de)). Established in 1914 it presents itself rather classy according to its long tradition. After the fall of the Berlin Wall the café was called “Halli Galli” (= hullabaloo) for a short time, which can almost be considered lese-majesty ...

### **Pubs & Bars**

It may be true that the sidewalks are usually rolled up in Potsdam at 8:05 pm, but fortunately ambitious barkeepers roll out the red carpet right at this moment. Or they organize a private beach with deck chairs in the city center. And they start the washing machine; and the barbecue grill. Don't be anxious about the night life in Potsdam. Just follow the signs, lights, sounds – and in case of doubt – the people!

Following the laws of urban gravitation the concentration of bars is highest in the city center. You will find



something for your taste without a problem. A recommendable ‘dinosaur’ is the “Hafthorn“ ([www.hafthorn.de](http://www.hafthorn.de)), which ‘hides’ in a backyard on Friedrich-Ebert-Straße near Nauener Tor. A sign (!) leads the way. You are well advised to go there if you set out hungry. The place is well known for its huge burgers and great atmosphere. Two corners further, on Behlerstraße, the gay and lesbian scene has found a home at the “Leander“ ([www.leander-potsdam.de](http://www.leander-potsdam.de)). At the “home for fallen girls” – such is the subtitle – you meet just about everybody. Apart from that the city center is the students’ stomping ground: the student cultural center “KuZe“ ([www.kuze-potsdam.de](http://www.kuze-potsdam.de)), including bars on three floors is located close to Brandenburger Tor, on Hermann-Elflein-Straße.

Only a stone’s throw away, on Charlottenstraße, is the “11-line“ ([www.11-line.de](http://www.11-line.de)), where you can lounge on the settees in the windows. Or you take one of the deck chairs on the sidewalk, which are out there come rain or shine. From here you can make a quick trip to “Café Olga“ ([www.charlotte28.blogspot.de/olga](http://www.charlotte28.blogspot.de/olga)), which is a small hole-in-the-wall run by the residential project “Neue Farben e.V.“ at Charlottenstraße 28. They offer beer at an unbeatable price; affordable for the smallest budget. The main hub for the collegiate night owls is “Pub à la Pub“ ([www.pub-a-la-pub.de](http://www.pub-a-la-pub.de)). This pub is located on Breite Straße. It is run by students – doing everything from purchase to bar duty – and has the right flair, audience and very collegiate prices.

There are other main hubs elsewhere in the city. For example in Babelsberg: If you don’t want to go far after a movie at the Thalia, go next door to “Kinocafé Konsum“ ([www.daskonsum.de](http://www.daskonsum.de)) or a few steps further to the Mexican “Mesueyes”. In Potsdam West a visit to “Waschbar“ (= laundry bar; [www.waschbar-pdm.de](http://www.waschbar-pdm.de)) on Geschwister-Scholl-Straße is a must. And take your dirty laundry with you because their title is not



Main hub for  
collegiate night  
owls is “Pub à la  
Pub”.



just an adornment. Huge washing machines do cycle after cycle while you can enjoy the alcoholic turns. The nacho 'mountains' served there are very recommendable. Also worth a visit is "Rückholz" on Sellostraße You can shoot the breeze here all night very well. It's a fact.



**YOU HAVE TO FIND  
YOUR "OWN" PUB.  
OR OPEN IT.**



## PUT CHILDREN INTO POWER!



The little ones are of the utmost importance.

... a German singer demanded once in one of his songs. But no one has allowed it so far. In Potsdam they try, at least a little bit: The “Kinder- und Jugendbüro” (children’s and teenagers’ campaign office; [www.kijubuero-potsdam.de](http://www.kijubuero-potsdam.de)) gets involved so that the voices of the newest and definitely youngest Potsdamers are heard. The little ones are generally of the utmost importance in the city. Two times Potsdam has been voted the child-friendliest city in Germany, an honor the city has long made its motto. Kids – and kin – are welcome in Potsdam.

# THE VOICES OF THE YOUNGEST ARE HEARD

## Help

If you move to Potsdam with a small or large family, you will need more room than just an apartment. Since Potsdam is still growing quickly, it's hard to find a spot at a day-care center. The municipality will help with that. The office responsible, the department for children, youths and family ([www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de)) have launched the service "Kita Tipp" (= daycare tips). This service helps to find free spots at day-care centers. But the department will also help with any other children-related questions – from family greeting service to child and youth services. You will also get help and support at the various associations that get involved in children and youth work: from the "Stadtjugendring" ([www.stadtjugendring-potsdam.de](http://www.stadtjugendring-potsdam.de)) and "Manne e.V." ([www.mannepotsdam.de](http://www.mannepotsdam.de)) – especially for boys and men – to the social workers "Wildwuchs" ([www.wildwuchs-potsdam.de](http://www.wildwuchs-potsdam.de)).

## Orientation

Several initiatives facilitate the way through the urban jungle. And it doesn't matter whether you just arrived and want to discover places, forests or city squares or if you are looking for excitement in everyday-life with children. Distributed over the municipal area there are four "local alliances" that have assembled the most important information regarding family in four guidebooks ([www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de)). Also very helpful is the family magazine "PotsKids!" ([www.potskids-online.de](http://www.potskids-online.de)), which is published monthly. You find tips on what to do in your free time, recommendations for books and an event calendar. The best thing about it: You get it for free at more than 300 places. The children can also make or get their own plan respectively: The children's city map of Potsdam is available at many places for pick-up – or online ([www.hastnplan.de](http://www.hastnplan.de)). It gives a lot of information and tips for the little Potsdamers.





## GET OUT!

Potsdam is a paradise. That's at least what the landscape designer Moritz von Nassau-Siegen wished for when he advised the Great Elector in the 17<sup>th</sup> century on what to do with the swampland. Now the city is so green unlike any other. This is alright with the children. There are 130 playgrounds and some of them are ready for a special adventure: for example on the Freundschaftsinsel, in the Volkspark, at the adventure playground "Blauer Daumen" ([www.abenteuerspielplatz-potsdam.de](http://www.abenteuerspielplatz-potsdam.de)) or in case the weather is bad at the "Dino-Dschungel" on Kiewitt ([www.dinodschungel.de](http://www.dinodschungel.de)). But almost any park can become a playground as well as the numerous forests, meadows and green spaces. The Park Babelsberg should be especially mentioned because of its swaying paths and meadows. It's breathtaking throughout the year. But Potsdam is also proud of the forest Wildpark, the hills Ravensberge, the grasslands surrounding the Nuthe river, the forest

Katharinenholz or the heathland Parforceheide. Take it one forest a day.

### Too Much Energy

If you see your child hammering rhythmically on an egg at breakfast and you think they might be the next star musician, why don't you take your child to a music school. Apart from the municipal music school "Johann Sebastian Bach" there are numerous private ones, for example "Freie Musikschule" ([www.freie-musikschule-potsdam.de](http://www.freie-musikschule-potsdam.de)). If your child is very fidgety try sports. The city's sports association ([www.stadtsportbund-potsdam.de](http://www.stadtsportbund-potsdam.de)) unites 155 sports clubs and 50 different kinds of sports respectively. Out of 26,500 members there are 10,000 children. You will definitely find something.

### It's Mine!

At some places designated for children it already says so on the label. But we will point them out nonetheless. For example the children's and youth's library which is part of the municipal and state library ([www.bibliothek.potsdam.de](http://www.bibliothek.potsdam.de)). They do not only have books, games, CDs and movies but also readings and talks especially for young readers.

Go to music schools with budding musicians.





OPEN HOUSE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS  
**AT LINDENPARK**

The “Treffpunkt Freizeit” ([www.treffpunktfreizeit.de](http://www.treffpunktfreizeit.de)) at the lake Heiliger See already exists for 60 years – and does not tire of it. The place offers an all-round package with workshops, courses, care, counseling and events for every age and season. The former party location “Lindenpark” ([www.lindenpark.de](http://www.lindenpark.de)) is also dedicated to children and families by now. Playgrounds, a skater park and the “Offene Kinder- und Jugendhaus jwd” (open house for children and youths), which is looked after by youths themselves, turn the area into an experimental quarter. Moreover, there are children, youths and generation centers in almost every district of the city which are worth discovering.

**Something Special Today ...**

Those who are not yet tired after all their discoveries don't have to go to Berlin or the urban hinterland. There is also something special in Potsdam. At the “Biosphäre” ([www.biosphaere-potsdam.de](http://www.biosphaere-potsdam.de)), located in the Volkspark,

guests are greeted by 20,000 plants, tropical insects and animals. The “Extavium” ([www.extavium.de](http://www.extavium.de)) is definitely a “please-touch” museum, where children can experience science first hand. It’s located next to the “Filmpark Babelsberg”. Complicated things are explained in a playful way with the help of experiments and models. Another place where you are allowed to do more than watch is the transparent factory of “Katjes” ([www.katjes-shops.de/potsdam](http://www.katjes-shops.de/potsdam)): They offer free tours and explain how candy is made. You cannot try the candy for free though but they have special prices at their factory outlet store. Maybe you should then continue with something more sportive at the “AbenteuerPark Potsdam” ([www.abenteuerpark.de](http://www.abenteuerpark.de)). At the ropes course on the hill Telegrafenberg you can exercise in airy heights between the tree tops. Of course belayed. During the school holidays children enjoy the amenities of the “Ferienpass Potsdam” (Holiday Pass Potsdam; [www.ferienpass-potsdam.de](http://www.ferienpass-potsdam.de)), which makes a lot possible and affordable. If your children are really thirsty for knowledge: The University of Potsdam hosts a children’s university ([www.kinder.uni-potsdam.de](http://www.kinder.uni-potsdam.de)) once every year on the last Friday in September.



## POTSDAM'S NATURE



*Potsdam is pretty much still a village. The thousand years old history, which the capital and its people are very proud of, luckily didn't really change that.*

---

Around 1660 – shortly after the Thirty Years' War – no more than 770 people lived here. That did good for the appearance of the city. Because when Potsdam subsequently became residency for the Prussian monarch, they made sure to 'reserve' enough land for parks, palaces and other amenities. The royals are gone by now but the parks are not. Since more than 20 square kilometers, 11 percent of the municipal area, is covered by water, which just cannot be covered with buildings, you inevitably get the feeling of living in a green oasis.

### **Parks**

Those interested in history can retrace it in the parks of Potsdam. All others simply enjoy the feeling of having a huge garden at their doorstep. It is not far for anybody to the three main parks of the city. The parks are overseen by the Prussian Palaces and Parks Foundation and are distributed almost evenly over the city: Park Sanssouci in the west, Park Babelsberg in the east and the New Garden in the north. Park Sanssouci, the oldest and largest one is also the most popular one: Frederic the Great had the park

The royals are gone by now but the parks are not.

# TRACES OF HISTORY IN THE CITY PARK SANSSOUCI



built after the palace was finished; it was extended continuously. Even the hordes of tourists, who invade the park during the summer, almost vanish on the 290 hectares area with its 70 kilometers network of paths. It seemed that everyone in the residency wanted to have their own garden. Thus Frederick's nephew, Frederick William II, had the New Garden built at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It stretches over 100 hectares between the lakes Heiliger See and Jungfernsee. It was modeled to the English landscape gardens. Due to the closeness to lake Heiliger See it is also attractive for the Potsdamers when it comes to swimming and ice skating. Probably the most romantic park in Potsdam is the one in Babelsberg. The work was begun by the landscaping artist Peter Joseph Lenné at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and finished by the eccentric prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau. On almost 115 hectares many paths meander up and down the sloping terrain. In between you will find seemingly enchanted buildings – among them two palaces, a steam-powered pump house, a court arbor, a sailor's house and the Flatow Tower. It's great there all year long!





FORESTS THE SIZE OF 7,000  
SOCCER FIELDS!

### Forests and Meadows

The fenced-in parks are a minority in Potsdam. The first place among the nature compounds of the city is taken by the “free woods”. There are over 5,000 hectares of forests on the municipal area, which equals the size of 7,000 soccer fields! And they are all unique. In the west of Potsdam there is the Wildpark, which was once – the name already reveals it – used as a hunting ground. Later Lenné and the Prussian court gardener Emil Sello got to work, which is when most of the paths were developed. Since King Frederick William IV had been an Italy aficionado there are several seemingly Italian mansions hidden within the park. It’s eerily beautiful and very quiet. In the northwest of Sanssouci you will find a truly enchanted forest: Katharinenholz. It was once a military drill ground and forbidden for amblers, which is why paths were developed rather late. Located behind the hidden Palace Lindtstedt are the “Düstere Teiche”



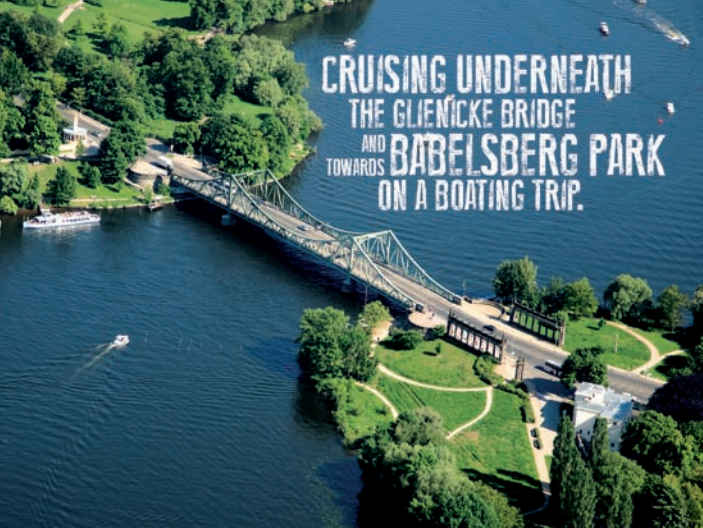
(= bleak ponds), a picturesque wetland surrounded by willows and alders. In the south of Potsdam stretches the largest woodland: Ravensberge reaches from the district Waldstadt in the east to the lake Templiner See in the west. In between you will find the hills Großer Ravensberg (108 meters) and Kleiner Ravensberg (114 meters), the lake Teufelssee and the moor Moosfenn, one of the oldest nature reserves in Germany (since 1937).

### Plenty of Water

Twenty lakes and stretches of water can be found on the municipal area. If you look closer, it is mainly the Havel, which meanders – here more narrow, there wider, here broached or canalized and then again placidly natural – around the northwestern part of the city. But it is always good to have a wide selection. And who can get one's bearing when directed towards the Havel in all cardinal points? If you want you can circle the city via boat or raft (for example with Huckleberry's Tour, [www.huckleberrys-tour.de](http://www.huckleberrys-tour.de)). If you like to be driven: Take the passenger ships of "Weiße Flotte" ([www.schiffahrt-in-potsdam.de](http://www.schiffahrt-in-potsdam.de)).

The first choice regarding lakes would be the lake Heiliger See (= holy lake). Not necessarily because of its name but rather because one of its nice fronts is in the New Garden. Potsdam's 'lido' is located at the northeastern lakeside. Not to everyone's delight, but the people took their pick and cannot be put off it during the summer! A small puncture connects the lakes Heiliger See and Jungfernsee north of the city. You cannot go swimming everywhere at that lake but it's nice for a boating trip – ferry across to Sacrow or the "Pfaueninsel" (= peacock island) or cruise underneath Glienicke Bridge towards Park Babelsberg. From there you turn left into lake Griebnitzsee. The German border used to run right across the lake, which is why it was inaccessible. Today the properties





# CRUISING UNDERNEATH THE GLIENICKE BRIDGE AND TOWARDS BABELSBERG PARK ON A BOATING TRIP.

at the lakefront are the best in Potsdam and the free access to the lakeshore is the city's number one apple of discord. Turning right at Glienicke Bridge towards the city center the waterway leads across the lake Tiefer See. At 14 meters water depth it is really one of the deepest parts of the Havel. On the right side you pass the red "shell", the Hans Otto Theater, while on the left side you can see the public beach of Park Babelsberg. Between the bridges Humboldt-Brücke and Lange Brücke the Havel is called "Neue Fahrt" and "Alte Fahrt" (= New and Old Way) – and hugs the inner-city island "Freundschaftsinsel". After a short stop at the harbor of the shipping company "Weißen Flotte" begins the lake Templiner See. The Northwest Potsdamers benefit from that lake because it surrounds the peninsula Hermannswerder and runs north into the bay Neustädter Havelbucht. Next to numerous apartment blocks with a river view there is also a steam engine building looking like a mosque,



which feeds the fountain in Park Sanssouci with water, and the unique building of “Cafés Seerose”. It is an architectural gem with deck chairs and a beach volleyball field. At some point, down in the south, the lake Templiner See runs into the lake Schwielowsee. But that is well beyond Potsdam’s city limit. If you want to go further into the country you have to make a choice between a dozen other lakes, river branches and smaller stretches of water. Worth a trip is the lake Sacrower See in the north, which you can circle on foot. And of course go swimming.



## A CITY OF SCIENCE



Among other things Potsdam is a city of science. There aren't more researchers – measured by the number of residents – anywhere else in Germany. About 9,000 people work at over 40 research and scientific institutions spread over the whole city. There is everything from a university to specialized laboratories. Tsunamis and global climate, Jewish and German cultural history, bio medicine and microbiology, astrophysics and software systems – it almost seems as if there is nothing that is not in a “research book”.

Hearing 'Potsdam' many think of parks and palaces but the sciences are just as impressive.

## Universities

The heart of Potsdam's scientific landscape is the University of Potsdam ([www.uni-potsdam.de](http://www.uni-potsdam.de)). With three campuses – Am Neuen Palais, in Golm and at lake Griebnitzsee – it is well positioned within the city. More than 20,000 students are enrolled at five faculties. The main research fields are cognitive sciences and educational studies, earth and environmental sciences but also biology, chemistry and political and administrative sciences. A research field within the humanities are “unsettled cultures”. Highlights are also offered by the co-institutes like the Hasso Plattner Institute for Software Systems Engineering (HPI, [www.hpi.uni-potsdam.de](http://www.hpi.uni-potsdam.de)), where a School of Design Thinking had been established in order to develop innovative solutions for all areas of life.

Apart from the university there are two other schools in Potsdam: namely the Fachhochschule Potsdam (University of Applied Science; [www.fh-potsdam.de](http://www.fh-potsdam.de)) and the Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen “Konrad Wolf” (Film and Television University “Konrad Wolf”; [www.hff-potsdam.de](http://www.hff-potsdam.de)). While the first is mainly active in fields like design, media sciences, architecture as well as social education, the latter is mainly concerned with the “moving pictures” and their production.

## On the Telegrafenberg

It all started in 1832. Back then the first telegraph office was built on this hill. With a height of 94 meters this elevation cannot be called anything more. Starting in 1874 several observatories and institutes were built bit by bit on these premises, where some renowned research institutions are still located today; for example the “Helmholtz Centre Potsdam – German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ)” ([www.gfz-potsdam.de](http://www.gfz-potsdam.de)). This institution, where nothing less than the “system earth” is researched, should be known at least since its researchers worked on



**POTSDAM 40**  
HAS MORE THAN  
**RESEARCH**  
**INSTITUTES.**





a tsunami early warning system. Neighbor of the GFZ is the Potsdam branch of the “Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research” ([www.awi.de](http://www.awi.de)), which has its headquarters in Bremerhaven. From the Telegrafenberg the researchers regularly go on expeditions to the polar regions of the Arctic and Antarctic. The “Leibniz Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam” ([www.aip.de](http://www.aip.de)) only pitched part of its tents on the Telegrafenberg. The Astrophysical Observatory was one of the first newly built facilities in 1876. The Great Refractor and the solar tower telescope are still maintained and used by the AIP. They can be visited on occasional guided tours. The main part of the institute’s research – especially about cosmic magnetic fields and extragalactic astrophysics – is conducted at the area of the Babelsberg Observatory, which was built at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The former center for astrophysics in Potsdam, the Astrophysical Observatory on Telegrafenberg, is now home to the



“Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research” ([www.pik-potsdam.de](http://www.pik-potsdam.de)). Researchers in natural and social sciences work together at the PIK to analyze global climate change – and its aftermath. Together these four institutions constitute the “Science Park Albert Einstein”.

### **In Golm**

There are also many smart people at the western border of the city: in the former village Golm. The “Potsdam-Golm Science Park” ([www.wisspark.de](http://www.wisspark.de)), which is in close proximity to one of the campuses of the University of Potsdam, houses five big research institutes: three of the Max-Planck and two of the Fraunhofer Society. Both are closely connected to the Faculty of Sciences of the university. The Fraunhofer institutes carry out research in the fields of biomedical engineering and applied polymer science, while the Max-Planck institutes research gravitational physics, molecular plant physiology and colloids and interfaces.

### **At Neuer Markt**

In the old center of the city, at Neuer Markt, the hearts beat for history. The historic buildings at the square, where once the city’s council official scale stood, are now home to the “Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies” ([www.mmz-potsdam.de](http://www.mmz-potsdam.de)), which is concerned with the history, religion and culture of Jews and Judaism. Across the square you will find the “Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung” (Center for Contemporary History; [www.zzf-pdm.de](http://www.zzf-pdm.de)), a renowned institute focusing on contemporary German and European history. Additionally located around the square are the “Einstein-Forum”, the “Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte” (House of Brandenburg-Prussian History) and the Potsdam branch of the “Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften” (Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences).



Many smart people in one place at the western border of the city: in the former village Golm.





Many other scientific institutions can be found in and around the city. If you want to know more you should visit “proWissen Potsdam e.V.” ([www.prowissen-potsdam.de](http://www.prowissen-potsdam.de)), an association which connects science and the every-day life of the city.

25.000 Studierende an 6 Hochschulen  
9.000 Mitarbeiter an  
44 Forschungseinrichtungen  
und ein wissenschaftliches  
Mitmachmuseum

science  
Wissenschaft für die Zukunft for the future  
**Potsdam**

Informationen rund um die Potsdamer Wissenschaft unter [www.prowissen-potsdam.de](http://www.prowissen-potsdam.de)



**POTSDAM** OFFERS EVERYTHING  
FROM A **UNIVERSITY** TO  
**SPECIALIZED LABORATORIES.**



## HIGHER EDUCATION – STUDYING



*Potsdam is a city of smart people.  
This is not only thanks to the researchers  
who work in the various scientific institutes.  
There is also a lot of studying going on.*

About 25,000 students turn the city into a 'study metropolis'.

Three universities and one private school: About 25,000 students turn the city into a 'study metropolis'. And you can enroll in studies which are not necessarily offered elsewhere: Software systems engineering, film score, Jewish studies, geo-ecology, social work, interdisciplinary Russia-studies or patholinguistics. Something missing? You could say it's studying between tradition and modernity, but also in between high-tech and nature. From the lecture hall to the students dorm you are always surrounded by greenery. The Am Neuen Palais campus of the University of Potsdam is even guest at the premises of a World Heritage Site.

The collegiate culture has found its place in the historic city center at Elfleinhöfe. There are half a dozen libraries; and the officially decorated "Best University Sports of Germany". Questions regarding anything outside of the lecture hall are dealt with by the "Studentenwerk" (student services office) – from the student loan "BAföG" to the cafeterias. Too green, too historic, too small? You only need 30 minutes by





regional train to get to Berlin's city center; you won't be any faster within Berlin.

### **University of Potsdam**

With 20,000 students the University of Potsdam ([www.uni-potsdam.de](http://www.uni-potsdam.de)) is by far the largest university – not only in Potsdam but in all of Brandenburg. The atmosphere is nonetheless quite intimate because the five faculties are distributed amongst the three campuses. The Faculty of Sciences and the Faculty of Human Sciences are located in Golm at the western border of the city. When founded in 1991 the university took over the buildings of the former so-called “Juristische Hochschule”, a law school of the Ministry of State Security in the GDR, and reconstructed the buildings bit by bit. In the last few years a small ‘sciencetown’, the “Potsdam-Golm Science Park”, has developed. Apart from many new buildings, especially institutes and laboratories for the natural sciences, the research partners of the university, institutes of the Max-Planck and the Fraunhofer society, have started work in close proximity. Many who study in the fields





of natural sciences in Golm start their professional career at these partner institutions.

Am Neuen Palais campus is located at the western border of Park Sanssouci and is home to the university administration as well as the Faculty of Arts. At the so-called “Communs”, former guest houses of the New Palace, you do not only ‘breathe’ history but you can also study it – and languages, literature, philosophy and much more. The auditorium maximum, the main lecture hall, is located in the former imperial stables. Central facilities like the student advisory service, the office of student affairs or the examination office work in the annexes. On the other side of the city, not far from the exclusive residential area of Babelsberg and the Filmpark, lies Griebnitzsee campus. The main building, which was built by the German Red Cross at the end of the 1930s, was home to the academy of political science and jurisprudence of the GDR



until 1989. Today it's the location of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences and the Law Faculty. A former depot was rebuilt into a library, many buildings have been restored and new ones were built, like the Institute of Computer Sciences and the privately financed Hasso Plattner Institute of Software Systems Engineering (HPI, [www.hpi.uni-potsdam.de](http://www.hpi.uni-potsdam.de)), which collaborate very closely. The three university campuses are not only connected by bus and tram via the city center but they can be reached more or less 'nonstop' thanks to the regional railway line.

One can study 30 subjects at the university and there are 130 study courses. If you would add all possible subject combinations, there are numerous especially in the field of teacher training, it would be more than 600. Within the broad line-up of subjects there are also some that are quite rare in Germany: like IT-Systems Engineering at the HPI, patholinguistics, European Media Studies (in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam) or Jewish Studies. Questions regarding your studies, anything from choosing a subject to intermediate exams, are answered by the staff of the student advisory service ([www.uni-potsdam.de/zsb](http://www.uni-potsdam.de/zsb)). And even if they don't know the answer they will definitely know where to get it.

### **FH Potsdam (University of Applied Sciences)**

A lot smaller is the second university of the city, the "Fachhochschule Potsdam" ([www.fh-potsdam.de](http://www.fh-potsdam.de)). Established in 1991 as well there are about 3,100 students enrolled. The FH has also several campuses: The departments of Social Work and Information Science are located at Alter Markt, right next to St. Nicholas' Church. The new Pappelallee campus in the north of the city is home to the administration as well as the departments of Architecture and Urban Design, Civil Engineering and Design. Since 2009 this campus has a laboratory and workshop building





THE FILM AND TELEVISION UNIVERSITY  
"KONRAD WOLF"

OLDEST FILM UNIVERSITY OF THE NATION  
**UNIVERSITY OF FILM ART**

which offers working rooms for all study courses. The FH offers 21 study courses altogether, spread across five departments. Amongst the study courses are social work, building preservation, library management and interface design.

#### HFF

The Film and Television University "Konrad Wolf" (HFF; [www.hff-potsdam.de](http://www.hff-potsdam.de)) is the 'starlet' amongst Potsdam's universities. It's "Roll camera! Action!" all year long. It may be the smallest of the universities with 'only' 550 students but the few places are much sought-after. Founded in 1954 as German Film Academy, it is the oldest film academy in the country. Since its reestablishment in 2000 it is also the largest film academy and the only arts academy in Brandenburg anyway.

With the reestablishment came a futuristic new building. Thus today's HFF – technically very well

equipped – is now located in the midst of the “Media City” Babelsberg, at the end of Marlene-Dietrich-Allee. Cooperation with the next door film production companies and the stations of the “rbb” broadcasting company ensure very practical study courses. Amongst those are directing, acting, dramaturgy and script but also animation, montage and sound.

### **Studentenwerk (Student Services Office)**

Potsdam’s universities are all very different. But they have one thing in common: the Studentenwerk ([www.studentenwerk-potsdam.de](http://www.studentenwerk-potsdam.de)). Everything students do outside of the lecture halls and what concerns living conditions during studies is organized by this office. For altogether 30,000 students in Potsdam, Brandenburg an der Havel and Wildau the Studentenwerk is the place to turn to when it comes to food, living, money and work. The Potsdamers are lucky: The headquarters are located in the mall at Potsdam central station, the entrance is at Lange Brücke. They also have a ‘service point’ where you can turn to with your questions and get numerous forms in return.

### **Living**

Anyone who has ever tried to snag an apartment or even a room in a shared apartment in Potsdam should be happy to hear that the Studentenwerk supplies the students with living space – while supplies last. Distributed over the whole city, it operates seven residence halls with a total of 2,353 – affordable – rooms. Not one for each student, but it’s a start.

### **Food**

Second core business of the Studentenwerk is the operation of cafeterias. They offer varying menus and also always something for vegetarians. There is one canteen and cafeteria available at each of the university locations Golm, Am Neuen Palais, Griebnitzsee and

**DORMS  
WITH 2.353  
ROOMS  
IN POTSDAM**





FH Potsdam on Pappelallee. Additionally there is a coffee shop at the HFF and another canteen at the FH location at Alter Markt. For students all menus are available at a special price. But also for guests and employees the food is unbeatable value for money.

## VARIED AND VEGETARIAN

### Money

At least as important is the Studentenwerk when it comes to the question of how to finance one's studies. You get the applications for the federal financial aid BAföG and they are also processed – and “granted” – there, as they say in officialese. You can also get information on financing alternatives like scholarships at the Studentenwerk. Even those who have no claim on the interest-free government loans or a chance to



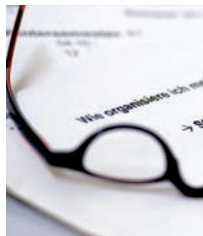
get a scholarship but are dependent on it, are also at the right place: The Studentenwerk has its own job board for students.

### Counseling

But most of all you get counseling at the Studentenwerk. If you already have children, you should look at the respective offers. The Studentenwerk runs two day-care centers, “klEinstein” and “Springfrosch”, which are open to the children of students and employees. You can also get counseling on all questions regarding studies with children at the service-point. But help is for basically anybody, even therapeutic counseling for psychological problems of any kind.

### Where are the Students?

Students can be found easily in Potsdam. Their number is, as said, quite respectable. If they don't sit in the lecture hall, the canteen or cafeteria, or on the campus





lawn, you might encounter them in one of the many libraries in the city. In fact, curious Potsdamers have a wide selection when it comes to scientific media. The university library has a branch at each of the three campuses – one more beautiful than the other. A former warehouse at Griebnitzsee was turned into a bright working library. At Am Neuen Palais campus a futuristic book cube “floats” within the historical building ensemble. But the heart of the university library is the “Black Diamond” in Golm, the “Informations-, Kommunikations- und Medienzentrum” (= Information, Communication and Media Center), which contains approximately one million volumes and media and opened in 2011. Also the libraries of the FH Potsdam on Pappelallee and the HFF Babelsberg – along with their universities – were newly built and well equipped. Best of all: Academic libraries are open to everyone, even those who do not study.



## Sports

When the courses are over and the libraries are finally closed, it is not the end yet! The metropolitan magnet Berlin may be enticing in the evening, but many have better things to do in Potsdam: university sports ([www.hochschulsport-potsdam.de](http://www.hochschulsport-potsdam.de)) for example. In fact, the range of courses and open sports facilities is enormous: The university sports center has its offices at the University of Potsdam and organizes more than 400 courses, workshops, sports trips and excursions in over 100 sports. Students and staff of the city's universities can join. In case places are still available, others can join as well.

## 400 COURSES, WORKSHOPS, SPORTS TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS IN OVER 100 SPORTS

## Culture

A student's cultural center ([www.kuize-potsdam.de](http://www.kuize-potsdam.de)) is located in the city center, close to Brandenburg Gate in a backyard on Hermann-Elfein-Straße. Apart from the pub, which stretches over three floors, there is a theater as well as several workshops and other rooms for initiatives. Here you get to meet everyone and everyone gets to meet you.

## A Friendly Welcome

Especially for international students it is a rather easy task to find a dorm room when they arrive. Getting the formalities done in a foreign city and language is something else. But the international offices of the universities will help. Visiting researchers can turn to the Welcome Center ([www.welcome-center-potsdam.de](http://www.welcome-center-potsdam.de)), located at the University of Potsdam, for help and advice.



The student ID provides, once shown, a lot of benefits.

## TONS OF HISTORY

# POTSDAM MUSEUM

HERE THEY PRESERVE, RESEARCH AND  
EXHIBIT CITY HISTORY



Potsdam is an old lady: After all it passed 1,000 years in 1993. The events of the past centuries have left some wrinkles, scars anyway. But such things often suit a city.

If you take time to discover this or that piece of city history on your own, instead of reading about it, you will see your – new or old – home with different eyes. And take a walk that will have some surprises in store for you when it comes to world and local history.

An 'old lady' of over 1,000 years has a few surprises in store.

## History's Custodians

Potsdam altogether can easily be considered an open-air museum you can just walk through. Nonetheless it had been overdue that the “Potsdam Museum” ([www.potsdam-museum.de](http://www.potsdam-museum.de)) opened its gates in 2012 – at the historic place, the old city hall, where it had been founded over 100 years ago. Here city history is archived, researched and exhibited: history put in a nutshell – a real alternative if there is not enough time for long walks outside. A museum that looks beyond the city limits is the “Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte” ([www.hbpg.de](http://www.hbpg.de)), which is located close to the Potsdam Museum at Neuer Markt.



## What Remains from the Beginning

Even if Potsdam is really old: Only few sources and archeological findings can tell about its first 500 years. The oldest building still in use in Potsdam is the old church in Golm, a former village which was incorporated in 2003. Although this church is not the first one established there in 1289, its oldest parts date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The oldest building in the city center are the royal stables at Lustgarten. Built in 1685, originally as an orangery, it was converted into stables at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Today it's the location of the film museum.



## A Residence for the King

In the 1660s the great prince-elector, Frederick William, chose Potsdam as second residence apart from Berlin-Cölln for the ruling House of Hohenzollern and had the new city palace built instead of the old one. While the government agencies were located in Berlin, the Brandenburg electors and later the Prussian kings had Potsdam developed into their residency. Each of them added something to the city.

# PARLIAMENT – CITY PALACE



**WIDE ALLEYS, POMPOUS BUILDINGS AND PARKS MADE THE “EYLAND” POTSDAM OVER CENTURIES INTO THE “PARADISE” THE GREAT PRINCE ELECTOR DREAMED ABOUT.**



## **The Old Center**

Potsdam's center had been the Alter Markt for a long time. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> century there had been a market close to the city hall to which the area owes its name. Around the square, which got its known form between the old city hall, St. Nicholas' Church and the city palace in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, stood some of the most gorgeous buildings of the city. When the palace

was hit by bombs in 1945 and torn down in 1959/60 most of its beauty was gone. With the reconstruction of the parliament in shape of the former city palace a new Alter Markt has developed.

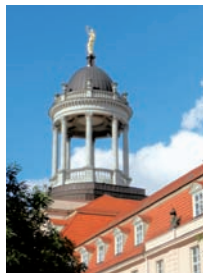
### **A City for the Military**

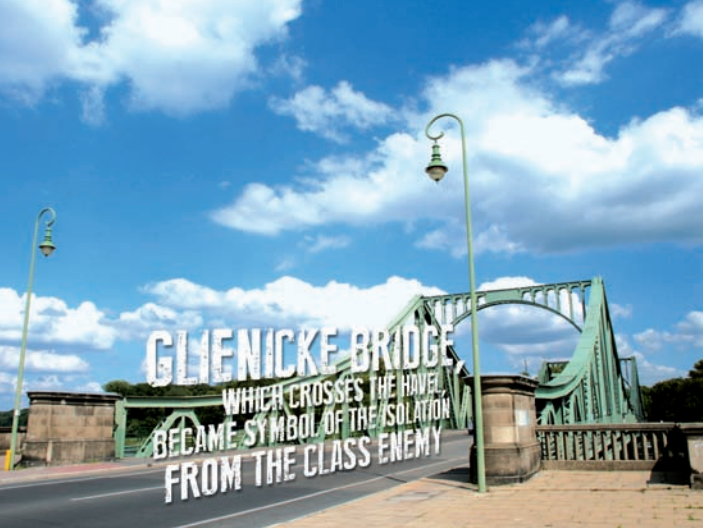
With the “soldier king” Frederick William I the military came to Potsdam in 1713 – and they came in droves. The city was extended to the north to establish housing for the soldiers. But most of the barracks, which still characterize the cityscape today, were only built in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. Frederick William I had a parade-ground built not even a stone’s throw away from the city palace. His son Frederick II had it expanded into the “Lustgarten” (= pleasure garden). And when the building of the “Großes Militärwaisenhaus”, an orphanage for the offspring of fallen or impoverished soldiers, was begun in 1722 the city had its first social institution.

### **War in the City**

One war started in Potsdam, the other was ended here: The city was involved in both World Wars. On 31<sup>st</sup> July 1914, William II signed the declaration of war at the New Palace. While the unleashed blaze never made it to Potsdam the people still felt it. With dramatic consequences: After his abdication in 1918 the Emperor had to irrevocably turn his back on all his palaces, mansions and parks. Potsdam was no longer residency of the monarchy. After the end of the Second World War the allied powers met at “Schloss Cecilienhof”, the abandoned residence of the crown prince, for the “Potsdam Conference” in July/August 1945 – right at the door step of ruined Berlin. After their discussion the “Big Three” from the UK, the USA and the Soviet Union retired to the hand-picked mansions in Neubabelsberg. The flowerbed in the shape of a red star in the courtyard of the palace had

With the building of the parliament a new Alter Markt develops.





been created by overly eager Russian soldiers shortly before the conference in 1945 ...

### **Half a Bridge**

After the Second World War and the emergence of two German states West-Berlin became a western island in the GDR. And so it happened that Potsdam was also located at the inner German border for over 40 years. Symbol of this isolation from the “class enemy” was the Glienicke Bridge over the Havel. One half of it was in Potsdam and thus in the East, the other in Berlin and thus in the West. A white line in its center marked the border. The iron structure came into focus especially because of several spectacular agent exchanges in which the super powers USA and the Soviet Union exchanged their spies. On 10<sup>th</sup> November 1989 the turnpikes fell and thus the wall also came down at Glienicke Bridge.

For over 40 years  
Potsdam was located  
at the inner-German  
border.

## View History

There is evidence of history at many places in Potsdam. Some are quite present in the cityscape, like the Dutch Quarter and the Prussian sacral and palace buildings, others, which are not less important, are not that easily spotted. Such as the “Lindenhotel”, this is what the detention of the Ministry of State Security at Lindenstraße 54/55 was sarcastically called in the GDR. Today the Baroque city palace houses a memorial for the victims of both German dictatorships.

# DISCOVERING CITY HISTORY ON YOUR OWN



## POTSDAM WITH VISITORS

*Not yet four weeks in Potsdam and parents, relatives and friends already coming by for a short visit? Visitors are all well and good but what if you are still clinging to a city map yourself?*

.....

The guests want to be accommodated, see everything from the insider's tip to the highlights of the city and preferably see what no one else has seen before.

If you don't have time to do the walking tour yourself or don't really want to see your relatives, you can send them on one of the many guided city tours. Then they are busy for a while and get to see a lot. Several companies (amongst others [www.kaiser-tour.de](http://www.kaiser-tour.de) or [www.schloesserrundfahrten.de](http://www.schloesserrundfahrten.de)) offer various tours. They usually start at Potsdam central station – at the north exit. Water enthusiasts can do the same thing on a boat. The company “Weiße Flotte” ([www.schiffahrt-in-potsdam.de](http://www.schiffahrt-in-potsdam.de)) offers several roundtrip tours on Potsdam's lakes. The tours start at the harbor between central station and “Neuer Lustgarten” – at the foot of the Mercure hotel. A personal guided tour can be requested at the Potsdam Tourism Service ([www.potsdamtourismus.de](http://www.potsdamtourismus.de)). These tours are definitely quite unique.

For those who want to discover the city together with their visitors – we listed a few “sure bet” and “must see” tips on the following pages.





# DISCOVERING THE CITY

## THE REST WILL FOLLOW ...

### **Accommodation**

If friends come by for a visit you usually get out the sleeping bags and blankets, make a little more room in your bed or blow up a mattress and the overnight-stay is settled. But what if your parents want to come by, who don't really want to share the toothbrush with everyone else in the shared apartment?! No problem. It usually helps to have a look at the current travel websites (for example [www.tripadvisor.de](http://www.tripadvisor.de)). Especially since you can read reviews on how others liked to sleep in the offered beds. To find an accommodation is a question of budget at best. If your guests want to sleep like crown prince William and his wife Cecilie once did, Cecilienhof Palace is the place to stay. The Palace, where the allied powers negotiated the Potsdam Treaty





in 1945, is now an exclusive hotel ([www.relexa-hotel-potsdam.de](http://www.relexa-hotel-potsdam.de)). Also beyond the Western gates of the city one can stay in former royal quarters. Because his wife Elisabeth was homesick for Bavaria, King Frederick William IV had a Bavarian house built in the midst of the “Wildpark”. The former royal sanctuary is now open to everyone as hotel “Bayrisches Haus” ([www.bayrisches-haus.de](http://www.bayrisches-haus.de)). In the city center one can stay for example at the “NH Hotel Voltaire” ([www.nh-hotels.de](http://www.nh-hotels.de)) – historic and classy at the same time. But even if your guests are on a budget they don’t have to stay at home if they book their accommodation in time. Just like at the “Quartier” ([www.potsdam-hostel.com](http://www.potsdam-hostel.com)) in Bornstedt there are numerous affordable beds available at bed and breakfast places, hostels or private holiday apartments. The youth hostel in Babelsberg ([www.jh-potsdam.de](http://www.jh-potsdam.de)) is especially suitable for larger groups. And hardcore campers don’t have to abstain from a visit to Potsdam neither. They can stay

Even if you are on a budget you don’t have to stay home, if you book in time.

at the “Campingpark Sanssouci zu Potsdam/Berlin”, which is located right at the water in the far southwest of the city.

### **What you HAVE TO see!**

Just a short walk through the city ... forget it! If you really want to ‘see’ Potsdam you will have to bring time or pick out the interesting sights in advance to avoid overextending yourself.

# SOME SUGGESTIONS

### **Palace by Palace**

Millions visit Potsdam each year, mainly for one reason: Sanssouci. And it can be immodestly said: deservedly so. The ensemble consisting of park grounds, Sanssouci Palace, the New Palace and various other buildings of different architectural styles can be walked through for days without getting bored. The main avenue of the park runs 2.5 kilometers long from east to west. Most of the buildings were built under Frederick the Great, who had his dream of a palace complex modeled on Versailles fulfilled. If the soles of your shoes are still intact after a walk through and around palace #1 there are still more to ‘go’: Cecilienhof Palace in the New Garden and Babelsberg Palace in Park Babelsberg. The best thing: Admission to all three parks is free of charge so far.

### **Filmpark Babelsberg**

The Filmpark ([www.filmpark-babelsberg.de](http://www.filmpark-babelsberg.de)) is located within the “media city” Babelsberg, where hundreds of film and TV productions have been made since 1912. It is one of the crowd pullers of the city. Some of the





attractions – in front of and behind the camera – are the event cinema, a stunt show in a ‘volcano’ and a tour through the studios. Original film sets take you to a Western and a medieval city or to the oriental gardens of the DEFA fairytale movie “Der kleine Muck” – a story from the Arabian Nights tales. Additionally, there is an exhibition about Babelsberg’s film history and film handicraft for close inspection.

### **The Wall at Lake Griebnitzsee**

Only a short walk from S-Bahn station Griebnitzsee it is still there: the Wall. A few remains of the former inner German border, which not only ran across the lake but also divided streets in the northeast of the city, can be viewed at the far end of the street Stubenrauchstraße. More prominent witness of the division was Glienicke Bridge. One half of it was located in the East, the other in the West.

## Babelsberg Mansions

If in Babelsberg the exclusive residential area between the banks of lake Griebnitzsee and Park Babelsberg is worth a visit. You won't be able to get in but you can still marvel from the outside. When the first actors of the UFA film company became stars at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they had their dreams 'set in stone' where rich people from Berlin had already built their palaces in the greenery: in Neubabelsberg. Designed by well-known architects like Mies van der Rohe or Walter Gropius these magnificent buildings are more than just town houses. The neighborhood became famous once more when the heads of state of the allied victorious powers – Churchill, Stalin and Truman – were accommodated at lake Griebnitzsee. All three mansions are still there today and can be looked at from the outside, like most of the dreamlike buildings.

Rests of the inner-German border at lake Griebnitzsee ...

## Belvedere on the Pfingstberg

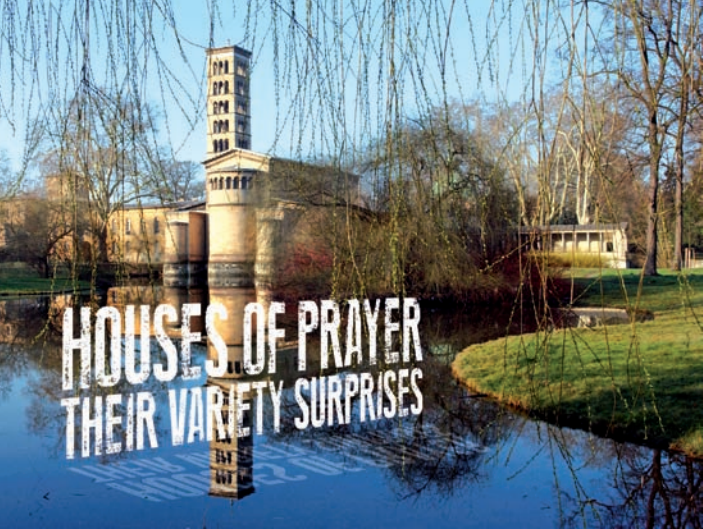
The Belvedere on the Pfingstberg ([www.pfingstberg.de](http://www.pfingstberg.de)) offers without question the most beautiful view of Potsdam – at 76 meters it is one of the highest elevations of the city. That was something Frederick William IV, King of Prussia, didn't escape either. From 1863 he had the Belvedere built modeled on Italian architecture. After 1945 the palace-with-a-view deteriorated extensively and has been restored only recently. And the Belvedere is not the only eye catcher on the Pfingstberg: Right next to it is the "Pomonatempel" – a temple dedicated to Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruitful abundance. It is the first building (1801) designed by then 19-year-old Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The surrounding park-like gardens were designed according to the plans of Lenné.



## Churches

Potsdam's churches are some of the most impressive buildings in the city. Not only because some of them,





like St. Nicholas' Church at Alter Markt or St. Peter and Paul at Bassinplatz, tower above everything else and can be seen from afar. Amongst them are some of the oldest and most beautiful buildings that have outlasted centuries. The variety surprises: "Französische Kirche" (= French Church) at Bassinplatz, built for the immigrated Huguenots, or the "Alexander-Nevski Memorial Church" on the Kapellenberg (= chapel hill), built for the Russian-Orthodox community, are an expression of the Prussian politics of tolerance. The "Friedenskirche" (= Church of Freedom) at the Eastern border of Park Sanssouci is not a gift for immigrants but the 'Italian dream' of Frederick William IV. Modeled on a Roman basilica, the church and its annexes are laid out like an abbey and are surrounded by the Marly Garden – the former royal kitchen garden. A great place for quiet moments.



## Krongut Bornstedt

Not far from Sanssouci Palace, behind the Orangery, lies a special gem: the “Krongut Bornstedt” ([www.krongut-bornstedt.de](http://www.krongut-bornstedt.de)). The Krongut had been held by the Brandenburg-Prussian monarchs since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The area got its present courtyard-type layout under the Italy-loving King Frederick William IV. He had many buildings rebuilt and modeled to Italian mansions from 1846 to 1848. From 1867 Crown Prince Frederick William and his wife Victoria lived there. His wife designed the garden together with court gardener Emil Sello according to English models. Today you can stroll through handicraft shops, try sweets at the bakery or “Bornstedter Büffelbier” – a top-fermented beer – at the brewery.

# KRONGUT BORNSTEDT

## Surroundings

Exceptional things can also be discovered outside of Potsdam: the largely preserved medieval monastery in Lehnin, sleepy villages with enchanted mansions, castles and churches like Petzow, Marquardt and Paretz. Or Caputh located south of Potsdam. Here you will find not only extensive forests for walks and the only early Baroque castle in the area, but also evidence of a famous summer guest. Nobel Prize winner Albert Einstein had a summer house here since 1929 – and a sailboat, which he himself lovingly called “fat sailing ship”. Both were seized by the National Socialists in 1933. While the house can be visited in the summer months now, Einstein’s dinghy is still unaccounted for today.



Surrounded by  
sleepy villages  
with enchanted  
mansions, and  
palaces ...

# CHARLOTTENHOF PALACE MODELED ON A ROMAN VILLA IN THE CLASSICAL STYLE



## THEY BROUGHT THE WORLD TO POTSDAM PRINCE ELECTORS, KINGS AND EMPERORS

### Worldtrip Through Potsdam

When traveling to foreign countries still lasted years, the Brandenburg-Prussian electors, kings and emperors brought the world to Potsdam. So a round-the-world tour is possible in just one day. An Itinerary (map p. 122 f.)

### China

The “Middle Kingdom” fascinated Europeans for centuries – as a land of economic and scientific progress, but also as the embodiment of wisdom and modern thought. Like many other rulers Frederick the Great also created ‘his’ little China. The Chinese Tea House (2) in the middle of Park Sanssouci is only the most prominent among the Potsdam chinoiseries. Rather freely modeled to Asian styles, it is decorated with gold leaf figures and extravagantly designed. Actually modeled on a Chinese pagoda is the Dragon House (1) on the Klausberg, where you can sip a cup of tea with a view over the park.

## Italy

Evidence of the enthusiasm of the Prussian King Frederick William IV for Italy can be found everywhere in Potsdam. One of the finest buildings built in the Italian style, is unquestionably Charlottenhof Palace (3) at the southeastern edge of Park Sanssouci. Karl Friedrich Schinkel created a refuge in the classical style here, designed by the then Crown Prince and modeled after a Roman villa. Surrounded by its own garden, the area is a park within Park Sanssouci.



## Turkey

A touch of the Orient in Potsdam is found at the banks of the Havel, at the bay Neustädtische Havelbucht. Amongst the GDR-typical apartment blocks stands, right at the water, a “mosque” (4). The architect Ludwig Persius created the building on the order of King Frederick William IV from 1841 to 1843. It just looks like an Islamic house of worship from the outside but houses the pumping plant for the large fountain in front of Sanssouci Palace. The minaret serves as a chimney. Nevertheless, the interior is elaborately designed, supposedly according to the Alhambra in Granada.



## Netherlands

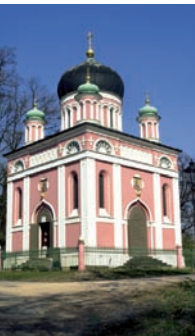
In the northern part of the city is the largest ensemble of Dutch architecture outside the Netherlands: the Dutch Quarter (5). On behalf of the “soldier king” Frederick William I the architect Jan Bouman built 134 houses in the style of his homeland from 1733 to 1740. The area is completely renovated by now and its shops and cafes invite for a stroll or a cup of Dutch hot chocolate. At the “Jan Bouman House” ([www.jan-bouman-haus.de](http://www.jan-bouman-haus.de)) you can also visit one of the typical buildings from top to bottom.





### Russia

Further north and about 100 years after the Dutch Quarter, another settlement for “foreign guests” was established: the Russian colony Alexandrowka (6). It was built by order of King Frederick William III of Prussia in 1826/27. It was home to the last twelve members of a choir, which formerly consisted of 62 Russian soldiers. The wooden houses of the 13 homesteads were built according to Russian models. At house number 2 is now the Museum Alexandrowka and a little further north, on the hill Kapellenberg, stands the Alexander Nevsky Memorial Church. The oldest Russian Orthodox church building in Western Europe was built after the wooden homes as a house of worship for the small Russian colony.



### Norway

At the northwestern edge wafts a hint of Norway. Here, on the banks of the lake Jungfernsee, once stood the

naval base Kongsnæs (7), which served as a landing stage for the boats of the Prussian royal family. Emperor William II had it built in the Norwegian dragon-style in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, to leave from here to pleasure cruises on the Havel and the “Pfaueninsel” (= peacock island). 1945 most of the associated buildings burned down. Currently, only the foundations of the lobby, an archway with the signature Kongsnæs and the quay wall can be seen.

### Everywhere

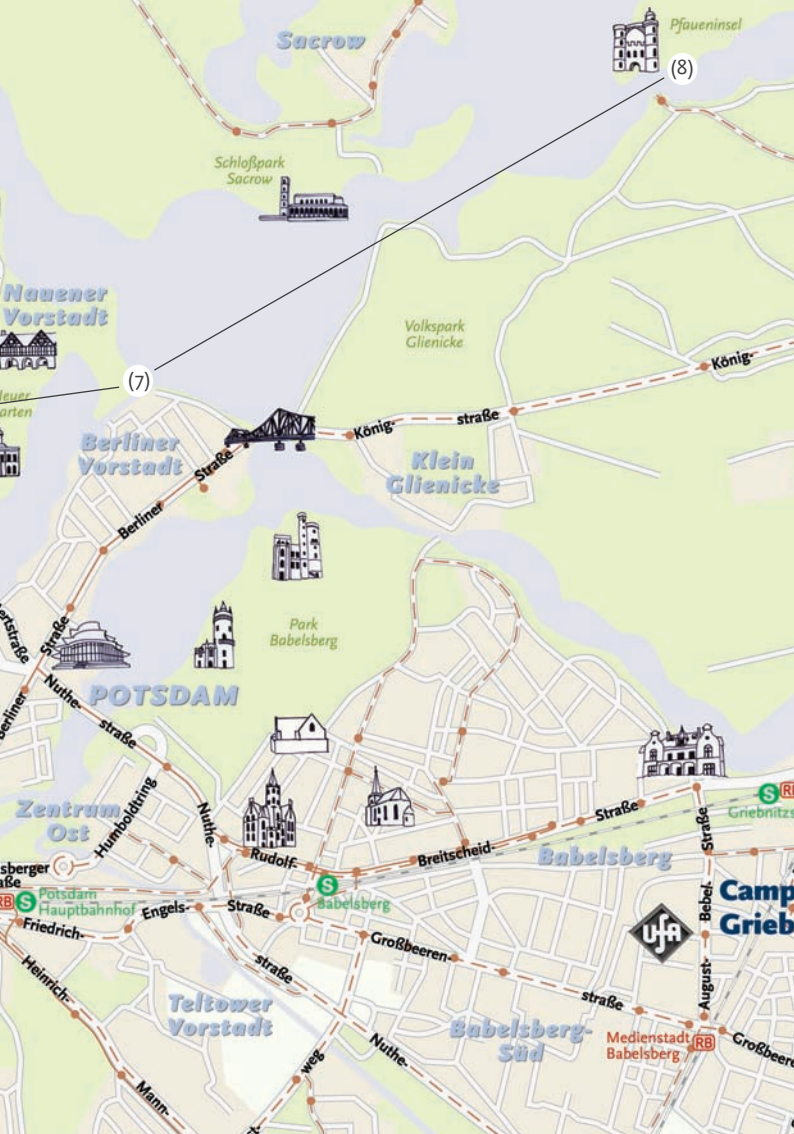
A small trip around the world itself is the “Pfaueninsel” (8). Not only because it’s officially in Berlin. The island, which is best reached by ferry from Wannsee, is ‘stuffed’ with the most distant fantasies of several Prussian kings – from the longing for the Middle Ages to dream travels to the South Seas. A castle with an artificially ‘ruined’ third floor, a dairy, which was designed to resemble a ruined monastery, and many exotic animals – especially peacocks of course – turn the island into a fairytale land.



**PFAUENINSEL  
FANTASY, DESIRE,  
FAIRYTALE LAND**







Sacrow



Pfaueninsel  
(8)

Schloßpark  
Sacrow



Nauener  
Vorstadt



Neuer  
Garten



(7)

Berliner  
Vorstadt

Berliner  
Straße



König-  
straße

Klein  
Glienice

König-



Park  
Babelsberg



POTSDAM

Nuthe-  
straße

Zentrum  
Ost

Humboldt-  
ring

Nuthe-



Rudolf-  
Straße

S  
Babelsberg

Breitscheid-  
Straße

Babelsberg



S  
Griebnitz-  
See

S  
Potsdam  
Hauptbahnhof

Engels-  
Straße

Großbeeren-  
straße

Großbeeren-  
straße

August-  
straße

Bebel-  
Straße



Camp  
Grieb

Teltower  
Vorstadt

Friedrich-  
straße

Heinrich-  
straße

Mann-  
straße

Nuthe-  
weg

Nuthe-

Babelsberg-  
Süd

Medienstadt  
Babelsberg

Großbeeren-  
straße

## EVERYTHING FOR FREE?



There's nothin' for nothin'? Not true!

### **Not bought**

A shop where you don't have to pay? Bring and leave something you don't need any more and take something you have use for: That's how the "Umsonstladen" (= for-free-store) in the premises of the bookstore "Sputnik" at Charlottenstraße 28 works. As part of the local residential project ([www.charlotte28.blogspot.de](http://www.charlotte28.blogspot.de)) it wants to support ecologically and socially responsible action. It's always open during the opening hours of the book store.

The Umsonstladen supports ecologically and socially responsible action.

# CONCERTS, FESTIVALS, READINGS

MANY EVENTS ARE FOR FREE IN POTSDAM

## Potsdam Roundtrip

New in the city and no clue? A guided tour to-go was created by the makers of the Localize festival. In 80 minutes you are guided through the city center by sympathetic voices, music and original sounds. Even for people who have lived here for a while it's a whole new experience. The guided tour "Im Gehörgang" (= within earshot) is available online as a free download ([www.potsdam-im-gehoergang.de](http://www.potsdam-im-gehoergang.de)).

## All that ...

A few do-gooders who were tired of so many things being thrown away founded the website [www.alles-und-umsonst.de](http://www.alles-und-umsonst.de). It's really easy: Someone wants to give something away and puts it on the website. Someone else needs it, gets in touch and picks it up. Everyone is happy and nothing had to be thrown away. Naturally, there are many offers from Berlin so the website is also very interesting for Potsdamers.

## Events

Concerts, festivals, readings – many events in Potsdam are for free. Many people just don't know about that! Having a look at the current event calendar ([www.stadtmagazin-events.de](http://www.stadtmagazin-events.de)) ensures that you don't miss out on anything. For example the festival "Stadtwerkefest", sponsored by the municipal energy supplier, is for free.

## Internet for Everyone

Wi-Fi Hotspots, internet for everyone, have already been widespread in the U.S. for a while but are now also increasingly found in Germany. You can look up at [www.wlanmap.com](http://www.wlanmap.com) where you can use free Wi-Fi with your laptop.





### **The Best for Last**

Public pools, parks, gardens: Where you have to pay admission elsewhere you get it for free in Potsdam; often throughout the whole year. Swimming at lake Heiliger See or at many places along the Havel, royal parks and recreation areas around the city, everything is for free!

# **NATURE FOR EVERYONE – FOR FREE**

And even the grounds of the Botanical Garden of the University of Potsdam ([www.botanischer-garten-potsdam.de](http://www.botanischer-garten-potsdam.de)) on Maulbeerallee can be visited for free.



# BOTANICAL GARDEN

## BEING A PART OF IT



*For those who came to Potsdam to stay, had their housewarming party and got their season tickets for the concert hall, cinema or soccer stadium it is time to get involved themselves.*

## CIVIL POLITICS

Culture, politics, honorary offices – there are numerous ways to get involved and enrich life in the city.

### Politics for Beginners

On the way to a civic community Potsdam invites its residents to join in. On the websites of the city ([www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de)) there are various possibilities listed on how to become a local politician. Here you can always get information on the state of politics and point out problems. In the participatory budget Potsdamers can recommend projects – anything from a bike lane to free public transportation for everyone – for realization but also decide which projects are approached.

### People for People

Being there for those who need help or giving back because you have been caught in a difficult situation yourself – there are plenty of reasons to do voluntary work. To turn coexistence into a co-operation is the goal of many initiatives, which is primarily based on one thing: volunteers. An overview – from telephone counseling to social welfare organizations

Interfere, get involved and enrich life in the city.



like “Diakonisches Werk” – is offered by the website [www.ehrenamt-potsdam.de](http://www.ehrenamt-potsdam.de).

## WWW.EHRENAMT-POTSDAM.DE

### Welcome

More than 400 years ago Prince-Elector Frederick William invited the Huguenots, who were persecuted in France, to Brandenburg by the “Edict of Potsdam”. Building on this tradition of tolerance, a lively discussion between initiators and citizens developed in recent years about a “New Tolerance Edict of Potsdam” ([www.potsdamer-toleranzedikt.de](http://www.potsdamer-toleranzedikt.de)). However, the aim of the edict, which is presented as a book at various points in the city, and the association, which organizes events regularly, is not only cultivation of traditions but primarily lived tolerance in a cosmopolitan city.

### Lived Alternatives

“Finding a home in community” is the motto of the project “Wohngut” in Babelsberg. Just like the makers





of “Wohngut” ([www.wohngut.net](http://www.wohngut.net)) many Potsdamers create their own social alternatives: in residential projects, in solidary economy, ecological education or integration projects. For those interested the “Projekthaus Babelsberg”, which houses the “Verein zur Förderung innovativer Wohn- und Lebensformen” (= association for the advancement of innovative living; [www.foerderverein-inwole.de](http://www.foerderverein-inwole.de)), is a good place to start. Room for discussion and involvement offers “freiLand” ([www.freiland-potsdam.de](http://www.freiland-potsdam.de)), a social-cultural project, on Friedrich-Engels-Straße.

### **Right Around the Corner**

The German singer Udo Lindenberg once sang about the appeal of neighborhoods. And he was right. Life happens just around the corner pretty much everywhere. In many parts of the city of Potsdam, people have come together in neighborhood networks, community and cultural centers or initiatives and turned cross

roads into neighborhoods. The best way to learn about and help shape “your” neighborhood: for example, in Potsdam West ([www.stadtteilnetzwerk.de](http://www.stadtteilnetzwerk.de)), in the suburb Brandenburger Vorstadt ([www.brandenburger-vorstadt.de](http://www.brandenburger-vorstadt.de)), in Schlaatz ([www.buergerhaus-schlaatz.de](http://www.buergerhaus-schlaatz.de)) or in Babelsberg ([www.kulturhausbabelsberg.de](http://www.kulturhausbabelsberg.de)).

## TURNING CROSS ROADS INTO NEIGHBORHOODS

### Common Goods

Culture cannot only be found in the concert halls or museums. And it’s not just there to look, listen and admire. Those whose fingers itch don’t have to produce subculture for the drawer. For almost anything, there are clubs, groups or simply committed people, who you can join.

Those who write find like-minded people at the “Literaturkollegium” ([www.literaturkollegium.de](http://www.literaturkollegium.de)), for the musical person there are numerous choirs and music communities in the city, such as the “Potsdamer Kantorei” ([www.potsdamer-kantorei.de](http://www.potsdamer-kantorei.de)) or the “Singakademie Potsdam” ([www.singakademie-potsdam.de](http://www.singakademie-potsdam.de)). For students the choir “Campus Cantabile” and the orchestra “Sinfonietta Potsdam” ([www.uni-potsdam.de](http://www.uni-potsdam.de)) – both at the University of Potsdam – should be interesting.

In addition, many cultural institutions open their doors to anyone; for example, the “fabrik” ([www.fabrikpotsdam.de](http://www.fabrikpotsdam.de)) for dance and the “T-Werk” ([www.t-werk.de](http://www.t-werk.de)) for theater enthusiasts. And those who have the feeling of having to close gaps in their education should visit the adult education center “Volkshochschule” ([www.potsdam-vhs.de](http://www.potsdam-vhs.de)).



MEET  
AND  
PARTICIPATE



## RUN AROUND TOWN – SPORT



Numerous sports clubs, facilities and fields are distributed over the city.

Regarding sports a lot is going on in Potsdam: from top athletes to popular sports. Not only the many parks and open spaces and the ubiquitous water invite to outdoor activities. Distributed over the whole city area, there are numerous sports clubs, facilities and places, where professionals as well as amateurs exercise or simply have fun. Those who want to remain ‘unorganized’, simply go for a jog or swim. And those who prefer to pursue excellence on the stands will find “their” team without problems.

## Top-Level Sports

One of the three sites of the Olympic Training Center Brandenburg ([www.osp-brandenburg.de](http://www.osp-brandenburg.de)) is located in Potsdam West, on the site of the old airship port. Athletes of many disciplines train on 30 hectares – including canoeists, rowers, track and field athletes and soccer players. At the 2012 Olympic Games in London 13 athletes came from Potsdam alone.

As for “King Soccer” in Potsdam women wear the breeches, at least the more successful ones. The players of “Turbine Potsdam” ([www.ffc-turbine.de](http://www.ffc-turbine.de)) form one of the best German teams ever: six German Champion and three Cup titles achieved to date. The “Torbienern” even won the Cup of the State Champion two times, last in 2010. Their home games are played at the Karl-Liebknecht-Stadium in Babelsberg, where also the biggest men soccer club of the city “SV Babelsberg 03” ([www.babelsberg03.de](http://www.babelsberg03.de)) plays, which is currently in the 4<sup>th</sup> League.

But Potsdam’s teams also star(t) in national leagues of other sports as well. For example, the handball players of “1. VfL Potsdam” ([www.vfl-potsdam.de](http://www.vfl-potsdam.de)) play for promotion from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> league. And the volleyball players of “SC Potsdam” ([www.volleyball-sc-potsdam.de](http://www.volleyball-sc-potsdam.de)) even start in the 1<sup>st</sup> national league. Both are at home in the multi-purpose hall on Heinrich-Mann-Allee. They may seem exotic to one or the other, but also top-notch are the water polo players of “OSC Potsdam” ([www.wasserball-potsdam.de](http://www.wasserball-potsdam.de)), who also play in their respective national league.

## Popular Sports

From aerobic to yoga, from bench-press to orientation run everything is well organized in the popular sports. The “Stadtsportbund Potsdam e.V.” ([www.stadtsportbund-potsdam.de](http://www.stadtsportbund-potsdam.de)) – the city’s sports association – connects all the loose ends and unites 155 sports clubs of over 50 different kinds of sports and over 26,500 members. You





can easily become a member: Get the contact details, call or visit and join in.

### **Climbing**

The enthusiasm for heights has experienced a special boost in Potsdam: You can go climbing almost everywhere. For example, at the “Blockzone” ([www.blockzone.de](http://www.blockzone.de)), a boulder and indoor climbing center in Waldstadt. In the immediate vicinity there is also an artificial climbing rock, the “Kahleberg” ([www.kahleberg.blogspot.de](http://www.kahleberg.blogspot.de)). For adventure seekers who only want to try or just look for a now-and-then thrill there is the “AbenteuerPark” on the Telegrafenberg ([www.abenteuerpark.de](http://www.abenteuerpark.de)), where you can walk in airy heights in between the tree tops – of course well secured.

### **Fit for ...**

Fans of the treadmill or guided fitness training will also find something in Potsdam. There are about a dozen

You can go climbing anywhere in Potsdam – in a hall, on an (artificial) hill and in the trees ...

gyms in the city distributed over all the neighborhoods. But if you start you have to stick to it. Otherwise the monthly payment is the only thing that moves from one place to another in the end.

### Sports in the Park

Many sports facilities can also be used even if you are not a member of a club or association. Especially the soccer and streetball courts are usually freely accessible. Much space for sports offers the “Volkspark Potsdam” ([www.volkspark-potsdam.de](http://www.volkspark-potsdam.de)), the former site of the Federal Garden Show in 2001. On the 65 hectares site there is not only space for soccer, streetball and beach volleyball players but also a skate park, a disc golf and a miniature golf course, a climbing wall and several playgrounds. Courses are offered for many sports.

### Public Pools

For those who like to make their rounds in an orderly fashion, and those who shy away from hacking a hole into the ice during winter, there are two public pools in the city which offer pleasant indoor temperatures. The biggest one, which is up for reconstruction, is on the Brauhausberg, the other one is located at the district Stern, newly reconstructed and equipped with 25 meter swimming lanes. You will get information about both on the website of the municipal energy supplier ([www.swp-potsdam.de](http://www.swp-potsdam.de)).

### Running

If you only need your two legs for sports, you should join the “Potsdamer Laufclub” ([www.potsdamer-laufclub.de](http://www.potsdamer-laufclub.de)) – the city’s running club. But the numerous running events may even be enough for a sportive get-together. Those events literally run across the city all year long, like the “rbb-Lauf” ([www.rbb-lauf.de](http://www.rbb-lauf.de)) or the “Schlösser-Marathon” ([www.potsdam-marathon.de](http://www.potsdam-marathon.de)).



## *My Potsdam*

*The city is unique. For everyone. More than 155,000 people live here, and there are at least as many haunts.*

Six out of 155,000 wrote down where the city is the most beautiful for them.

..... ↘  
A park bench, a theater, a lake, a couch. Everyone feels somewhere so much at home that they would label it “My Potsdam”. We asked some Potsdamers to tell us where their favorite place of the city is, what they like to do and where they feel comfortable. Six out of 155,000 wrote it down, where the city is the most beautiful to them. Now it is your turn to go out there and find YOUR Potsdam.



*Hasso Plattner, Founder of the Hasso-Plattner-Institute of IT Systems Engineering*

*Potsdam, the capital of Brandenburg, is dear to me and I like to work and live here.*

.....

Ever since my childhood, which I spent in Berlin-Grünwald, the Havelland countryside and the historic heritage has had a certain appeal for me. Potsdam for me is the ideal place for future-oriented research and teaching. The economy in this greater area also deserves sponsorship. That's why I set up my venture capital funds in Potsdam and convinced SAP to build their first innovation center worldwide here.

Potsdam for me is the ideal place for future-oriented research and teaching.



*Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D.,  
President of the University of Potsdam*

*I have been the President of the University of Potsdam since the beginning of 2012 – and thus still regard myself as a “Potsdam-newcomer”. I have already found some favorite places and discover more every day.*

.....

First are the three campuses of the university: idyllic Griebnitzsee, the fantastic Park Sanssouci at Am Neuen Palais campus and the dynamic science park in Golm.

If the weather is nice, I like to ride my bike from Am Neuen Palais campus to Alter Markt in the city center. Many of Potsdam's sights are located along this route and I'm always glad to work in one of the most beautiful German cities. You can eat very well in the restaurants “Juliette”, “Il Teatro” and “Speckers Landhaus” – and of course at our cafeteria.

I'm glad to work in one of the most beautiful German cities.



*Jann Jakobs,  
Mayor of Potsdam*

*One of the most exciting places in Potsdam is the Karl-Liebknecht-Stadium. I have often celebrated championships here and seen highly fascinating games by 1. FFC Turbine Potsdam and SV Babelsberg 03.*

.....

The stadium at the borders of Park Babelsberg is coined by an almost British atmosphere due to the lack of a running track and an enthusiastic audience. Today's "Karli" looks back on an eventful history: built by the sports club Concordia Nowawes 06 in 1924 and rebuilt after the war only one international match – the soccer world cup qualifying match between the GDR and Malta – took place here in 1977. By the way, a part of the old stadium banister stands in my office – a keepsake for those days when I cannot go to the stadium.

By the way, in my office stands part of the old stadium banister.



*Stefanie Stockhorst,  
Professor at the University of Potsdam*

*In the Park Sanssouci, at the western end,  
there is a small neo-classical monoptero. And  
instead of a cult figure there is a sitting statue  
of margrave Wilhelmine of Brandenburg-  
Bayreuth in the middle.*

Frederic the Great had this monument made in memory of his favorite sister who died in 1758. He was not only bonded to her by blood relations but also by a cordial familiarity. To underline that the medallion pictures in the temple show famous friends of antiquity: namely Orest and Pylades, Euryales and Nisos, Hercules and Philoktet as well as Theseus and Peirithous. A very touching proof of closeness whose fascination still continues: friendship means congeniality, its status is sacred.

Friendships  
means congeniality,  
its status is sacred.



Melanie Straub,  
Actress at Hans Otto Theater

*A few steps from the stage entrance at Schiffbauergasse there is a bench from where you can see the Havel, the little yacht harbor on the opposite side and the beach at the Babelsberg banks.*

.....


During the summer the morning sun glitters on the water, in the fall the mist wafts across and in the winter the water is sometimes even covered by ice. When I have brought my children to the daycare and have a little time left before the morning rehearsals I like to sit there. I look up into the sky or I close my eyes and listen to the wind rustling through the trees. It is an atmosphere that reminds me of the ocean – and it gives me a feeling of arrival, of home. Without a doubt this is one of my favorite places in Potsdam!

Sometimes I close my eyes and listen to the wind rustling through the leaves.



Antje Rávic Strubel,  
Writer

*There is a Potsdam-pride. Close to the palaces people fall into a stride. You don't just traipse along but you promenade.*



You don't traipse in Potsdam but you stroll. Potsdamers can even promenade on a bike. They actually invented the strolling bike. Racing bicycles and mountain bikes are frowned upon. Those have to be students or messengers who rush through the streets with their heads bowed down! Real Potsdamers would not get a bike on which they cannot ride along the city canal or Charlottenhof Palace 'strollingly' with their heads held high and a protruding chest. Brilliantly black, rolling frames, wide handlebars fitted preferably high; that is the real Potsdam-bike. It is similar to a Dutch bike but is not used as aggressively as in the Netherlands: the movement on a Potsdam-bike is similar to drinking champagne in a side-saddle while the horse walks. When the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation learned about that they reacted immediately. They marked paths through the parks, which are designated for the strolling cyclists.

Just like with many other things, people don't really talk about the Potsdam-pride. If they do come to talk about it, it is in a typical regional manner, which expresses skepticism and tolerance alike. During

In Potsdam you don't just traipse around; you promenade.



“Schlössernacht von Sanssouci” when all the buildings in the Park are open, a local lady, who showed the Chinese tea house to her guests, voiced her appreciation like that: “Nothin’ in there, but it’s pretty, don’ ya think?”



**Abstract from:**

Rávic Strubel, Antje:  
Gebrauchsanweisung  
für Potsdam und Brandenburg  
© Munich: Piper Verlag GmbH,  
2012.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF P.



### Characteristics of P.

It should be clear by now what you must know about Potsdam to fall in love with this city. But you can learn more about this corner of the world and its residents if you want to. Just like that. For fun.

### Geography for Newcomers

Some Potsdamers may have asked themselves if their city is “longer” than it is “wide”, or the other way around. It is, indeed. Longer, but only by a hair’s breadth: 19.3

Things you can know but don't have to know. Just like that. For fun.

kilometers from North to South, only 18.9 kilometers from East to West.

In case someone asks about the height, there is nothing higher in Potsdam than – ironically – the Small Ravensberg with 114 meters. In the city center at the obelisk in front of St. Nicholas' Church you are only at 33.5 meters above sea level. The nice thing about Potsdam: There is no greener city. A quarter of the city area consists of forests, only 17.7 percent are building area, 7.2 percent are designated for traffic and transportation. And an amazing 11 percent are covered by water. Speaking of water: 646 liters of precipitation per square meter fell in 2010. Even though it had been 60 liters more than usual, it's dry compared to the nation's average. In Freiburg, for example, it can be about a third more. But summers here are also different than elsewhere: On average, there are 36 days with temperatures above 25 degrees Celsius, while there is frost on about 74 days. At least: Potsdam has an average of 1,687.5 sunshine hours per year. That is 147.5 hours more than can be expected nationwide.

## THERE YOU GO!





**155,354 PEOPLE FROM  
ALTOGETHER 136 COUNTRIES**

### **Potsdam Squared**

Those who stay find a ‘nest’ somewhere in the city. There are about 19,000 buildings with all together 84,000 apartments. And there are about 64,000 cars driving through the city. If you swear by public transportation, you can get on at 627 stops. Moreover, Potsdam has 82 day-care centers, 52 schools and 130 playgrounds. In addition there are 470 doctors, 40 pharmacies and 545,503 volumes at the municipal and state library. And so you can’t say you haven’t been warned: in 2010 1,223 bikes were reported stolen, 11,118 fines were issued for parking violations, 6,174 traffic accidents were registered and the fire department answered 3,128 alarms. By the way, the city also has friends elsewhere. Partner Cities near and far are Sioux Falls (USA, 7,419 kilometers), Jyväskylä (Finland, 1,330), Perugia (Italy, 1,035), Bobigny (France, 843), Luzern (Switzerland, 686), Bonn (452) and Opole (Poland, 388).

## Potsdamers in Numbers

If you become a Potsdamer, you will become one of us: 155,354 people from altogether 136 countries lived here in 2010. The average Potsdamer becomes 78 years old, the female Potsdamers even five years older. No surprise then that there are 6,000 more women than men. 5,126 officially known dog owners have registered 5,501 dogs. More than 25,000 people are organized in 155 sports clubs. And to make one thing clear: The Potsdamer lives here for an average of 20.2 years. So make yourself comfortable! (More Potsdam numbers on [www.potsdam.de](http://www.potsdam.de))



155.354    20,5    40  
155    25.000    82



## FURTHER READING

*You can always read further. There are numerous books about Potsdam, constantly growing websites as well. Here a small selection.*

- 
- Klaus Arlt u.a.:** Potsdam, wo es am schönsten ist: 66 Lieblingsplätze, Berlin 2010.  
**Falk Stadtplan** Extra Standardfaltung Potsdam.  
**Jutta Götzmann, Thomas Wernicke, Kurt Winkler:** Potsdam-Lexikon, Potsdam 2010.  
**Peter-Michael Hahn:** Geschichte Potsdams. Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart, München 2003.  
**Joachim Nölte:** Potsdam. Der illustrierte Stadtführer, Berlin/Potsdam 2008.  
**Potsdamer Ge(h)schichte** 1 bis 6. – Orte des 20. Jahrhunderts, Berlin: be bra verlag, 2005ff.  
**Antje Rávic Strubel:** Gebrauchsanweisung für Potsdam und Brandenburg, München 2012.  
[www.potsdamwiki.de](http://www.potsdamwiki.de)

# WWW.POTSDAM.DE



## Photo Credits

AbenteuerPark Potsdam 81 o., 134 / Extavium Potsdam 81 M. / Filmmuseum Potsdam 51 o.; Filmpark Babelsberg, Fotograf: Frank Mathwig114 (2) / freiLand 65, 129 o., 130 u. / Fritze Karla 1, 4 o.l., 4 u.l., 10 (2), 11 (3), 13 o., 19 u., 21 u., 27 u., 34, 35 o., 36, 38, 39, 44, 45 o., 45 u., 49, 53 o., 55 o., 56 o., 57 o., 59, 64, 67 u., 71 o., 73 o., 76, 77, 78 o., 79 o., 81 u., 86 (2), 88, 89 o., 90 (2), 91 (2), 92, 93, 94 u., 95 (2), 96 (2), 97 o./M., 99, 100 o., 101 (2), 102 (2), 103 (2), 106 (2), 107 M., 112, 113 M./u., 115 u., 116 (2), 117 u., 119 (3), 120 u., 127, 130 o., 135 u., 137, 143 o., 145 (3), 147 u., 149 / GFZ 89 u. / Heinlein, Anne 23 o., 57 u. / Heinz Sielmann Stiftung, Fotograf: Thomas Stephan 35 u. / HFF 98 / Horn-Conrad, Antje / Hyzernauts e.V. 135 o. / Klaer, Andreas 58 o. / Maltry, Benjamin 46 (2), 47 (2) / Neues Potsdamer Toleranzedikt e.V. 129 u. / Nikolaisaal, Fotograf: Stefan Müller 55 u. / Olympiastützpunkt Brandenburg 133 o./u. / Piper Verlag 143 u. / pixelio.de/Alexandra H. 13 u. / pixelio.de/berwis 4 o.r. / pixelio.de/berwis 20 o. / Potratz, Jörg 69 M./u. / Potsdam mittendrin e.V., Fotograf: Uwe Seibt 40 u., 41 u., 45 M. / Quendel 70 o. / Roese, Thomas 78 u., 80 / sehsuchte 43 u. / Soike, Roman 66 / Stache, Soeren 100 u. / Stiebitz, André 132, 139 / stockchng 12 u., 40 o., 60, 68, 82, 94 o., 128 / Thalia Potsdam 48, 50, 51 u. / UNIDRAM 42, 53 u. / Universität Potsdam 8/9, 122/123 / ViP Verkehrsbetrieb Potsdam GmbH 14–17 / Wikimedia 105 u., 109 o., 121 (2), 141 / Zimmermann, Matthias 4 Hintergr., 4 u.r., 6, 7 M., 7 u., 18, 19 o./M., 20 u., 20 o./M., 22 (2), 23 u., 24 (2), 25 (2), 26, 27 o., 28 (2), 29 (3), 30, 31 (3), 32 (2), 33 (3), 37 (3), 41 o., 43 o./M., 52, 54 (2), 55 M., 56 u., 58 u., 61, 62 (2), 63, 67 o., 69 o., 70 u., 71 u., 72 (2), 73 u., 74 (2), 79 u., 83 M./u., 84 o., 85 o./u., 87 (3), 97 u., 104, 105 o., 107 u., 108, 109 u., 110, 111 (2), 113 o., 115 o., 117 o., 120 o., 124, 125, 126, 131 (2), 133 M., 135 M., 136, 138, 140, 144 (Repro), 146, 147 o., 150/151 / Zschocke, Victoria 7 o., 12 o., 23 M., 27 M., 35 M., 83 o., 84 u., 85 M., 118

A scenic autumn landscape featuring a river that perfectly reflects the vibrant colors of the surrounding trees. The water is a clear, bright blue, mirroring the sky and the foliage. On the right bank, there are dense trees with yellow and orange leaves. On the left bank, trees with red and brown leaves are visible. Several leaves are captured in mid-air, falling from the trees, adding a sense of movement to the scene. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and romantic, typical of a fall day.

... TO FALL IN LOVE





Potsdam welcomes the new Potsdamers, whether you are visiting or setting up camp. No matter how long you stay: it is always worth to walk through the alleys, knock on some doors, to look around with curiosity. Green at every corner, surrounded by water, old but always on the move: Potsdam has too many sides than can be portrayed here on these few pages.



It is a start, an invitation to take this book with you through Potsdam – in order to put it aside whenever you have found your café, neighborhood and favorite place in the city. Welcome – and have fun exploring!



But neither dread nor ignorance should get in the way of getting to know Potsdam. Therefore, the author of this book undertook some explorations of the city, drew some routes on the city's map for you. The following pages show what is possible in Potsdam and where you could begin to explore the city on your own.

There's **always** something  
going on or ongoing.