



December Newsletter



Public holidays: December, 25, 26 and January 1

Please note that December, 25 & 26 and January, 1 are bank holidays in Germany and all shops will be closed! Also: On December 24 (Christmas Eve) and December 31 (New Year's Eve), opening hours are shortened – some places are completely closed.

The Welcome Center "Am Neuen Palais" is closed from December 19. We will be back at your service from January, 2 in 2026.

*Wishing you all a wonderful winter time and already
a very happy new year.*

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

International Buddy Christmas Celebration

with complimentary Glühwein & Plätzchen

Thursday, December 4 – 3:30 – 5:00 PM

NIL Keller, Campus Neues Palais, Building 11 (Basement Entrance)

Register here: <https://forms.gle/FGiXZgqtPF5ks7z37>

Remember to bring a Festive Mug to gift exchange with a Buddy – receive one in return – needed to drink your Glühwein



PSP X-MAS CHEERS

10th December | 4:00 – 7:00 PM | GO:IN, Seminarraum Erdgeschoss

Get together with the PSP community! Join our Christmas event and connect with founders, scientists, colleagues and likeminded folks from our Potsdam Science Park ecosystem! Listen to the Christmas concert of the choir „Harmonix“ (4 p.m.) and join in a cheerful Christmas sing-along. We offer drinks, snacks and to mark the season: mulled wine! Our raffle (tombola) will certainly add some fun!

We look forward to welcoming you at GO:IN 1 ground floor.

[More info](#)



Source: Standortmanagement Golm GmbH

Potsdam Graduate School Science Club

10th December | 5:00 – 9:00 PM | Bildungsforum

Are you in holiday spirit yet? Would you like to grow your network and meet other PhD candidates and postdocs? Join PoGS for their December Science Club. There will be Glühwein (mulled wine), sweet holiday favorites, and even a spot to make your own Christmas decorations. Sounds good? The PoGS Science Club offers all that above the rooftops of Potsdam. This is always a fun night to connect with fellow researchers and the PoGS team.

Don't forget to register for this fun event at PoGS in the Wissenschaftsetage (4th floor) in the Bildungsforum (Am Kanal 47, 14467 Potsdam).



Startup Story Night

4th December | 6:00 PM | Campus Griebnitzsee

The popular Startup Story Nights will take place again this year. Startup Story Night is a networking event that focuses on bringing founders together to network and learn from each other. Our event attracts an average of 100 participants and offers a diverse mix of founders, investors, industry experts and creative minds. [More info](#)

This event will be held in German.



REMINDER

FOR ALL THOSE LEAVING POTSDAM/BERLIN



If you are leaving Potsdam/Berlin soon and you are about to terminate your rental contract, we would like to ask you to please let us know if your landlord/ landlady will be looking for a new tenant, so that we can provide the room to an incoming researcher! [You can write us an e-mail.](#)

INTERESTING FOR YOU?

BUDDY PROGRAM

BE A BUDDY! A support program to facilitate the integration of international students into German society and life at the University of Potsdam, developing ties between international and local students.

Consider signing up as a Local Buddy and giving support to a newly arrived International – Remember how beneficial this was when you arrived – now is your chance to pass on your valuable tips, knowledge and friendship. Check [here](#) for more information about the program and the registration.



Source: Buddy-Program

APPLY NOW FOR THE PROCOPE MOBILITY GRANT 2026



**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
EN ALLEMAGNE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Service pour la Science
et la Technologie
Abteilung für Wissenschaft
und Technologie

With the Procope-Mobility grant program, the Office for Science and Technology Service of **the French Embassy in Germany supports the mobility of young researchers affiliated with a university or a research institute in Germany to France**. These mobility grants fund research stays of **one, two, or three months at a university or research institute in France**. Research stays must begin between May 18, 2026 and December 31, 2026.

Applicants must be:

- **doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers, or early-career researchers (within five years of their doctoral defense);**
- **affiliated with a German university or research institute.**

Program beneficiaries will receive a fixed monthly allowance of **€1,850 for doctoral candidates and €2,100 for other young researchers**.

Applications must be **submitted by January 12, 2026** (11:59 p.m. Paris time) via the LYYTI application platform (which can be modified until the deadline).

For more information on the application requirements, please consult the call for applications on the program's dedicated page on our website:

<https://www.science-allemagne.fr/cooperation-franco-allemande-2/les-programmes-de-mobilite-procope/procope-mobilite/>



CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Advent Market on Campus Golm

28th November | Campus Golm, Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 24/25, 14476 Potsdam

Anyone who wants to get into the Advent spirit early will find the perfect mix here: festive music, lovingly decorated stalls, regional products, and culinary delights. A colorful stage program, presented by groups from Golm and the university, sets the mood. Those who would like to sample different mulled wines and punches are welcome to bring their own cup!

More information: [University of Potsdam – Advent Market on Campus Golm](#)



Source: Sarah Aust

BOHEMIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET POTSDAM

5th - 7th December | Weberplatz Babelsberg

The Bohemian Christmas Market in Potsdam takes place on Weberplatz in Babelsberg during the first two Advent weekends: November 28–30 and December 5–7, 2025. Set in the historic weavers' quarter where Czech artisans once lived, the market offers a festive mix of traditional Bohemian crafts, food, and music. Visitors can enjoy regional delicacies, handmade gifts, and performances by Bohemian folk groups. Highlights include the "Bohemian Crystal Fairy," a children's workshop, and a warm, family-friendly atmosphere. The market is open Fridays from 5–10 PM, Saturdays 11 AM–10 PM, and Sundays until 6 PM. Find more information [here](#).



Source: Canva



CHRISTMAS GARDEN BERLIN

19th November - 11th January

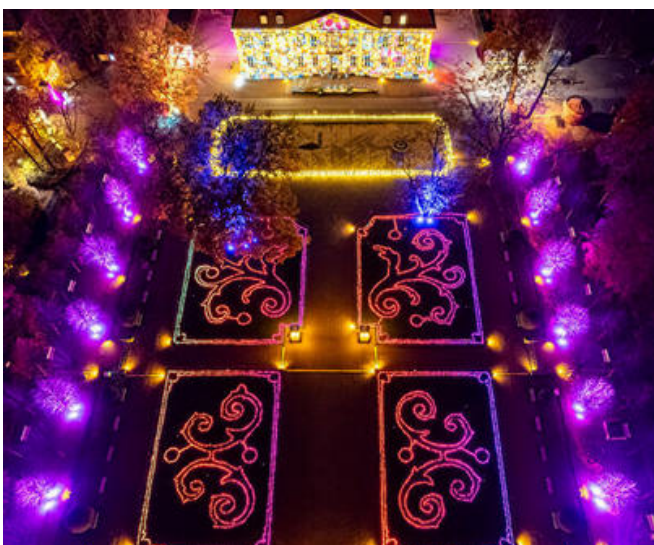
From mid-November 2024, the Botanical Garden in Dahlem will once again open its doors every evening and invite visitors to take a very special walk in the "Christmas Garden Berlin", where visitors can spend a contemplative evening in dreamy surroundings on a tour of around one and a half kilometers. Over 1 million points of light, 3000 fairy lights and a multitude of colorful illuminations immerse the Botanic Garden in a pre-Christmas sea of lights, and guests young and old can also linger over regional dishes in the "Almhütten" restaurant. Other highlights include a starry forest, a glowworm garden, Rudolph and his friends, an enchanted forest and a bell chime.

Find more information [here](#).



CHRISTMAS IN THE "TIERGARTEN"

21st November 2025 - 10th January 2026



From November 21, 2025 to January 10, 2026, Weihnachten im Tierpark turns Berlin's Tierpark into a glowing winter landscape. Along a 2-km path, visitors can enjoy magical light installations, illuminated trees, and festive scenes around Schloss Friedrichsfelde. Highlights include an ice rink, fire garden, seasonal food stalls, and immersive soundscapes. Open daily from late afternoon, the ^{Source}event offers timed-entry tickets that should be booked in advance online.

Find more information [here](#).

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Kunst im Karton

5th - 6th December | Gerichtshöfe Wedding



Source: Canva

The historic Gerichtshöfe in Berlin-Wedding host the unique art fair Kunst im Karton. Twenty-three artists present their works inside recycled fruit and vegetable boxes measuring 30 x 40 cm. The range spans painting, objects, photography, jewelry, and collage, with each piece priced at no more than €250. Once a box is sold, a new artwork takes its place, ensuring constant discovery. Visitors can explore a total of 276 boxes while enjoying mulled wine, apple punch, and cookies in a festive atmosphere. [More info](#)

Berlin Chili Fest

6th - 7th December | Kalle Halle Berlin-Neukölln

The Berlin Chili Fest transforms the Kalle Halle Markthalle into a festive wonderland for chili lovers. More than 30 international hot sauce makers from Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, and France showcase some of Europe's finest artisanal spice creations. Alongside, twelve diverse food stalls serve global flavors—from Japanese to Mexican, Indian to Korean—with plenty of vegan and vegetarian options. Visitors can enjoy live music, fiery chili-eating contests, and competitions to crown the best hot sauce. With a dedicated children's play area, the event promises fun for the whole family. [More info](#)



Source: Canva

Eve Arnold: Capturing Compassion

6th December - 1st March | f³ – freiraum für fotografie



Source: Eve Arnold / Magnum Photos

“If a photographer cares about the people before the lens and is compassionate, much is given. It is the photographer, not the camera, that is the instrument.” – Eve Arnold

The exhibition “Eve Arnold: Capturing Compassion” presents around 140 works, showcasing her groundbreaking vision and timeless artistry. With subjects ranging from social movements to Hollywood icons, Arnold’s photographs remain powerful testimonies to compassion and truth. [More info](#)

Intercultural Christmas Carol Singing

15th December at 7:30 PM | Waschhaus Potsdam

This event invites everyone to join in singing Christmas songs from around the world. Chef Ashraf will prepare a delicious soup to warm the crowd, while mulled wine adds to the cozy atmosphere. A joyful celebration of music, food, and togetherness awaits all participants.

[More info](#)



Berlin Christmas Film Festival

18th - 21st December

the Berlin Christmas Film Festival debuts at Movimiento Cinema in Kreuzberg as the first event of its kind. Designed for those seeking refuge from holiday stress or missing loved ones during the season, the festival offers a home for alternative Christmas storytelling. Audiences can enjoy an eclectic program ranging from unconventional comedies to critical, tragic, satirical, and even eerie takes on the “season of love.” [More info](#)



Source: Canva

Lichterzauber im Stadtpark Beelitz

19th December 2025 - 4th January 2026



Source: Pexels

For one and a half weeks, the Stadtpark Beelitz is transformed into a dazzling sea of lights. The Lichterzauber event immerses visitors in a magical world where architecture and nature merge through modern light and sound installations. Strolling through the illuminated park offers countless photo opportunities. Children can sing with the Snow Queen or marvel at the sparkling scenery during a ride in the fairytale Cinderella carriage. And for those seeking seasonal treats, hot blueberry or baked-apple mulled wine and fresh pastries provide the perfect refreshment. [More info](#)