



Day Trips from Berlin

Potsdam & Schloss Sanssouci p203

It's practically impossible to not be enchanted by this rambling park and palace ensemble starring Schloss Sanssouci.

Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp p209

The horrors of the Third Reich become all too real at what's left of one of Germany's oldest Nazi-built concentration camps.

Spandau p210

Anchored by a delightful Altstadt (old town), this northwestern Berlin district flaunts its historic pedigree.

Grunewald & Dahlem p211

Tree-lined streets with mansions and manicured lawns lace Berlin's poshest area, which also boasts plenty of culture cred.

Wannsee p213

Hemmed in by the Havel River, Berlin's southwestern-most district counts palaces, forests and historical sights among its assets.

Köpenick p215

Home to Berlin's largest lake, a sprawling forest, a handsome baroque castle and a medieval centre.



TOP SIGHT POTSDAM & SCHLOSS SANSSOUCI

Potsdam, on the Havel River just 25km southwest of central Berlin, is the capital and crown jewel of the federal state of Brandenburg. Easily reached by S-Bahn, the former Prussian royal seat is the most popular day trip from Berlin, luring visitors with its splendid gardens and palaces, which garnered Unesco World Heritage status in 1990.

Headlining the roll call of royal pads is Schloss Sanssouci, the private retreat of King Friedrich II (Frederick the Great), who was also the mastermind behind many of Potsdam's other fabulous parks and palaces. Most miraculously survived WWII with nary a shrapnel wound. When the shooting stopped, the Allies chose Schloss Cecilienhof for the Potsdam Conference of August 1945 to lay the groundwork for Germany's postwar fate.

Schloss & Park Sanssouci

This glorious park and palace ensemble is what happens when a king has good taste, plenty of cash and access to the finest architects and artists of the day. Sanssouci was dreamed up by Frederick the Great (1712–86) and is anchored by the eponymous palace, which was his favourite summer retreat, a place where he could be '*sans souci*' (without cares).

Schloss Sanssouci

The biggest stunner, and what everyone comes to see, is Schloss Sanssouci, Frederick the Great's famous summer palace. Designed by Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff in 1747, the rococo gem sits daintily above vine-draped terraces with the king's grave nearby.

Standouts on the tours (guided or self-guided) include the **Konzertsaal** (Concert Hall), whimsically decorated with vines, grapes and even a cobweb where sculpted spiders frolic.

DON'T MISS

- Tour of Schloss Sanssouci
- Chinesisches Haus
- View of Sanssouci palace from below the vineyard terrace

PRACTICALITIES

- ☎0331-969 4200
- www.spsg.de
- Maulbeerallee
- adult/concession incl tour or audioguide €12/8
- 🕒10am–6pm Tue–Sun Apr–Oct, to 5pm Nov–Mar
- 📍614, 650, 695