



POTSDAM TOURISMUS SERVICE

P R E S S R E L E A S E

March 2005

Potsdam – City of Palaces and Gardens

In 1990, the UNESCO declared large sections of Potsdam's city and cultural landscape part of the world cultural heritage. Among these are Sans Souci Park, the New Gardens, Babelsberg and Glienicke Parks with their Palaces, Peacock Island as well as the Sacrow Palace and Park with the Church of the Redeemer. In 1999 the Potsdam world cultural heritage was expanded with an additional 14 historic sites, such as Lindstedt Palace and Park, the Russian Colony Alexandrovskia, the Belvedere on Pfingstberg, and the Observatory in Babelsberg Park.

Next to Berlin, Potsdam was the second residence for Prussian kings, who harmoniously blended impressive palaces and parks into the surrounding nature of forests and lakes: a unique cultural landscape was created which still fascinates today. Three historic parks and palaces primarily enhance Potsdam's cityscape: the world famous Sans Souci Palace and park, the New Garden with the Marble Palace and Cecilia Court Palace, as well as Babelsberg Castle and Park. "The entire Island must become a paradise", demanded the well-traveled Johann Moritz von Nassau-Siegen in a letter to the Great Elector in 1664. Famous architects and landscape gardeners filled this request, Peter Joseph Lenné, Prince von Pückler-Muskau, Karl Friedrich Schinkel and Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff created a singular gesamtkunstwerk.

Prussian Palace and Garden Foundation Berlin-Brandenburg,

Tel: ++49331 – 9694 202, www.spsg.de.



POTSDAM TOURISMUS SERVICE

In June 2002 a particular jewel of Brandenburg-Prussian history was opened near Sans Souci Park: the **Royal Estate Bornstedt** founded in 1848 by the King. "My Italian Village" is the way Frederick William IV called Bornstedt. Besides the Dutch Quarter, the Bohemian Quarter in Babelsberg and the Russian Colony Alexandrovka, Bornstedt with its royal estate is Potsdam's contribution to Italian architectural influence in the region.

The manor house, coach house and barns are presently used as they were historically: brewery, glassworks, a historic perfumery and the Brandenburg manufactory offer a unique spectrum.

Krongut Bornstedt, Tel: ++49331-550 650, www.krongut-bornstedt.de

Excellent views of the city and the surrounding, unique cultural landscape are found in the **Belvedere on Pfingstberg** and from the **Norman Tower on the Hill of Ruins**.

Both vantage points were recreated and restored in the last few years. The Belvedere, which was originally planned as a large palatial vantage point with outdoor stairs and fountains overlooking the New Garden, was completed in 1863 in much smaller version with a pergola. Because of the nearby border area to West Berlin the vantage point was closed following the construction of the Wall and left to decay.

Through the activities of the Förderverein Pfingstberg e.V. the first phase of reconstruction began in 1996. At the end of April 2001 the Belvedere with its western tower was reopened, and since July 2003 the eastern tower, the eastern colonnade and north arcade are accessible.

Förderverein Pfingstberg e.V., Tel: ++49331 – 270 1972, www.pfingstberg.de



POTSDAM TOURISMUS SERVICE

The historic city center with its numerous, unique architectural ensembles that even today reflect on the manifold history of the onetime capital city and garrison town. Under the “Soldier King” Frederick William I, from 1732 – 1742 new quarters were created through the expansion of the second Baroque quarter. The diversity of building styles from this period can be seen along Brandenburg Street and the side streets. The most prominent example from this period is the Dutch Quarter, the largest Dutch settlement outside of the Netherlands, that was built for Dutch craftsmen and emigrants. Pubs, cafes and small shops add to the flair of the quarter with its red brick buildings. Bohemian weavers left their mark on the city in the “Nowawes” Settlement, which developed through an order by Frederick the Great in 1750 in the Babelsberg suburb. Found along Potsdam’s northern boundary is “Alexandrovka”, a Russian colony from the time of the Czar, with 13 log cabin-style houses and their large gardens built in 1826. King Frederick William III was responsible. In this settlement Russian singers found a new home following the joint victory by Prussian and Russian forces over Napoleon as a “present” by Czar Alexander I for remaining in Prussian service.

Information and reservations for guided tours and sightseeing tours to the numerous diverse themes through Potsdam Tourism Company by calling ++49331 – 275 5850.

The Nature World Biosphere Potsdam

A very special, new highlight is Germany’s singular nature world Biosphere Potsdam. On almost 5,000 qm nature’s magic is shown in a subtropical world of plants in their entire splendor and fascination since September 2002. More than 20,000 plants, among others 400 large trees, line the pathways. Shrubs, bromelia, orchids, ferns and commercial plants like cacao and coffee can be admired. 23 to 28 degree centigrade air temperature, a waterfall, sounds from tropical forests and an hourly thunderstorm create a jungle-like atmosphere. State-of-the-art simulation and multi-media technology shape this informative, entertaining and mysterious journey into the



POTSDAM TOURISMUS SERVICE

realm of plants and so turn this visit into a particularly good experience. The impressive architecture of the hall, the unusual furnishing of the interior area and the new presentation of the theme “nature” contribute to opening an unknown world.

Biosphere Potsdam, Tel: ++49331 – 550 740, www.biosphere.net

“**Potsdam’s new north**” is a residential, service and recreation area with very special qualities. **The Bornstedt Field**, a more than 300 hectare large area, was used for over 250 years for military purposes. It was first a training area for soldiers of the royal army, later the Empire in Potsdam. Focal point is the large **People’s Park**, Buga-Park 2001 for two million visitors. Today the park offers numerous possibilities for leisure time activities and events. Surrounded by the world famous Potsdam cultural landscape, and Havel lakes, small forests and the extensive Lenné Fields.

More than 3,000 individuals live here in their own four walls or as renters. In the former military installations new life has entered in the shape of service oriented companies, research centers and commercial enterprises.

Development Company Bornstedt Field, ++49331 – 271 980, etbf-potsdam@t-online.de

Potsdam – City on Water

Potsdam should definitely be discovered from the water. Embedded in the picturesque river and lake landscape of the Havel, the Deep Lake, the Virgin Lake and Templin Lake, the “island position” of the city becomes particularly clear. The **White Fleet Potsdam** and the Havel Steamship Company offer attractive sightseeing tours on Potsdam’s waters. Particularly impressive are the “**Nighttime Castle Impressions**”, romantic trips with the White Fleet passing the festively lighted palaces. However, yachtsmen, row boaters and motorboat enthusiasts get carried away.

White Fleet Potsdam, Tel: ++49331 – 275 9210/20, www.schiffahrt-in-potsdam.de



POTSDAM TOURISMUS SERVICE

Potsdam – City of Culture

Behind the baroque façade of the **Nicolai Hall** guests can discover a modern concert and event center and with its attractive foyer and gastronomy area is suitable for different events. The programs offered by the Nikolaisaal is extremely varied, extending from classical music and jazz to crossover and revues.

Nikolaisaal, Tel: ++49331 – 288 8828, www.nikolaisaal.de

The Potsdam Sans Souci Music Festivals belong to the cultural life of the city during the summer. Thousands of music lovers come to Potsdam each June. Performances of musical theater and open-air-concerts in the uniquely beautiful rooms and parks of the world famous palaces and gardens are presented, the diverse festival productions are held on historical sites, such as the Orangery in Sans Souci Park, in the Peace Church, and in the New Chambers. This year there will be a special program to celebrate 50th anniversary of the festival at Sans Souci.

Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci, Tel: ++49331 – 288 8828, www.musikfestspiele.potsdam.de

During August, the Prussian Castle and Garden Foundation Berlin-Brandenburg invites visitors to the **Potsdam Castle Night**. In festive lighting the palaces and Sans Souci Park shine in a special brilliance. A diversified program of artistic and cultural events on numerous stages will be offered, of which the crowning close will again be the traditional grand spectacular musical fireworks near the New Palace.

In the former royal **Carriage Stall** on the New Market in Potsdam's historic center opened in December 2003 the **House of Brandenburg-Prussian History** the exhibition "Land und Leute – Geschichten aus Brandenburg-Preußen". The exhibitions and presentations of the House offer meetings with the history of



POTSDAM TOURISMUS SERVICE

Brandenburg-Prussia and Potsdam. The New Market with its original preserved historical architecture is recommended as a ideal start for city walks.

Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte, Tel: ++49331 – 201 3949, info@hbpg.de

On “**Schiffbauergasse**” the most modern cultural and business center is under construction in Potsdam. Direct on the banks of the Havel, opposite Babelsberg Park, where once the first Prussian steamships were built, prevailed drill and splendor of the Guard Cavalry, smoking and hissing steam for more than 150 years a gas work. The redevelopment and transformation of this site is one of the most important projects of the capital city in the next few years: art, cultural scene, business, gastronomy and tourism is to be integrated so that a vivid place for exchange is created. Even now there is a lively life with dance, music, cinema, literature, performing and creative art. In 2002 approximately 200,000 visitors attended the performances on “Schiffbauergasse”. The new building for the municipal Hans Otto Theater will be erected directly next to the river. The historical preserved industrial buildings will be restored and used in the future for cultural events and gastronomy. Facilities for ship and boat tourism will provide for additional attractiveness.

Schiffbauergasse, Tel: +49331 – 620 240, schiffbauergasse@potsdam.de



POTSDAM TOURISMUS SERVICE

Potsdam, the Film City

Film history was written in Potsdam: in the years after 1911 Babelsberg became known worldwide at the cradle of cinema in Germany. Famous directors like Fritz Land Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau and stars like Heinrich George, Marlene Dietrich, Lilian Harvey and Heinz Rühmann filmed in Babelsberg. More than 2000 movies have been produced since 1912 and more than 1000 television productions under the trademark of Ufa, DEFA and Studio Babelsberg. With the creation of the **Filmpark Babelsberg** the traditionally rich film city opened to the general public. It became a first rate tourist attraction.

The most diverse themes – shows, productions, studio tours, singular exhibitions, extravagant film decorations, original movie sets and much more – allow annually between March and October a glimpse behind the sets of cinema and TV. The most beloved attraction is the volcano stunt show. Costly special affects and unique action scenes contribute daily for sensations.

A visit to the **Potsdam Film Museum** in the historic royal stables recreates vividly the past. The permanent collection shows impressive proof of German film history. In special shows themes from movies and television from around the world are presented. One can also become immersed in the world of cinema in the museum cinema which presents daily films, not only those from Babelsberg. Also on display is the Welte Cinema Organ, an instrument that once replaced a full orchestra and accompanied silent films.

Filmpark Babelsberg, Infoline ++49331 – 721 2755, www.filmpark.de

Filmmuseum Potsdam, Tel: ++49331 – 271 810, www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de

**Press enquiries: Christian Tänzler TMB Tourismus Marketing Brandenburg GmbH
Am Neuen Markt 1, 14467 Potsdam, Telephone 03 31/298 73-50, Fax 03 31/298 73 73
E-Mail: taenzler@reiseland-brandenburg.de, Internet: www.reiseland-brandenburg.de**