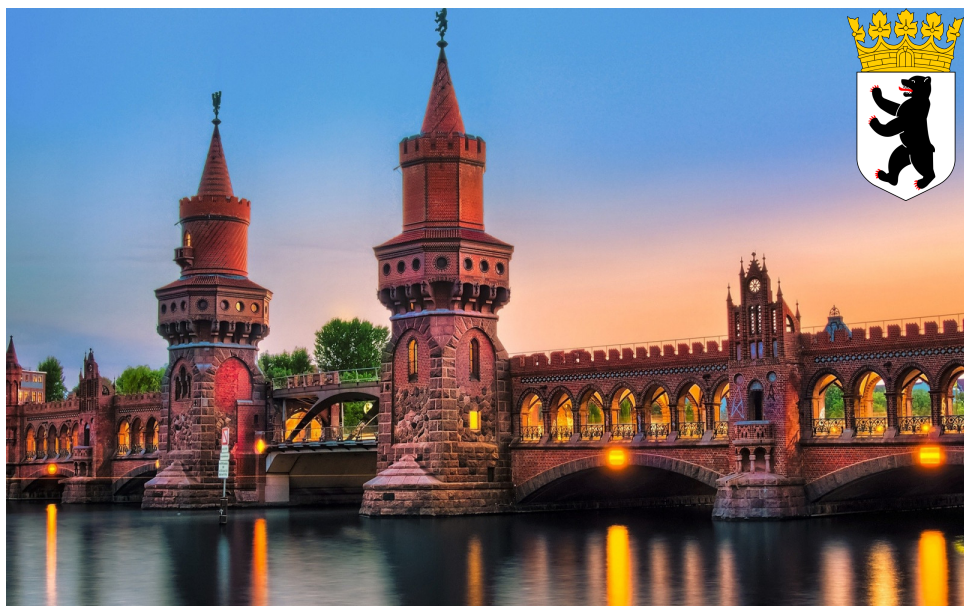


# Seeking Art in Central Europe

## Imperial Capitals—Berlin

A Prospectus



August 7 – August 17, 2025

# Welcome!

Far more than any other city, Berlin has felt the effects of the Cold War. Since German reunification and Berlin's restoration as the capital of Germany, however, the city has become perhaps the most exciting, interesting, and progressive city in Europe. It is chock full of history, it has an artistic and cultural scene which rivals that of more renowned locations, and it has become the center of European style and innovation. Yet there's no denying the historical reality: National Socialism, followed by decades of division in the Cold War, took their toll. But these developments, regarded with the benefit of the perspective of the early 21st century, seem to have enhanced the excitement that pervades this former Prussian, now German, capital. Your time here will be occupied with investigating the horrors of the Nazi regime, with developing an appreciation of the stresses caused by dividing the city between the democratic West and the totalitarian East, and with the revival of life befitting a modern metropolis. Yet these historical developments are not without their cultural and architectural counterparts, and the rebirth of the German capital will stimulate a rebirth of your own artistic and creative spirit.



## Outbound Flight\*



**Depart** The airport of departure and return will be determined in consultation with the respective participant(s).

**Arrive** Berlin Brandenburg Airport Willy Brandt, Berlin, Germany

\*Flight arrangements are tentative until tickets are issued.



# Day 1: Arrival in Berlin



After arriving at Berlin Brandenburg Airport Willy Brandt and proceeding through passport control and customs, we'll head for our hotel, check in, and freshen up to begin the first of our activities during the stay.

There's no reason to waste any time in getting started with work on portfolios. To this end, we'll head to Charlottenburg Palace (a modest walk from the hotel), built in the late 17th century from a commission issued by Sophie Charlotte, wife of Frederick III, the Elector of Brandenburg. We won't visit the interior of the building.

Instead, we'll find good spaces on the grounds to begin sketching the palace, its grounds, and its environment.

We'll return to the hotel and grab some fast food at any of various stands nearby, and then call it a day.





# Day 2: The Bauhaus and National Socialism



Joost Schmidt (1893-1948), *Bauhaus Exhibition of 1923*. Poster.

Given the history of the 20th century, it's not surprising that Berlin has a split personality. Today's agenda highlights that bifurcation. We'll start by taking a detailed look at the Bauhaus artistic movement. Founded in Weimar in 1919, the Bauhaus combined fine art with crafts. Its most important contribution to art has been its influence on design—the design of buildings, of household items, of furniture, of just about anything. In 1932, the Bauhaus moved from Dessau, where it had been centered since 1925, to Berlin. Its life in the capital was limited, however, because the Nazis shut down the movement in 1933. Despite that, the styles introduced by the artists of the Bauhaus have pervaded modern art ever since.

In the afternoon, we'll take our first extended look at the dark side of German history. The *Topography of Terror* documents the birth and rise of National Socialism to its collapse at the end of the war (and even some of its longer-lasting remnants today). The exhibits are housed in a building built on the site of the original Gestapo headquarters. A remnant of the Berlin Wall runs along the front of the building.



# Day 3: Street Art



Street art (graffiti) is an important part of the public profile of Berlin. Various styles can be found throughout the city, and a number of talented artists have felt strongly that this type of expression should be



more widely appreciated than it usually is. The result is Urban Nation, a museum and workshop center that not only preserves valuable pieces of graffiti but also teaches up-and-coming artists the techniques they might employ in developing their skills. We'll first take a tour of the neighborhood



of Schöneberg to see works *in situ*, then we'll participate in a workshop on doing our own art to add to our portfolio. It will provide a distinctly different kind of work than is found in the typical artist's portfolio.





# Day 4: Getting Around Berlin



Although we've already seen a number of significant things in Berlin, we are going to take today to get to know our way around the city and stop at numerous landmarks scattered throughout. The first way of doing this will be via a walking tour from Potsdamer Platz—the busiest intersection in the city before World War II—to

Alexanderplatz, the famous square just behind the Iron Curtain. Along the way we'll see the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Unter den Linden, and Berlin's cathedral. We'll end our stroll at the TV tower on Alexanderplatz, where we'll take a short break and then move on to the second leg of our day.



There's no better way to gain an introduction to Berlin than by taking a tour of the city by bike. And there are few things visitors to Berlin are as interested in as the Berlin Wall. So we will set the now-defunct wall as the focus of our ride. We'll visit spots such as the TV tower and world clock on Alexanderplatz (the center of Berlin before the war but hidden behind the wall during the Cold War),



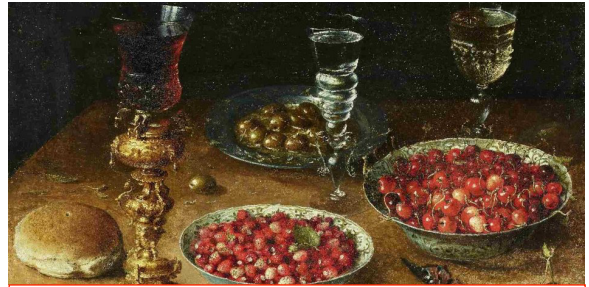
the Karl Marx Allee (East Berlin's promenade boulevard), the East Side Gallery (an open-air display of murals on a still-standing section of the Wall), the Soviet War Memorial, Tempelhof Airport, Checkpoint Charlie, the Marx-Engels Forum, and more.

# Day 5: From the Avant-Garde to the Classical



The day begins with a visit to a museum that features a different kind of artistic medium: light. Exhibits often encourage interaction between the viewer and the art. As the museum itself describes its display, “Light, movement and sound fuse into emotional choreographies of luminous shapes and colors.”

We will spend the afternoon at Berlin’s Gemäldegalerie (Painting Gallery). This hall displays European art from the 13th through the 18th century. Works of many of the leading Dutch, German, and Italian artists are on exhibit: Breugel, Titian, Raphael, Dürer, Rubens, Rembrandt, Vermeer and others. You’ll find a wide



Osias Beert the Elder (c. 1580-1623), *Still Life with Cherries and Strawberries in Porcelain Bowls*, detail, 1608. Oil on canvas, 50 cm x 65.5 cm.



selection of models for your own portfolios.

Jan van Bijlert (1597-1671), *The Banquet of Alexander and Cleitus*, 1635. Oil on canvas, 161.3 cm x 216.5 cm





# Day 6: Beauty and Horror Redux



Alfred Grenander (1863-1931), *Furniture Ensemble for the World Exhibition, Saint Louis, 1904.*

Once again we find ourselves confronted by the tensions of 20th-century Berlin. We'll begin the day with a visit to the Bröhan Museum, which houses an extensive collection of works in the art nouveau and the art deco styles. Pieces from the Berlin Secession are also richly represented.

Afterwards we'll travel to the Grunewald section of the city, a Jewish enclave in the early decades of the century. Here we'll see the depot from which many residents were sent to their deaths in camps in the east.



Atelier Clement Dane, *Empress of Britain*, 1932. Poster.



# Day 7: The Memorial at Sachsenhausen



Our final major confrontation with the horrors of the National Socialist regime will occur at Sachsenhausen concentration camp, located just north of Berlin. It was established in the summer of 1936 as a model camp, one that would give architectural

expression to the world view of the SS and that would reflect the power of that organization. More than 200,000 people were interned here until liberation in April 1945.







# Day 8: Sanssouci



Sanssouci—“without a care”—was built in the years 1745 to 1747 as Frederick the Great's summer residence, giving him a retreat from the formalities and responsibilities of life at the royal court.

We'll spend the better part of a day here, allowing participants ample opportunity to work on their portfolios and to stroll through the extensive grounds.

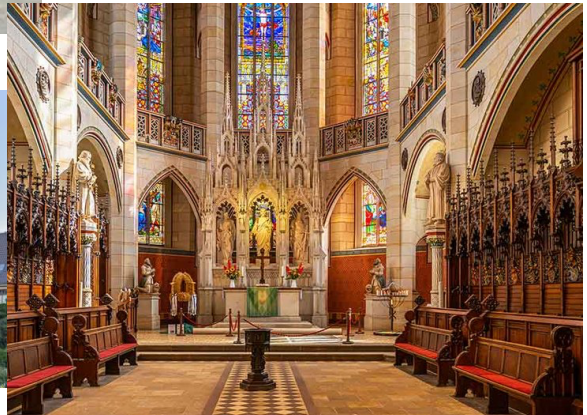


# Day 9: Lutherstadt Wittenberg



We'll conclude our stay in Germany by leaving Berlin's metropolitan area and traveling south to Wittenberg. Legend has it that here, in 1517 in the Castle Church, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses, which triggered the Protestant Reformation and brought Christendom (as Europe was then commonly known) into great upheaval. The divisions still exist today, with northern and eastern Germany being largely Lutheran and western and southern Germany being largely Catholic.

Modern Wittenberg is a charming town that welcomes visitors to leisurely walks through town and to dining at various restaurants, some of which claim to offer "good Lutheran food"! Both the Castle Church and St. Mary's Church (where Luther did most of his preaching) are open to view, and there will be copious time to put finishing touches on works for portfolios.





The day will get off to an early start. After checking out of the hotel, we'll head to the Berlin Brandenburg Airport for the return flight to the United States.

# Inbound Flight\*



- Depart Berlin Brandenburg Airport Willy Brandt, Berlin, Germany
- Arrive The airport of departure and return will be determined in consultation with the respective participant(s).

\*Flight arrangements are tentative until tickets are issued.

## Nota Bene

All information contained in this brochure is provisional. While serious effort has been put into planning an itinerary that not only meets the educational objectives of this trip but also allows for the most efficient use of time and resources, circumstances beyond our control could occasion a rescheduling or an elimination of various items from the itinerary.



# Summary of the Itinerary

| Date               | Event  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Thu, Aug 7</b>  | Departure from the U. S.   |
| <b>Fri, Aug 8</b>  | Arrival in Berlin<br>Visit—Charlottenburg Palace   |
| <b>Sat, Aug 9</b>  | Visit—the Bauhaus View and Archive<br>Visit—the Topography of Terror                           |
| <b>Sun, Aug 10</b> | Tour—Urban Nation  |
| <b>Mon, Aug 11</b> | Tour—Walking Tour from Potsdamer Platz to<br>Alexander Platz<br>Tour—Bicycle Tour: Berlin Wall |
| <b>Tue, Aug 12</b> | Visit—Dark Matter<br>Tour—Gemäldegalerie   |
| <b>Wed, Aug 13</b> | Visit—Bröhan Museum<br>Visit—Grünewald, Track 17   |
| <b>Thu, Aug 14</b> | Tour—Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp  |
| <b>Fri, Aug 15</b> | Visit—Sanssouci  |
| <b>Sat, Aug 16</b> | Visit—Wittenberg   |
| <b>Sun, Aug 17</b> | Return to the U. S.  |



## SEEKING ART IN CENTRAL EUROPE (Imperial Capitals—Berlin) August 7 – August 17, 2025

### AMENITIES, COST, AND DEADLINES

*Seeking Art in Central Europe* is a nine-day (eleven-day, if flight days are included in the count) program that combines visits to museums and galleries in Berlin with time for drawing and painting works to add to the participant's portfolio.

A comprehensive price\* for the program includes the following amenities:

- Round-trip airfare between the United States and Europe
- Accommodations (multiple occupancy) and meals (meals directly or by stipend)
- All ground transportation
- All entrances, tours, and tips at museums and sights
- Professional artistic instruction and guidance

The cost of this program is **\$3,900**. Students currently enrolled in a school or college receive an automatic discount of **\$500**. Registrants who have previously traveled with Magdeburg Explorations receive a discount of **\$200**. Students who have previously traveled with Magdeburg Explorations may apply a combined discount of **\$700** to one art trip offered by the organization in 2025.

The deadline for registration and payment of fees for the trip to Berlin is **Friday, February 14, 2025**.

Details regarding fees and payment are listed on the "Registration and Payment" page of our site: <<http://www.MagdeburgPrep.org/>>.

Questions may be directed to Magdeburg Explorations (<[info@MagdeburgPrep.org](mailto:info@MagdeburgPrep.org)>). Enrollment is limited, so early action is recommended.

\*Participants are responsible for expenses related to passports, travel to and from the departure and return airport, trip insurance (if desired), and personal items.



This itinerary and program have been prepared by Magdeburg Explorations, a division of Magdeburg International Scholastic Programs, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization chartered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Registration does not imply endorsement.