

Berlin Through the Ages



Step beyond the tourist trail and uncover the rich, complex layers of Berlin's past with a guided, small-group historical tour led by award-winning professor and author, Gary Bruce, an insightful and engaging expert on German history.

This immersive experience offers an academic yet accessible exploration of the pivotal events, ideologies, and transformations that have shaped one of Europe's most dynamic cities.

Whether you're a history enthusiast or curious traveller, you'll gain unique insights into Berlin's role in world history — from the rise and fall of empires, to the Holocaust, to the Cold War and reunification — all brought to life through storytelling, expert commentary, and exclusive guest speakers.

Participants will be provided with suggested readings and films ahead of time to enhance the learning experience.

What's Included

- ✓ Airfare and 7 nights in a central Berlin hotel*
- ✓ Entrance fees
- ✓ Daily buffet breakfast, and select special meals
- ✓ All ground transportation**
- ✓ Day trips to Leipzig and Fürstenberg
- ✓ Guest speakers
- ✓ Optional add-ons: classical music concert or visit to Berlin Zoo

Dates & Pricing

9-17 October, 2025

\$3,599 CAD double occupancy
(single supplement: \$1,300)



Book Your Trip!

Space is limited. Contact
berlinhistorytour@gmail.com to
reserve your spot by
July 31, 2025.

**Flights and hotel through Rainy Day Travel, TICO #50027436*





Berlin Through the Ages: Itinerary

Thursday, 9 October

Depart Toronto on Air Transat.

Friday, 10 October

Arrive Berlin 10:55am. After settling in, we'll head out on a neighbourhood tour. Our hotel is situated in the former Jewish Quarter, near the famous synagogue, which was at the time of its construction the largest in the world.

On our first day in Berlin, we'll see some of the major sites within easy walking distance including:

- The former **royal square**, featuring the enormous Berlin Cathedral, the reconstructed Royal Palace, and some of Germany's most important art galleries.
- **Unter den Linden**, Berlin's iconic boulevard, home to the Opera House, Humboldt University, and the Brandenburg Gate.
- **The Rosenstrasse Memorial**, which commemorates the German women who protested for the return of their Jewish husbands in April 1943.

Saturday, 11 October

We will head to the affluent Berlin suburb of **Wannsee**, home of the villa where the infamous Nazi conference was held in January 1942.

In the afternoon, we will visit **The Otto Weidt Museum**, a site often missed by tourists, which tells the fascinating story of the owner of a broom factory who also protected blind and deaf Jews during WWII.

Sunday, 12 October

We leave for the southern city of **Leipzig**, the city which started the revolution that toppled the Berlin Wall in 1989. Some of the highlights include:

- **Monument to the Battle of Nations**, the largest monument in Europe, commemorating the victory of a group of European countries over Napoleon in 1813. We will stand where Napoleon did on the battlefield.
- **Walking tour of Leipzig**, including Bach's gravesite.
- **Meeting with a participant in the 1989 revolution.**

Monday, 13 October

It's another day out of the German capital as we head north this time. After about an hour on the train, we'll arrive in **Fürstenberg**, the nearest town to the former female concentration camp at **Ravensbrück**. At the memorial site, we'll learn of the motivations of the female perpetrators to work at such a camp, and the daily life of the inmates.

Tuesday, 14 October

Today, we visit **one of the most important Russian sites outside of Russia**, a monument that mourns the Red Army soldiers that died in the Battle of Berlin. It is still the final resting place of over 5,000 soldiers.

We then head away from the centre of the city to a quiet neighbourhood that has **a fascinating memory project**, only steps away from

where JFK gave his famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech.

Wednesday, 15 October

We relive the history of East Germany again today, with a visit to the **archives of East Germany's secret police (the Stasi)**. At 180 kms of documents, most of them informant reports, it is one of the largest collections in the German federal archive system, and the only instance in the world where secret police files are almost entirely open to the public.

We'll round out our East German theme with a visit to the **Berlin Wall** memorial, which commemorates the victims of the barrier that divided Berlin for 28 years. Remnants of the Wall are still visible.

Optional Event: Classical concert or Berlin Zoo.

Thursday, 16 October

Our last full day in Berlin takes us back to an earlier era of German history, to the time of the 18th century king of Prussia, Frederick the Great. We will visit the magnificent garden complex near **Potsdam** that was crafted under Frederick and was in continuous use until the last German emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Friday, 17 October

Return Berlin to Toronto.