

## Berlin

One of Europe's top destinations, Berlin is a must for the (Jewish) traveller! Constantly evolving, constantly re-defining itself, this hotbed of creative energy has something for everyone - art, nature, architecture, gastronomy and, of course, history in spades. Every corner of the German capital has a fascinating story, and we want to share it with you. Home of the 18th century Jewish Enlightenment and 19th century Reform movement; of Moses Mendelssohn, Einstein and, nowadays, Daniel Barenboim, to name a few, Berlin pays homage to the golden era of the Jewish community, most notably with the spectacular golden-domed New Synagogue. Yet the city, which was also home to the Nazi terror, remembers its dark era in numerous moving memorials throughout the city. Today, Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum draws visitors from the world over and even in the heart of the world famous museums island, tribute is paid to the Jewish contribution to Berlin's culture: the James-Simon-Gallery is dedicated to the donor of the Nefertiti bust to the Berlin state Museums. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall the city has re-created itself and is now one of Europe's most exciting urban destinations – and we have a great package for you!



## 4 DAY PACKAGE

### DAY 1: Arrival in Berlin

#### City Introduction – Brandenburg Gate to Museums Island

Beginning on the magnificent Museum Island in the heart of the “Old Berlin” this tour will take you on a historical journey down the grand boulevard Unter den Linden to the most important sight in Germany, the Brandenburg Gate. Meet us on the steps of the Berliner Dom, the Berlin cathedral, on Museum Island. Within the next hours you will hear intriguing stories about the Royal family of Prussia and Germany and the reconstruction of the baroque Royal palace. You will visit places of Nazi terror and commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust. You will see architecture from Baroque and Classical to Eastern style communist blocks and contemporary masterpieces. You will experience the Berlin of today with its fashionable shops and restaurants, its hustle and bustle on the legendary Friedrich St. known for its nightlife, cabarets and theaters. At the Brandenburg Gate, stand where Reagan told Gorbachev: “Tear down this wall!” Hear the

stories of escape attempts and the wall coming down. All along the way you'll learn about Berlin's fascinating past and present, its thriving contemporary creative scene and its complicated role as central European capital.

Optional **Dinner**

## DAY 2:

### Comprehensive Full Day Tour

Berlin is a large, spread-out city, and exploring it via private vehicle allows you the luxury of seeing as much of it as possible. A ride through its elegant boulevards and cobbled side streets will give you an intimate knowledge of the urban landscape, crowded with evocative memorials, stunning castles, world-class museums and impressive new complexes from just about every star architect working today – Daniel Libeskind, I. M. Pei, Norman Foster and Frank Gehry, to name a few. On this tour we can go in-depth into both the Nazi and Cold War history but also see important Jewish sites like the magnificent golden-domed New Synagogue that testifies to a renaissance of multi-cultural life in Berlin. After a guided visit to the museum inside, you will stroll through the “Spandauer Vorstadt”, once known as the Jewish quarter with many Jewish institutions, then and now.

We will drive through the new government area, which encompasses the redesigned Reichstag building with its glass dome by Sir Norman Foster and the German Chancellery, continue to the Street of the 17th of June through Tiergarten, Berlin's beautiful city park, at the centre of which we find the Victory Column. After Bellevue Palace, the residence of the German Federal President, we will drive by the awe-inspiring modern architectural complexes at Potsdamer Platz and continue on to see the Berlin Wall. Learn about the Cold war history right at Checkpoint Charlie, continuing to Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum.

In city-centre west we visit the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, reconstructed after the church was badly bombed during WWII. From there we will drive along Kurfürstendamm, Berlin's main shopping boulevard. You may decide to make a stop at Kadewe, the largest department store in continental Europe and famous for its international gourmet food hall. You might be interested to learn about the Jewish history behind it and in general about the importance of Jewish businesses in the department store culture as well as in other industries like the fashion industry in the early 20. century. Your tour will continue to Charlottenburg Palace. Dating back to 1695, it is the only remaining royal residence in Berlin.

Optional **Dinner**

## DAY 3:

Morning: **Guided Visit Museum Island**

Afternoon: **Free Time**

Evening Option: **Cultural Event (Concert, Ballet, Opera, depending on availability)**

## DAY 4: Departure

Prices start at 1850 Euro per person in double occupancy in 4star accommodation, 2085 Euro per person in double occupancy in 5star accommodation, depending on availability. Can be booked throughout the year.

Access to Jewish institutions limited on Shabbat © 11/2019. Program can be altered due to unforeseen circumstances.

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