

Tour of Berlin, Germany

Friday, April 12th – Friday, April 19th, 2024

Whether you are interested in history, art and/or culture, Berlin, Germany, offers it all! Guided and organized by a native from Berlin – now living in Freeport – you will dive into the city from day one, and bring back unforgettable memories.

Everything will be organized for you, so you can relax while absorbing the city's vibe. This year, the island Usedom (Baltic Sea) will be included in the package as an exciting bonus.



*Valeska will host an **Information Night at the Freeport Middle School Library on Thursday, September 7th, at 7:00 p.m.** where she will talk about Berlin's history and the trip itinerary. Everyone is welcome!*

More detailed information involving the itinerary and travel preparation is available on RSU5 Community Programs' website (<https://rsu5cp.org/>).



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Programs**

Berlin and Usedom, Germany (04/12/2024 – 04/19/2024)

Day 1: Welcome to Berlin

04/12/2024

Individual arrival in Berlin.

3:00 pm.: Group will meet in the Hotel lobby for a warm welcome

5:00 pm.: Together we will take the bus to the heart of former East Berlin. Our destination is the “Fernsehturm Berlin” (Berlin's TV tower), where we will take the elevator up to enjoy the view from above and have dinner at the “Sphere Restaurant”

8:30 pm.: We will take the bus back to our hotel, the jet lag might hit you by then....

Walking: app. 1 hour

Day 2: Getting to know Berlin

04/13/2024

After a good nights rest and a solid breakfast, we will get to know Berlin today. I will be happy to answer questions for you during the morning hours.

10:00 am.: Departure for a guided sightseeing tour by bus (3 hours)

1:00 pm.: Lunch nearby the Brandenburg Gate

2:30 pm.: Guided tour of the “Reichstag” (German parliament)

3:30 pm.: Free time: Take a stroll through the Tiergarten, visit the Potsdamer Platz for shopping and history, or just find a nice place to sit down in one of the many cafes near by.

Option: Airport Tempelhof, Zoo etc.

6:00 pm.: Group will meet in the hotel lobby to explore the neighborhood of our hotel, City-West (Memorial Church)

6:30 pm.: Dinner nearby the “Ku-damm/Memorial Church)

Walking: appr. 2+ hours plus free time

Day 3: East meets West

04/14/2024

After breakfast, we will dive into the extraordinary history of Berlin by visiting important historic sites of the different epochs. In the evening, we will walk through the Hackesche Höfe, an architectural phenomenon, before ending the day with an entertaining contemporary circus show.

9:00 am.: Meeting in the hotel lobby. I will be your tour guide today.

10:00 am.: Traenenpalast, Guided Tour

12:00 am.: “Topographie des Terrors” (topography of terror, documentation center),
Guided Tour

1:30 pm.: Lunch at “Stadtschloss Berlin”

2:30 pm.: Free time

5:30 pm.: Meeting in the hotel lobby for an evening walk through the
“Scheunenviertel” (Barn Quarter). One of Berlin's oldest and most
charismatic neighborhoods.

7:00 pm.: Prosecco-reception at the Chameleon (an early 20th century theater with a
stunning art nouveau ballroom)

8:00 pm.: Show, including dinner
Together we will go back to the hotel

Walking: appr. a lot!

Day 4 : Bansin, Usedom (short trip to the Baltic Sea)

04/15/2024

You deserve a little break from the city by now. We will head up north/east to the Baltic Sea today. Our destination is the sunniest region in Germany: Bansin, a little beach resort on the island Usedom. The island has been a tourist destination since the Gruenderzeit in the 19th century, and features resort architecture.

10:00 am.: Departure with our private coach

12:00 am.: Lunch stop at Bellinger Holzbackofen, Jatznick

13:30 am.: Arrival in Bansin, Check-in at the Hotel zur Post

Free time: Take a stroll along the sandy beaches, check out the little stores,
take a hike into the amazing beech woods bordering the town, or rent a bike

6:00 pm.: Dinner at the hotel

Day 5: Bansin, Usedom

04/16/2024

After a good morning breakfast, you will have all day long to explore the island. You can walk along the ocean to the bordering “Kaiserbaeder”. If your feet are getting tired you can easily take a trolley back. Book a boat tour to Poland. Enjoy a spa day in our hotel. Book a “Strandkorb” and swim in the ocean, etc. etc. I will be there to help you organizing an unforgettable day. No lunch served today!

6:00 pm.: Dinner at the hotel

Day 6: Potsdam and Berlin

04/17/2024

It is time to head back. After breakfast we will depart for Potsdam, a former residence of the Prussian kings and German Kaisers until 1918. It is the site of the parks and places of Sanssouci, the largest World Heritage Site in Germany. The city is now the capital of the German federal state Brandenburg, bordering Berlin. On our way back to the hotel, we will stop at the Allied Museum in Zehlendorf, part of the former American Sector and have dinner.

9:00 am.: Departure

12:00 am.: Arrival in Potsdam, Lunch (Russische Teestube Alexandrovka)

1:00 pm.: Guided bus tour through Potsdam (2 hours)

3:30 pm.: Allied Museum in Zehlendorf, former American Sector

5:45 pm.: Dinner at Chalet Suisse

7:30 pm.: Check in Hotel

Walking: appr. 1 hour

Day 7: Culture pure – and last day

04/18/2024

Put your comfortable shoes on. Today, we will visit the world's famous Museum Island (Museumsinsel), known for its magnificent art work, and outstanding ensemble of five world-renowned museums. In 1999, the Museum Island complex was inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage.

9:00 am.: We will meet in the hotel lobby

10:00 am.: Guided tour of the world famous Museumsinsel (museum island)

12:30 pm.: Lunch at "Jollies"

1:30 pm.: Free time

5:30 pm.: We will meet in the hotel lobby

6:30 pm.: Departure for an evening farewell-dinner cruise

Day 8: Good bye Berlin!

04/19/2024

Individual transfer to the airport.

About Valeska Hornschild-Bear:

Valeska was born in 1975, in former West-Berlin. Being surrounded by the Berlin wall seemed to her as natural as having to travel three hours through transit (former East Germany) in order to leave the city. What nowadays is unbelievable, was real for over 28 years! During that time, West-Berlin developed its own “charm” by being an artificial enclave of high international political interest, subsidized by West-Germany, and supported by the three Allies (USA, France, and Great Britain). The other half of the city, East-Berlin, served during that time as the capital of the former GDR and became the Russian Sector.

Growing up, she has always been interested in the history of Berlin. She holds a Master's degree in Art History, with two minors in Housing Preservation as well as Business Economics. The focus of her studies was on Architectural History, especially Berlin. An architectural guide 'Embassies in Berlin,' by Kerstin Englert and Juergen Tietz, was published in 2003. As a student, Valeska was one of the co-authors, describing Berlin's new established embassies that had been in Bonn, the former capital of West-Germany, until the reunification in 1990.

Such a diverse and approachable architecture of a German city is nowhere better found than in Berlin - and until today, one can learn to read and understand Berlin and its history by viewing its monuments and buildings. For decades, the city has been the playfield for several theories of urban planning, and urban zeitgeist.

For several years, Valeska was employed at the Federal Government's Press and Information Bureau (Bundespresseamt), where she worked for the Visitor Service Department. Her tasks included the organization and supervision of Berlin sightseeing tours with a focus on German politics and architecture for a group size of 50 persons for one to four days. The work demanded broadly educated, positive spirited, well organized, and stress resistant employees. The interaction with people of different backgrounds, the dynamic atmosphere, and the focus on presenting a place to which she felt attached was fulfilling both personally and professionally.

Valeska met her American husband Robert at the University of Maine, 1994. After having lived together for 14 years in Berlin, they both decided it was now time to live the “American way of life.” 2014 they moved with their two kids to Freeport, Maine. At least once a year, they try to go back to Berlin, Germany.