

Places of Interest

1 The neo-Gothic Lutheran **Erlöserkirche** (Church of the Redeemer) was built between 1896 and 1898. It was designed by architect Gotthilf Ludwig Möckel, and is now a listed building. The interior of the church seats about 900 people. The tower measures 74 metres in height. Substantially destroyed in the last days of the war in 1945, the building underwent major repairs, lasting until 1947. In 1964 a new organ with three keyboards and pedal was inaugurated. The complete outer shell was renovated between 1990 and 1996.



2 In the 1760s, King Frederick II of Prussia decided to transform Potsdam's Breite Strasse (Wide Street) into a spacious boulevard with prestigious buildings. In addition, he had the **Hiller-Brandtsche Häuser** (houses of the merchant

Johann Friedrich Hiller and the master tailor Johann Gebhardt Brandt) rebuilt and extended with the construction of a barracks. This multipurpose use of buildings was more common in 18th century Prussia, and it marked the beginning of the development of the barracks as an independent type of building. After extensive renovation work from 2011 to 2013, the building complex now houses rental and owner-occupied flats.

3 The Potsdam **Garrisonkirche** (Garrison Church), which was gutted by fire in 1945 and demolished in 1968, was reconstructed on its former site between 2017 and 2024. With the completion of this construction work, the church tower is now open to the public. Originally built between 1730 and 1735, the royal military and crypt church became a Potsdam landmark and an important memorial to Prussian history over the course of two centuries. For this reason, the site was exploited by the Nazis for mass propaganda, and the location was used during the ceremonial opening of the German Reichstag under Adolf Hitler (at that time Chancellor of the Reich) on March 21, 1933 ("Day of Potsdam"). Plans were made to rebuild the church following German reunification.



4 Only the portal façade, that was later added to the southern gable, remains today of the large riding and drill hall that the "Soldier King" Frederick William I of Prussia had built in 1734. Contrary to its name, the "**Langer Stall**" (Long Stable), a 170 metre-long half-timbered building with a gabled roof and clustered, glazed windows, was originally used for the Potsdam garrison. The suspended supporting structure, which spanned the entire building depth of 23 metres, created a large continuous area without any supporting columns for drilling soldiers. The Stall was completely destroyed by fire during an air raid on Potsdam on April 14, 1945. Since 2022, the "Langer Stall" has been rebuilt as part of the future Creative Quarter Potsdam. The modern interpretation of the preceding historical building is characterised by a large, rising roof, with a so-called "super dormer".



5 The former **Grosses Militärwaisenhaus** (Great Military Orphanage), an educational and training facility for the children of soldiers and military orphans, was donated by Frederick William I in 1724. The building complex owes its late Baroque appearance to the architect Carl von Gontard, who remodeled the building from 1771 to 1778. The mission and self-image of the orphanage is symbolised by the gilded Caritas figure with olive branch and burning heart atop the rotunda. Following an interim period of compulsory acquisition by the State during GDR times and its subsequent revision, the building complex is still home to the "Großes Waisenhaus zu Potsdam" (Great Orphanage in Potsdam) foundation.



6 Under the umbrella of the Zentrale Wohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland e. V. (Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany or ZWST), the new **Synagogenzentrum Potsdam** (Potsdam Synagogue Center) provides a space for Jewish life in the state of Brandenburg and the city of Potsdam. The building is based on a design by Berlin architect Jost Haberland. The scale and cubature of the reinforced concrete construction echo the historic city layout. Sand-colored brick was chosen as the façade material. On the one hand, this ties in with the traditional Brandenburg brick construction method and, on the other, reflects the worldwide cross-denominational brickwork building tradition of sacred buildings. The Synagogue Center was officially opened by the Federal President on July 4, 2024.



7 The **Orangerieschloss** (Orangery Palace) was the last, and is the largest of the palace buildings erected in Sanssouci Park, and an impressive example of the building style of Frederick William IV, the "romantic on the throne". The imposing structure, over 300 metres long, with its plant halls and central palace, its sculptures, fountains, arcades and terraces, vividly documents the monarch's longing for Italy. The ensemble was created in the years between 1851 and 1864. Today, the colonnaded courtyard and the top terrace offer space for open-air concerts and other events.



8 The Protestant **Friedenskirche** (Church of Peace) is situated just behind the Grünes Gitter (Green Gate), one of the many entrances to Sanssouci Park. Completed in 1848, the church ensemble was commissioned by King Frederick William IV, who also found his final resting place there. The church is characterized by Mediterranean-style architecture. On the north side, the Kaiser Friedrich Mausoleum was added between 1888 and 1890, in which several members of the Hohenzollern dynasty are interred, including the German Emperor Frederick III.



9 Just a few metres west of the palace, the reconstructed replica of the **Historische Mühle von Sanssouci** (Historic Dutch Windmill at Sanssouci) has stood since 1993. The original, which burned down during fighting at the end of World War II, was originally built between 1787 and 1791. The development of Potsdam into a garrison and royal seat led to a considerable increase in population at the beginning of the 18th century, which necessitated the construction of new mills for supply purposes. When Prince William of Prussia, later German Emperor William I, took over the reins of government in 1858, the mill operations were discontinued.



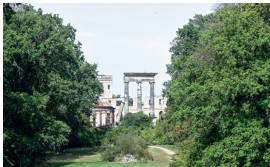
10 **Schloss Sanssouci** (Sanssouci Palace), one of the best-known Hohenzollern palaces, was designed by the young Prussian king Frederick II in 1744. He entrusted the implementation of his ideas to his longtime associate Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff, who built the summer palace in the Rococo style between 1745 and 1747. The palace and the park – with a total of approximately 70 kilometres of paths, making it the largest park complex in Brandenburg – form a synthesis of the art movements of the 18th century found in the cities and courts of Europe, and for this reason were also included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1990.



11 With the extension of the Schloss Sanssouci complex, the so-called **Winzerberg** (Vintners' Hill) was created below the Mühlenberg from 1763 onwards using a terraced design. In the course of the construction work, the five sloped walls with a total length of about 300 metres were built. Behind the glazed trellis walls, from 1764 onwards, vines and fruit could flourish, protected as in a greenhouse. After an air-raid shelter was built under the hill during the Second World War, which was not fully completed, the site visibly fell into disrepair. Between 2004 and 2016, the private association "Bauverein Winzerberg e. V." restored the facilities and has been taking care of the preservation ever since.



12 The lands around the **Ruinenberg** (Ruins Hill) were initially used by the Prussian kings as an area for hunting partridge and pheasant. In order to provide water for the fountains in the adjacent Sanssouci Park to the south, Frederick the Great had a reservoir built on the hilltop in 1748, decorated with artificial ruins. In the middle of the 19th century, the 23 metre-high "Norman Tower" was built, which has been accessible again as a lookout tower since its restoration in 2002. The palatial-style building one can see from the tower to the south-east is Villa Monte Vino, a private residence built in 1890, which is now used as a hotel.



13 The city center of Potsdam is undergoing a transformation: where the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam once stood, **newly constructed and renovated buildings with a historical appearance** have been under construction since 2020 in order to bring the urban structure and architectural character of the former quarter back to life. This decision was made by Potsdam's city council back in 1990, after the reconstruction plans for the city center, which was extensively destroyed in the Second World War, were not fully implemented in the post-war period.



14 The **Kirche St. Peter und Paul** (Church of St. Peter and Paul) on Bassinplatz is considered Potsdam's most important late-Romantic sacred building. Built between 1867 and 1870, the round-arch style of the Catholic church references the Italian, early Christian, and Romanesque styles. The most striking feature of the brick building is the almost 60 metre-high bell tower. Three paintings by the Prussian court painter Antoine Pesne can be found inside the church, including the high altarpiece "The Mortal Agony of Christ". The nave, the roof truss and the bell tower were repaired in four distinct construction phases between 2002 and 2006.



15 King Frederick William IV had the palace **Belvedere Pfingstberg** (Italian: "bel vedere" = "beautiful view") built according to his own plans on the Pfingstberg (Pentecost Hill) in Potsdam, starting in 1847. Originally planned as a large palace complex with open staircases and water features, the Belvedere was completed in 1863 on a much smaller scale. From the 1950s on, the building increasingly fell into disrepair. The palace was restored after German reunification, thanks to the allocation of subsidies and generous donations from private sponsors and foundations. The Pfingstberg ensemble was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999.



16 The **Fortunaportal** (Fortuna Gate) was the first section of the former city castle that was faithfully reconstructed, the building work completed between 2000 to 2002. Atop of the deep blue dome of the gate is a gilded column on which the gilded copper statue of the Roman goddess of fortune, Fortuna, is situated. The figure is over two metres high, weighs about five hundredweight, and it turns with the wind. The two uppermost stone heads represent the ancient mythical figures of Hercules and Minerva. The original gate was designed by the Dutch architect Jean de Bodt as an entrance gateway to the castle.



17 The **St. Nikolaikirche** (St. Nicholas' Church), built between 1830 and 1837 according to designs by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, is today considered one of the most important classical sacred buildings in Germany. Its elegant tholobate dome provides the characteristic focal point of the city. The viewing platform on the portico, created in 2010, provides a panoramic view of the surrounding area at a height of 42 metres. Towards the end of World War II, the church was hit during an air raid on Potsdam and subsequently severely damaged by artillery fire. After many years of reconstruction, the members of the Protestant St. Nicholas' Church congregation were able to rededicate their house of worship in Potsdam in 1981.



18 The **Obelisk** on the Alter Markt (Old Market Square), erected between 1753 and 1755 and designed by architect Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff, consists of sandstone and marble blocks. For almost two centuries, the four inlaid medallions showed the images of the regents of Brandenburg and Prussia. Heavily damaged in April 1945, the Obelisk was rebuilt in 1978–1979. The original medallions were replaced by portraits of the famous architects von Knobelsdorff, Carl von Gontard, Karl Friedrich Schinkel and Ludwig Persius. The monument, which is almost 25 metres high, was completely restored in 2014.



19 In 1753, King Frederick II commissioned the construction of a new **Rathaus** (Town Hall) as part of the transformation of Potsdam's Alter Markt (Old Market Square). Since then, however, it has been used not only for its original purpose (until 1916), but also as a prison, savings bank and cultural centre, among other things. To the south is the Lehmann House, which had already been built by 1753, and whose historic façade was restored in 1966. Since 2012, both buildings, connected by a glass passageway with windows divided into grids, have housed the Potsdam Museum – Forum for Art and History, which with over 250,000 objects has one of the largest collections of art, cultural and regional history in Brandenburg.



20 The **Palais Barberini** (Barberini Palace), built in 1771–1772 in accordance with plans drawn up by Carl von Gontard, is designed in the style of the classicist baroque of the time of Frederick II. The building got its name from its Italian archetype, the Palazzo Barberini in Rome. At the time of its construction, the building, which adjoins Noack House and the Palazzo Pompei at its southern end, had the function of a cultural and civic centre in Potsdam. It was badly damaged by the bombing of the city in April 1945, and the ruins were then completely blown up three years later. From 2013 to 2016, the structure was rebuilt and now functions as an art museum ("Museum Barberini").



21 The senior citizens' residence **Heilig-Geist-Park** (Holy Ghost Park), built in 1997, refers not only in name, but also in its architecture, to its famous predecessor structure, the Heilig-Geist-Kirche (Holy Ghost Church), which stood on the same site from 1725 to 1945. The location is historically significant: under its foundations were found the remains of the Slavic castle town of "Poztupimi", from which today's Potsdam emerged. The church burned down during fighting in the final days of World War II, in April 1945. The remains of the ruins were demolished in 1974. The new five-story church tower building corresponds to the exact height of the erstwhile church tower.



22 The first railway connection from Berlin to Potsdam was opened on September 22, 1838, and it is one of the oldest railway lines still in operation in Germany today. Its terminus was on the site of today's **Hauptbahnhof** (Main Station). After the Berlin Wall was built, electric commuter rail services between the two cities were discontinued, and it was not until 1992 that unrestricted travel could be resumed. Between 1997 and 1999, the old buildings which made up the Hauptbahnhof, and which were in need of renovation, were demolished and replaced by a new building with a spacious shopping arcade. The historic water tower on the east side was faithfully restored in the process.



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Landtag Brandenburg / Stefan Gloede, Konstantin Gastmann (Panorama),
Dr. Stephanie Hochberg (Garrison Church)

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Potsdam Panorama

A panoramic view from the roof terrace of the Landtag Brandenburg

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