



**BERLIN AND POTSDAM:
FROM ROCOCO TO KARL FRIEDRICH SCHINKEL
SEPTEMBER 10-16, 2009**



(Top) Schloss Sanssouci. (Bottom) Casino, Klein-Glienicke

Tour arrangements by
Classical Excursions
P.O. Box 724
Stockbridge, MA 01262
Tel: 800-390-5536
contact@classicalexursions.com
www.classicalexursions.com



Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America

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Covering two adjoining centers of stunning classical, neo-classical and neo-gothic architecture built during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the tour is a firsthand opportunity to experience the glorious rococo architecture and interiors ordered by, among others, King Frederick the Great (1712-1786), the multi-talented Prussian patron and practitioner of the classical arts during the Age of Enlightenment. For awhile, Voltaire was a member of the "Soldier King's" court.

The private tour will continue with visits to the influential neo-classical and neo-gothic work of Prussia's most famous architect, Karl Friederich Schinkel (1781-1841), who designed public and private buildings so important that his name conjures up a whole era in Prussian culture known as the *Schinkelzeit*, or Schinkel period. He remains a pivotal figure in the history of architecture. His was a new Prussia with its capital at Berlin which, along with the surrounding Brandenburg countryside, most notably Potsdam, was to become in the late nineteenth century the center of imperial power and culture for a new nation called Germany.

The exclusive seven-day tour, planned by Classical Excursions and guided by experts on the area's historic architecture, will include sites that were inaccessible before the 1990s reunification of Germany. These are just some of the tour highlights: in Potsdam, where one finds the residences of generations of Hohenzollern rulers, there are the Schloss Sanssouci (Frederick the Great's private country palace), Neue Palais (built to represent the Prussian power and prestige under Frederick), Schloss Charlottenhof (by Schinkel for an heir to the Prussian throne), Chinesisches Teehaus (Chinese Pavilion), Court Gardener's House and neo-classical Roman Baths (Schinkel), and Nikolaikirche (St. Nicholas Church, Schinkel).

In Berlin and the Brandenburg region, a few of the tour sites will be the rococo and Schinkel rooms at Schloss Charlottenburg, as well as Schauspielhaus (now Berlin Concert Hall), Altes Museum (Old Museum), Friedrich Werdersche Church, Neue Wache (New Guard House, later a First World War Memorial), Schloss Klein Glienicke and Casino, Schloss Babelsberg and Schloss Neu-Hardenberg, all by Schinkel. We will have our own private guide who is an expert on both the Rococo and Schinkel periods. There will also be an opportunity for private visits of some of Berlin's magnificent museum collections, including an exclusive viewing with an expert of the Pergamon Museum's celebrated collection of Hellenistic and Roman architecture and a private tour with the new director of the first-rate Bodemuseum.

Accommodations will be at the new and chic Sofitel Hotel near the Gendarmenmarkt, one of the city's most beautiful squares, and near Unter den Linden, the city's historic grand avenue, within view of the Brandenburg Gate, the quintessential symbol of Berlin.

Land tour cost: \$3845. for doubles (includes \$300. ICA&CA donation), \$750. single supplement.

For additional information, please contact Classical Excursions:
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Itinerary

Thursday, September 10

Enjoy a six-night stay at the new and chic Sofitel Hotel near the Gendarmenmarkt, one of Berlin's most beautiful squares, and near Unter den Linden, within view of the symbolic Brandenburg Gate.

Opening dinner and lecture by architectural historian and guide for the tour Kevin Kennedy, a German-American native of Berlin.

Subject: "Schinkel's Legacy in Berlin and the Brandenburg Region"

Friday, September 11

Potsdam

Travel by private motor coach to this city, the capital of Brandenburg, which borders Berlin, the capital of Germany. Potsdam contains the residences of generations of Hohenzollern rulers, including palaces, castles and villas, some built for King Frederick the Great, a connoisseur, patron and practitioner of the arts of the Age of Enlightenment and others designed by the highly influential Prussian architect of the early 19th century, Karl Friedrich Schinkel, the protagonist of "The Age of Schinkel".

Our visits for the morning are the enchanting Rococo **Schloss Sanssouci** (Sanssouci Palace, 1747) and the nearby **Bildergalerie** (Art Gallery, 1764) and **Neue Kammern** (New Chambers or Guest House, 1747), all of which are found in the enormous Park Sanssouci considered to be one of the most beautiful palace complexes in Europe. Schloss Sanssouci, meaning "without care", is based on original sketches drawn by Frederick. The palace was the king's more private residence reserved for the arts (the king composed and performed music, for instance) and for private gatherings and dinners with friends including Voltaire, who for a time was a member of the court. One of the king's favorite painters, Watteau, is represented by a stunning series of "Fetes Galantes" masterpieces.

A group lunch at Restaurant Dachenhaus.

The lustrous and gilded **Chinesisches Teehaus** (Chinese Teahouse, 1764) is among the most glorious of the chinoiserie structures built in Europe during the Rococo period. The vast **Neues Palais** (New Palace, 1769), built to represent the power and prestige of Frederick's reign, has more than 200 richly decorated rooms.

The day ends with dinner at the Restaurant Historiche Muhle (Historic Mill).

Saturday, September 12

Potsdam

This morning we return to the city to focus on Schinkel's neo-classical **Römische Bäder** (Roman Baths, 1829-1840), a picturesque grouping of buildings, including the Court Gardener's House,



and intimate outdoor spaces that are connected by pergolas, all built for Crown Prince Frederick William, son of Frederick the Great. Also designed by Schinkel for the crown prince is the small, elegant **Schloss Charlottenhof** (Charlottenhof Palace, 1829) styled like a Roman villa with interior Pompeiiian-style wall paintings by the architect and a striped Tent Room fitted out to resemble the inside of a tent. The latter was used to host ladies in waiting and guests.

Lunch at the Restaurant Pfingstberg (Pentecost Hill).

The **Pomonatempel** (Pomona Temple, 1800), constructed on the slope of the Pfingstberg, is regarded as Schinkel's first independent building, adapting the style of Greek temple architecture. A **Belvedere** and its towers were later built nearby and connected to the temple. The view of Potsdam from the hill and the tops of the towers is praise-worthy.

We continue on to the New Market in Potsdam for dinner at the Restaurant Der Hammer.

Sunday, September 13

Potsdam and Berlin

Today we visit **Schloss Babelsberg** (1835, 1849). Schinkel prepared initial designs for the castle for Prince William, the brother of the crown prince. Named after the hill on which it is situated along the banks of the Havel River, the picturesque castle, expanded in the 1840s, is an interpretation of the popular Romantic-Medieval style with pergolas, terraces, grouped windows, a keep or main tower and a crenellated roofline, as well as other building components.

On the opposite side of the river is **Schloss Klein-Glienicke und Garten** (1832), designed by Schinkel for a third royal brother, Prince Karl. Both had recently returned from Italy "richer in ideas than ever". The architect first recast a small older building into an elegant neo-classical casino, extending it with long pergolas that overlook gardens on each side. He infused the villa with strong yet graceful classical proportions. Schinkel worked hand in hand with landscape designer Peter Joseph Lenne to incorporate the extensive picturesque gardens with the estate's new or remodeled structures.

We board the ferry to have lunch at the Wirtshaus zur Pfaueninsel (Pub on Peacock Island). **Peacock Island** was a distant destination for royal boat parties on the Havel River. The small palace, commissioned by King Frederick William II, was built in 1794 to resemble a Medieval castle in the form of a romantic mock ruin. The interior décor and furnishings are, however, neo-classical. Extensive gardens added to the mystical effect of the island.

Dinner at the Restaurant Hundertwasser (Hundred Waters).

Monday, September 14

Berlin

We will spend the morning at the massive Baroque **Schloss Charlottenburg** built originally around 1700 for the Hohenzollern rulers. Later extensions were ordered by Frederick the Great and constructed between 1740 and 1746. Its collection of superb interiors is without precedence in Berlin. We will also stroll through the palace's royal park restored after World War II using 18th century prints, including the French-style Baroque parterre. Within the park is Schinkel's **Mausoleum** where Queen Luise, wife of Frederick William III, was laid to rest. The building is dignified and modest, designed by Schinkel in the style of a Doric temple. Later members of the royal family are found there.



Lunch at the Restaurant Literaturhaus Berlin.

This afternoon we will explore several Schinkel buildings in the Unter den Linden and Gendarmenmarkt areas. Solemn and compact, the **Neue Wache** (New Guardhouse, 1818) symbolizes victory over Napoleon's troops in 1815. The structure that was to serve the 100-man royal guard takes on a classical Greek form with Prussian restraint. Schinkel composed a Doric temple front with a portico, tympanum and roof parapet and massive corner pylons. He designed a frieze with images of the victors for the cornice and a relief for the tympanum featuring the various positive and negative aspects of war and its outcome.

Schinkel's masterpiece, the **Schauspielhaus** (Theater, 1818-21), is cruciform in shape and with its double pediments, Ionic portico and high entry staircase, this temple to art blends stylistically with the German and French churches that frame it. Schauspielhaus was designed to include a two-storied concert and festival hall in the left wing, administrative offices and theater departments in right wing and the foyer, auditorium for 1600 seats and a stage in the center section. After massive destruction during the war the exterior was authentically restored, whereas the interior was restored "in the style" of Schinkel.

The **Maxim Gorki Theater** (1827) was once a singing school or Sing-Akademie and also used as a concert hall. Paganini and Liszt performed here and Mendelssohn conducted Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, the first such performance since the composer's death in 1750. Built on drawings by Schinkel, its façade resembles a Roman temple with three bays divided by Corinthian pilasters.

Dinner at the Restaurant Klosterkeller (Monastery Cellar).

Tuesday, September 15

Berlin

Today we return to the Charlottenburg Palace Park to visit the **Schinkel-Pavillon** (1825). Originally called the New Pavilion, it was a summerhouse for King Frederick William III. It now houses a permanent exhibition of important fine and applied arts dating from the architect's era. This is a two-story neoclassical cubic building topped by a somewhat flat roof hidden behind a parapet. A balcony encircles the building on the second floor and provides a horizontal division to the exterior. There are nine rooms on each floor arranged in a simple grid pattern. The plan supposedly inspired Ludwig Mies van der Rohe for his design for the Villa Perls (1911).

Near the Unter den Linden area is Schinkel's **Friedrichswerdersche Kirche** (1830). It was the first church (neo-Gothic) to be constructed of exposed brick since the Middle Ages. The narrow, single-aisled building with five bays on each side ends with a five-sided polygonal choir. Pinnacles punctuate the roofline. The front façade has two towers in cubic forms ending with simple pinnacles. Broad pilasters and a four-part ribbed vault emphasize the impressive height of the interior. Schinkel acknowledges that the inspiration for his church were the chapel buildings of English colleges. Today the church holds a collection of 19th century sculpture.

Lunch at a restaurant (TBA).

We will spend the afternoon at some of the spectacular museums on Museum Island. The **Altes Museum** (Old Museum, 1830), one of Schinkel's major works in Berlin, faces the **Lustgarten** (Pleasure Garden) also created by the architect from a former parade ground to an urban square. His design for the museum, considered one of the world's most beautiful neo-classical structures,



reinterpreted motifs from ancient Greece and Rome, including the important central rotunda based on the Pantheon. Galleries surround the rotunda within the rectangular shape of the building. A monumental colonnade spans the full length of the entrance side and is supported by 18 Ionic columns that are 285 feet tall. A unique open stairwell supported by a second row of columns leads into the rotunda. The museum today houses a magnificent collection of Greek and Roman antiquities.

We will conclude the day with a private tour led by the newly appointed director of the **Bodemuseum** (1904), Julian Chapuis. The museum, also located on Museum Island, houses a major sculpture collection dating from the early Middle Ages to the end of the 18th century and the separate Museum of Byzantine Art.

Final celebratory dinner at a restaurant (TBA).

Wednesday, September 16

Departure for home.

(Itinerary subject to change and enhancements.)