

Potsdam Centre – Guided Tours

The historic city centre of Potsdam is being recreated. The new building of the Brandenburg Landtag will be constructed on the footprint of the former City Palace. The Garrison Church is to be rebuilt at Breite Straße. A guided tour informs about these and other projects in the city centre of Potsdam.

In German language; duration: 1½ hours; price per ticket: 7 €, Dates: April – October 2012, first and third Saturdays of each month. Meeting point: 2 p.m. in front of the Film Museum at Breite Straße. Tickets are obtainable at the tourist information in Potsdam Main Station and at Brandenburg Gate or directly at the meeting point. Please ask your tour guide. Group and special tours are available if reserved in advance. Contact: Potsdam Tourism Service, Am Neuen Markt 1, 14467 Potsdam, Tel.: 0331-275 58 50 gruppen@potsdamtourismus.de, www.potsdamtourismus.de

Panorama from the top of St. Nicholas Church

Since 2009, it is possible to go up to the colonnade roof of St. Nicholas Church and walk all the way around it. From this vantage point, you can overlook the construction site of the new Landtag at the old market square. In addition, it affords one of the most spectacular views over the state capital Potsdam. Opening hours: June – August, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; April, May, September, October, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; January – March, November, December, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Admission: 5 €, Tel.: 0331-270 86 02 info@nikolaipotsdam.de, www.nikolaipotsdam.de

Films about the historical centre of Potsdam

At the Film Museum Potsdam, groups may book to watch documentary films, which show views of Potsdam's city centre from 1900 to 1970. Reservations: Tel.: 0331-2718 112, Marstall Royal Stables, Breite Straße 1a, 14467 Potsdam, www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de

Exhibition on the history of the City Palace

There is a presentation of the history of the City Palace up to the time it was demolished in 1959/60 on display in the ongoing exhibition on the culture of Brandenburg-Prussia "Land und Leute. Geschichten aus Brandenburg-Preußen" at House of Brandenburg-Prussian History; Kutschstall, Am Neuen Markt 9, 14467 Potsdam, Tel.: 0331-620 85 50 info@hbpg.de, www.hbpg.de

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Background Photo: "Wrestlers, Standing", two of the former colonnade figures between Marstall and the City Palace (SPSG),
Cover Photo: View of the Landtag building shell from the Hotel Tower, 22.11.2011

Havel Bank Building Complex and Alte Fahrt Promenade

The search for constructors of the Havel riverside was successful. On 12 December 2011, the City Council accepted the property purchase agreements for the seven properties along the Havel River. Building will begin in autumn 2012 after archaeological research activities during the summer months.

Based on an integrated concept for landmark buildings for the city centre of Potsdam, the architects will design a combination of modern structures and the historic fronts of the palaces Chiericati and Pompei. Highlight of this project will be the reconstruction of Barberini Palace. With these buildings, the old market square Alter Markt regains its southeastern front.

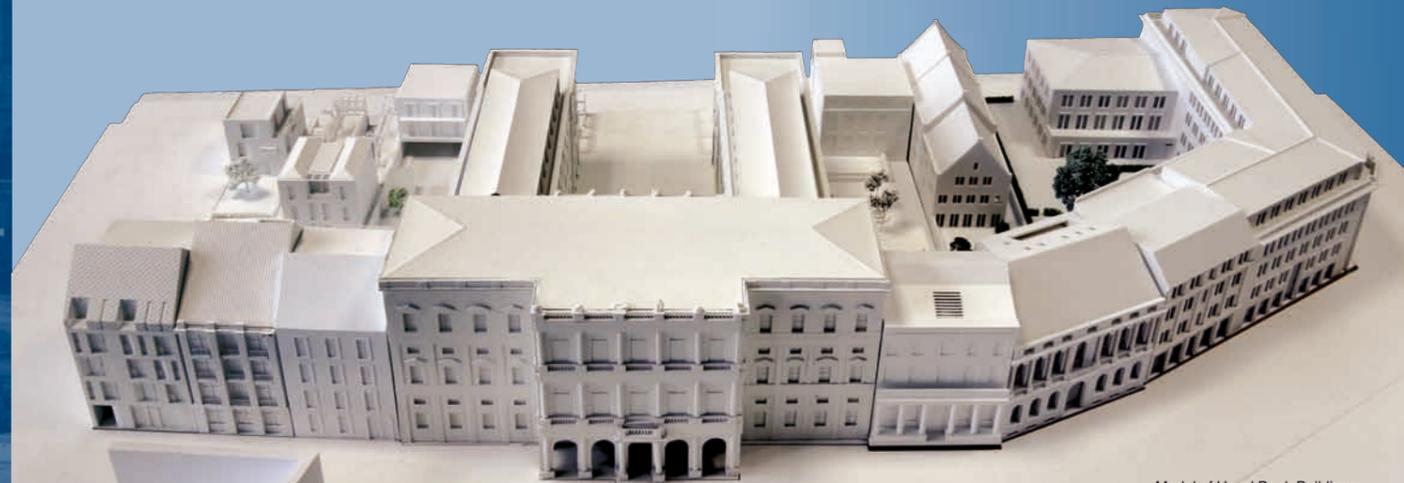
The investors who won the bidding competition, large building corporations as well as group construction projects with citizens of Potsdam, will assure that a range of new buildings will enrich the Potsdam city centre with high quality housing, a hotel, small shops, offices and restaurants.

A public passage through Barberini Palace will link the old market square with the promenade along the Alte Fahrt Bank. This passage didn't exist in historical times – the properties and buildings reached the river's edge. The new Havel Bank complex with its reconstructed, historic façades will be an impressive sight from the city square Alter Markt. Thanks to its location at Alte Fahrt, next to the "gate to the city centre" Long Bridge, the rear of the complex facing the Havel and



Friendship Island will also be an important feature of the city architecture. The esplanade will become a high quality, urban public area by the water, contrasting with the natural garden monument Friendship Island, predominantly designed by Karl Foerster.

A feasibility study has produced first ideas for the realisation of the plans. A bidding competition for the landscaping and realisation of the project in the first half year of 2012 is to secure quality in this process. The challenge of this competition will be to create a representative access point linking the private buildings and the public river walk at Alte Fahrt. The future promenade will have to serve two important purposes. On the one hand, it will be the passageway for pedestrians and bikers between the residential district Potsdam Süd and the Long Bridge. On the other hand, it will be a recreational area for flâneurs.



Model of Havel Bank Buildings
(Photo: LH Potsdam, Barbara Plate)

Humboldtstraße and Steubenplatz

The Landtag of Brandenburg will move into its new residence at Alter Markt in the autumn of 2013. Prior to this relocation, the streets and squares around the area have to be restored. The plan for this development goes back to a bidding competition for landscaping projects titled "Alter Markt" in 2003/2004: The important singular buildings at Alter Markt, St. Nicholas Church, Obelisk, and Landtag, will be framed by large granite slabs. The sett pavement at Alter Markt will be continued in Humboldtstraße. The eastern pavement will be laid with pale mosaic slabs from Bernburg, which are common in Potsdam, and inlaid with a band of granite cobbles. The famous lime-tree named "Bittschriftenlinde" will return to its historical position at Humboldtstraße. It used to mark the area beneath Frederick II's window, which is where citizens would raise their petitions to the King. Hence the name "petition lime-tree".

The area south and southwest of the Landtag will be covered with large concrete slabs, which are already in place on parts of the leisure park Lustgarten and the area in front of the Film Museum Potsdam. This material reflects the former paving on the palace site between the Havel and Marstall colonnades and the Lustgarten fence. On the city square Steubenplatz a slightly elevated lawn segment with symmetrically aligned trees will build a contrast to the paved areas.

The new paving has to meet high criteria. It has to blend in with the historical town architecture. The area has to be convenient for pedestrians and athletic bikers and the ground also has to withstand the weight of heavy vehicles. Due to the consistency in materials and dimensions, the streets and squares surrounding Alter Markt, Lustgarten, Steubenplatz, and Neuer Markt will become one urban ensemble.



Remodelled pavement
at Alter Markt / Humboldtstraße

The new Landtag in Potsdam

On 24 November, only nine months after laying the foundation stone, roofing was celebrated on the city square Alter Markt. The project is planned to be finished by the second half of 2013.

The new Landtag with the reconstructed face of the former City Palace completes the centre of Potsdam, the capital of Brandenburg. The project is a great challenge for architects who will have to combine baroque elegance with the requirements of a modern parliament building.

The outside of the palace will be reconstructed using traditional materials and cladding techniques. Construction parts, such as cornices and pilasters, will be crafted after the original historic architecture. The surfaces are hand-crafted. Wherever it is technically feasible, existing historical parts will be renovated and placed in their original position.

Behind the reconstructed façade however, modern materials and manufacturing techniques will be implemented to meet the requirements of a parliament building of the 21st century. This will ensure best possible working conditions for parliamentarians, faction staff, state parliament administration and the State Court of Auditors, which will also move into the building.

All projects are realised in public private partnership. Planning, building, financing, and operations are handled by the private partner "BAM PPP Landtag Potsdam Projektgesellschaft mbH", which partners with the Land Brandenburg as contractors. The total construction costs amount to approximately 120 million euro, 20 million of which was donated by SAP founder Hasso Plattner for the reconstruction of the historical façades. The patron also financed the copper cladding of the roof with an additional donation.



Roof-raising ceremony at the reconstruction site of the Landtag, 24.11.2011

Potsdam City Centre

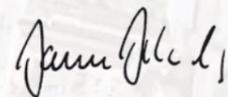


Dear Citizens of Potsdam,
Dear Guests and Visitors,

Over the last few months, the face of the historical town centre of Potsdam has changed significantly. The shell of the new Landtag building has been constructed on the footprint of the Potsdam City Palace. This impressive structure, together with the tops of St. Nicholas Church, Old Town Hall and Fortuna Portal, already defines the panorama of the city from afar.

Other important cornerstones of the city's urban landscape will follow in the next years. A new building complex and a public promenade along the Havel River will be created at the banks "Alte Fahrt". Barberini Palace, rebuilt as a landmark in its historical design, will become a hotel. The Old Town Hall will have its renaissance as the main building of the Potsdam Museum – Forum for Art and History. The structure dates back to the times of Frederick II. It will open its doors to guests and citizens of Potsdam with the special exhibition on Frederick's influence on Potsdam "Friedrich und Potsdam – die Erfindung (s)einer Stadt". Construction work on the former City and State Library also continues. Planned in September 2012, the City and State Library will move into the new education centre "Bildungsforum Potsdam". Together with the adult education centre Volkshochschule, the new institution will welcome its first visitors in January 2013. I am confident that the plans for rebuilding a synagogue in the centre of Potsdam will be implemented.

The recovery of the Potsdam city centre is accompanied by intensive public participation. Associations and citizen initiatives are getting involved in a very positive sense. They help to grow a sustainable city that combines the demands of modern city planning and development with the specific features of a historical town. I want to thank you all sincerely for your contribution.

 Jann Jakobs
Lord Mayor of Potsdam



Information stand "Mittschön e. V." next to remodelled sculpture from the City Palace

Info Box with ongoing Exhibition on the new Landtag Building

With the new building of the state parliament "Landtag Brandenburg" to be constructed with the exterior dimensions and façades of the former City Palace, a long-time gap in the urban landscape is currently being closed at Alter Markt. In the future, the political heart of the state will be beating in Potsdam's new, old centre. In the striking, red Info Box, immediately adjacent to the construction site, an ongoing exhibition provides information about the eventful history of the location, the architecture of the new building, its future use and the institution Landtag itself. By means of interactive elements, the visitors may discover for themselves the building and its functions. The central element of the exhibition is the white model of the new Landtag, three areas of which may be explored with movable touch screens. Respective sections of the building are shown in the form of a façade drawing, a cross-section of the building, or as a historical mapping photograph. Detailed information on the façade design and the historical use of the building is available in special sections of the exhibition.

A time line on the wall portrays the urban development from the destruction of the City Palace in World War II to the reconstruction of the new building, highlighting it with short texts, large-scale pictures, photographs and exhibition pieces, some of which are being shown for the first time. Three audio stations make the historical events come alive in the personal memories of contemporary witnesses of the times. The future use of the new building as a parliament is the focus of a wall dealing with political themes. Changes at the construction site may be traced with the aid of photo-documentation. In addition, the large lookout platform on the roof of the Info Box supplies information concerning the buildings surrounding the historical city square Alter Markt. The exhibition, complete with German and English texts, and the lookout platform are open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free of charge.



Alter Markt with the red Info Box (Photo: Landtag of Brandenburg/Stefan Gloede, 2011)

Construction Schedule 2012

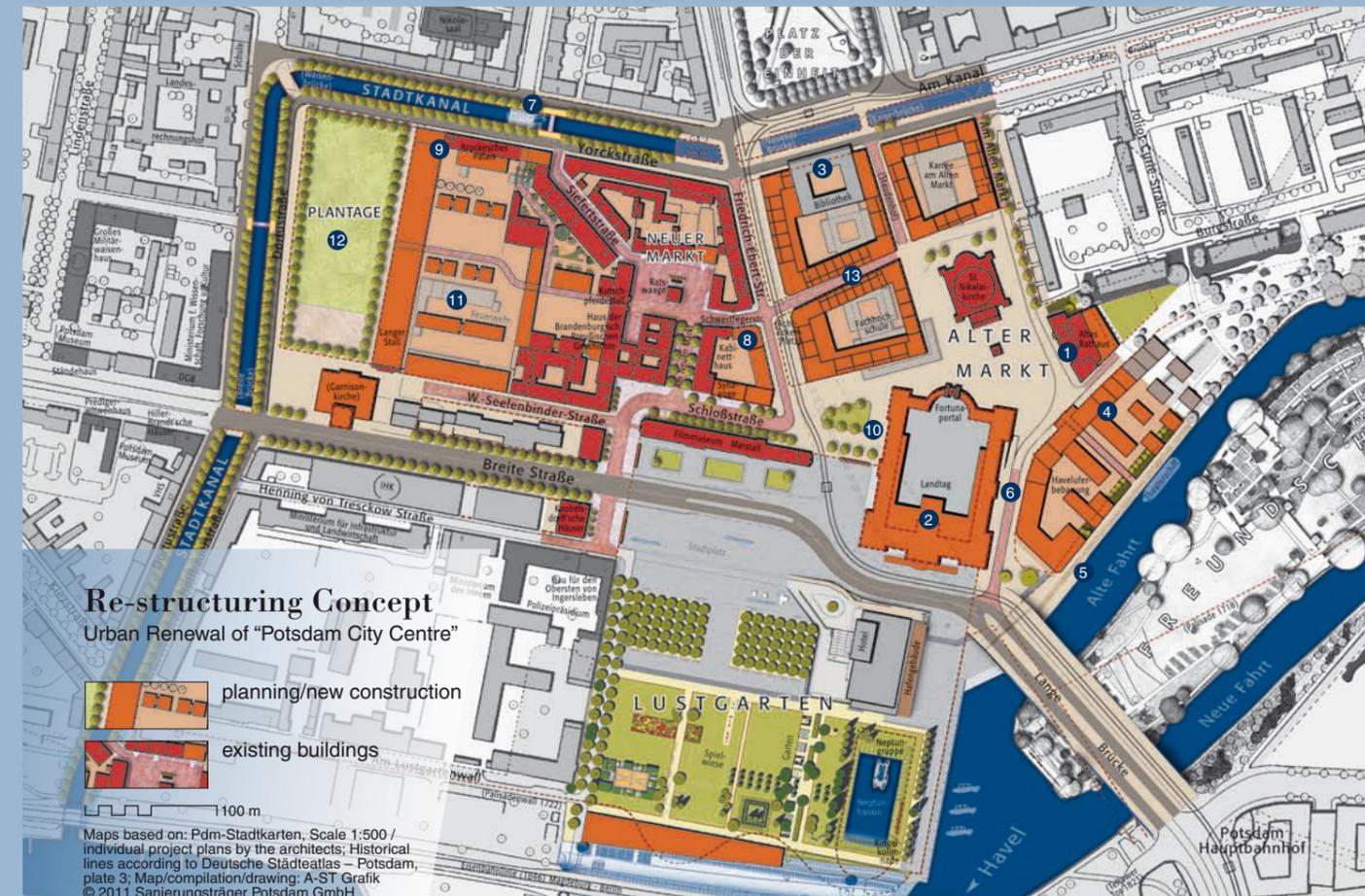
- Remodelling Old Town Hall/Potsdam Museum ①
- Construction Brandenburg Landtag ②
- Finishing education centre "Bildungsforum Potsdam" ③
- Archaeological excavations at Havel Bank ④
- Rehabilitation bulkhead Alte Fahrt ⑤
- Reconstruction of Humboldtstraße ⑥
- Remodelling of footbridge Ladenbergsteg at Yorckstraße ⑦
- Construction along Havel Bank ⑧
- Construction at Friedrich-Ebert-Straße/Schwertfegerstraße ⑧
- Renovation of Brock Palace ⑨

Beginning in 2013

- Completion of the new Landtag building ②
- Rebuilding grounds surrounding Landtag, incl. Steubenplatz ⑩
- Construction along Havel Bank ④

Beginning in 2014

- Re-design of Promenade along Alte Fahrt ⑤
- Re-structuring IT-Centre and old Fire Watch ⑪
- Redesign of the Plantation ⑫
- Remodelling building complex University of Applied Sciences ⑬



Potsdam Museum – Forum for Art and History, Old Town Hall

In its present shape, the Old Town Hall "Altes Rathaus" dates back to 1753, having been destroyed in 1945, and rebuilt in 1966. The Potsdam Museum joins the Potsdam Forum in the building complex of the Old Town Hall connected to Knobelsdorff House as the new "Potsdam Museum – Forum for Art and History", a modern and up-to-date cultural and educational institution. The Potsdam Museum combines the functions of a museum with features of a cultural venue.

The Italian-style building was constructed by orders of Frederick II. In celebration of his 300th birthday, the special exhibition "Friedrich und Potsdam – die Erfindung (s)einer Stadt" will open 20 August 2012. The exhibition focuses on the King's role as an urban architect, advancing manufactory in Potsdam and the long-term effects of his building and military policies on the fate of Potsdam and its citizens. In 2013, the museum will open with a new permanent exhibition on the urban history of Potsdam.

Special Exhibition: 20.8.2012 – 2.12.2012:
"Friedrich und Potsdam – Die Erfindung (s)einer Stadt"
Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
www.potsdam.de/potsdam-museum

Education Centre Bildungsforum

Since 2010, the Bildungsforum takes shape at the location of the former City and State Library. It will not only house the library itself, but also the "Albert Einstein" adult education centre, and all together become a key institution of the educational landscape in Potsdam, which consists of many scientific, cultural, business, tourism and educational organizations. The Bildungsforum will be located at unity square Platz der Einheit, in close proximity of the new Landtag, benefiting from the great transport connections between Friedrich-Ebert-Straße and Alter Markt. The northern façade integrates into the new block structure at Platz der Einheit. The southern front will face a calm courtyard surrounded by the future block structure. Constructions began in autumn 2011 and are planned to be finished in the middle of 2012. Both the library and the adult education centre will be fully equipped by the end of 2012. In the beginning of 2013, the new Bildungsforum will be open for guests and visitors.

The concept of the education centre emphasises on a high quality of stay as well as creating an ideal learning environment. The institution will provide a barrier-free access to further education and knowledge for all citizens and guests in the heart of the state capital Potsdam.



Bildungsforum, former City and State Library