

Guided tour of the historical city centre - Alter Markt, Landtag, and Alte Fahrt

Group tours by special arrangement.
 Price: 105 €/group (max. 30 participants), Duration: 1,5 hours.
 Booking and information: Group service of PMSG Potsdam Marketing und Service GmbH, Humboldtstraße 1-2, 14467 Potsdam,
 phone: +49 (0) 331/275 58 50,
 e-mail: gruppen@potsdamtourismus.de, www.potsdamtourismus.de

Panoramic View from St. Nicolas Church

From the colonnaded roof of St. Nicolas Church, you can see the new Landtag and take in one of the most spectacular views in the capital city of Potsdam. The classicist church was built based on the plans of Karl Friedrich Schinkel and is a monument of national importance.
 opening hours: Nov-Mar 10am-6pm, longer opening hours in summer
 admission to tower: 5€, phone +49 331 270 86 02,
 e-mail: info@nikolaipotsdam.de, www.nikolaipotsdam

The exhibition "Land und Leute"

Geschichten aus Brandenburg-Preußen (Country and People - Stories from Brandenburg-Prussia) presents the eventful history of the City Palace in pictures and films. An interactive city model explains Potsdam's role as a residence of the Prussian military monarchy and presents Potsdam's building development in 1912. Kutschstall, Am Neuen Markt 9,
 opening hours: Tue-Thu 10am-5pm, Fri-Sun and public holidays 10am-6pm, admission to permanent exhibition 4.50 €, 3.50€ (red.),
 phone: +49 331 62085-50, www.hbpg.de

Experiencing the City's History

Are you curious about the history and stories of our city? Then visit the permanent exhibition "Potsdam. Eine Stadt macht Geschichte" ("Potsdam. A City Makes History"). From April-August 2018, a special exhibition will be displaying photographs by Max Baur, one of Potsdam's most famous visual chroniclers. He lived in Potsdam from 1934-1953 and shaped the city's image in Germany and abroad like nobody else.
 Potsdam Museum - Forum für Kunst und Geschichte, Am Alten Markt 9,
 opening hours: Tue/Wed/Fri 10am-5pm, Thu 10am-7pm, Sat/Sun 10am-6pm, admission to exhibition: 5.00€, 3.50€ (red.), combination ticket 7.50€ (red.), phone +49 331 289 6868, www.potsdam.de/potsdam-museum

MuseumsKombikarte (Museum Combination Ticket)

10,000 exhibited objects, 4 museums, 1 ticket: available at Filmmuseum Potsdam, Museum of Natural Science, House of the Brandenburg-Prussian History (HBPG), Potsdam Museum as well as at the Potsdam Tourist Information Centres, 12€ for an adult and up to two children.



Editor: State Capital of Potsdam
 The Mayor's Office, Marketing Department
 Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse 79/81, 14469 Potsdam
 Phone: +49 331 289 1270, Fax: +49 331 289 3310
 E-mail: marketing@rathaus.potsdam.de
 www.potsdam.de

In cooperation with: Sanierungsträger Potsdam GmbH,
 and the corporate network PRO POTSDAM,
 Pappelallee 4, 14469 Potsdam, Phone: +49 331 6206 777,
 E-mail: potsdamer-mitte@propotsdam.de, www.potsdamer-mitte.de
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Background photo: Standing wrestler, former colonnade between Royal Stables and City Palace (SPSG); Cover photo: View from high-rise hotel to the north, December 2017

Demolition of the former University of Applied Sciences Complex at Alter Markt

After the Federal State of Brandenburg finally relinquished the campus of the University of Applied Sciences Complex at Alter Markt in summer 2017, all of the university's remaining departments moved to the new campus at Bornstedter Feld.

Preparations for the demolition of the building began in the following months: a new ramp was built for barrier-free access to the "Staudenhofwohnhaus" apartment building. A red wooden fence was erected to secure the construction site, which is also used to inform the public about the project. Preparations have also been made in and around the former university building; the most visible was the dismantling of the metallic honeycomb (star) elements, which had been given to the Department of Conservation and Restoration of the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam as teaching material. The Potsdam Museum also received elements to document the city's history.

Demolition of the building began in November 2017 with the removal of contaminated building material, which was dismantled, sampled, and properly disposed of under strict conditions and without affecting the environment. Demolition of the load-bearing building structure is expected to begin in spring 2018, moving from north to south. The last step will be deep-rubble removal by autumn 2018, preparing the site for new development.



Hard shadow of Ringerkolonnade at Steubenplatz in front of the former university building



Model of Schwertfegergasse in the Info Centre (photo: Landeshauptstadt Potsdam / Konrad Beyer)

Selection Process for Block III "Am Alten Markt / Schloßstrasse"

In 2010, Potsdam's city council decided on the Landmark Buildings Concept and its first stage of implementation on the Havel waterfront / Alte Fahrt. The buildings on Humboldtstrasse – notably the Museum Barberini and the landmark façades "Pompei" and "Chiericati" – were completed at the end of 2016 and have since attracted a large audience. The new buildings on Brauerstrasse are expected to complete the ensemble in 2019.

Based on experience gained during the selection process for the Havel riverfront, detailed concepts were developed in 2016 that focused on design and utilization for all premises of Blocks III and IV (site of the former university building) and the allocation of the properties.

The next implementation stage was able to begin with the selection process for Block III in spring 2017. As of May 2017, interested investors, construction consortia, cooperatives, and individual builders had participated, with 220 concepts from 82 applicants. The selection committee recommended 43 concepts from 25 applicants for further consideration. As of October 2017, 21 applicants had submitted 37 construction and utilization concepts, which the selection committee assessed in December 2017. In March 2018, after a negotiation phase, the committee will suggest the best bids to the city council for resolution. After receiving the go-ahead at the city council meeting, the selected builders will be contractually obliged to obtain a building permit within a year and to start building quickly, so that the first buildings can be ready for use in 2020.

The photo on the left shows a model of how the first of two blocks at the site of the former university building might look. It was taken during a public presentation of the submitted construction and utilization concepts in November 2017.



"Red Infobox" on Alter Markt, in the background, the info fence

Site Development

The tram once ran from Potsdam main station through Humboldtstrasse across Alter Markt and through Kaiserstrasse to Wilhelmplatz (today Platz der Einheit). After the ruins of the city castle had been removed in 1959/60, the surrounding streets were reconstructed in a "contemporary" way to make Potsdam a "car-friendly city". Motorized traffic on broad streets roared around the teacher training college, built in the early 1970s, with the scientific general library and the high-rise block Am Alten Markt 10. As a result of these changes, Kaiserstrasse and Humboldtstrasse disappeared from the city map, and Schwertfegerstrasse and Schloßstrasse became significantly shorter.

Reconstructing the historical city layout alters public space. Today, Humboldtstrasse at the Havel riverfront can once again be experienced as a street. With the newly designed Otto-Braun-Platz square and its old chestnut tree that even survived the war it forms the new southern gate to Alter Markt. Schwertfegerstrasse will again connect the squares Alter Markt and Neuer Markt – one of the most beautiful, most well-preserved German Baroque town squares. Schloßstrasse will also regain its historical length. The former connection between Platz der Einheit and Alter Markt will be revived through the restoration of Kaiserstrasse. The new streets will be divided into narrow lanes and spacious sidewalks according to historical plans.

Public parking is not being provided in this area in order to reduce traffic and to increase amenity value for pedestrians and cyclists.



View along Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse to St. Nicolas Church, mid 1970s (source: Stadtarchiv Potsdam, photo: Klaus Lehnartz)

Potsdam City Centre



Dear Citizens of Potsdam, Dear Guests and Visitors,

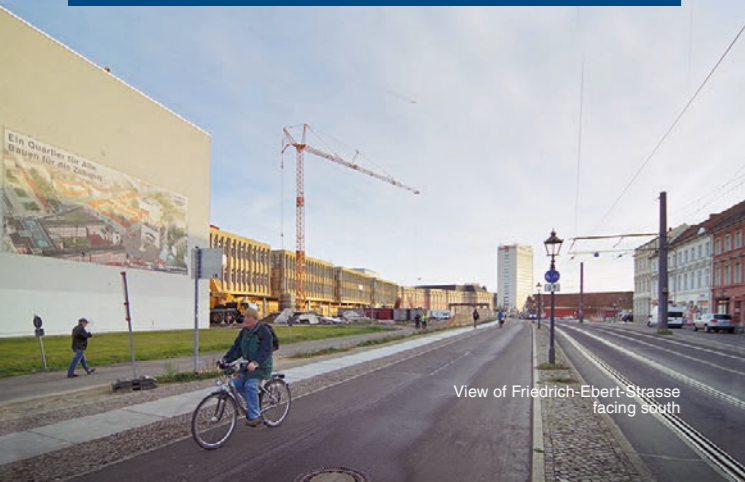
Providing public information on planned and ongoing projects is an essential element of urban renewal projects. In the redevelopment area of Potsdam's city centre, we keep the public informed through this annual leaflet, brochures, an internet presence (www.potsdamer-mitte.de), events for citizens, and press releases.

In connection with the redevelopment of the former University of Applied Sciences complex at Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse, an exhibition space – the „Red Infobox“ – was installed to display the design plans for Block III „Am Alten Markt / Schloßstrasse“. Posters on a red wooden site fence – which also safeguards the demolition work – provide information on the project. They also offer a glimpse into the past and future of the place. Visitors can look through holes in the fence to see the works going on behind it.

Starting in January 2018, the fence along Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse will also become an open-air exhibition of Potsdam's annual city campaign "1000 years and a quarter-century". 3 July 2018 marks the 1025th anniversary of Potsdam's first documented mention.

The state capital is dedicating an annual campaign to this anniversary, focusing mostly on the last 25 years. The exhibition of photos and texts will illustrate how the city has changed over the past 25 years across 17 themes. For more information, please go to www.potsdam.de/1025years

Jann Jakobs
Mayor of Potsdam

View of Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse facing south

Public Art

When the teacher training college was built in the early 1970s, public green spaces and leisure areas around this complex were expanded to a then-unprecedented extent. In addition to the design with concrete blocks and slabs typical of that time, public art works were also commissioned to improve the area. These works had to be dismantled and stored due to renovations already completed at the present Education Forum Potsdam and the preparatory works for Blocks III and IV in 2017.

The sculpture "Transparente Weltkugel" (1977/78, Günter Junge) was placed in a depot in 2010. After its restoration, the sculpture will be displayed in 2018 at a new location next to Marktcenter on Breite Strasse. The terracotta sculptures (mid 1970s, Jürgen von Woyski) formerly in "Staudenhof" park were restored in 2016 and secured in 2017. Since Kaiserstrasse will run through Staudenhof, these three sculptures will ideally be displayed on Freundschaftsinsel, an island in the Havel.

In Potsdam, the advisory board for public art is in charge of finding, assessing, and recommending sites for new works of art or for those that can no longer be displayed in their current location. Its recommendations are not binding but are usually implemented by the city administration.



Children drawing for the competition „Asphalt and Chalk“ in front of the Weltkugel, 1984 (source: Stadtarchiv Potsdam)

Construction Schedule 2018

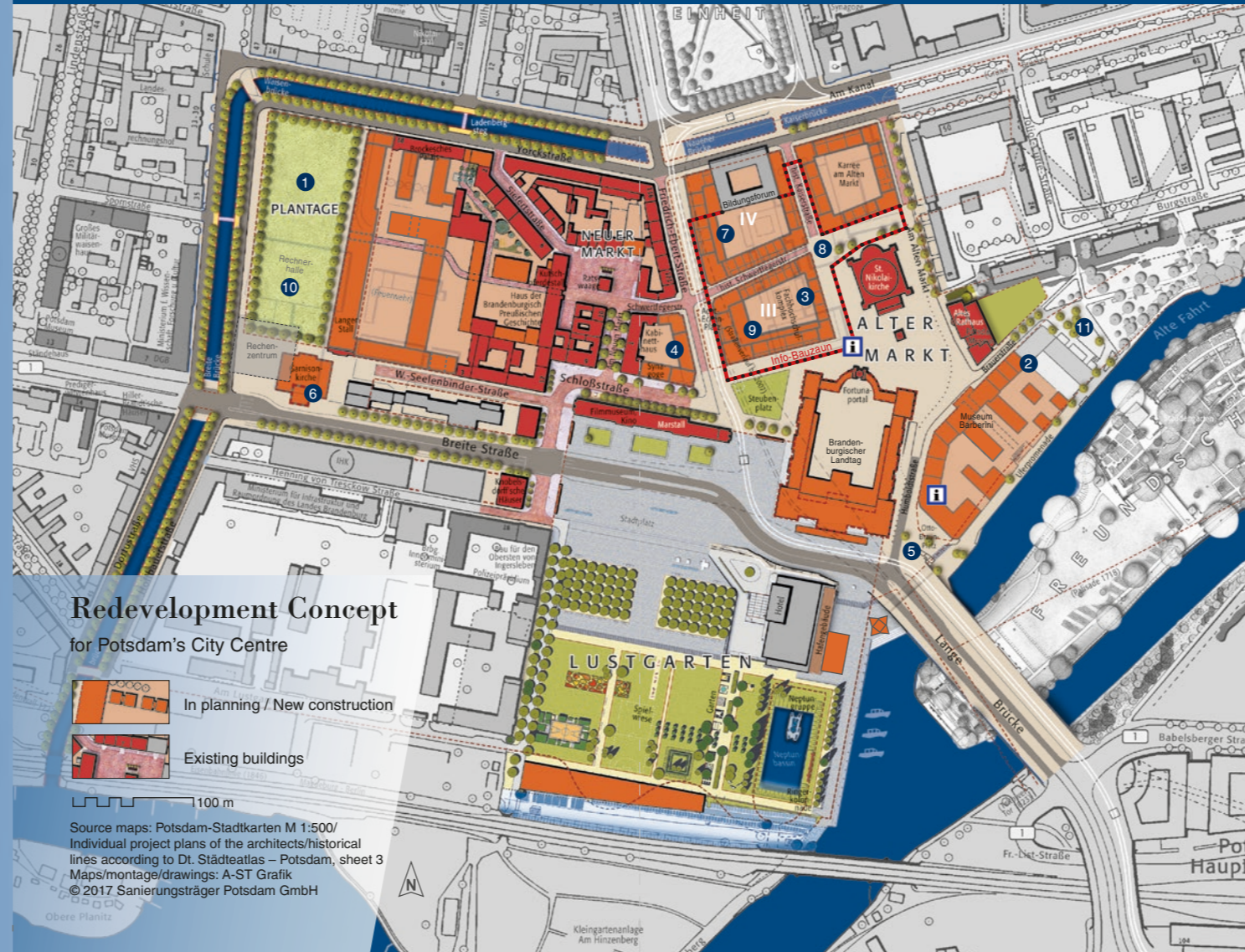
- Start of the redevelopment of northern part of Plantation (1st stage of construction) ①
- Building construction on Brauerstraße ②
- Demolition of the University of Applied Sciences complex ③
- Construction of the landmark façade Schwertfegerstrasse 9 ("Eight Corners"), Friedrich-Ebert-Str. 123 and "Zum Einsiedler" (hermit's house) ④
- Adjustment of bicycle path Lange Brücke/Humboldtstraße ⑤
- Construction of Garrison Church tower ⑥

Starting 2019

- Rearrangement of University of Applied Sciences complex ⑦
- Reconstruction of Schwertfegerstrasse and former Kaiserstrasse ⑧
- Building construction Block III (Alter Markt/Schloßstrasse) ⑨

Starting 2020

- Demolition Computer Hall of the Data Processing Centre ⑩
- Redevelopment of southern part of the Plantation (2nd stage) ①
- Redesign of "Gartenplatz" (passage to green space at the river) ②



The Tower is Growing

After the Garrison Church had been destroyed in April 1945, the congregation of Holy Cross Church filled the Garrison Church's heavily damaged tower with life again. Large sections of the church remained intact until its demolition in 1968, testaments to war and destruction.

On 29 October 2017, over 600 people celebrated the start of the reconstruction of Potsdam's Garrison Church with a service on the construction site at the Nagelkreuz meeting point on Breite Strasse. On this occasion, the chairman of the board of trustees, Prof. Wolfgang Huber, laid out the goals of the reconstruction, "The tower is to become what it was for centuries: an architectural landmark in an urban landscape. And it should become what it has never been: a centre for peace and reconciliation." The three guiding ideas for the new Garrison Church will be to remember history, to learn about responsibility, and to live the idea of reconciliation. The 90-metre tower will be built at the historical site. Its exterior will orient itself toward the Baroque building from 1735, while the interior 1,200 m² will be used for peace, education, and reconciliation work. A barrier-free, 57-metre observation deck will enrich Potsdam's tourist attractions.

Initially, though, it goes in-depth: 38 piles are driven 38 meters into the ground to anchor the superstructure. Starting in May 2018, the tower will visibly grow brick by brick. The finished tower will be built with about 2.5 million bricks, using old, traditional construction methods. This will bring to life a decade-long vision of many Potsdamers. Generous donations from all over Germany also show the growing interest in and positive attitude for this ambitious construction project. The Nagelkreuz meeting point will provide information on the construction process.



Setting up the Nagelkreuz meeting point (photo: Garrison Church Foundation, Kötting)

The Plantation Redevelopment Competition

The Plantation is one of Potsdam's three large city squares and is, thus, an important open space in the city. Little of the decorative square designed by Lenné around 1850 still remains. After the Data Processing Centre had been built in the 1970s, buildings covered about half of the park, drastically reducing the amount of public space.

A landscape redevelopment competition for the Plantation was launched in summer 2016. The planning offices had to present a contemporary design for the northern part of the Plantation and to make innovative suggestions for the southern part, with the still existent so-called computer hall of the Data Processing Centre.

The winning design from the architectural office of hutterreimann (Berlin) combines elements of Peter Joseph Lenné's historical design with modern elements meeting current usage requirements. Linden trees will frame the green space and a circular track through the park – partly lined with long concrete benches with ergonomically shaped backs – will provide opportunities to be active or to take a stroll.

A "Small Plantation" will be laid out along the buildings that have already been realized on the Langer Stall site. On a slightly inclined meadow, shrubs and various trees will offer a cheerful garden atmosphere with a variety of seasonal blossoms, fruit, and leaves. Parts of a pre-cast concrete wall from the 1970s will be integrated into a children's play area with playhouses, a tube slide, and a jungle gym. An abacus will allude to the Data Processing Centre's history.

The redesign of the northern part of the square begins in spring 2018. In spring 2019, the planned facilities for playing, doing sports, and exercising will be available to both school children from the Max Dortu Primary School as well as to visitors.

The southern part is expected to be completely by 2020, once the computer hall of the Data Processing Centre is demolished. Depending on the structural development on the premises of the Data Processing Centre, the final stage will include additional changes up to Breite Strasse.