



THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON GARDEN TOURS

## **PAST AS PROLOGUE: Gardens of Berlin, Potsdam & Surrounding Regions**

**September 2—14, 2019**



*Pfaueninsel (Peacock Island) in the Havel River, Berlin*

Germany's tumultuous and often tragic history is on display nowhere better than in its capital city. War, division and reunification have altered the city enormously. Renowned as a center of education, culture, political ferment, and as a laboratory for urbanism, Berlin and its surrounding areas also possess a proud gardening tradition. Expansive Prussian palaces and gardens, some of Europe's earliest public parks, and the nurseries of pioneering horticulturalists all bear witness to this heritage. The region is now at the forefront of environmentally sensitive and sustainable gardening movements.

This 13-day, 12-night tour takes tour members on a fascinating journey through a dynamic region, visiting public parks, private gardens and other beautiful and engrossing gardening and horticultural sites. You'll also visit landmarks stretching from the Reformation through to the 21st Century. Everywhere, you'll meet locals whose passion for gardening transcends the challenges and changes they have experienced.

Escorted by Nancy Goldman and Jim Rondone

## TOUR ITINERARY & HIGHLIGHTS

### Monday, September 2, 2019

Arrive at our hotel in Berlin's historic *Mitte* district before joining fellow tour members for a welcome dinner. *Dinner included. Check in at Amano Grand Central Hotel and stay the night in Berlin.*

### Tuesday, September 3

Tour the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag Building, *Potsdamer Platz* and remnants of the Berlin Wall as we make our way around the city. Visit two private gardens in Berlin's former East. *Breakfast included. Stay the night in Berlin.*

### Wednesday, September 4

Berlin's renowned Botanic Garden offers numerous diversions this morning before we enjoy a group lunch at the Royal Garden Academy. We also visit a community garden and see Tempelhof Airport's transformation from Cold War relic to urban park. *Breakfast and lunch included. Stay the night in Berlin.*

### Thursday, September 5

We visit urban gardening sites before a lunchtime excursion to *KaDeWe*, Berlin's renowned department store and food emporium. The afternoon is free, with many museums open this evening until 8 pm. *Breakfast included. Stay the night in Berlin.*

### Friday, September 6

Departing Berlin, we visit an exquisite private garden in suburban Spandau and travel through Grunewald, Berlin's large forest-park. A short ferry ride brings us to *Pfauneninsel* (Peacock Island), in the River Havel, where a Prussian King built a pleasure palace and Romantic-era follies. We continue to Potsdam, capital of Germany's Brandenburg state. *Breakfast and lunch included. Check into Hotel am Jägertor and stay the night in Potsdam.*

### Saturday, September 7

*Park Sanssouci* is the vast complex of palaces and gardens that once served as the summer residence of the Prussian royal court. Meticulously renovated and maintained since Germany's reunification, we tour its highlights this morning before enjoying a free afternoon in Potsdam. *Breakfast included. Stay the night in Potsdam.*

### Sunday, September 8

A charming private garden in Potsdam's Russian Colony captivates us before we visit the historic garden and nursery of Karl Foerster, the nurseryman, garden writer and philosopher known as the father of German perennial gardening. Later, from the Belvedere on the *Pfingstberg*, we take in the expansive views over Potsdam and the nearby lakes. *Breakfast and lunch included. Stay the night in Potsdam.*

### Monday, September 9

We depart Potsdam after breakfast and travel to Wittenberg, touring the *Schlosskirche* where Martin Luther reputedly nailed his 95 theses at the door in 1517. After a short drive, we reach the Garden Realm of Dessau-Wörlitz, a remarkable, Enlightenment Age cultural landscape comprising parks, palaces, follies, lakes and rivers, and stretching 25 km. A gondola cruise at Wörlitz Castle offers us highlights. In nearby Dessau, we gather in the evening for a group dinner. *Breakfast and dinner included. Check into Radisson Blu Hotel Fürst Leopold and stay the night in Dessau.*



*Folly in the Garden Realm of Dessau-Wörlitz*

### Tuesday, September 10

Germany's *Bauhaus*, headquartered in Dessau from 1925 to 1932, was the most influential school of design in the 20th C. We tour its recently renovated main building. Then, we continue to Quedlinburg, one of Germany's best-preserved medieval towns, nestled at the base of the Harz Mountains. *Breakfast included. Check into Best Western Hotel Schlossmühle and stay the night in Quedlinburg.*

### Wednesday, September 11

Half-timbered houses spanning five centuries are preserved in Quedlinburg. On a walking tour with a local guide, we inspect notable examples. Our afternoon is free, to explore the town on our own or perhaps ride the Harz Narrow Gauge Railway, with a terminus here. *Breakfast included. Stay the night in Quedlinburg.*

### Thursday, September 12

On our way to Hannover, capital of Lower Saxony, we stop to visit the private garden of Petra Pelz, landscape architect, garden designer and author. At Herrenshausen Gardens, we see the distinguished baroque design of its Great Garden, containing one of the highest fountains in Europe. The adjacent *Berggarten* is filled with horticultural wonders, and we spend the afternoon at both of them. *Breakfast included. Check into Mercure Hotel Hannover City and stay the night in Hannover.*

### Friday, September 13

Visits to several private gardens in and around Hannover round out our last full day, before we cap the evening off with a group farewell dinner. *Breakfast and dinner included. Stay the night in Hannover.*

### Saturday, September 14

With its excellent air and rail connections, it's easy to return home from Hannover today (Airport code: HAJ), or continue to other destinations in Europe. *Breakfast included.*

## TOUR PRICE

The tour is priced in Euros, the value of which may fluctuate, up or down, against the U.S. Dollar, until final tour payments are made to our tour provider.

**Per Person, Sharing a Room:** 3,015 Euros (Approx. US \$3,467\*)  
**Supplement for Single Room:** 885 Euros (Approx. US \$1,018\*)

\*Prices based on minimum 20 participants, and a conversion rate of 1 Euro=US \$1.15 (January 2019)

**A \$240 contribution to The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, a tax exempt charitable organization, will be added to the base price of the tour.** Your contribution may be tax deductible.

**HPSO tours are open to HPSO members only.** The price of a one-year membership may be added at the time of a tour deposit, once you are confirmed for the tour.

Tour price includes 12 nights hotel accommodations (sharing a room), breakfasts, three group lunches and three group dinners, private motor coach and services of a professional driver, services of a professional tour guide, entrance fees for all visits except during noted free time, and gratuities for included meals, tour driver and guide. Garden visits may change due to circumstances beyond our control.

Costs not expressly included are the responsibility of individual participants. Among them are round-trip air fare, transport to our tour meeting point at Eurostars Berlin Hotel in Berlin, travel insurance, meals not expressly included in itinerary, items of a personal nature including some beverages at group meals, telephone calls, laundry, room service, other tips, etc.

*Sanssouci Palace, Potsdam*



## TOUR ROUTE

**The tour commences in Berlin (Airport code: TXL) and ends in Hannover (HAJ).** Both cities offer connections to Germany's main international airports at Frankfurt and Munich, as well as the major European capitals. They are also hubs in Germany's high-speed rail network.



## TOUR GUIDE & ESCORTS

A German-speaking guide accompanies the tour. HPSO tour escorts are Nancy Goldman, a former HPSO president, whose Portland garden, Nancyland, is featured in publications including *Gardens Illustrated*, and Jim Rondone, HPSO's current president. Nancy and Jim developed and escorted HPSO's first garden tour to Berlin and Potsdam in 2014.



## DESTINATION GUIDE

Germany's capital and largest city, **Berlin** is diverse and cosmopolitan, with a population of 3.7 million inhabitants. It is a city of politics, culture, media, and science, and home to renowned universities, orchestras, and museums. Despite its size, one-third of the city's area is comprised of parks, gardens, forests, lakes, rivers and canals. Occupied by the Allied Powers after World War II and divided by the Berlin Wall in 1961, the city has undergone a breathtaking resurrection and transformation since German reunification in 1990.

Planned during the Age of Enlightenment and exhibiting a balance of architecture and landscape, **Potsdam** was the residence of Prussian kings, and most of the remaining palaces and buildings of the royal era have undergone restoration. The city was also home to Karl Foerster, a nurseryman, perennial hybridizer, and garden philosopher. With its many elegant buildings, city's old town once again possesses a courtly air.

At one time one of the most powerful cities of the Holy Roman Empire, **Wittenberg** is where Martin Luther reputedly nailed his 95 theses on the door of Castle Church in 1517, an event often cited as the start of the Protestant Reformation. The city was largely spared by Allied bombing in World War II. Nearby **Dessau** (formally, Dessau-Roßlau) is best known as the home of the Bauhaus, the art school mostly closely associated with Modernism, from 1925 to 1932. The school's iconic main building has been restored.

Among the best-preserved medieval and Renaissance towns in Germany, **Quedlinburg** dates from the 9th Century. The castle mount is surrounded by the half-timbered old town.

The capital of Lower Saxony state, **Hannover** is renowned for Herrenhausen Gardens, created beginning in 1683 by Sophia of Hanover (as she is referred to in English). The Gardens are among the best examples of baroque formal gardens in all of Europe. (Sophia's son, George, assumed in 1714 the throne of Great Britain and Ireland, where the royal family was known as the House of Hanover until 1901.) Today, Hannover is a center of commerce and site of the world's largest trade fair.

## WORLD HERITAGE SITES

In addition to many gardens, tour members have the opportunity to visit six UNESCO World Heritage Sites on this tour:

- Museum Island in Berlin;
- The Parks and Palaces of Berlin and Potsdam;
- Luther Memorial in Wittenberg;
- Garden Realm of Dessau-Wörlitz;
- Bauhaus in Dessau; and
- The Castle, Church and Old Town in Quedlinburg.

*Old town, Quedlinburg*



## AND IN YOUR FREE TIME IN BERLIN...

While the tour takes you to several of Berlin's top attractions, you'll also have free time to explore sights that appeal to a broad range of interests, including art, history, music, cuisine, nature, or something else. Here are a few ideas:

- **Berliner Philharmonie**, home to the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
- **Charlottenburg Palace**, built in the late 17th Century and the largest palace in Berlin
- **Deutsches Historisches Museum**, the museum of German history
- **Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin** (German Technology Museum) with notable collections in railway, aviation and computing technologies
- **Fernsehturm**, the television tower in the center of the city, among the tallest structures in Europe
- **Gendarmenmarkt**, the neoclassical square in Mitte, perhaps the most beautiful public plaza in the city
- **Jewish Museum Berlin**, which traces the history of Jews in Germany since the Middle Ages
- **Museum Island**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with five extraordinary museums: Alte Nationalgalerie, Altes Museum, Bode Museum, Neues Museum, and Pergamon Museum
- **Nikolaiviertel**, the reconstructed heart of early Berlin
- **Opera Houses** (there are three of them!)
- **Shopping districts**, including Kurfürstendamm, Potsdamer Platz, Friedrichstrasse, Hackescher Markt, and Alexanderplatz
- **Topography of Terror**, documenting the evils of the Nazi-era
- **Zoologischer Garten Berlin**, Germany's oldest zoo, with one of the most comprehensive collection of species in the world

## EATING & DRINKING IN THE REGION

The diversity of Berlin's population is reflected in the wide range of cuisines offered in the city's cafes and restaurants. From typical German *Schnitzel* to avant-garde Asian-inspired dishes, options abound at every price point. *Zander*, the local pike-perch, is a delicious fish. For many visitors, a trip to Berlin is not complete without trying *Currywurst* or *Döner Kebab*.

Other areas of Northern Germany are known for down-to-earth cooking. Asparagus, kale and potatoes are key local crops. Local game and mushrooms are common on September menus. Fruit from the region appears in all sorts of dishes, including *Kuchen* (cake), a favorite afternoon treat.

Coffee and tea are omnipresent in the region, as is beer, though wine is available in most restaurants.

Menus printed in English are common nearly everywhere.

Fernsehturm, Berlin

# TOUR TERMS & CONDITIONS

## Confirmation of Tour Participation

Tour reservation requests are processed in the order received. You will be notified by the tour escorts once your reservation request has been accepted. The tour is designed for a **minimum of 20 participants**. If the tour does not fill to the minimum, it will be cancelled or postponed, or tour members will have the option of agreeing to a change in pricing. If the tour fills, a wait list will be created in the order in which reservations are received. **Please do not book any non-refundable airfare until you have been notified by your tour escort that the tour has reached the minimum required level of participation.**

## Registration Fee, Tour Deposit, Payments & Invoicing

**Once your participation in the tour is confirmed, a \$100 non-refundable registration fee, and a \$500 deposit, are required for each tour member.** The remaining cost of the tour will be invoiced in two payments, a schedule for which will be presented to tour members when their registration is confirmed.

While the tour is priced in Euros, tour members will be invoiced in US dollars at the exchange rate in effect at the time. If any overpayment caused by fluctuations in the exchange rate occurs, such overpayment will be refunded to in a timely manner, or additional tour features and benefits added to the itinerary as compensation. Conversely, any shortage will be billed on a supplemental invoice.

**Late payments** of installment invoices in excess of 21 days will be subject to a 10% penalty. If final payment is not received by the Agent's deadline, all prior payments may be forfeited and the reservation canceled.

As the tour is priced at cost, **payments by credit card will incur a 3.5% service charge** to cover bank processing fees.

## Conditions for Participation

The tour participant must submit a signed **Liability Waiver & Release** to HPSO within 30 days of acceptance of the tour application.

The success of the tour depends on each person's ability to participate and to cooperate with other tour members, the tour guide, and escorts. This tour is rated **"Moderate to Active."** Its physical demands on participants may include long travel times, walking for extended periods, navigating uneven paths, climbing stairs or hills, and visiting sites with no accommodations for access by disabled persons.

**This is a non-smoking tour.** Smoking is not permitted on the coach, or during group activities or group meals. Local practices may make it impossible, however, to prevent exposure to smoke by others at times during the tour.

**THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON**  
4412 sw Barbur Blvd, Suite 260  
Portland, OR 97239  
www.hardyplantsociety.org

## Cancellation and Refunds

Regardless of the reason, cancellations impact tour planning negatively. The long lead times required to schedule a tour, including prepayments by our Agent to hotels and other tour suppliers, mean that tour money may not be refundable.

### **The following cancellation fees apply to this tour:**

- All withdrawals are subject to the \$100 non-refundable registration fee made at the time your participation in the tour is confirmed.
- If the tour is full and the your space cannot be filled with another traveler, your deposit plus any installment payments made up to the date of your withdrawal date may be forfeited.
- If the tour is canceled by HPSO because the minimum number of participants is not reached by the Agent's deadline for payment, HPSO will refund in full the registration fee, deposit and any installments made by tour members.

## Tour Agent

The Agent/Company for this tour is **Pathfinders/STITA Tours** of Cheltenham, UK. The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon acts only as representative for the tour participant with respect to communications with the Agent.

## Travel & Cancellation Insurance

Participants are encouraged to consider purchasing travel and/or cancellation insurance. Neither HPSO nor Pathfinders/STITA Tours provides travel or cancellation insurance. Participants will find many third-party companies via the Internet or a travel agent that provide this coverage.

## Additional Information

Please contact Nancy Goldman at [brokenpots@yahoo.com](mailto:brokenpots@yahoo.com) or Jim Rondone at [jim@rondonekemp.com](mailto:jim@rondonekemp.com).

*Grotto by Niki de Saint Phalle, Herrenhausen Gardens, Hannover*

