

NICS RAMBLERS - 2026 holiday with 5-6 days of walks (for those who want to walk)

**Germany (Berlin, Potsdam and environs) – 7 nights (plus
an option of 3 additional nights in Dresden)**

- **Berlin: Wednesday 16th to Wednesday 23rd September 2026**
- **Dresden (optional): Wednesday 23rd September to Saturday 26th September 2026**

Please consider if you are interested/ still interested in going. RSVP by Sunday 23rd November 2025.

Dates are finalised. Flights from Belfast and Dublin are finalised– so complete the questionnaire at the end of this flyer (email your completed questionnaire to michael-carson .

Key approximate costs are as follows: Flights - c£200 return (with 10kg checked bag with Aer Lingus (Dublin Airport to Berlin); c£280 return (with bags) with EasyJet (Belfast to Berlin via England); Hotel c£500pp (couple/friends sharing), c£60 (single); Airbnb, c£50 per person sharing per night); Berlin Public Transport, c£40.

Initial Background

This will be the main foreign trip in 2026, given the interest already expressed by many members in Germany and other European destinations. This will be our fourth Club trip to Germany over many years – the Black Forest and then two trips to Landau. All memorable. This trip will be in September 2026 (probably earlier in the month when it is warmer) – exact dates will be confirmed in early September 2025 to allow early bookings of flights and hotels when they become available. Potsdam is a metro trip from Berlin City, so not far.

The weather should be very pleasant in Berlin and Potsdam at this time, but there can be cooler spells and rain in this part of Germany. September though is generally less wet than the summer months. As noted, some members may wish to stay on for another few days relatively near Berlin – to see somewhere different and non-touristy. The decision on where we stay for the extra nights will be made by September 2025.

This will be a walking holiday i.e. walks (for those who wish) and relaxation (for everyone). There will be a range of walks – so not tough for those who want to ramble. For those who want longer walks, most walks can easily be extended – the gentler ramblers can simply return by bus/and or train. Lots of scope for cycling as well. Berlin (and Potsdam), like many German towns, has nice swimming (and sunbathing) areas, many outdoors. Examples of walks can be found in the free Komoot App – see link to their website - [Top 10 Hikes and Walks in Berlin | Komoot](#) . See also <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/hiking-berlin-and-surrounding-area> . I have copied three examples of walks in the Annex.

There are many good walking (and cycling) trails in Berlin (and Potsdam) and its immediate region – many beside large lakes and long waterways. The terrain is basically flat. We will be staying in the historic city of Berlin with its lovely cafes, pubs, restaurants and very interesting shops. Each day we will use the extensive local metro/bus network to travel to, and from our walks/trips. Our walks will be self-guided – the many trails are well marked. For those who wish to do less walking, you can explore at your leisure.

Accommodation - depending on numbers, I suspect we will be staying in a range of hotels/Airbnb's in the very centre of Berlin (and Dresden for those staying for the optional 3 extra nights)– so at least we are all reasonably close to each other. Once the numbers on the trip are known, I will send information on the exact areas we should stay in. You will then be responsible for making your own accommodation arrangements. Accommodation will need to be booked reasonably early, as Berlin is a popular destination – and the sooner it is booked, the better choice you will have.

Those wishing to share will need to confirm who they wish to share with at the time of making their own booking.

The optional extra 3 nights will be in Dresden – 2hrs 15 minutes by train. We will travel by inexpensive train (from about £20 each way if booked a little bit in advance).

When?

The Berlin core trip is from Wednesday 16th to Wednesday 23rd September 2026. The optional 3 extra days in Dresden are from Wednesday 23rd September to Saturday 26th September 2026. You are of course free to go on dates that work for your own personal circumstances. The weather is pretty good in this area – lots of warm sunshine - see link at [Berlin Weather](#) . Evening though can be cool – this is not the Mediterranean and of course there can be rain. With a sunshine duration of over 1,700 hours a year, the Berlin area is one of the sunniest regions in Germany.

Where to – Berlin with a day or two to Potsdam

Lonely Planet writes as follows (see link attached - [10 of the best things to do in Berlin - Lonely Planet](#)):

'For a scene-stealing blend of glamour and grit, head to Berlin. This is a city that is ready to captivate anyone eager to dive into its vibrant culture, bold architecture, global food, intense parties and laid-back nature spots.

Whether your tastes run to posh or punk, you can sate them in the capital of Germany. From touring world-class collections of historic treasures at UNESCO-listed Museums Insel, or learning more about German history where it happened, to dancing through the night in the city's famous clubs, here are some of the best experiences that capture the Berlin spirit'.

See also the Berlin Official Tourist website – for example its [Top 10 landmarks in Berlin - places to visit in Berlin | visitBerlin.de](#) . The full website is at this link - [Berlin's official travel website - visitBerlin.de](#)

Another website with lots of interesting information, including places to stay and eat is attached - [What To Do in Berlin | Berlin Travel Tips](#)

Potsdam is certainly worth a day trip (or two) - [What to Do on a Day Trip to Potsdam From Berlin | Berlin Travel Tips](#)





Travel

This is our own self-designed trip. Some of us in Northern Ireland will travel directly with **Aer Lingus** from Dublin Airport to Berlin Brandenburg Airport Flights (with checked 10kg hold luggage, this will be around £197 return). ALTERNATIVELY, those living in Northern Ireland can travel with **EasyJet** to Berlin with a change in England (cost around C£160 return plus c£120 for bags return). Those travelling from England will have a huge range of flight options – but should also book early. For those staying for the 3 additional nights in Dresden, the only realistic return to Ireland is with Aer Lingus – but you can still fly out from Belfast if you wish. Flights to Berlin will not be cheaper than this.

I am attaching in Annex 1, flights that can be booked. There is no immediate urgency in booking accommodation, as there is a good choice in Berlin. For those travelling from other parts of the UK, you too will also be booking flights to Berlin Brandenburg Airport. Most of us will travel into Central Berlin as a group from the airport.

In Berlin, we will be travelling by public transport – S-Bahn (metro trains), U-Bahn (underground) and bus. We will be purchasing a travelcard – either one just for travel ([Tickets, Fares and Route Maps – Berlin.de](#)) or one that includes discounts to tourist attractions ([Berlin Welcome Card - the official tourist card | visitBerlin.de](#)). Your choice. We will be going to Potsdam, so zones ABC are required, not just AB.

Walking (and cycling) – trails are well marked, and we will be self-guided. The link below shows the enormous range of walks in this area – all lengths, with drop out options on most walks and scope to add on for some further walking. No mountains. Some steps ascending the U-Bahn. So, walks for all! And no walks for those just wanting to relax/sightsee. See attached for walks - <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/hiking-berlin-and-surrounding-area> . See also [Top 10 Hikes and Walks in Berlin | Komoot](#) . I would suggest you download the Komoot App – it has a free version.

A walking/tourist guidebook that I can highly recommend is ‘Walking Berlin – The best of the City’ – copies for sale on eBay (about £11). 2nd edition. It helpfully sets out how to walk, at leisure, between many attractions in specific parts of Berlin. So very practical for anyone on a day off from the group walks, or indeed for a purposeful Club wander in the centre or environs of Berlin

For those wishing to cycle, please see attached link - [Cycling](#) . Berlin is very bicycle friendly. The Komoot website (and App) have huge numbers of cycling trails – see attached link - [Top 10 Bike Rides and Cycling Routes in Berlin | Komoot](#) .

We will use local trains/metros and occasionally buses, to travel to and from the walks/tourist sights. It is easy to travel in Berlin and Potsdam using public transport.

Additional nights

Those who wish will be able to stay additional nights. You can book whatever flights you wish – and additional nights. For example, I will be staying 3 extra nights after the core 7 nights in Berlin. The extra nights will be somewhere completely different – Dresden, before flying home from Berlin -

accommodation options for the additional nights for those staying in Dresden with me, will be confirmed and then booked later.

Dresden is a highly recommended city to visit – and for walking also. Dresden is often called Florence on the River Elbe – although much of it was sadly destroyed at the end of World War 2. Much restoration has since occurred. See the link attached for more information on Dresden [View | City of Dresden](#) . There will at opportunity to do at least one really nice walk near Dresden – see examples of walks that are possible in the Dresden area – see the link attached - [Saxony’s most beautiful hiking trails](#). The nearby Elbe Sandstone Mountains have stunning trails.

What now?

Without delay, complete this questionnaire on the next page and return to me no later than Sunday 23rd November 2025.

QUESTIONNAIRE – RSVP – post or email to michael-carson	Yes/No/comments
I am interested in this walking holiday	
I wish to share a double/twin room	
I will be sharing a double/twin room with.....	
I wish to have a single room	
I would like to stay in an Airbnb – with a friend.	
I plan to travel from Dublin Airport to Berlin & vv	
I plan to travel from Belfast to Berlin & vv (via England)	
I would prefer to travel from England to Berlin & vv	
I would like to stay on for up to 3 more nights in Dresden) before flying home from Berlin – location/accommodation details will be confirmed (and then booked later). If sharing, confirm who you wish to share with.	
I am happy to assist leading a walk (note that the Komoot App has lots of good walks in Berlin)	
My full name is:	
My address is:	
My mobile number is:	
My email address is:	

**Happy rambling
Michael
7 November 2025**

ANNEX 1 – FLIGHT OPTIONS – BELFAST AND/OR DUBLIN

FOR INFORMATION

	Belfast to Berlin via England - EasyJet	Dublin to Berlin – direct from Dublin – Aer Lingus	Berlin to Belfast via England - EasyJet	Berlin to Dublin – direct to Dublin – Aer Lingus
OUT - Wed 16/9/26				
Depart Belfast	8:10 a.m.			
Arrive Manchester	9:05 a.m.			
Depart Manchester	1:40 p.m.			
Arrive Berlin	4:35 p.m.			
Cost – approx.	£60 plus bags (c£60 for bags)			
Depart Dublin		6:40 a.m.		
Arrive Berlin		10:00 a.m.		
Cost approx.		£85 inc. 10kg checked bag		
RETURN – Wed 23/9/26 – CORE BERLIN WEEK				
Depart Berlin			5:10 p.m.	
Arrive Manchester			6:10 p.m.	
Depart Manchester			8:20 p.m.	
Arrive Belfast			9:20 p.m.	
Cost – approx.			£99 plus bags (c£60 for bags)	
Depart Berlin				Two flights 10:40 a.m. <u>or</u> 9:40 p.m.
Arrive Dublin				12.05 p.m. <u>or</u> 11.00 p.m.
Cost – approx.				£102 inc. 10kg checked bag
RETURN – Sat 26/9/26 – CORE BERLIN WEEK plus DRESDEN				
Depart Berlin			No connecting EasyJet flights	Later Aer Ligus flight probably best to allow a relaxed morning/lunch in Dresden
Depart Berlin				Two flights 10:40 a.m. <u>or</u> 9:40 p.m.
Arrive Dublin				12.05 p.m. <u>or</u> 11.00 p.m.
Cost – approx.				£102 inc. 10kg checked bag

ANNEX 2 – EXAMPLES OF WALKS (for those wishing to walk)

Examples of walks can be found in the free Komoot App – see link to their website - [Top 10 Hikes and Walks in Berlin | Komoot](#) . See also <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/hiking-berlin-and-surrounding-area> .

(1) From S-Bahn Wannsee to Potsdam



Getting there and information:

- S-Bahn | S1, S7 (Wannsee)
- Start and finish: Wannsee S-Bahn station – Potsdam Central Station
- Length: approx. 15 km
- Duration: approx. 3-4 hours
- Difficulty: moderate

The relatively long route from the **Wannsee S-Bahn** station in a westerly direction to Potsdam's main railway station boasts many scenic and historical highlights. The hike starts in Berlin, heading out from the Wannsee S-Bahn station to the south-west. On the way you will cross the Westlicher Düppeler Forst **bird sanctuary** before continuing to the Griebnitzsee lake. There the hike continues towards the city limits until you reach the Glienicke Bridge: At the former border crossing you enter Potsdam. Walk south through the New Garden in the Nauener Vorstadt to the **Dutch Quarter** with its striking houses. A little further south from there your destination, Potsdam Central Station, is already waiting for you.

(2) The Wuhletal Hiking Trail



Getting there and information:

- Bus | 197, 390, 901, N97 (Ahrensfelde)
- S-Bahn | S7 (Ahrensfelde)
- Tram | 16, M8 (Ahrensfelde/city limits)
- Start and end: Eichepark (Marzahn) – Köpenick S-Bahn station (Köpenick)
- Length: approx. 15 km
- Duration: approx. 4.5 hours
- Difficulty: easy

A half-day hike through nature, in the heart of the city – no less than that is offered by the **Wuhletal Hiking Trail**, which winds its way from Eichepark at the Ahrensfelde S-Bahn station with the valley of the Wuhle to the south to the Köpenick S-Bahn station. For those not wishing to walk the entire trail, the Wuhletal S-Bahn station at about half way is a good starting or finishing point. Besides the biodiverse, idyllic river valley itself, you will encounter numerous parks and meadows along the way. The route also runs along the grounds of the International Garden Exhibition, where you can take a short detour on a cable car ride.

(3) Tegeler Fliess



Getting there and information:

- Bus | 222, N22 (Alt-Lübars)
- Start and finish: Alt-Lübars (Reinickendorf) – Schloss Tegel (Tegel Palace)
- Length: approx. 8 km
- Duration: approx. 2-3 hours
- Difficulty: moderate

The hike takes you from idyllic Alt-Lübars, the oldest village in Berlin, along the **Tegeler Fliess** downstream to **Schloss Tegel** on Lake Tegel. On the way you will encounter numerous enchanting natural landscapes and wetlands, such as the Lübarser Felder nature reserve, and even exotic water buffalo. The Hermsdorfer See, through which the Tegeler Fliess flows, is also on your way. At the end of the hike you can take a walk through the Schlosspark Tegel.