We invite you to join us for an extraordinary opportunity to explore the cultural capital of Europe on a 5-night program to Berlin. Led by Art Historian, Fiona Bennett, we will dive into the vibrant art scene as we discover both the old masters and the contemporary visionaries which make Berlin one of the great destinations for art lovers. Set during Berlin Art Week, our program will feature visits to special exhibitions and galleries as Berlin transforms into a hub for contemporary art where German and international artists come together. We will step out of the city on excursions to see Frederick the Great’s extraordinary Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam and to the charming cities of Lehde and Lübbenau, set within the UNESCO-protected Spreewald. Our leisurely paced program will allow you plenty of free time on your own to explore the many museums and cultural sites throughout Berlin at your leisure.

**Tour Highlights**

- Discover Yayoi Kusama’s installation at Martin-Gropius-Bau
- Spend an afternoon exploring Berlin’s Museum Island
- Enjoy an evening cruise along the River Spree
- Take a traditional punt boat to the picturesque town of Lehde
- Visit special gallery and exhibition openings during Berlin Art Week
- Enjoy an intimate evening concert at the Piano Salon Christophori
- Take a guided tour of the East Side Gallery, once part of the Berlin Wall
- Marvel at the Schloss Sanssouci palace in Potsdam
Our program begins in Berlin with an afternoon visit to the Martin-Gropius-Bau, one of Europe’s most important exhibition venues. Here we will have the opportunity to tour the museum which features some of the best international exhibitions of art and photography, including an installation by artist Yayoi Kusama. End the day with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Begin exploring Berlin with a tour of the Reichstag Building, home of the German Parliament. Today the building features a gorgeous glass cupola designed by Norman Foster that provides a stunning 360-degree view of the city. After lunch at leisure, enjoy the afternoon discovering Berlin’s renowned Museum Island, a unique ensemble of five museums situated on a small island on the Spree River. Now a UNESCO-World Heritage Site, it is sometimes referred to as Berlin’s Acropolis of the arts. The group will get back together in the early evening for a cruise along the River Spree, sailing past the ancient 13th-century heart of Berlin while enjoying a glass of wine.

Spend a day on an excursion to Lübbenau, a moorland and designated UNESCO-protected biosphere reserve. Take a train through the meadowy countryside to Lübbenau, a charming town with a bustling port quarter where traces of the town’s medieval beginnings can still be found. Enjoy a traditional punt boat ride through a network of streams to nearby Lehde, a picturesque village with its own very special charm and character. Visit the open-air museum where local traditional crafts, including historical costumes, art and pottery, are on display, giving you a glimpse of how Spreewald residents lived in the 19th century. After lunch at leisure, return to Berlin where Fiona will lead the group on a visit to a local gallery participating in the Berlin Art Week. For almost a full week, the entire city opens up to art enthusiasts from around the globe with special exhibitions and gallery events. After dinner at leisure head to a special concert at the Piano Salon Christophori, an old industrial hall where by day, it’s a workshop for restoring antique pianos but in the evening it transforms into a space for intimate chamber music concerts.

Enjoy a guided tour of the East Side Gallery discovering some of its 101 murals. What was once part of the Berlin Wall is now the longest open-air gallery in the world spanning 1.3 kilometers of history and art. Spend the afternoon at leisure exploring Berlin before an evening visit to a local art gallery taking part in Berlin Art Week.

Head out by bus to Potsdam, the former Prussian royal seat featuring splendid gardens and glimmering palaces. Meet our local guide for a visit to the Cecilienhof Palace where world history was written in the summer of 1945 at the end of WWII. After lunch at a local restaurant, discover Schloss Sanssouci, known as the Versailles of Germany. Visit its picture gallery, one of the most splendid 18th-century buildings in Europe. Here Frederick the Great tightly hung almost 180 top works of Flemish and Dutch Baroque paintings. After some time at leisure in Berlin, enjoy a farewell dinner.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MEDIUM. The trip will spend considerable time in museums and will require being able to be on your feet for extended periods of times. The program will be using public transportation and trains to get around, and this sometimes involves walking for 10 minutes or more and using stairs. The trip is not suitable for those who have mobility problems.