DahlemTour Berlin

City tours

100 Years of Science at “Germany’s Oxford”
The classic introductory tour explores the various facets of the history of Dahlem campus from 1911 up to the 1960s.

Themed tours

Don’t Be Led up the Garden Path!
Fiction and Facts of the Dahlem Campus

Female Pioneers of Science
Women of the Dahlem Campus

Albert Einstein in Dahlem
Following in the Tracks of a Genius

“Science Heaven”
Dahlem’s Nobel Laureates

DahlemTour Berlin Audio Guide

With our app, you can also explore the campus flexibly on your own. Available for free at:

Duration 90 minutes
Languages German, English, Italian
Cost 120 € (German)
140 € (other languages)
20 % discount for cooperating institutions
Group size Maximum of 25 people per tour

DahlemTour Berlin

100 Years of Science at “Germany’s Oxford”
20th century laboratory

Splitting the atom, the first atomic reactor, the electron microscope - many inventions and findings which have shaped history originated in Dahlem. The first modern research campus was created here, outside the city gates on a greenfield site, in 1912 with the Institutes of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society, predecessor of the Max Planck Society. Today, these representative buildings are still used by scientists of the Max Planck Society and the Freie Universität Berlin.

The Dahlem tours invite you to discover exciting stories about the campus, its architecture and its researchers: either as part of guided tours of the city or on your own using the app.

At Dahlem’s laboratories, scientists developed the entirely new research fields of Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Atomic and Particle Physics. Some of their findings were to change the world dramatically. This was the workplace and residence of the likes of Otto Hahn, Lise Meitner, Werner Heisenberg and, briefly, Albert Einstein. Their work is affecting us to the present day.

Nobel Prize winners surrounded by green fields

The introduction to the tour takes place at Harnack House, which was built in 1929 as an international clubhouse and guesthouse for academics. The tour will follow in the tracks of 14 Nobel Prize winners, lead you to milestones in the history of science, and tell you about the fate of those scientists who were banished during the era of National Socialism. On agreement, the tours can focus on specific areas, such as the history of physics, biology or chemistry.

Gold prospectors, organic farmers, and forgotten heroes

The themed tours open up surprising perspectives of the campus. It’s often forgotten that women had a key influence on research in Dahlem from the beginning. From 1900, especially in Dahlem, well-known and less well-known researchers fought for their place in science, which had been male-dominated for centuries. On the interactive tour ‘Don’t let anyone lead you up the garden path!’, the audience must decide whether some incredible anecdotes from science are fact or fake news. Get to know a completely different side of Dahlem’s researchers as treasure hunters or organic farmers!

General tours can be individually adapted to focus on the history of biology, chemistry, and physics.
1. Harnack House  
the Max Planck Society’s guesthouse and conference venue since 2000,  
1929–1945 Club house of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society  

2. Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science at the  
Freie Universität  
1927–1945 Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology,  
Human Heredity and Eugenics  

3. Max Planck Society Archive  
1930–1972 Kaiser Wilhelm Institute (from 1953 Max Planck Institute)  
for Cell Physiology  

4. Henry Ford Building  
lecture theatre and library building at the Freie Universität (1954),  
exhibition of the history of the Freie Universität  

5. Subsection of the Legal department in the Freie Universität  
1915–1948 Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology  

6. Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society  
old buildings 1912–1953  
Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry  

7. Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society  
Fritz Haber Villa  

8. Hahn Meitner Building at the Freie Universität  
(Biochemistry department)  
1912–1944 Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry  

9. Freie Universität, School of Business and Economics  
1913–1945 Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Experimental Therapy and  
(from 1922) Biochemistry  

10. Albert Einstein’s home from April to November 1914  
(Ehrenbergstraße 33)  

11. “Rost- und Silberlaube” (“Rust and Silver Lodges”)  
Humanities departments at the Freie Universität (1973/1978)  

12. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science  
(2006)  

13. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science  
old building, 1938–1945 lab of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics  

14. Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics  
(1970)  

- The exhibitions are open to the public during the buildings’ opening hours:  
  Mon–Fri 7.30 am to 8.00 pm (admission is free)