◀ Villa Jacobs ▲ View across Lake Jungfernsee towards Villa Jacobs

Visit to Villa Jacobs in Potsdam

Perched above Lake Jungfernsee, close to Cecilienhof Palace, Villa Jacobs is one of Potsdam's architectural gems. Designed by Ludwig Persius in 1835 in the style of a Tuscan country house, it was built for the sugar manufacturer Ludwig Jacobs. The renowned Prussian landscape architect Peter Joseph Lenné created an eight-hectare landscaped park featuring extensive orchards and a vineyard. Today, the park, with its many carefully designed sightlines across the Havel landscape and over Lake Jungfernsee towards Glienicke Palace, forms part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The extensive park of Villa Jacobs

The WIB group was guided by Marianne Ludes through the estate's diverse parkland, orchards and sculpture garden. Marianne Ludes and her husband Stefan acquired the grounds and villa – then still a ruin – in 2005, subsequently rebuilding the house and restoring the park. Today, Villa Jacobs is the couple's home and the headquarters of the non-profit Ludes Foundation, established in 2021, which maintains the garden as a cultural venue dedicated to the visual arts. Marianne Ludes spoke about the history and restoration of the villa and its grounds, as well as the creation of the cottage garden with its ornamental and edible plants, the hippodrome and the vineyard. During the walk through the verdant parkland, the sweeping views across Potsdam's lakeland were every bit as impressive as the fascinating interplay between cultivated and natural landscapes, art, gardens and architecture.

The inspiring tour was followed by a summer gathering in the nearby garden of the Fischer family. There, the group rounded off a beautiful summer afternoon with an international potluck buffet, enjoying the relaxed atmosphere and elegant surroundings.

The Villa Jacobs park will be open to visitors for Germany's Open Monument Day on 12 and 13 September 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day.

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The WiB group during their visit to Villa Jacobs in Potsdam