

Berlin (and Potsdam) history – Post War – Cold war

- **Allied Museum**

Clayallee 135, 14195 Berlin

Contact: +49 (0) 30 8181990

Internet: <http://www.alliiertenmuseum.de/en/home.html>

Under the title “How Enemies Became Friends,” the Allied Museum tells a unique story full of suspense and drama. It begins with the German defeat in World War II. In the summer of 1945, a few months after the Red Army marched into Berlin, U.S., British, and French troops followed as victors and occupiers. Together with their wartime allies, the Soviet Union, they aimed to free the German Reich of Nazism. Conflicts soon arose, however. The victorious Western powers wanted to reconstruct Germany on the basis of freedom and democracy. The Soviet Union, in contrast, took its own Communist social system as a model. Berlin became one of the most important scenes of the struggles that have gone down in history as the Cold War. More than once, the cold war seemed about to become a hot one. The traces of this eventful period are still present on the historic site today. The Allied Museum is located in the heart of the former American Sector. Alongside the permanent exhibition, our temporary exhibitions address a variety of relevant topics. Events, film screenings, and guided tours of the exhibitions round out the program.

(source: <http://www.alliiertenmuseum.de/en/about-us.html>)

- **Berlin Wall Memorial Site**

Bernauer Straße 119, 13355 Berlin

Contact +49 (0)30 467 98 66-66

Internet: <http://www.berliner-mauer-dokumentationszentrum.de>

The „**Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer**“ (**Berlin Wall Memorial Site**) is the central place of Remembrance of the division of Germany, located in the center of Berlin. The memorial stretches across 1.4 km of land on the historic Bernauer Strasse, which was dissected by the Berlin Wall, with the street lying the west and the houses on the southern side of the street lying in the East. The property also includes the last section of the Berlin wall which was preserved in its original format and setting – including the inner wall, guard tower and death strip – and provides an impression of how the Berlin Wall looked at the end of the 1980's.

(source: <https://berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de/en/>)

- **Marienfelde Refugee Center Museum**

Marienfelder Allee 66/80, 12277 Berlin

Contact: +49 (0) 30 75008400

Internet: <https://www.notaufnahmelager-berlin.de/en/>

The **Marienfelde Refugee Center Museum** is the central site dedicated to the history of flight and emigration in divided Germany. Between 1949 and 1990, about four million people left East Germany (the GDR) for West Germany (the FRG), with 1.35 million of them passing through the Marienfelde Refugee Center in Berlin. The Marienfelde Refugee Center, which was opened in 1953, supplied refugees with housing and provisions, and was also where refugees completed the official procedure to receive residency permits for West Germany and West Berlin. Located on the historic site of the Refugee Center, the museum preserves and memorializes the causes, process, and consequences of inner-German flight, exploring not only flight from the GDR itself, but also the official process of emigration and the subsequent integration of refugees into the FRG. Marienfelde invites you to discover more about this history through its permanent and temporary exhibitions, diverse educational programs, special events, and research projects.

(source: <https://www.notaufnahmelager-berlin.de/en/>)

- **Mauer Park**

Gleimstraße 55, 10437 Berlin
Contact: +49 (0) 30 60980018
Internet: www.berlin.de

After reunification the former death strip of the Berlin Wall between the districts of Wedding and Prenzlauer Berg became a public park. A 300 metres long strip of the wall still stands upright at the eastern edge of **Mauerpark** - although the grey concrete walls are now covered with countless works of colourful street art. Today the park consists of a large grass field that was once part of a railway station, and a hilly slope towards the east where it meets the Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn sports park. Mauerpark, extending to the north from Eberswalder Straße, is one of a few public parks in Prenzlauer Berg and as a result, a popular place for families, artists and musicians, and for recreation, games and leisure. Especially on summer weekends the former death strip turns into a lively festival ground with live music, karaoke shows and picnics. Every Sunday a large flea market in the southwestern part of the park offers a broad range of lovely odds and ends - from secondhand clothes to Berlin design jewellery and vintage furniture.

Mauerpark is a public park in the Prenzlauer Berg district. A former part of the Berlin Wall, the park is popular with people of all ages and turns into a flea market and karaoke stage on weekends.

(source: <https://www.berlin.de/sehenswuerdigkeiten/3561684-3558930-mauerpark.html>)

- **Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears) – Site of German Division**

Reichstagufer 17, 10117 Berlin
Contact: +49 (0) 30 46 77 77 911
Internet: <https://www.hdg.de/en/traenenpalast/>

The Friedrichstrasse S-Bahn station was the last station before the West Berlin border for trains running from east to west and was located in the middle of the city on the north-south line. When the border was sealed off in August 1961, this through station became a terminal and a border crossing point for travelers from both parts of Berlin. The pavilion used for border clearance, dubbed the "Tränenpalast" (Palace of Tears) because of the countless farewells it witnessed until 1989, is still standing today. The foundation Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland shows the permanent exhibition "BorderExperiences. Everyday Life in Divided Germany" in the "Tränenpalast," an authentic site that is now a protected landmark. Using real-life stories, original objects, and interviews with contemporary witnesses, the exhibition takes an in-depth look at life in the shadow of division and the border. It also outlines key stages of the reunification process.

(source: <https://www.berlin.de/mauer/en/sites/museums-and-exhibitions/haus-der-geschichte-traenenpalast/>)

POTSDAM

- **Memorial Lindenstrasse for Victims of Political Violence in the 20th century**

Lindenstraße 54, 14467 Potsdam

Contact: +49 (0) 331 2896136

Internet: <https://en.potsdam.de/content/memorial-lindenstrasse-victims-political-violence-20th-century>

A 25-minute train ride out of Berlin, you'll be in the heart of the former Prussian residential city Potsdam. Surrounded by lakes and rivers, Potsdam also offers a lot to see. **The Memorial Lindenstraße** is situated in the vibrant city center. This memorial shows the continuity and the change of political persecution in the 20th century like no other place in Potsdam – but also the victory of democracy during the peaceful revolution in 1989/90. The memorial Lindenstraße is authentic place of memory and remembrance of the victims of political violence during both German dictatorships – and likewise Potsdam's place of remembrance in overcoming the dictatorship. (source: <https://en.potsdam.de/content/memorial-lindenstrasse-victims-political-violence-20th-century>)

- **Memorial and Meeting Place Leistikowstraße Potsdam**

Leistikowstraße 1, 14469 Potsdam

Contact: +49 (0) 331 2011540

Internet: <https://en.potsdam.de/content/memorial-and-meeting-place-leistikowstrasse-Potsdam>

From the summer of 1945 until the 1980s, the central detention center of Soviet military counterespionage was in Leistikow Street 1. There is hardly another detention center preserved with such authentic oppressiveness like this former rectory of the protestant church's benevolent society which was turned into a prison. The emphasis of the permanent exhibition which opened in spring 2012 is on the history of the building and the fate of prisoners there. It is not known how many people were kept prisoner by the secret service in this place. Today preserved prison cells with original wooden pallets, detention rooms, bricked-up gangways and windows, massive gratings and screens as well as the rest of the barriers and foundation are evidence of repression and injustice. On the cell walls in the basement you can find numerous inscriptions in German and Russian which dramatically reflect the disfranchisement and isolation of the prisoners.

(source: <https://en.potsdam.de/content/memorial-and-meeting-place-leistikowstrasse-potsdam>)

- **Memorial and Forum Drewitz-Dreilinden**

Albert-Einstein-Ring / Stahnsdorfer Damm, 14532 Kleinmachnow (Gewerbepark Europarc)

Contact: +49 (0) 33208 24 870

Internet: www.checkpoint-bravo.de

After the GDR entry point at Drewitz was torn down, the command tower remained as the only building left standing. Today it houses an exhibition and event location, dedicated to the history of the inner German border. On the open air exhibition ground you will find a trail leading to the border's separation barriers. "Checkpoint Bravo", as the border checkpoint Dreilinden was called by the Western Allies, is still intact in Berlin Zehlendorf. The memorial can be reached from Potsdam's inner city via Highway 115 to Berlin. (source: www.checkpoint-bravo.de)