

BERLIN / EAST BERLIN HISTORY

- **Berlin House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus)**

Niederkirchnerstraße 5, 10117 Berlin

Contact: +49 (0) 30 23250

Internet: <https://www.parlament-berlin.de/de/English>

The Berlin House of Representatives stands near the site of the former Berlin Wall, and today **finds itself in the center of the reunified city. The president directs and coordinates the work of the House of Representatives, assisted by the presidium and the Council of Elders, which he or she chairs.** Together with the Martin Gropius Bau, the Topography of Terror, and the Bundesrat, it presents an arresting contrast to the flair of the new Potsdamer Platz. (source: <https://www.parlament-berlin.de/de/English>)

- **FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg museum**

Adalbertstraße 95A, 10999 Berlin

Contact: +49 (0)30 50 58 52 33

Internet: <https://www.fhxb-museum.de>

The intricate web of different experiences of history, lifestyles, and ways of life; the coexistence of different cultures and nationalities in tight spaces; contradictions and fissures: These elements make the Berlin district of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg compelling – and not only to those interested in history. The Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum documents the history of this district. It emerged from the fusion of the districts of Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg with the merger of the Kreuzberg Museum with the Heimatmuseum Friedrichshain. In 1978, the Kreuzberg Office for the Arts began to develop a new type of local museum, in which everyday history – a seemingly banal relic – and the larger significance and continuation of history would exist alongside one another: the Kreuzberg Museum for Urban Development and Social History. The museum provides rotating/ever-changing exhibits on regional and local (neighborhood) history, typically within the context of contemporary questions and with a focus on immigration and industry, commerce, and urban development; a permanent exhibit with sections on urban development and migration history on two floors; a historical case room and printshop of what was then the Otto Schneider Printshop; a small library on the history of Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg; educational programs for children, youth, and adults at the museum, as well as thematic tours through the district. The Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum is part of the culture and history division within the office for continuing education and culture of the district office of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg. (source: <https://www.fhxb-museum.de>)

- **Berliner Unterwelten (Berlin Underworlds)**

Brunnenstraße 105, 13355 Berlin

Contact: +49 (0) 30 49 91 05-17

Internet: <https://www.berliner-unterwelten.de/en.html>

The Berlin Unterwelten allows you to experience the city from a different and unusual perspective. Tours offer a walk through underground installations and even former bunkers from the Nazi era or the Cold War period.

Tours are held in English, but not all of them are run every day. (source: <https://www.berliner-unterwelten.de/en.html>)

- **German Bundestag**

Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin

Contact: +49 (0) 30 227 0

Internet: <https://www.bundestag.de/en/visittheBundestag>

The German Bundestag is the national Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany. Its seat is in the Reichstag Building in Berlin. In the current electoral term, Parliament is composed of 709 members. The President of the Bundestag holds the second highest office of state in Germany, after the Federal President. Tours are offered, but have to be booked in advance. (source: <https://www.bundestag.de/en/>)

- **German Historical Museum**

Unter den Linden 2, 10117 Berlin
Contact: +49 30 20304-0
Internet: <https://www.dhm.de/en.html>

The Deutsches Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum) is Germany's national historical museum and was founded by the then Federal Republic of Germany and the *Land* Berlin in 1987 on the occasion of the 750th anniversary celebration of Berlin. Located in Berlin's historic district of Mitte, it sees itself as a place of active communication and discussion of history. The buildings and collections of the Museum für Deutsche Geschichte (MfDG), the central historical museum of the GDR, were transferred to the ownership of the Deutsches Historisches Museum within the framework of the contract on German reunification. Thus with reunification in 1990, the Deutsches Historisches Museum became the museum for the history of all parts of Germany. The Permanent Exhibition in the Zeughaus, [German History from the Middle Ages to the Fall of the Berlin Wall](#), with more than 7,000 objects, provides a unique overview of German history within its international context. The museum's temporary [Special Exhibitions](#) can be seen in the Exhibition Hall designed by the Chinese American architect I.M. Pei. They are devoted to formative historical events, epochs and social developments. A broad spectrum of additional information is conveyed through the exhibitions to specific groups by means of guided tours and history workshops. Scholars as well as history aficionados can also attend such events as lectures, panel discussions and conferences at the museum. (source: <https://www.dhm.de/en/ueber-uns/>)

- **Museum for Communication Berlin**

Leipziger Strasse 16 10117 Berlin
Contact: +49 (0)30 - 202 94 0
Internet: <https://www.mfk-berlin.de/en/>

The **Museum for Communication** is best known as the world's oldest postal museum. Founded in 1872, the museum has a changeful history. In the year 2000, the former East German Postal museum and the Berlin Museum for Post and Telecommunication reunified in the building. Nowadays it offers vivid insights into the origins, development and future of the information society.

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

- **Stadtmuseum Berlin (museum of the city of Berlin)**

Am Köllnischen Park 5, 10179 Berlin
Contact: +49 (0) 30 24002 162
Internet: <https://www.en.stadtmuseum.de/>

The *Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin – Landesmuseum für Kultur und Geschichte Berlins* (Stadtmuseum Berlin Foundation) is governed by public law with its registered office in Berlin. It was founded on 23 June 1995 in accordance with the Law on Museum Foundations (Museumsstiftungsgesetz) and since then has been receiving grants from the Berlin Regional Administration. The foundation has the charitable mission of “...collecting, conserving, maintaining, and researching artworks and other cultural assets connected to the culture and history of Berlin, making them accessible to the public in permanent exhibitions and in temporary exhibitions in accordance with the usual scope of museum work, and of facilitating the analysis of its stock for the benefit of science and of national education.” (Museumsstiftungsgesetz 9 December 1998, Version dated 27 February 2005).

The Stadtmuseum Berlin runs five museums in Berlin: the Märkisches Museum, the Nikolaikirche, the Ephraim-Palais, the Knoblauchhaus and the Museumsdorf Düppel. (source: <https://www.en.stadtmuseum.de/about-us>)

- **German-Russian Museum Berlin-Karlshorst**

Zwieseler Straße 4 10318 Berlin

Contact: +49 (0) 30 501 508 10

Internet: <http://www.museum-karlshorst.de/index.php?id=1&L=1>

The **German-Russian Museum** is located in the former East-Berlin borough Karlshorst. It is the historical place of the unconditional surrender of the German Wehrmacht at the 8 May 1945. The museum explores World War II and its consequences and also looks at relations between Germany and Russia from 1917 through to the 1990s. Between 1967 and 1994, the building hosted East Germany's "Great Patriotic War" museum. The German-Russian Museum opened on May 19, 1995, the 50th anniversary of the end of war. The exhibition shows the daily life of the soldiers on 1000 square metres. (source: <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/deutsch-russisches-museum-berlin-karlshorst>)

- **Soviet Memorial Treptow**

Puschkinallee 12435 Berlin

The Soviet Memorial is basically a cemetery for 7000 Soviet soldiers that died in World War II, fighting to capture Berlin. This nine-hectare area, located in Treptower Park, is not only the biggest in Germany, but one of three memorials in Berlin. It's been built between 1946 and 1949. An avenue of weeping willows takes you past two flags carved from red granite. Behind them, five lawns and eight sarcophagi are arranged. The lawns symbolise the communal graves. The actual cemetery of the soldiers of the Red Army is behind the sarcophagi, under the plane trees. The centrepiece is the mausoleum on a hill, topped by the statue of a Soviet soldier, carrying a child in one arm and resting his sword on a shattered swastika. To this day, visitors and politicians lay wreaths every year in honour of the fallen soldiers and the liberation of Berlin. (source: <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/soviet-memorial-treptow>)

COLD WAR AND THE DIVIDED CITY

- **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 to 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/>)

- **Berlin Wall Trail**

Internet: <https://www.berlin.de/mauer/en/> and <http://www.bfgg.de/projekte/berliner-mauerweg.html>

Along a total of around 160 kilometres, the **Berlin Wall Trail** traces the course of the former GDR border fortifications encircling West Berlin. In most sections, this hiking and bike trail runs along the former patrol road used by customs officers in West Berlin or along the border control road used by GDR border troops for their own patrols. Sections of historic interest, with traces or remains of the old Wall, alternate with stretches of nature along the way.

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

- **Black Box Cold War**

Friedrichstraße 47 10117 Berlin

Contact: +49 (0)30 2163571

Internet: <http://www.bfgg.de/projekte/blackbox-kalter-krieg-ausstellung-am-checkpoint-charlie.html> / <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/blackbox-cold-war>

An armed confrontation between the Americans and the Russians at Checkpoint Charlie occurs in 1961, escalating the tensions between East and West. Since 2006, an open-air museum dedicated to this subject has been located on that very spot. In 2012, the Black Box opened, serving as a provisional exhibit until a Museum of the Cold War is built on this historic location. The **Black Box** is a flat, black, box-shaped building located a few metres from Checkpoint Charlie. The structure is dedicated to the Cold War and features authentic exhibits, 16 mediastations as well as a small cinema and original documents and objects shown.

(source: <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/blackbox-cold-war>)

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

Reichstagsufer 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/>)

FOCUS GDR / EAST GERMAN SECRET SERVICE

- **Memorial Hohenschönhausen**

Genslerstraße 66, 13055 Berlin
Contact: +49 (0) 30 986082-30
Internet: <https://www.stiftung-hsh.de/en>

In June 1945, the Soviet Secret Police took over a former canteen block and food store in northeast Berlin and turned it into a detainment and transit camp under the name "Special Camp No. 3." Following the camp's closure in November 1946, the cellar was converted into an underground cell complex, which served as the main Soviet Secret Police prison in Germany in addition to being used for detention and interrogation. In April 1951, the East German Ministry of State Security (MfS) took over the prison, constructed an additional building, and until 1989, used the site as its main remand centre. Thousands of political prisoners passed through this jail, including nearly all the prominent figures who opposed the GDR regime. (source: <https://www.stiftung-hsh.de/history/>)

- **Rummelsburg Memorial**

Hauptstraße 8 10317 Berlin
Internet: <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/rummelsburg-memorial>

The **Rummelsburg Memorial** recalls the site's history as the largest German workhouse and later its use as a men's prison under the East German Communist regime. 21 panels at the site use selected biographies to tell its history from the mid-nineteenth century to the peaceful revolution of 1989. Opened as a workhouse by the city of Berlin in 1879, the site originally housed beggars, the homeless, and prostitutes who were forced to work the city's fields for free. After Hitler came to power, the workhouse became a municipal collection point for what were called "anti-social" individuals. Among other things, this is where the forced euthanasia of those deemed incurably sick was performed as part of the Action T4 programme. During the post-war communist era, this became the central men's prison in East Berlin, with most of those held here being political prisoners and those who had helped others try to escape to the West. By the 1980s, there were plans in place to turn this into a central prison for all foreign prisoners being held in East Germany. (source: <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/rummelsburg-memorial>)

- **Stasi Museum - Research Centre and Memorial**

Ruschestraße 103 10365 Berlin
Contact: +49 (0)30 - 553 68 54
Internet: <https://www.stasimuseum.de/en/enindex.htm>

The Stasi Museum in the Berlin city centre, has formerly been home of the Ministry of State Security. The building was erected in 1960-61 as the offices of Erich Mielke, Minister for State Security from 1957-1989. In November 1990, the first public exhibition opened in the building, allowing ordinary East Germans in for the first time in decades. The permanent exhibition shows the highly secretive methods used for spying on citizens. The museum also explains how informants are recruited, how the population is controlled, and ordinary people share how surveillance impacts their lives.
(source: <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/stasi-museum>)

Special Interests and Berlin Metropolitan History

- **Museum for Film and television (Deutsche Kinemathek)**

Potsdamer Straße 2 10785 Berlin
Contact: +49 (0)30 - 300 903 0
Internet: www.deutsche-kinemathek.de

The Museum for film and television offers a great variety of exhibitions and media educational services, such as tours, workshops and film talks and screenings. The museum also organizes discussions and trainings for teachers and pupils. Beyond that, you can find several archives, like the *Personal Papers and Company Archives* or the *Photo and Film Archive*. In the television media library, you can re-watch over 10,000 selected broadcasts of German television shows, also the probably most famous ones "Tatort" and "Polizeiruf 110". (source: <https://www.deutsche-kinemathek.de/en/visit/exhibitions>)

- **Film museum Potsdam**

Breite Straße 1a 14467 Potsdam
Contact: +49 (0)331 – 2718112
Internet: <https://www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de/index.php?id=682494cf6e9a156629110001a0a0abd1&sessionLanguage=en>

Built as an orangery in 1685, the Marstall is the home of the Potsdam film museum since 1981. Travelling exhibitions and small special exhibitions in the museum's foyer offer an insight into the world of film to visitors of all ages. A permanent exhibition is dedicated to the long and impressive history of Babelsberg, known for movie film stars and blockbuster. The museum became a department of the now Filmuniversität Babelsberg "Konrad Wolf" in 2011. (source: <https://www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de/Ueber-uns.html>)