



The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, Berlin



Berlin Summer Program 2020

The past, the present and the future

An educational program in Berlin for Los Angeles and L.A. county school teachers, organized and financed by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation in partnership with the Museum of Tolerance as part of the Berlin—LA sister city relationship.

This intensive program from June 21st to June 30th, 2020 is intended to help teachers gain insight into the cultural, political, social and economic factors that cumulatively resulted in the Holocaust, while at the same time bringing them into contact with today's growing Jewish community as part of the vibrant diversity in Berlin, LA's German sister city.

The program includes educational visits to historic sites in and around Berlin that played an important role in the history of the Holocaust. Throughout the week, participants meet with eyewitnesses, survivors, representatives of the Berlin city government and distinguished members of Berlin's contemporary Jewish community and others, giving the program a unique quality all its own.

"Everything and everyone were well prepared, knowledgeable and caring...this trip was the highlight of a lifetime. FANSTATIC!" (Jared B., 2017)



Participants meet with Margot Friedländer,
a Holocaust survivor (June 2019)

The Goals of the Program

This is an educational program created specifically for Los Angeles educators with the following goals in mind.

- To advance knowledge and education in area schools about the Holocaust and present-day Jewish life in Germany;
- To deepen educators' personal knowledge and strengthen their ability to discuss the Holocaust in their classrooms;
- To provide insight into the many cultural, social, political, and economic factors that cumulatively resulted in the Holocaust;
- To reflect on the use and abuse of power and the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations, and nations when confronted with injustice;
- To create an understanding of the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotypes while promoting acceptance of diversity in a pluralistic society;
- To help provide insight into how contemporary societies attempt to come to terms with serious crimes against humanity;
- To promote mutual understanding and contact between Berlin and its American sister city Los Angeles.



Participants visiting the memorial at Bernauer Straße

About the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation

The Checkpoint Charlie Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit German foundation serving the public interest. Following the withdrawal of American forces from Berlin in 1994, the Berlin legislature created the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation, entrusting it with the responsibility to foster German-American relations in Berlin. Since then, the foundation has funded or implemented over 750 German-American projects costing over two million Euros. We not only administer the largest teacher exchange program between Germany and the United States but are also responsible for organizing Berlin's non-governmental activities with its American sister city, Los Angeles.



A Unique Experience

This program is not just distinguished by its goals, but also by how it is planned and run.

The program is organized by a German organization with years of experience in teacher exchanges with the US. You get an insider's perspective, yet still geared to an American audience.

Program organizers have over 25 years of experience organizing high-level educational and cultural programs. No stone goes unturned and no question goes unanswered – although the answer may surprise you.

Participants do not just visit the well-known sites such as Sachsenhausen and the Jewish Museum, but also to lesser-known, sometimes “invisible” places and grassroots memorials.

The program includes many personal meetings with academics, eyewitnesses, and practitioners — survivors and even perpetrators of ethnic injustice. Such meetings will deepen your understanding in ways that simple site visits never could.

The Program in Brief

First day of the program: June 21, 2020 (depart LA June 20)

Last day of the program: June 30, 2020 (leave Berlin July 1)

Number of participants: 6

Accommodation: 3-star hotel, single occupancy.

Costs: Lodging, meals, public transportation and other program costs are provided free of charge. Participants organize and pay for their travel to and from Berlin and pay for incidentals in Berlin.

Eligibility: Open to teachers at public, private and religious schools from L.A. and L.A. county. History and civics teachers preferred. No German language skills necessary.

Application deadline: February 28, 2020



"The visit to the former SA prison and talk with Mrs. N. about her research on her father was incredibly powerful. The perspective from someone who was deceived her whole life is something special, and her personality and her willingness to share left a lasting impact with me." (Grant K., 2015)

Keep in Mind...

This is a highly structured program planned and run to the highest standards.

- The program includes a **great deal of walking**. Participants must be in the physical shape to walk about five miles a day and climb stairs. Air conditioning is uncommon in Germany, but temperatures rarely exceed 85F.
- To make the most of the time available to us, the program is very well-planned. We ask that all participants take part in the entire schedule, be on time, and stick with the group. **Partners are welcome to come to Berlin after the program has ended.**
- Germany is a safe place. The crime rate is much lower than in the US. Anti-Americanism and anti-Semitism are low in Germany. It is to be expected that, at times, the program can be an emotional experience.

Cost and Application Information

The Berlin portion of the program—lodging, meals, transportation and other program costs — are provided free of charge. Participants organize and pay for their travel to and from Berlin and pay for incidentals (souvenirs, phone calls, etc.) in Berlin. Participants must be teachers at Los Angeles area schools who specifically incorporate Holocaust and/or tolerance themes in their lessons and must be physically and emotionally able to complete the program. Participation is limited to six people; interested teachers should apply as soon as possible. Applications must be received by February 28, 2018. Applicants will be informed by March 23rd if they have been accepted. Application forms may be completed and submitted online at www.museumoftolerance.com/BerlinSummerProgram2018, or can be printed and mailed with a resume or CV to:

Liebe Geft, Director
Museum of Tolerance
1399 South Roxbury Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90035

"How can I thank you for such a phenomenal opportunity? I think Otto Frank says it best: 'There are no walls, no bolts, and no locks that anyone can put on your mind.' I believe the instruction I am now better equipped to provide will remove 'walls, bolts, and locks.'" (Tonia L., 2015)

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