

PRESS RELEASE

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUILDING OF THE BERLIN WALL – A CITY REMEMBERS

Projects and Events

Many people still associate 13 August 1961 with ineradicable memories of a time when their lives changed dramatically from one day to the next. Fifty years ago, the building of the Berlin Wall permanently sealed the division of Germany. The brutality of this wall, the city's fragmentation, the people's shock, their stories, but also the hopes on both sides, are the topics of the various events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the building of the Berlin Wall. The Berlin Wall Foundation and the non-profit, state-owned organisation Kulturprojekte Berlin are combining attractions and setting highlights among them.

Numerous tips and programme information can be found online at www.50JahreMauerbau.de, as well as information pertaining to the relevant project partners. The website is available in German and English, with summaries in French and Russian as well.

Presentation of Wall Images

The large-format "Wall Images" are part of the commemoration and show historical black-and-white photographs from the year of the Wall's construction and those that followed. These moving snapshots will be on view from 15 June to 28 August, at eleven sites along the former path of the Berlin Wall.

Standing 3.5 m wide x 2.5 m high, there are a total 19 steles and 23 different images. Each of them tells its own story with regard to the very particular situation of the site (locations listed on the following pages)

The victims and the horrors of the division will be commemorated at the historical site 11 – 13 August 2011, Berlin Wall Memorial in Bernauer Strasse

The main commemorative event will take place on 13 August 2011, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Berlin Wall Memorial in Bernauer Strasse. It is dedicated to the victims of the Wall and the division. They are also remembered with a new outdoor exhibition in the Bernauer Strasse, the second part of which will open on the same day. An ecumenical prayer will be held in the Chapel of Reconciliation, with a wreath laying ceremony at the memorial afterwards. The commemorative ceremony will be followed by a diverse programme across the entire area of the memorial, with interesting interview partners and artistic performances on stage, a contemporary witnesses café as a place for younger and older guests to meet, children's book readings and children's film screenings as well as a dance performance. A "Contemporary History Information Mile" will give visitors a chance to find out more about the work of victims' associations, the border area museums, memorials and many other initiatives and institutions.

There will be an open-air cinema on the grounds of the Berlin Wall Memorial from 11 to 13 August. See www.50JahreMauerbau.de for program details.

Supporting programme to the main commemorative events

The 50th anniversary of the building of the Berlin Wall is the starting point for a large number of events, activities and projects in Berlin, including those by the following project partners:

- "The River Spree as a Prohibited Zone" – Canoe trips along the former Spree border. Appointments in August by request.

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- "Behind the Wall" – Exhibition – in the Orangery at Glienicke Palace. The exhibition presents the history of the Berlin Wall, which divided the "Prussian Arcadia" in Klein Glienicke. Open from 19 June until 3 October 2011
- 1961. ON A SUNDAY IN AUGUST – contemporary witness project, exhibition and supporting programme – in Zwingli Church. From 29 July until 11 September 2011.
- The Spree River Border – Exhibition – East-West stories from Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg. Opening: 5 August 2011, 6 p.m., in the restored double wharf at May-Ayim-Ufer
- Marienfelde Refugee Centre Museum – special exhibition, film presentation, and panel discussion with contemporary witnesses
 - Special exhibition "Out of Sight and Out of Mind – Refugee Camps in West Berlin": opening on 4 August 2011, 7 p.m. Duration: 5 August – 30 December 2011
 - Film presentation and panel discussion with contemporary witnesses: 10 August 2011, 7 p.m.
 - Theatrical performances at train station Friedrichstrasse "Mit der S-Bahn in den Westen" (Taking the S-Bahn to the West), Dates: 13 and 14 August 2011, 11-3 p.m.
- THE DIVIDED TRAIN STATION – Friedrichstrasse border train station and West Berlin enclave / installation in the shopping mall from 5 – 15 August 2011; theatre performances on the 13 and 14 August, 11 – 3 p.m.
- FLICKS AT THE IRON CURTAIN – BERLIN BORDER CINEMAS, 1950 – 1961
Film series and exhibition on the history of the Berlin border cinemas. Planned dates: 12 August – 12 September 2011.
- texts.images.counter-images – open-air performances and exhibition – in and at the Schlesischer Busch border watchtower, Pushkinallee, Grenzläufte e.V., Dates: 12 - 14 August
- "The Joy of Subversion" – Guided Tours – in Köpenicker Strasse and Warschauer Strasse on young people's cultural lives in the double borough around 1961. Dates: 6, 20 and 27 August, 3, 10 and 24 September 2011
- Wall Relay – Relay race and film project – The path of the Berlin Wall as a film set and exhibition site, film screening on 13 August 2011 at the Berlin Wall Memorial in Bernauer Strasse, among others.

Berliners and guests to the city are invited to take part in the diverse range of cultural events marking the fiftieth anniversary of the building of the Berlin Wall. See www.50JahreMauerbau.de for further information.

"50th Anniversary of the Building of the Berlin Wall" (50 Jahre Mauerbau) is a joint project by the Berlin Wall Foundation and the non-profit, state-owned organisation, Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH. The project is sponsored by funds from the Berlin German Class Lottery and the Office of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

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www.kulturprojekte-berlin.de and www.stiftung-berliner-mauer.de