

An exhibition on art in the context of the Cold War is being staged by the German History Museum in Berlin, with works including "Der Übergang" (The Crossing) by A. R. Penck, Aachen, Sammlung Ludwig, Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst

The exhibition *Art of Two Germans / Cold War Cultures*, which continues at the Deutsches Historisches Museum until 10 January 2010, features art from East and West Germany in the context of the Cold War. The works bring to the fore dialogues from artists from the east and west that were not perceived at the time.

www.dhm.de

The exhibition *Scenes and Traces of a Fall. The Berlin Wall in the*

Photographer's Lens, at the Max Liebermann Haus on Pariser Platz (until 6 December 2009) shows how many photographers experienced the fall of the wall and the historical center of Berlin around Potsdamer Platz and Pariser Platz. The photos on display include images of the moving moments when people clambered onto the wall before the Brandenburg Gate and columns of Trabants made their way to West Berlin, honking their horns.

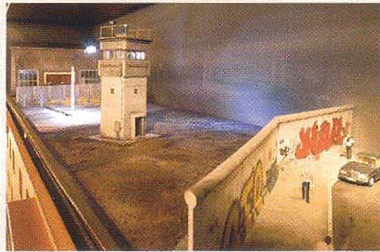
www.brandenburgertor.de

One of Berlin's top visitor attractions after the Brandenburg Gate is the *East Side Gallery* between Ostbahnhof and Oberbaumbrücke. 118 graffiti artists from 21 countries immortalised their works on the history of the division on a 1.3-kilometre length of



the wall spared demolition in 1990, thereby creating the world's largest open-air gallery. Over the course of time, however, a large number of works have been destroyed. Now a large number of the artists have returned to restore their creations. The *East Side Gallery*

The Wall, the Stasi and Everyday Life in the GDR



For 28 years, the Wall was the symbol of the cityscape of a divided Berlin. Today, its significance belongs largely to history. Now, however, it is possible to follow the course of the Wall around the Western part of Berlin along the specially laid out 160km of cycle ways and footpaths. In the inner city the Berlin Wall History Trail (Geschichtsmile Berliner Mauerweg), marked out by a double row of plaster stones, unites a total of 29 historical stations: Memorials to those who died trying to cross the Wall, remaining sections of the Wall and the watchtowers, as well as information boards, information columns along with photographs and texts which together form a historical record of the victims of the division of Germany; of successful escapes into

the West, political agreements and everyday life in the shadow of the Wall. Amongst the sites which visitors who follow the Trail will pass by are the Berlin Wall Memorial Site on the Bernauer Strasse, where the exhibits include one of the watch towers, which has a view of one of the remaining sections of the *death strip* between the former East and West Berlin, as well as other former border posts.

www.berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de

Of the approximately four million people who left the former GDR for the Federal Republic between 1949 and 1990, around one third passed through the emergency refugee reception centre set up in 1953 in Berlin-Marienfelde. Here, they were accommodated, looked after and went through the procedure for obtaining a residence permit for the Federal Republic or West Berlin. A refugee centre museum with a permanent exhibition today uses 900 exhibits including a refugee apartment furnished with original objects to provide detailed insights into the flight and new lives of many former citizens of the GDR.

www.notaufnahmelager-berlin.de

ods of the 1950s to the psychological repression of the final decades of the GDR. There are similar exhibitions in the Information and Documentation Centres of other East German cities including Dresden, Halle, Erfurt, Frankfurt/Oder and Rostock.

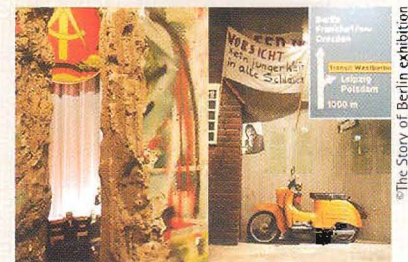
Further nightmarish insights into the surveillance of people in the single party dictatorship of the GDR can be gained at the Stasi Museum in Berlin-Lichtenberg. The exhibition includes surveillance and observation technology such as special observation cameras, bugging devices, concealed infrared projectors for night photography, weaponry containers (so-called rifle cases) and a great deal more besides.

www.stasimuseum.de

Other exhibitions covering all aspects of the division of Germany and the events of 1989/90, the so-called "Wende" or turning point, will be on show at other sites in Berlin, such as the Allies Museum (*Alliiertenmuseum*), the Karlshorst Museum, the exhibition entitled "Story-of-Berlin", the GDR-Museum as well as others. The latter is regarded as Berlin's



An exhibition at the Information and Documentation Centre in the Mauersstrasse shows how the 91,000 employees and 175,000 informants of the Stasi (an abbreviation for the East German State Security Service) kept the entire population of the DDR under surveillance with examples ranging from the violent meth-



The East Side Gallery is the longest surviving section of the original Berlin Wall



will reopen in November to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall, providing an opportunity to admire these newly restored works.

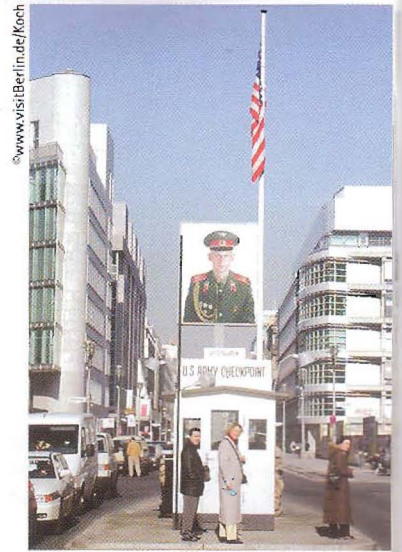
www.eastsidegallery.com

Visitors can also view the famous Checkpoint Charlie border cross-

ing point, close to which is now a privately owned museum devoted to the Wall which has become a tourist magnet. An open-air exhibition on Friedrichstraße – the Checkpoint Gallery – uses 320 panels with large-format photos and bilingual explanations to relate how the former GDR border checkpoint became a symbolic location for the standoff between East and West and for the resolution of this conflict via the Peaceful Revolution. Anyone wishing to make an individual trek along the Wall in search of traces of its history can use a special GPS-controlled multimedia guide which is available in German and in English. Anyone who prefers to find this evidence of the days of the Wall on a guided tour should seek out one of the City's guided tour

agencies. The range of guided tours on offer includes two to three-hour round-trips of the Wall on foot right up to tours of the city in modern buses fitted with monitors showing film and sound documents which authentically recreate the atmosphere of the period. An unusual guided tour entitled *Underground Escapes from Berlin to Berlin* tells the stories of people who escaped from East Berlin in underground tunnels and makes references to the so-called "ghost stations" which were meant to be completely sealed off and the blocking off of the sewer system to prevent escapes.

www.visitBerlin.de



The famous Checkpoint Charlie border post between East and West is now the site of a private Berlin Wall museum.

most interactive museum and showcases life in the former GDR. Visitors can experience history at close quarters in the form of the numerous exhibits and have the opportunity to start up a Trabant car, rummage through a kitchen and take in documentaries in authentic cinema seats.

www.ddr-museum.de

www.story-of-berlin.de

Anyone keen to find out what nightlife was like and how it has changed since the fall of the Wall, will love the new evening experience tour. The *GDR by Night* tour transports visitors back in time to the party scene in East Germany. Highlights include venues that still call to mind the period such as the *Kunstruine Tacheles* art collective, the historical *Clärchens Ballhaus* ballroom with its live bands, the legendary rock and music club *Knaak* and other clubs, bars and places located in the shadow of the wall. Tour participants do not just find out how East Berliners let their hair down before the fall of the wall but also what goes on today after sundown.

www.berlinagenten.com



Numerous Locations Bring Back Memories of the Cold War

Some important chapters in the history of the "Two Germanies" were also written in Potsdam. For example, visitors can today look around the meeting rooms in the Cecilienhof Palace where the Allied leaders met for the Potsdam Conference in 1945, to discuss the critical issues facing post-war Europe. The Glienicke Bridge, which connects the cities of Berlin and Potsdam across the Havel River, was also shut off during the days of the division of Germany, as it formed part of the border between the GDR and West Berlin. During the Cold War, the bridge was the setting for three spectacular secret agent exchanges, and has since provided a wealth of material for stories, books and films in a way which no other bridge in Germany can match.

Starting out from the Glienicke Bridge, guided tours provide insights into the history of the Wall as well as the historical Gardens of Potsdam. The 20th anniversary of the opening of the border will be celebrated on 10th November with a grand public festival on the Glienicke Bridge. Not far from Glienicke Bridge you find Villa Schöningen. As part of the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall, November will

see the opening of a new museum in this villa with a permanent exhibition on its history and that of the Glienicke Bridge, and thus also the history of Germany's division and reunification. North of Potsdam, on Pfingstberg mountain, Schloss Belvedere, which has been completely restored, is a further trip destination. In GDR days, this area was out of bounds due to its wonderful but undesirable views of the former border as well as all of Potsdam and its surroundings, extending right into Berlin. Torn from its seclusion, Schloss Belvedere is now the setting for changing exhibitions of various kinds.

Glienicke Bridge was the site of many agent exchanges between East and West, both in reality and in films.



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