

Persinformatie

20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall

History with a domino effect: events to mark 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall

Germany celebrates with international guests

Frankfurt am Main, 31 August 2009 – The 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall is nearing its culmination: on 9 November 1989 the border crossings between East and West Germany were opened – 20 years on, a reunified Germany is celebrating the collapse of the Iron Curtain with visitors from around the world.

Berlin is marking the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall with a grand Festival of Freedom centred around the Brandenburg Gate. A domino rally symbolising the collapse of the infamous barrier will be the highlight of the event. Thousands of young people are designing oversized dominoes, which from 7 November will form a two kilometre gallery along the former course of the Berlin Wall between the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate and Potsdamer Platz. On the evening of 9 November, the dominoes will be sent tumbling down with the help of high-profile artists, politicians and representatives from the cultural community. The Festival of Freedom also features an open-air concert with the Berlin State Orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim (www.mauerfall09.de).

Festival of Freedom

From 1 to 4 October – embracing German Unity Day on October 3 – the Berliner Festspiele arts company and the legendary French street theatre company Royal de Luxe are teaming up to present a spectacle of mammoth proportions marking 20 years since the fall of the Wall. Two giant puppets, extending up to 15 metres above the city's streets, will act out a fairytale reunion after a long separation. These monumental marionettes are set to stir up the emotions of 1989 as they pass significant locations such as the Brandenburg Gate, Unter den Linden and Potsdamer Platz. (www.riesen-in-berlin.de).

*Giant
puppets in
Germany's
capital*

The Festival of Lights in Leipzig on 9 October 2009 remembers the protests held in the city that helped pave the way for the fall of the Berlin Wall: on 9 October 1989, some 70,000 people gathered together in Leipzig to stage a peaceful demonstration – despite the threat of being fired upon by police. 20 years on, a themed trail will trace the route of the historic protest march in the darkened city centre. The 21 "art stations" along the way have been conceived by creative talents in the form of light, audio and video installations to commemorate the demonstration. The route is divided into sections with the themes "insecurity", "breakthrough", "passage to freedom" and "a new dawn". Separate contributions from Frankfurt, Hannover, Lyon, Krakow, Brno and Travník are lined up to highlight the wider European dimension of autumn '89. The musical programme for the Festival of Lights features a choir, orchestra and soloists under the direction of Jürgen Wolf, the cantor of St. Nicholas' Church (www.ltm-leipzig.de).

*Leipzig
Festival of
Lights*

From 31 October to 8 November 2009, the Goethe Institute is staging a European theatre festival in Mülheim an der Ruhr (formerly in West Germany) and Dresden (formerly in East Germany) to celebrate the anniversary of 1989. Six plays linked by the theme "After the Fall" reflect the varying perceptions and consequences of these historic events across Europe and provide an insight into contrasting styles of theatre (www.goethe.de).

*European
theatre
festival in
Dresden and
Mülheim an
der Ruhr*

During the Cold War, Glienicke Bridge between Potsdam and Berlin was the setting for tense exchanges of captured spies between East and West. For the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, people from all over Germany will be celebrating in style there on 10 November for the Fest der Freude (festival of joy). The bridge – in the heartland of cultural Brandenburg – will be transformed into a venue for comedy, film, dance and fireworks, bathing the Havel river in a sea of light (www.politische-bildung-brandenburg.de).

*Celebration
of peace on
Glienicke
Bridge*

You can find more information about Destination Germany at: www.germany-tourism.de.