

**BERLIN**

**Berlin** is the capital city and one of sixteen states of **Germany**, located in northeastern.

**Berlin** is a major center of culture, politics, media, and science in Europe. Its economy is primarily based on the service sector, encompassing a diverse range of creative industries, media corporations, environmental services, congress and convention venues. The city serves as a continental hub for air and rail transport, and is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the EU. Other industries include traffic engineering, optoelectronics, information technology, vehicle manufacturing, biomedical engineering, and biotechnology.



**Brandenburg Gate** : is a former city gate and one of the main symbols of **Berlin** and **Germany**. It is located west of the city center at the intersection of **Unter den Linden** and **Ebertstraße**, immediately west of the Pariser Platz. It is the only remaining gate of a series through which one formerly entered Berlin. One block to the north stands the **Reichstag**. The gate is the monumental entry to Unter den Linden, the renowned boulevard of linden trees which formerly led directly to the city palace of the Prussian monarchs. It was commissioned by King Frederick William II of Prussia as a sign of peace and built by Carl Gotthard Langhans from 1788 to 1791. The Brandenburg Gate was restored from 2000 to 2002 by the Stiftung Denkmalschutz Berlin.

**Berlin Cathedral** : (Berliner Dom) is the colloquial naming of the Evangelical Oberpfarr- und Domkirche in Berlin. It is the parish church of the Evangelical congregation Gemeinde der Oberpfarr- und Domkirche zu Berlin, a member of the umbrella organisation Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia. Its present building is located on Museum Island in the Mitte borough. The **Berlin** Cathedral had never been a cathedral in the actual sense of that term, since Berlin, let alone this Cathedral, had never been the seat of a Catholic bishop. When in 1930 the Holy See for the first time established a Catholic diocese of Berlin, the Berlin Cathedral had long been a Protestant church. St. Hedwig's Cathedral serves as seat of Berlin's Metropolitan bishop. Function and title of bishop, as used in the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg (under this name 1945-2003), comprise the Protestant bishop's regular preaching in St. Mary's Church, Berlin, being the bishop's domicile church with Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church being the second seat.

**Potsdamer Platz**: is an important public square and traffic intersection in the centre of Berlin, lying about one kilometre south of the **Brandenburg Gate** and the Reichstag (German Parliament Building), and close to the southeast corner of the **Tiergarten park**.

**Schloss Bellevue:** is a palace in the centre of **Berlin**. It is situated on the north edge of the Tiergarten park, beside the Spree, near the Berlin Victory Column. It has been the principal residence of the German President since 1994. Its name derives from its beautiful view over the **Spree**.

Schloss Bellevue was built in 1786 for Prince Ferdinand of Prussia, the younger brother of King Frederick II of Prussia, and was designed by architect Philipp Daniel Boumann as a summer residence, on the site of a house built in 1743 by Knobelsdorff. It was the first Neoclassical building in Germany, and has Corinthian columns, with wings on either side (the "ladies' wing" and the "Spree wing"). It is surrounded by a park covering 20 hectares.



**The Berlin Wall:** was a physical barrier separating West Berlin from the German Democratic Republic (GDR) (East Germany), including East Berlin. The longer inner German border demarcated the border between East and West Germany. Both borders came to symbolize the Iron Curtain between Western Europe and the Eastern Bloc.

The wall separated East Germany from West Germany for more than a quarter-century, from the day construction began on 13 August 1961 until the Wall was opened on 9 November 1989. The fall of the Berlin Wall started in **Hungary**, where a reformist government started (May 2) to dismantle the Iron Curtain.

When the East German government announced on 9 November 1989, after several weeks of civil unrest, that all GDR citizens could visit West Germany and West Berlin, crowds of East Germans climbed onto and crossed the wall, joined by West Germans on the other side in a celebratory atmosphere. Over the next few weeks, parts of the wall were chipped away by a euphoric public and by souvenir hunters; industrial equipment was later used to remove almost all of the rest of it.

The fall of the **Berlin** Wall paved the way for **German** reunification, which was formally concluded on 3 October 1990.

**Museum Island:** is the name of the northern half of the Spreeinsel, an island in the **Spree river** in the centre of the city.

The island received its name for several internationally renowned museums that now occupy all of the island's northern half (originally a residential area dedicated to "art and science" by King Frederick William IV of Prussia in 1841). Constructed under several Prussian kings, their collections of art and archeology were turned into a public foundation after 1918, the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz which maintains the collections and museums today.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

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