



VISIT BERLIN

# BERLIN AND ITS DIVISION FROM 1961 - 1989

As a consequence of Nazi Germany's defeat in World War II in May 1945 the four Allies Soviet Union, United States, Great Britain and France divided Germany into four military occupation zones which splitted later the country into West- and East-Germany.

Germany's capital Berlin was in East-Germany hence in the zone of the Soviet Union. Nevertheless the Western Allies wanted as well a part of Berlin and occupied West Berlin while East Berlin was occupied by Soviet Union. Due to this fact West Berlin was surrounded by East German territory like an island. Therefore Berlin's history after 1945 is largely influenced by its special division since 1945 (see graphic above).

This bulletin takes a look on Berlin's division from 1961 until 1989 and its unique situation which arose from the division.



Checkpoint Charlie in the center of Berlin at Friedrichstraße

**(continued)** Definitely the largest impact of Berlin's division was the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 between West and East Berlin. The government of East-Germany decided to build the wall because many East-Germans were immigrating to West-Germany for economical reasons.



Wall dividing a neighbourhood

From that point on it was not possible for East-Germans to visit the other side of the city. West-Germans were usually only allowed to go to East Berlin for less than one day. One of the rare checkpoints along the wall was Checkpoint Charlie which was directly in the city center.

Nowadays it is really hard to imagine that the wall went through the whole city dividing streets, neighborhoods and families from one day to another.



Street art on the East Side Gallery today

As a consequence of the peaceful demonstrations in East Berlin in November 1989 the government of East Germany opened the Wall which ended the division of the city.

If you visit Berlin you can still see some remains like the famous East Side Gallery along the river Spree.





People sitting on the wall in front of the Brandenburg Gate after the fall of the Berlin wall in November 1989



Across the city you can find stones showing the pathway of the wall.

## Museums and sights

If you come to Berlin you can visit several Museums about the wall.

In the following you can find the most visited museums and sights:

- Museum at Checkpoint Charlie
- Berlin Wall Memorial
- Allied Museum
- East Side Gallery
- Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial

## Berlin at a glance

Germany's Capital has nowadays around 3.5 Millions inhabitants on 892 sqkm and is divided into 12 districts.

The unemployment rate amounts to 9.6%. Berlin's most important industries are life sciences, transportation, information and communication technologies, media and music, advertising and design.





Arrival in Rychnov



Me last year in Jerusalem, Israel

## About the author

I am Boris and I was born and raised in Berlin, Germany. After school I studied Business Administration and worked over four years as a consultant in finance and accounting. Now I take a break from my job to gather experiences outside the business world. I consider that working as a volunteer for OKO is a great chance to develop my teaching skills and get to know a completely new country and culture.

In my freetime I like to read (at the moment "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoi), to travel (I visited over 20 countries), to play chess (not very good), to cook (my specialty is Italian Pasta Napoli), to go to gym and of course to see my friends. The last country I visited was Israel one year ago where I fell in love with hiking. Therefore I would be very thankful to get tips about good hiking spots in Czech.