



# BERLIN, GERMANY HISTORIC TRAIL



# FIELD GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Field Guide contains information on the Berlin Historical Trail designed by members of the former Troop 152 of Berlin. The guide is intended to be a starting point in your endeavor to learn about the history of the sites on the trail. Remember, this may be the only time your Scouts visit Berlin in their life so make it a great time!

While TAC tries to update these Field Guides when possible, it may be several years before the next revision. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to [Admin@tac-bsa.org](mailto:Admin@tac-bsa.org) or post them on the TAC Nation Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27951084309/>.

This guide can be printed as a 5½ x 4¼ inch pamphlet or read on a tablet or smart phone.



Front Cover: Alexanderplatz

Front Cover Inset: Brandenberg Tor



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# GETTING PREPARED

Just like with any hike (or any activity in Scouting), the Historic Trail program starts with **Being Prepared**.

1. Review this Field Guide in detail.
2. Check local conditions and weather.
3. Study and Practice with the map and compass.
4. Pack rain gear and other weather-appropriate gear.
5. Take plenty of water.
6. Make sure socks and hiking shoes or boots fit correctly and are broken in.
7. Pack a first aid kit, "just in case."
8. Discuss the day's activities, so there are no surprises; discuss safe hiking.
9. Ensure Two-Deep Leadership at all times.
10. Check the Quick Quiz and keep it with you on the trail.



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# WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL?

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Much has happened in Berlin since the original Berlin Historic Trail, which was established by Troop 152 of Berlin. The Wall came down after 28 years, in November 1989, there are no more military installations since 1994, and you no longer need Flag Orders to drive through the “corridor” (Berlin-Helmstedt Autobahn, which entered East German territory at the town of Helmstedt (Checkpoint Alpha) and connected to Berlin at Dreilinden (Checkpoint Bravo) in south-western Berlin (where you can still see a few remains of the checkpoints) or take the Duty Train from Frankfurt.

Therefore, it was necessary to update and make a few changes to the existing Berlin Historic Trail! We have decided to divide the hike into two sections. Berlin has a lot to offer so make sure that you stop and “smell the roses” along the way. There are many museums and memorials along the way, each one has something special to offer. If we would include them all in this guide, it would be 50 pages at least, so we have just mentioned a few. Both hikes have many eating possibilities along the way. For the most part you won’t go more than a kilometer or two without passing a restaurant, cafe or beer garden.



# OUTER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

## Outer Berlin Historic Trail – Wansee

### Where and How to Start

The first hike originally started in Wansee at the Boy Scout wall. If you are driving, you can park on Potsdamer Chaussee and walk up Stahnsdorfer Damm. If you are using public transportation, take the S1 to Wanssee. When exiting the train station, go left down Kronprinzessinenweg, cross left onto Potsdamer Chaussee and take a right on Stahnsdorfer Damm. It is now a 2 mile hike through the woods (you will be walking past the old Rose Range shooting range and a small restaurant on your right). Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> trail to the left and keep walking until you come to a forking of the path. To your left, you will come to where the original Berlin Historic Trail started from! Now return to the corner of Potsdamer Chaussee and Kronprinzessinenweg to begin the rest of the hike. At the end of the hike you can take the 316 bus back to where the hike started.

### Distance and Time

This hike measures about 10 km in distance. Experienced adult hikers completed the route in about two hours, stopping at each location to view the site. Younger and less-experienced hikers, and those who wish to take more time, will take longer, perhaps a half-day or more. Take the time to learn and enjoy the hike. The goal is the trail, not the finish.



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## START – Wansee

After doing the 2 mile segment on the previous page, the trail begins where Potsdamer Chaussee turns into Königstraße at the intersection of Kronprinzessinnenweg..

**52°25'12.5"N 13°10'30.9"E – Kronprinzessinnenweg 260, 14109 Berlin**

*Head west on Königstraße, go over the Wannsee Bridge and then take a right going down Am Grossen Wannsee to house number 56-58.*

## Checkpoint #2 – Wansee Conference House

You have reached the **house** where the infamous Wannsee Conference was held. The Wannsee Conference was a meeting, lasting only about ninety minutes, of senior officials of the German Nazi regime, held in Berlin-Wannsee on 20 January 1942. The purpose of the conference was to inform administrative leaders of Departments responsible for various policies relating to Jews, that Reinhardt Heydrich had been appointed as the chief executor of the "Final solution of the Jewish question". In the course of the meeting, Heydrich presented a plan, presumably approved by Adolf Hitler, for the deportation of the Jewish population of Europe and French North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia) to German-occupied areas in eastern Europe, and the use of the Jews fit for labor on road-building projects, in the course of which they would eventually die, the surviving remnant to be annihilated after completion of the projects. Instead, as Soviet forces gradually pushed back the German lines, most of the Jews of German-occupied Europe were sent to extermination or concentration camps, or killed where they lived. As a result of the efforts of historian Joseph Wulf, the Wannsee House, where the conference was held, is now a Holocaust Memorial. This museum is open daily 10:00-18:00 and the admission is free.

**52°25'56.6"N 13°09'52.8"E – Am Großen Wannsee 56-58, 14109 Berlin**

*From here continue down Am Grossen Wansee till the street turns left. Here, take the walkway to the right and walk to the Grosse Löwe (Big Lion).*



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## Checkpoint #3 – Pfauninsel (Peacock Island)

Follow the path down the hill and around the corner. Continue to follow this path along the water until you get to the **Pfauninsel (Peacock Island)**. This park and small castle were built for Friedrich Wilhelm II and his mistress Wilhelmine Encke in 1795. If you would like to visit the island you can take the small ferry across the water. The walk around the island is about 4.4 KM (2.7 miles). There is a small charge for taking the ferry to the island.

**52°25'41.5"N 13°07'27.0"E – Pfaueninselchaussee 100, 14109 Berlin**

*Continue up the hill from here, staying close to the water. Up the hill is the St. Peter und Paul auf Nikolskoe.*

## Checkpoint #4 – St. Peter und Paul auf Nikolskoe

This **church** was built between 1834 and 1837 by King Friedrich Wilhelm III for the residents of Peacock Island. There is a nice restaurant beside it on top of the hill.

**52°25'31.7"N 13°07'02.6"E – Nikolskoer Weg 17, 14109 Berlin**

*Continuing along the water, you will soon be able to see the Sacrower Heilandskirche on the other side of the river.*

## Checkpoint #5 – Sacrower Heilandskirche

This little **church** was built by Friedrich Wilhelm IV. When the wall went up in Berlin the church was in the way and was badly damaged.

**52°25'25.4"N 13°06'00.5"E – Fährstraße, 14469 Potsdam**

*Continuing along the water, you have almost made it to the end. You are now approaching Schloss Glienicke.*



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## Checkpoint #6 – Schloss Glienicke

The **palace** was built in 1825 for Prince Karl of Prussia. The building, originally merely a cottage, was turned into a summer palace in the late Neoclassical style. Particularly striking are two golden lion statues in front of the frontage. It is now part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**52°24'53.4"N 13°05'37.1"E – Königstraße 36, 14109 Berlin**

*Look west from the Schloss and you will see the final checkpoint, the Glienicker Bridge.*

## End Checkpoint #7 – Glienicker Bridge

The **Glienicker Bridge** was used three times to exchange captured spies during the Cold War by the Soviet Union and the United States. The first prisoner exchange between the superpowers took place on February 10, 1962. The United States released the noted Russian spy Colonel Rudolf Ivanovich Abel in exchange for pilot Francis Gary Powers, who was captured by the USSR following the U-2 Crises of 1960. The second exchange on June 12, 1985 was a hurriedly arranged swap of 23 American agents held in Eastern Europe for four Soviet agents arrested in the West. The final exchange was also the most public. On February 11, 1986 the human rights campaigner and political prisoner Anatoly Sharansky and three other Western agents were exchanged for Karl Koecher and four other Eastern agents.

**52°24'48.5"N 13°05'28.4"E – Glienicker Brücke, Königstraße, 14467 Berlin**

*You can now take Bus 316 back to the start of Hike # 1 or you can continue to the Cecilienhof if you have not had enough history!*



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## Optional Checkpoint #8 – Cecilienhof

Take a right on Schwanenallee and straight ahead to **Cecilienhof**, which was the home of Crown Prince Wilhelm Hohenzollern, where the Potsdam Conference (lasting from 17 July—2 August 1945) was held by leaders of the "Big Three" – the United States, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain to confer about and clarify how war-torn Europe would be handled. The goals also included establishment of post-war order, peace treaty issues, and countering the effects of war. The Allies agreed to and adopted the **Berlin Conference** (formal title of the **Potsdam Agreement**) which established the legal framework for the occupation of Germany in the wake of World War II. According to the agreement, Germany would be formally under the ruling of the four major wartime Allies — the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and the Soviet Union — until a German government acceptable to them all could be reconstituted. Germany, taken in its borders of 1937, would be reduced by most of what used to be considered *Eastern Germany* and the remaining territory would be divided into four zones, each administered by one of the allies. Berlin, though surrounded by the Soviet zone of occupation – established in most of Middle Germany –, would be similarly divided, with the western allies occupying an enclave consisting of the western parts of the city. According to the agreement, the occupation of Berlin would end only as a result of a quadripartite agreement. The Western allies were guaranteed three air corridors to their sectors of Berlin, and the Soviets also informally allowed road and rail access between West Berlin and the western parts of Germany. At first, this arrangement was officially a temporary administrative expedient, and all parties declared that Germany and Berlin would soon be reunited. However, as the relations between the western allies and the Soviet Union soured and the Cold War began, the joint administration of Germany and Berlin broke down. Soon Soviet-occupied Berlin and western-occupied Berlin had entirely separate city administrations. In 1948, the Soviets tried to force the issue and expel the western allies from Berlin by imposing a land blockade on the western sectors (known as the Berlin Blockade). The west responded by using its guaranteed air corridors to resupply their part of the city in what became known as the Berlin Airlift. In May 1949, the Soviets lifted their blockade, and the future of West Berlin as a separate jurisdiction was ensured. By the end of that year, two new states had been created out of occupied Germany — the **Federal Republic of Germany** (West Germany) in the West and the **German Democratic Republic** (GDR) in the East — with West Berlin an enclave surrounded by, but not part of, the latter.

52°25'09.3"N 13°04'16.4"E – Im Neuen Garten 11, 14469 Potsdam



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# INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

## Inner Berlin Historic Trail – Downtown Berlin

### Where and How to Start

The second hike starts at John F Kennedy Platz by the Rathaus Schöneberg. To get there, take the S bahn to Schöneberg and take one of the following busses to Rathaus Schöneberg (M46,187,204).

### Distance and Time

This hike measures about 11 km in distance. Experienced adult hikers completed the route in about three hours, stopping at each location to view the site. Younger and less-experienced hikers, and those who wish to take more time, will take longer, perhaps a half-day or more. Take the time to learn and enjoy the hike. The goal is the trail, not the finish.



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## START – Rauthaus Schöneberg

With Berlin divided after World War II, the Rote Rathaus (Red City Hall), the traditional seat of the Berlin government, became off limits to West Berlin. As a “temporary” measure, the **Rathaus Schöneberg** became the city hall for West Berlin and is the location where U.S. President John-F.-Kennedy held his famous speech in June 1963, proclaiming “Ich bin ein Berliner!” On 25 November 1963, three days after his assassination, the square was renamed John-F.-Kennedy-Platz. It is also the permanent home to an exhibition of the life of Willy Brandt (1913-1992), Mayor of West Berlin (1957-66) and Chancellor of the Federal Republic of West Germany (1969-74.) The **Freiheitsglocke (Freedom or Liberty Bell)**, contained in the clock tower, is a copy of the famous Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. The bell, inscribed “That this world, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom”, was commissioned by the National Committee for a Free Europe and was presented on October 24, 1950 by General Lucius D. Clay to the people of Berlin as a gift from the people of the United States.

**52°29'05.7"N 13°20'40.7"E – John-F.-Kennedy-Platz 1, 10825 Berlin**

*Continue your hike by walking down Martin-Luther-straße, take the street which forks to the left (Dominicus straße), and turn left onto Hauptstraße.*

## Checkpoint #2 – Unseren Gefallen Kammeraden

Remaining on the left side of the street, you will come to several memorials just past the pink church, the first being **Unseren Gefallen Kammeraden (Our Fallen Comrades)** This statue is a memorial to those killed in World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939-1945).

**52°28'58.9"N 13°20'59.6"E – Hauptstraße 45, 10827 Berlin**

*Continue on Hauptstraße just past Akazienstraße and cross to the small triangular Platz in the center of the intersection, which is **Kaiser-Wilhelm-Platz**.*



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## Checkpoint #3 – Kaiser Wilhelm Platz

The sign on this small **platz** is a reminder of the terrible events of the concentration camps. The words “**Ort des Schreckens, die wir niemals vergessen dürfen**” translate to “**Terrible places, which should never be forgotten**”.

**52°29'11.5"N 13°21'25.4"E – Kaiser-Wilhelm-Platz 1-4, 10827 Berlin**

Upon leaving *Kaiser-Wilhelm-Platz*, proceed onto *Kolonnenstraße* to the second railroad bridge, which is the **Kolonnenbrücke**.

## Checkpoint #4 – Kolonnenbrücke

The railroad tracks under this **bridge** once led to the Anhalter Bahnhof. Built over a period of five years (1875-1880), it was one of many large and impressive Bahnhofs (train stations) built during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the German capital, from which trains departed to all parts of Europe. All the old stations were badly damaged in World War II and only the impressive ruined fragment of the original station remains.

**52°29'06.2"N 13°22'17.0"E – Kolonnenstraße 30, 10829 Berlin**

Continue on Dudenstraße until you come to *Platz der Luftbrücke* and the **Berlin Airlift Memorial** in Berlin-Tempelhof.



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## Checkpoint #5 – Berlin Airlift Memorial

The monument displays the names of the 39 British and 31 U.S.-American pilots who lost their lives during this historical effort.

Dedicated on July 10, 1951, it commemorates the 1948-1949 air service that provided Berlin with fuel, food, clothing, and other necessities of life during the blockade of land access to Berlin by the Soviet Union. The concrete memorial consists of three prongs curving up into the sky, symbolizing the three air corridors used by the allied aircraft. The Berlin Airlift, using C-47's and later, C-54's continued June 28, 1948 thru October 9, 1949 with a total of 1383 different planes participating. Toward the end of the airlift, an Allied aircraft was landing in Berlin on the average of one per minute. It should be noted that during the night of April 15/16, 1949, a plane landed every 22 seconds. Similar monuments can be found at the military airfield Wietzenbruch near the former RAF Celle and at the Frankfurt International Airport near the former Rhein-Main AB.

**52°29'02.9"N 13°23'13.2"E – Platz der Luftbrücke 2, 12101 Berlin**

*Look southeast from the memorial and you will see the next checkpoint, the Tempelhof Central Airport.*

## Checkpoint #6 – Tempelhof Central Airport

The site of the airport was originally Knights Templar land in medieval Berlin and from this beginning came the name Tempelhof. Later, the site was used as a parade field by Prussian forces, and by unified German forces from 1720 to the start of World War I. In 1909, Frenchman Armand Zipfel made the first flight demonstration in **Tempelhof**, followed by Orville Wright later that same year. **Tempelhof** was first officially designated as an airport on October 8, 1923. Lufthansa was founded in **Tempelhof** on January 6, 1926. The old terminal, originally constructed in 1927, received politicians and celebrities from around the world during the 1930s. As part of Albert Speer's plan for the reconstruction of Berlin during the Nazi era, Prof Ernst Sagebiel was ordered to replace the old terminal with a new terminal building in 1934. (continued on next page)



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## Checkpoint #6 – Templehof Central Airport (cont.)

(cont.) The airport halls and the neighboring buildings, intended to become the gateway to Europe, are still known as the largest built entities worldwide, and have been described by British architect Sir Norman Foster as "the mother of all airports". In addition to the airlift operations, American engineers constructed a new 6,000-ft runway at Tempelhof between July and September 1948 and another between September and October 1948 to accommodate the expanding requirements of the airlift. As a forerunner of today's modern airports, the building was designed with many unique features including giant arc-shaped hangars for aircraft parking and semicircular hangars, resembling an eagle in flight.

In 1971 one of the pilots during the Berlin Airlift, and the original Candy Bomber, Gail Halvorsen, returned to Berlin as the commander of Tempelhof airbase. The ending of the Cold War and German Reunification opened Tempelhof for non-allied air traffic on October 3, 1990. American air and land forces in Berlin were deactivated in a ceremony on the Four Ring Parade field at Tempelhof in accordance with the Treaty on the Final Settlement with respect to Germany. The Western Allies returned a united city of Berlin to the unified German government. The U.S. Army closed its Berlin Army Aviation Detachment at TCA in August 1994, ending a 49-year American military presence in Berlin. Tempelhof finally shut down in 2008, leaving Tegel and Schönefeld as the commercial airports for Berlin. A new Boeing C17A Globemaster III transport plane, Serial 96-0006, was christened by U.S. President Bill Clinton as the "Spirit of Berlin" at Tempelhof on May 14, 1998.

**52°28'57.9"N 13°23'19.1"E – Platz der Luftbrücke 5, 12101 Berlin**

*As you have now completed the West part of Hike #2, you need to take the U6 (direction Alt-Tegel) from Platz der Luftbrücke to Oranienburger Tor (7 stops) in order to continue with the East part.*



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## START – Oranienberger Tor Station

These places were not easy to visit during the time of the Berlin Wall, a barrier separating West Berlin from East Berlin and the rest of East Germany, as it required special permits! There were eight border crossings between East and West Berlin, allowing visits by West Berliners, West Germans, western foreigners and Allied personnel into East Berlin, as well as visits of East German citizens into West Berlin, provided they held the necessary permit. Those crossings were restricted according to which nationality was allowed to use it (East Germans, West Germans, West Berliners, other countries). The most famous was Friedrichstraße (Checkpoint Charlie), which was restricted to Allied personnel and non-German citizens.

**52°31'34.2"N 13°23'14.3"E – Friedrichstraße 125, 10117 Berlin**

Once exiting the *Oranienburger Tor* train station, take a right on Oranienburger Straße.

## Checkpoint #7 – Jewish Synagogue

The street itself is dominated by the golden dome of the **Jewish Synagogue**. Down some of the many side streets there is still ample evidence of what was once a thriving Jewish community and of its destruction by the Nazi regime. It now hosts changing exhibitions and one permanent exhibition, "Open ye the gates – The New Synagogue 1866–1995", which recounts the history of the synagogue itself and the associated history of Jewish life in Berlin. The building also contains an extensive archive of Jewish history. In the large nave and in the galleries, there were seats for up to 3000 worshippers. A large, golden dome, which could be seen from far away, crowned the building; the building's façade, with its magnificent ornamented brickwork, is flanked by two towers which also boast golden domes. On the "Night of Broken Glass" in 1939, the spirited action of the chief of the local police precinct prevented the infliction of serious damage on the synagogue. In 1943, the building was severely damaged in air raids, and in 1958 the main chamber of the synagogue was demolished. (continued on next page)



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## Checkpoint #7 – Jewish Synagogue (cont.)

(cont.) The foundation stone of the reconstructed building was laid on 9 November 1988, exactly 50 years after the "Night of Broken Glass", and the New Synagogue was rededicated in 1995. The actual synagogue chamber was not reconstructed. On the open space which remains, and which can be viewed as part of a guided tour, eight marble pillars mark the site of the ark according to the original foundations, conveying the dimensions of the original synagogue and the extent of the loss.

**52°31'29.1"N 13°23'38.7"E – Oranienburger Str. 28-30, 10117 Berlin**

*Now take a right onto Monbijoustraße and you will be passing by Museum Island.*

## Checkpoint #8 – Museum Island

Museums on the island include the Bode Museum, Pergamon Museum, the National Gallery, Altes und Neues Museum as well as the Lustgarten.

**52°31'19.4"N 13°23'38.1"E – Monbijoustraße 3, 10117 Berlin**

*Make a left on Am Kupfergraben and you will now be able to see our next point on the trail as seen from the Lustgarten.*

## Checkpoint #9 – Berliner Dom

The **Berliner Dom** belongs to the most impressive buildings in the historic middle of Berlin. After its extensive restoration from 1974 to 2002, the grandiose Dom shines again. The Dom was built after the Petersdom in Rome and because it is so richly ornamented, it is considered a typical impressive building during the reign of Wilhelm II. Julius Raschdorff was in charge of the construction of the Berliner Dom from 1894 to 1905.

**52°31'08.0"N 13°24'01.3"E – Am Lustgarten, 10178 Berlin**

*Take a left down Karl-Liebknechtstraße towards the Alexanderplatz.*



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## Checkpoint #10 – Alexanderplatz

Originally, this square lay just beyond the gates to the city. Around 1700 it was the site of a livestock market, earning it the name **Ochsenplatz** (Oxen Square). Later, it was also used as a wool market and as a parade ground. It received its current name on the occasion of the visit of Czar Alexander II in 1805. At the turn of last century, "Alex" gradually lost its marketplace character, and, with the establishment of a regional train station there in 1882, it became an important transport intersection and was almost completely destroyed in the war.

Its present appearance dates from the construction of the East German city center from 1966–71. This included the former Centrum department store, the Alex Passages, which connected with it and the 123m-high hotel building. The square is also home to the World Time Clock, and the Fountain of International Friendship, both of which were erected in 1969. Following German reunification, the Alexanderplatz has undergone a gradual process of change with many of the surrounding buildings being renovated. Despite the construction of a tram line it has retained its socialist character, including the much-graffitied Fountain of Friendship between Peoples (Brunnen der Völkerfreundschaft).

The square is dominated by **Fernsehturm** (TV Tower), was constructed between 1965 and 1969 by the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) administration who intended it as a symbol of Berlin, which it remains today, as it is easily visible throughout the central and some suburban districts of Berlin. It is the highest building in the city, and one of Berlin's biggest attractions. The **Fernsehturm** is the fourth tallest freestanding structure in Europe, after Moscow's Ostankino Tower, the Kiev TV Tower and the Riga Radio and TV Tower. Their restaurant, which rotates once every 30 minutes, is a few meters above the visitors platform (originally it turned once per hour; the speed was later doubled) and the viewing platform is at a height of 203 meters providing a unique panoramic view of the entire city which can reach 42 km (26 miles) on a clear day and should not be missed! (continued on next page)



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## Checkpoint #10 – Alexanderplatz (cont.)

(cont.) When the sun shines on the Fernsehturm's tiled stainless steel dome, the reflection usually appears in the form of a cross. This effect was neither predicted nor desired by the planners. As a jibe against the atheist foundations of the Communist government, and the ongoing suppression of church institutions in East Germany, Berliners immediately named the luminous cross *Rache des Papstes*, or "Pope's Revenge". This phenomenon was also mentioned by US President Ronald Reagan in his "Tear Down this Wall" speech on 12 June 1987.

**52°31'13.3"N 13°24'30.2"E – Panoramastraße 1A, 10178 Berlin**

*Now continue back down Grunerstraße to reach the next stop.*

## Checkpoint #11 – Berliner Rathaus

The **Berliner Rathaus** (City Hall) – seat of government for the Mayor of Berlin – is located somewhat towards the back of the square and is known locally as the **Rotes Rathaus** (Red Town Hall) not because of any political tendencies but because of its red brick façade! The architecture of the tower is reminiscent of the bell tower of the cathedral in the French city of Laon. In 1879, the exterior was decorated with the "Stony Chronicle", a terracotta frieze on the first floor (36 plates, each 6m in length) showing scenes from the history of Berlin. The building was seriously damaged in the Second World War; following its reconstruction from 1951–58, it became the seat of the East Berlin magistrate, while the city council of the West resided in the town hall in the district of Schöneberg. After reunification, the reigning mayor moved back to Berlin Town Hall. In front of the building there is a sculpture by Fritz Kremer (1958), which symbolizes Berliners rebuilding their city.

**52°31'07.2"N 13°24'29.0"E – Rathausstraße 15, 10178 Berlin**

*Across the street, is our next checkpoint, the **Nikolaiviertel**.*



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## Checkpoint #12 – Nikolaiviertal

This is Berlin as it looked in the Middle Ages – Before the Second World War, the quarter around the **Nikolaikirche** was characterized by narrow streets, inns, shops, courtyards and craftsmen's workshops. Artists including Kleist, Hauptmann, Ibsen, Casanova, Strindberg and Lessing lived or lodged here. The quarter was almost completely destroyed during air raids in 1944 and left as a wasteland. The ruins were only reconstructed from 1981–87, in the run-up to the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city, under the supervision of the architect Günter Stahn. Take a stroll through the narrow alleyways and don't fail to visit the Nikolaikirche (Church) and the Knoblauchhaus. The curved frontage of the Ephraim Palace is generally regarded as the most beautiful corner in the City. Walking back up along the Spreeufer, take a left on Rathausstraße (extension of Werderscher Markt , then Französische straße) where you will cross one of Berlin's oldest Schleusenbrücke.

**52°31'00.2"N 13°24'24.5"E – Poststraße 23, 10178 Berlin**

*Walking back up along the Spreeufer, take a left on Rathausstraße (extension of Werderscher Markt , then Französische straße) where you will cross one of Berlin's oldest Schleusenbrücke (walking bridge).*

## Checkpoint #13 – St. Hedwig's Cathedral

**St. Hedwig's Cathedral** can be found a few blocks past the Bridge, to your right. Built 1747–1773, the Diocesan church of the Archdiocese of Berlin and the most important Roman Catholic ecclesiastical building in the city. It is built in Prussian classical style with influences from the English classical style and the followers of Palladio, and is based on the form of a Corinthian temple. The interior is maintained in the rococo style, also found in the palaces of Charlottenburg and Sanssouci.

(continued on next page)



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## Checkpoint #13 – St. Hedwig's Cathedral (cont.)

(cont.) After a fire in 1843 which almost completely destroyed the opera house, it was reconstructed under the supervision of Carl Ferdinand Langhans. Various renovations in the years which followed softened the strong proportions of the building. Completely destroyed in the war, the building was reconstructed close to Knobeldorf's original design from 1952 to 1963, and from 1983 to 1986 it was completely restored.

**52°31'13.3"N 13°24'30.2"E – Hinter der Katholischen Kirche 3, 10117 Berlin**

*Now continue back down Grunerstraße to reach the next stop.*

## Checkpoint #14 – Bebelplatz

The famous Bebelplatz is located right behind the cathedral. The square dates to about 1740, but it was named in 1947 after the joint founder of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD), August Bebel. At first, it was to be the centre of the Forum Fridericianum planned by Knobeldorf. This could not however be fully realized – only the Opera House was constructed from 1741–43, which lead to the grounds becoming known as Opernplatz. The western end of Bebelplatz is occupied by the Baroque façade of the Alte Bibliothek (Old Library) constructed in 1775-80, which was dubbed the "commode" because of its sweeping, concave shape. This was the first independent library structure in Berlin and was built to house the Royal Book Collection founded in 1661. King Friedrich II had instructed the master builder Georg Christian Unger to base his library design on Joseph Emanuel Fischer von Erlach's 1725 plans for the Michael Wing of the Imperial Palace in Vienna, which had gained renown through engravings and models. Today, this building belongs to the Humboldt University and is attached to the Alte Palais (Old Palace, also now used by the Humboldt University). On the opposite side of Unter den Linden is the Staatsbibliothek (Prussian State Library), the flagship of all Berlin libraries. The large neo-baroque complex houses the State and University Libraries. In 1992 the two were combined and re-named the Berlin National Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage. (continued on next page)



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HISTORIC TRAIL

# INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #14 – Bebelplatz (cont.)

Next to the State Library, the marble statues of the Humboldt brothers Wilhelm and Alexander adorn the entrance to Humboldt University. Many famous thinkers and scientists including Albert Einstein, Rudolf Virchow, Fichte, Hegel, and Heinrich Heine have studied within these walls.

Set in the middle of the square is a memorial to the Nazi 'book-burning' campaign. On May 10, 1933, the square was the focal point for the "burning of the books" staged by the Nazis: the works of Heinrich and Thomas Mann, Erich Kästner, Stefan Zweig, Heinrich Heine, Karl Marx, Alfred Kerr, Kurt Tucholsky and countless other writers were thrown into the flames. Since 1995, this event has been commemorated by the monument designed by Micha Ullmann, which consists of an underground library with empty shelves and which can be seen through a transparent plastic window set into the ground.

**52°30'59.8"N 13°23'37.6"E – Bebelplatz 1, 10117 Berlin**

*Head south on Markgrafenstraße, which will lead you to the Gendarmenmarkt, one of the most beautiful squares in Berlin.*

## Checkpoint #15 – Gendarmenmarkt

The square was laid out from 1688 to the plans of J.A. Nering and was originally known as Linden Markt, then Friedrichstädtischer Markt or Neuer Markt. The name Gendarmenmarkt arose as a cuirassier regiment "gens d'arms", complete with sentry boxes and stables, used the square from 1936-82. The square was badly damaged in the Second World War, which, on the occasion of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Akademie der Wissenschaften (Prussian Academy of the Sciences), was renamed "Platz der Akademie". Its previous name was restored in 1991. On one side stands the Konzerthaus (Concert Hall), a new building designed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel to replace the National Theater built from 1800-02 by Karl Gotthard Langhans, which was burnt to the ground in 1817. (continued on next page)



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# INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #15 – Gendarmenmarkt (cont.)

(Cont.) Following its destruction in the Second World War, the building was initially only made safe, with the systematic restoration of the original design only beginning in 1979. Since its reopening in 1984 it has served not as a theatre, but as a concert hall. On the two other sides stand the German Cathedral, built from 1701-08, by Giovanni Simonetti to plans to M. Grünberg (Carl von Gontard extended the building with the addition of the domed tower from 1780-85), and French Cathedral, built from 1701-05 as a church for Berlin's Huguenot community, with the imposing tower added from 1780-85, respectively, the whole forming a harmonious architectural balance.

**52°30'49.1"N 13°23'33.9"E – Gendarmenmarkt, 10117 Berlin**

*Continue south on Markgrafenstraße and make a right on Zimmerstraße to get to our next checkpoint.*

## Checkpoint #16 – Checkpoint Charlie

At the corner of Friedrichstraße and Zimmerstraße is the site of the most famous border crossing, **Checkpoint Charlie**, which was restricted to Allied personnel and non-German citizens. Numerous legends and agent stories are told about Checkpoint Charlie. The former border crossing point between East and West Berlin was the place where Soviet and American tanks stood face to face, after the construction of the Wall in 1961, is now a museum which tells the history of the Wall.

**52°30'27.2"N 13°23'25.3"E – Friedrichstraße 43-45, 10117 Berlin**

*After a visit through the Museum, head west on Zimmerstraße and right going up Wilhelmstraße. Then another left on Hannah-Arendtstraße which will lead you to the Holocaust Memorial.*



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## Checkpoint #17 – Holocaust Memorial

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe also known as the Holocaust Memorial, is a memorial in Berlin to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. It consists of a 4.7-acre site covered with 2,711 concrete slabs or "stelae", arranged in a grid pattern on a sloping field. They are organized in rows, 54 of them going north–south, and 87 heading east–west at right angles but set slightly askew. The stelae are designed to produce an uneasy, confusing atmosphere, and the whole sculpture aims to represent a supposedly ordered system that has lost touch with human reason. An attached underground "Place of Information" holds the names of approximately 3 million Jewish Holocaust victims, obtained from the Israeli museum Yad Vashem. Building began on April 1, 2003, and was finished on December 15, 2004. It was inaugurated on May 10, 2005, sixty years after the end of World War II.

**52°30'50.6"N 13°22'47.0"E – Cora-Berliner-Straße 1, 10117 Berlin**

*Head one block north opt the next checkpoint.*

## Checkpoint #18 – Brandenberger Tor

The **Brandenburger Tor**, Berlin's greatest landmark, and Berlin's only remaining city gate, is the true symbol of the city. Because it was situated in the no man's land just behind the Wall, it also became symbolic of the division of the city. After the Fall of the Wall, the Gate was reopened on December 22, 1989. On the east side of the Gate lays **Pariser Platz**. As part of the reconstruction of Pariser Platz, new buildings have been added which are based on their historic forebears. Pariser Platz forms the link between the Brandenburg Gate and the magnificent Unter den Linden Boulevard. It was originally a parade ground before a square was built at the end of Unter den Linden during the reign of Friedrich Wilhelm I. Noble villas, embassies and the luxurious Hotel Adlon arose around the square. The square was destroyed in the Second World War. Since the Fall of the Wall, new buildings by renowned international architects have been and are being built. (continued on next page)



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HISTORIC TRAIL

# INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #18 – Brandenberger Tor (cont.)

(cont.) The Liebermann House and the Summer House, newly constructed to the left and right of the Brandenburg Gate, were conceived as a pair, and their design is based on the previous buildings created by Stüler. The Dresdner Bank building follows the architectural conventions of Pariser Platz closely, without degenerating into historicism.

**52°30'49.1"N 13°23'33.9"E – Pariser Platz, 10117 Berlin**

*Continue north on Ebertstraße to the final checkpoint.*

## End Checkpoint #19 – Reichstag

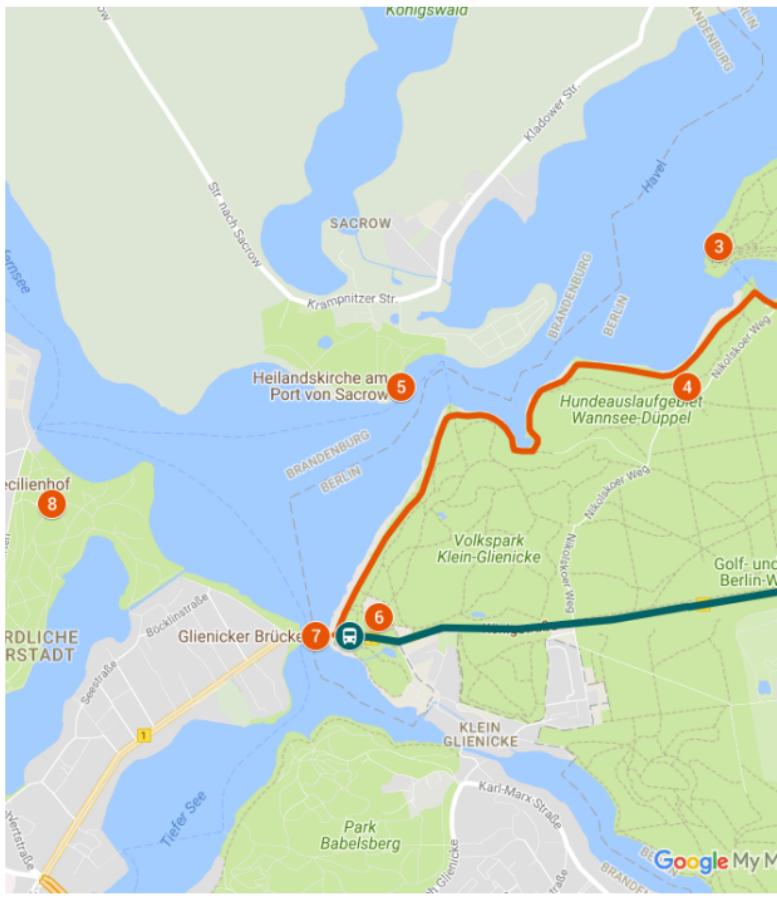
This walk ends at the **Reichstag**, Berlin's new seat of government. The Reichstag was constructed from 1884–94 by Paul Wallot, since a representative building was needed to house the parliament of the newly-founded German state. The inscription "**Dem Deutschen Volke**" ("To the German people") was only added in 1916 during the First World War, because Wilhelm II had previously been against it. From 1994–99 the Reichstag was reconstructed and extended by the Architect Sir Norman Forster, taking into consideration both the immense historical implications and its function as a modern working parliament, and adding an accessible dome. Before the renovation work began in 1994, the building became the stage for one of the most spectacular art events in Europe: it was wrapped by Christo and Jeanne Claude. The **glass dome**, which was at first the subject of great controversy, has now become one of the newest landmarks in the city. Since 1999 the Reichstag building has once again been the seat of the German Bundestag. The parliamentary building with its roof garden and dome is open to the general public and offers an impressive view out over the Tiergarten, Berlin's green heart, and the eastern inner city. The chance of standing on the heads of our politicians is one that shouldn't be missed (though do allow for long queues waiting to go inside the dome).

**52°31'07.0"N 13°22'28.7"E – Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin**

*You have now completed the Berlin Historical Trail!*

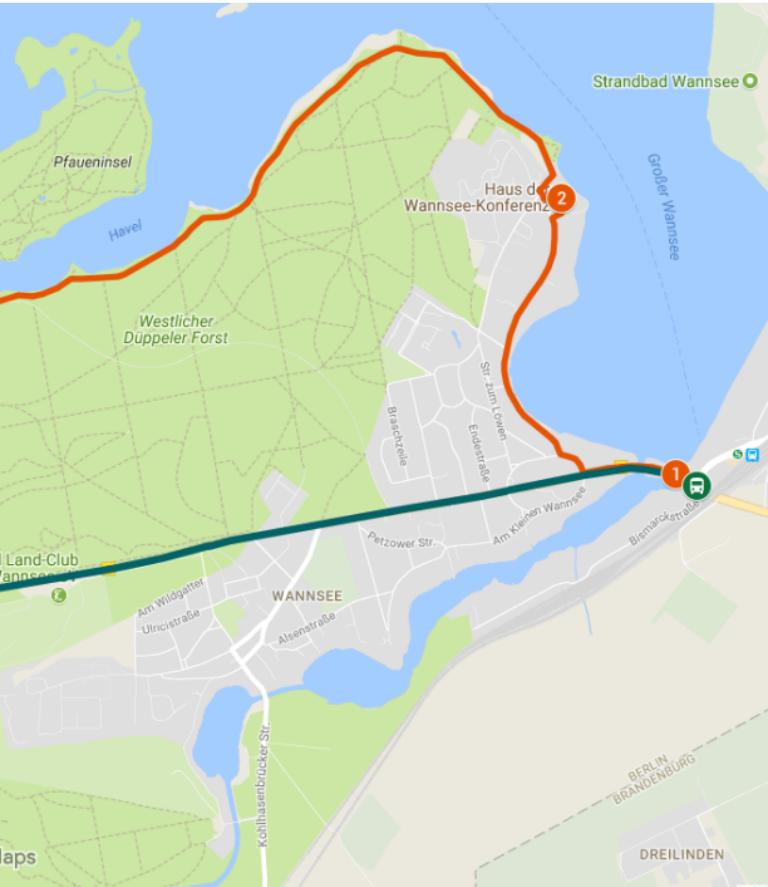


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# OUTER HIKE



3



4



7



8



8  
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HISTORIC TRAIL



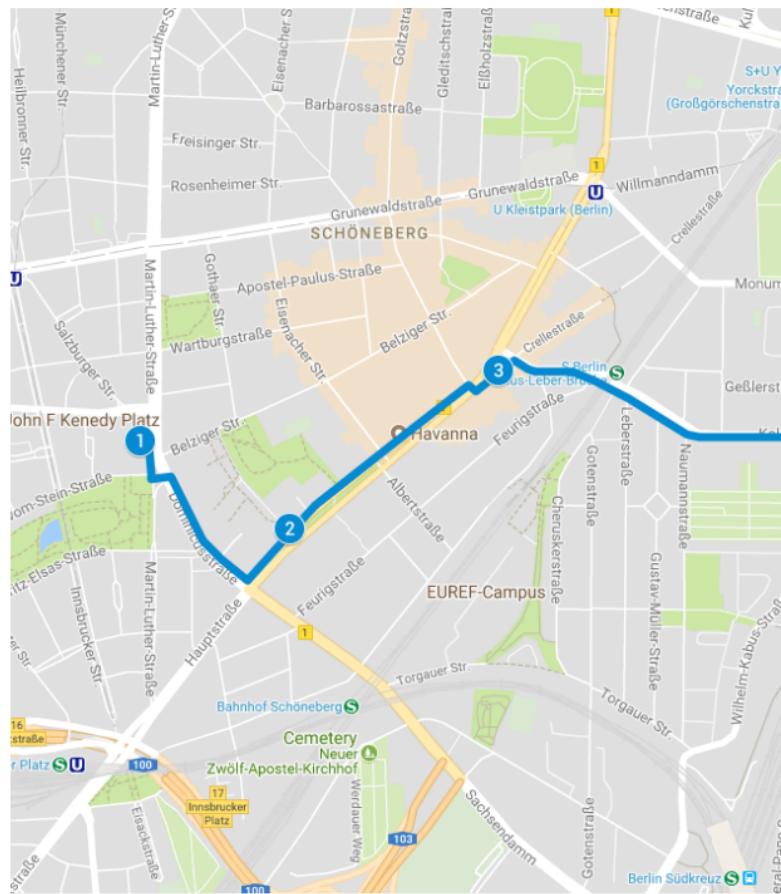
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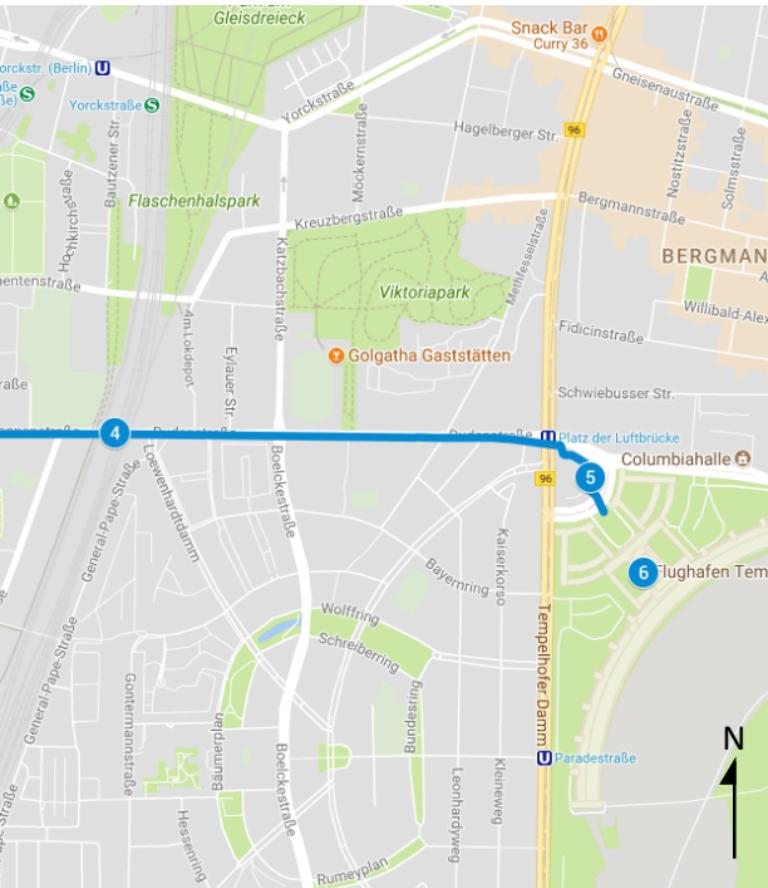


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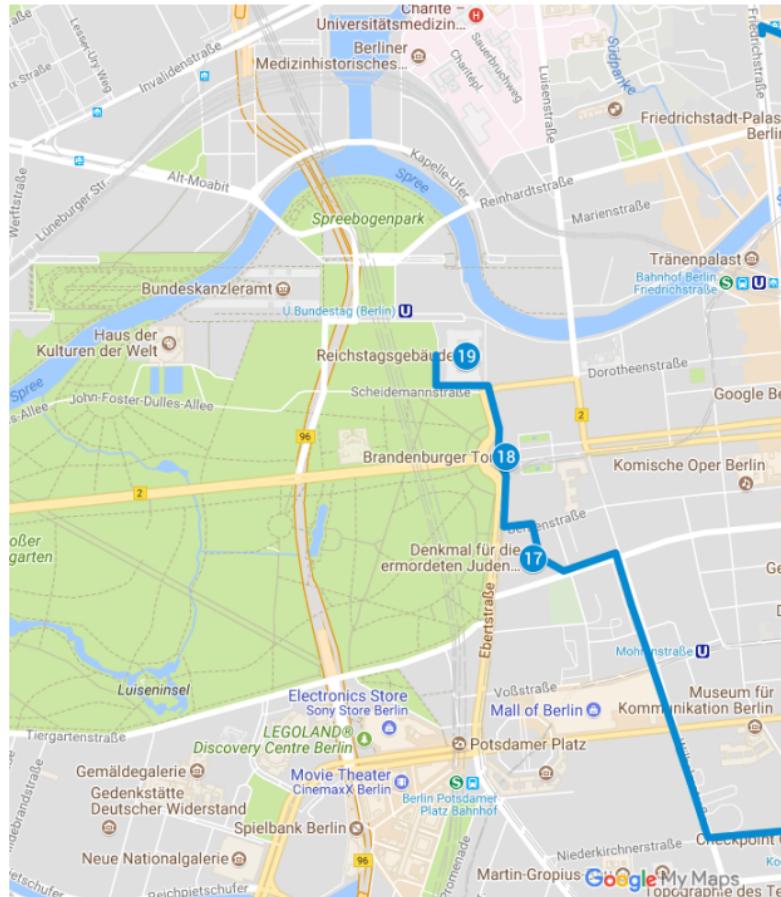


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# INNER HIKE — WEST

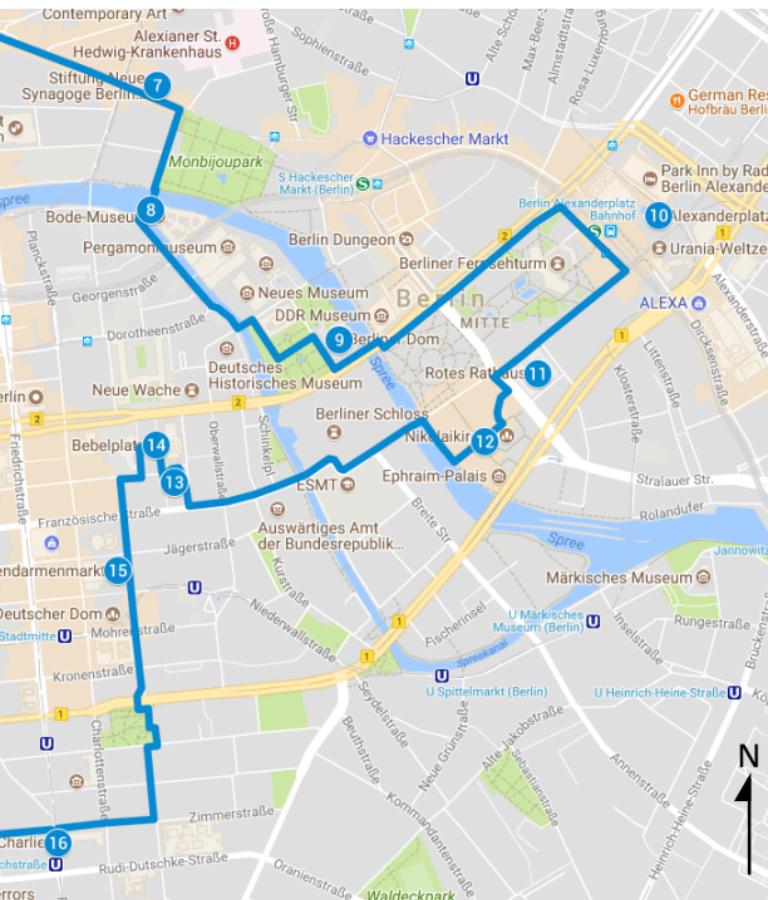


BERLIN, GERMANY  
HISTORIC TRAIL



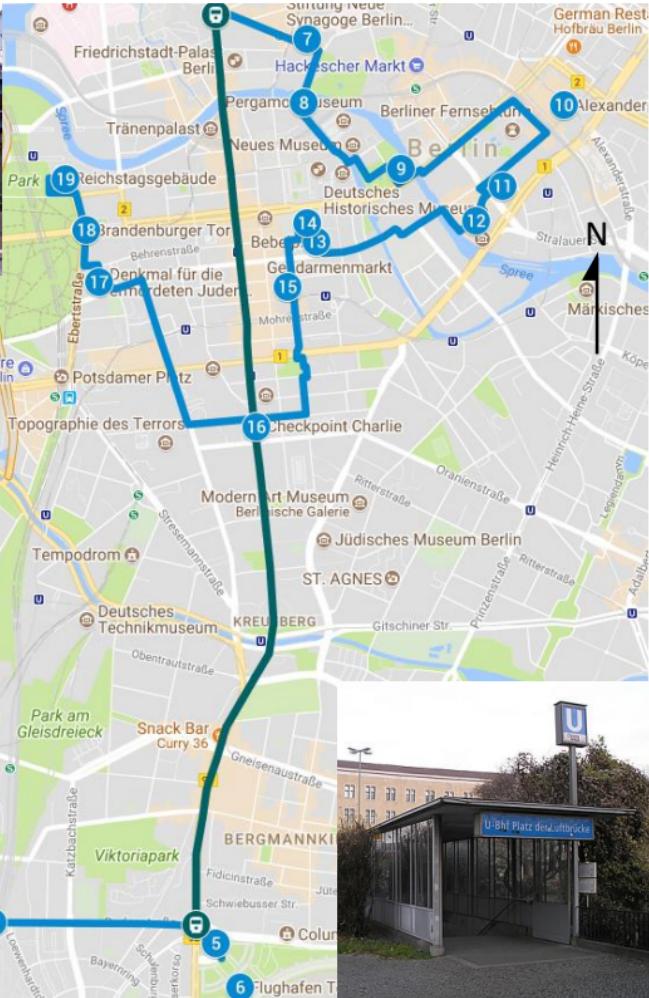
## BERLIN, GERMANY HISTORIC TRAIL

# INNER HIKE – EAST



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HISTORIC TRAIL

# U-BAHN ROUTE MAP BETWEEN INNER HIKE EAST AND WEST



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# HISTORIC TRAIL QUIZ

1. When was the Wansee Conference held? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who built the Sacrower Heilandskirche? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many prisoner exchanges happened on the Glienicker Bridge and in what years? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did President Kennedy say in his famous speech in Berlin? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When did the Berlin Airlift occur and how many different planes participated? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When did the Templehof Airport finally close? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who was in charge of building the Berliner Dom? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How high is the viewing platform on the Fernsehturm? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the nickname of the Berliner Rathaus? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the most important Catholic Church in Berlin? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who could cross the border at Checkpoint Charlie? \_\_\_\_\_
12. How many concrete slabs are in the Holocaust Memorial? \_\_\_\_\_
13. When did the Brandenburg Tor reopen? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What part of the German government works in the Reichstag? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What Boy Scout Troop created the Berlin Historic Trail? \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on page 35



BERLIN, GERMANY  
HISTORIC TRAIL

# BSA REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the Berlin Historic Trails may complete the following Requirements:

## Cub Scouts:

### Tiger:

- |                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| My Tiger Jungle    | Req 1       |
| Tigers in the Wild | Req 1, 2, 4 |
| Tiger Tales        | Req 7       |

### Wolf:

- |                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Paws on the Path | Req 1-5 |
| Finding Your Way | Req 4   |

### Bear:

- |                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Fur, Feathers, and Ferns | Req 1  |
| Paws for Action          | Req 2B |

### Weeblos:

- |                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Weeblos Walkabout | Req 1-6 |
|-------------------|---------|



## Scouts BSA:

### Tenderfoot:

Req 4d, 5a, 5b, 5c

### Second Class:

Req 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 6c

### First Class:

Req 4a, 4b



\*Note: Requirements for the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Hiking, Orienteering, and American Heritage Merit Badges and the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award can be earned by completing this hike and learning about sites found on this hike.



BERLIN, GERMANY  
HISTORIC TRAIL

## NOTES

Quiz Answers: 1) 20 Jan 1942, 2)Friedrich Wilhelm IV, 3) 3 – 1962, 1985, 1986, 4)"Ich bin ein Berliner!", 5) 1948-49, 1383 different airplanes, 6) 2008, 7) Julius Raschdorff, 8) 203 meters, 9) Rotes Rathaus, 10) St Hedwig's Cathedral, 11) Allied personnel and non-German citizens, 12) 2,711 slabs, 13) 22 Dec 1989, 14) The Bundestag, 15) Troop 152



## BERLIN, GERMANY HISTORIC TRAIL

This Historic Trail was put together by Troop 152, Berlin, Germany in the 1980s and was updated by the troop during the 1990s to the current walk.

*Additional Historic Trails in the Transatlantic Council area can be found at <http://tac-bsa.org> or by scanning the QR Code below.*



UPDATED 29 OCTOBER 2019