

Berlin, die Hauptstadt

No other city reflects German history as graphically as Berlin. In the period of the Cold War (*der Kalte Krieg*), the confrontation between East and West, the divided city with its Four-Power Agreement (*Viermächteabkommen*) could only dream about reunification (*Wiedervereinigung*) of Germany. The German question remained open as long as the Brandenburg Gate (*Brandenburger Tor*) was closed, dividing East from West Berlin.

The new Berlin presents itself to visitors as an open city once again. The Brandenburg Gate—once a symbol of the divided Germany—has again become the emblem



Was gibt's alles in Berlin?

of the united German capital. Around it, the new center of Berlin is still in the process of being completed. It's a unique urban setting in which the old joins with the new, and the future of the city becomes visible. In 1989, as soon as the Wall (*die Mauer*) began to come down, the other obstacles started to be cleared away to erase the ugly and hated division and to make room for future progress.

Berlin is both a federal state (*Bundesland*) and a city. It has a population of more than 3.4 million. Not only do Germans from all over the country live here, but there are more than 470,000 foreigners (*Ausländer*) from 184 different countries inhabiting Berlin. In an area as large as the cities of *München*, *Stuttgart* and *Frankfurt* combined, Berlin unites a large number of urban districts, centers and boroughs that are vastly different in character. In the inner part of the city, the buildings of the *Kulturforum* on the southern edge of the *Tiergarten* and the modern office and shopping complex on the *Potsdamer Platz* link the western city around *Kurfürstendamm* with the eastern city in the historical center of Berlin between the *Brandenburger Tor* and *Alexanderplatz*. To the north of the *Tiergarten*, the government and parliament buildings are situated along the winding Spree River.



Das Brandenburger Tor



Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche
am Kurfürstendamm



Berlin heute

The ring of the *S-Bahn*, the city train, encloses the most densely populated area of the city. Outside the ring of the *S-Bahn*, the density of urban development is significantly lower. The outlying boroughs are characterized by large areas of new development, established villa districts, lakes, rivers and even forests. These areas form a gentle transition to the less populated surrounding area with its idyllic woodland, its lake scenery and wide open agricultural spaces. For Berlin, which is surrounded by the federal state of *Brandenburg*, the newly regained open space is a unique recreation spot "outside the front door" that offers sports, leisure and recreational facilities and major tourist attractions.



Viele Ausländer wohnen in Berlin.

The Berlin cultural scene with its volume, variety, liveliness and attractiveness contributes significantly to the unmistakable profile of the city. The 17 state museums of the Prussian Cultural Foundation (*Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz*) form the largest museum complex of the whole European continent. Berlin is unquestionably Germany's most important cultural center with its 3 opera houses, over 150 theaters and stage companies, 800 choirs, more than 175 museums and collections, about 300 communal and private galleries, over 250 public libraries, 130 cinemas and numerous other cultural institutions.



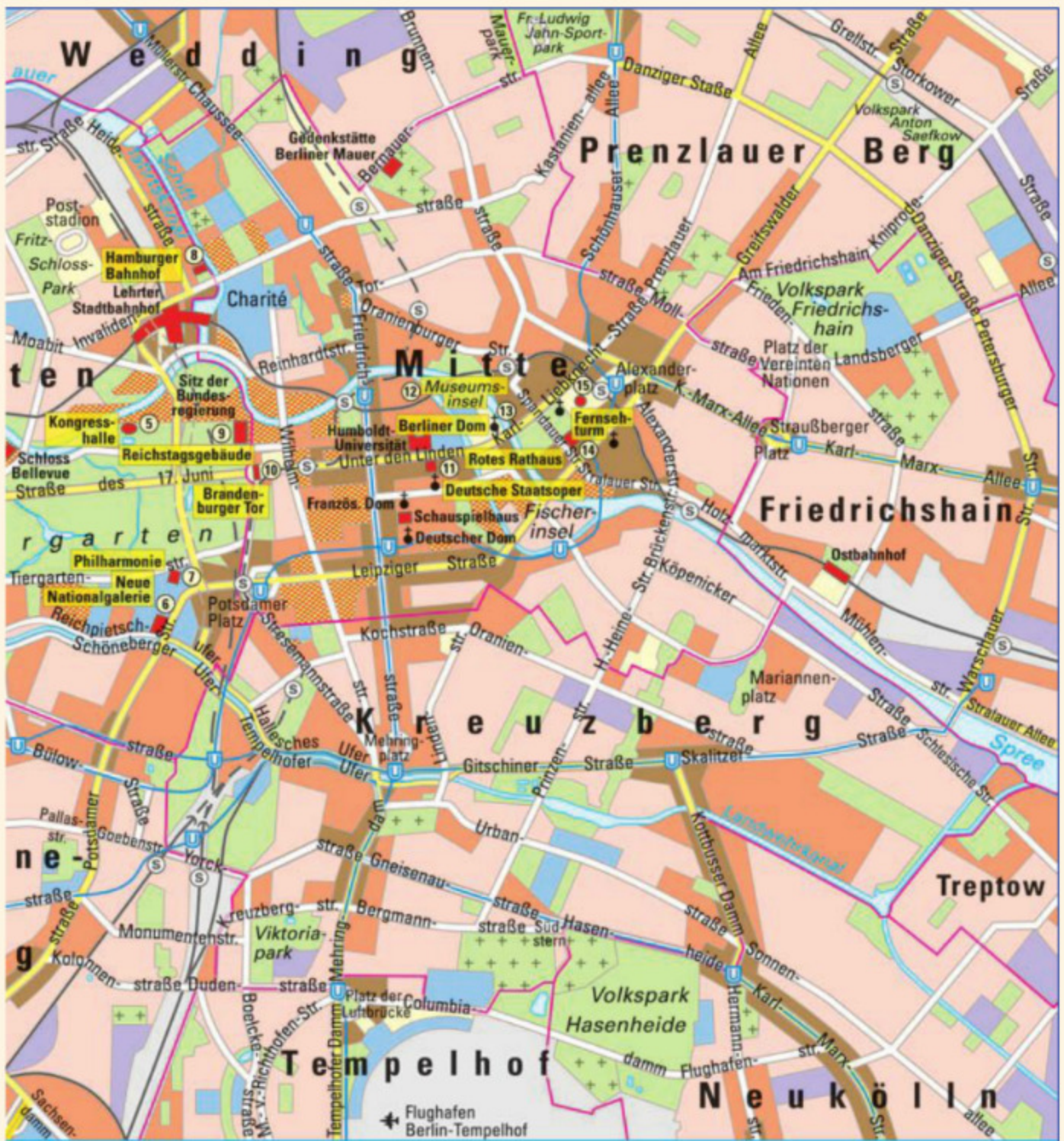
Die Mauer, 1989

Sie warten auf eine S-Bahn.





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9 Reichstagsgebäude, Sitz des Deutschen Bundestages

10 Brandenburger Tor

11 Deutsche Staatsoper

12 Museumsinsel

13 Berliner Dom

14 Rotes Rathaus

15 Fernsehturm