



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 a members of the former Troop 152 of Berlin and updated by the current Troop 46 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 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: Brandenburg Tor



BERLIN, GERMANY
HISTORIC TRAIL

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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.



WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL?

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 – Wannsee Where and How to Start

The first hike originally started in Wannsee 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 Wannsee. When exiting the train station, go left down Kronprinzessinnenweg, 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 2nd 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 Kronprinzessinnenweg 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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OUTER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

START – Wannsee

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 – Wannsee 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 Wannsee till the street turns left. Here, take the walkway to the right and walk to the Grosse Löwe (Big Lion).



OUTER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

Checkpoint #3 – Pfaueninsel (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 **Pfaueninsel (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 – Pfaueninselchausee 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 Sharanansky 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!



OUTER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

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 has an optional start at the Berlin Tempelhof Airport or you can skip to checkpoint 2 at the Berlin Wall Memorial. To get to Tempelhof, take the U6 train to the Platz der Luftbrücke station. To get to the Berlin Wall Memorial, take the S-Bahn to the Nordbahnhof.

Distance and Time

This hike measures about 7 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.



INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

Optional Start – Berlin Tempelhof Airport & Berlin Airlift Memorial

The **Tempelhof Airport** is an important historical site, especially due to its involvement with the Berlin Airlift and the Cold War.

The area used to be a parade ground, with the first annual march held during the reign of Prussian King Frederick William I in 1722. It became a busy transport hub, and in 1909, Orville Wright completed a demonstration flight here, setting a world record of 172 meters, and completing the first commercial flight. The site became an airport in 1923 and went on to become of the busiest airports in the world at that time.

The current airport building was constructed from 1936 to 1941, and was the largest building in the world (featuring over 9,000 rooms) until the Pentagon was built. It is one of the remaining examples in Berlin of Nazi architecture. On May 1, 1933, it was the site of one of the biggest Nazi rallies.

After the Second World War, when the Western Allies allowed the introduction of the D-Mark currency in West Berlin, the Soviet Union responded by blockading the western part of the city on 24 June 1948, closing all road and railway connections from West Germany. Two and a half million inhabitants of West Berlin were suddenly cut off without adequate supplies, including power and food. Starting the next day, General Lucius Clay, with permission from President Eisenhower, started Operation Vittles. For eleven months the Allies sent supplies to West Berlin via an airlift through three air corridors from West Germany. **Tempelhof** was the center of operations. Planes carrying food, medicine, and heating material landed in Tempelhof almost every two minutes around the clock. Up to ten thousand tons of supplies were flown in daily, including coal and other heating fuels for the winter. The pilots repeatedly brought sweets with them. The American pilot Gail Halvorsen is said to have started a special tradition: he made small parachutes, tied them to the sweets and threw them to the waiting children while landing. (continued on next page)



INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

Optional Start – Berlin Tempelhof Airport & Berlin Airlift Memorial (Cont.)

As a result, the American aircraft came to be known as Candy Bombers. On 12 May 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the Berlin Blockade due to the lack of success, and **Tempelhof Airport** became an international symbol of the free West.

After this it was used as a commercial airport until the summer of 1975. It was reopened in 1981 for smaller airlines and finally closed again in 2008, when Berlin decided to close its three smaller airports and construct the new Berlin Airport (BER). Today the Tempelhof field is open to the public as a park and recreation area.

The **Berlin Airlift Memorial** (outside) commemorates the Berlin Airlift and all who lost their lives during it. Three concrete arcs pointing westwards symbolize the three air corridors. The names and ranks of the 78 service personnel who died during the Airlift are inscribed on the base.

The visitor center “CHECK-IN” (inside) is within the terminal building and is free to visitors. To get there, walk to the main entrance of the airport building (which has “ZENTRALFLUGHAFEN” in large letters written above it (Address: Platz der Luftbrücke 5), then find the entrance to the “Check-in” museum in the corner to the left of the main entrance). There is a very interesting timeline with photos and a video of the history of the airport, including more information about the Berlin Airlift and its significance.

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, take the U-Bahn U6 to **Bahnhof Friedrichstraße** and then follow the signs to the S1/S2/S25/S26 which will take you to the **Nordbahnhof** to reach the **Berlin Wall Memorial**.*



INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

Checkpoint #2 – Berlin Wall Memorial

After getting off at Nordbahnhof, follow the signs to the **Berlin Wall Memorial**. Before you exit the station, look around the main entry hall and you will see a very interesting exhibit on disused or blocked (“ghost stations”) stations that resulted from the division of the city during the Cold War.

As you come out of the station onto the street, you will see the path of the former wall marked through the sidewalk with a double brick line. Keep on eye out for these brick lines as you continue the Historic Trail through Berlin – you will cross it several times.

The **Berlin Wall Memorial** is a poignant reminder of Germany’s divided past. Stretching along Bernauer Strasse, the memorial preserves an original section of the Wall, complete with a guard tower and the infamous death strip. While exploring the outdoor exhibition, take a moment to observe the Window of Remembrance which showcases faces of those who lost their lives while trying to cross the wall. If you continue further down the Memorial, there’s a chapel built on the location of the former Church of Reconciliation, which was demolished in order to improve the sight lines of the East German wall guards.

The wall went up starting on midnight of August 13, 1961. At that point, 20% of the East German population had already fled to West Germany seeking political freedoms and economic opportunity. These were mostly young educated people, and the country and economy was suffering. Having already increasingly curtailed their citizens freedoms, the GDR government then decided to block their own people from emigrating the country by building a highly defended fortification along the border between East and West Germany, and a wall through the middle of Berlin.

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Checkpoint #2 – Berlin Wall Memorial (Cont.)

The **wall** started with a simple barbed wire fence that quickly became much more elaborate, with a wall on each side, a “death zone” in the middle, guard towers, armed guards, trip wires, mines, as well as features such as barbed wire and ploughed dirt which would show easily footprints, and more. The entire fortified border stretched 1,336 kilometers from the Baltic Sea to Bavaria and was a salient marker of the Cold War.

The Documentation Center (across the street) provides a deep dive into the Wall's history, offering a moving experience that honors the resilience of Soviet-era Berlin as well as a viewing platform over the memorial.

52°32'06.2"N 13°23'22.3"E – Bernauer Strasse 111, 13355 Berlin

You may return to the S-Bahn and take it one stop to “Oranienburger Straße” to continue to the next Checkpoint, or choose to walk there instead (about 20 minutes).

Checkpoint #3 – Jewish Synagogue

As you come closer to the **New Synagogue**, you will see the “Fernsehturm” or TV Tower dominating the Berlin skyline. The tower was constructed between 1965 and 1969 by the former East German administration who intended it as a symbol of Berlin, which it has remained. It is the highest structure in the city and in Germany, and is one of the tallest freestanding structures in Europe. The ball rotates once every 30 minutes, and a visitor's platform at a height of 203 meters provides a unique panoramic view of the entire city (requires paid ticket). When the sun shines on the TV tower, 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 “The Pope's Revenge.”

(continued on next page)



INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

Checkpoint #3 – Jewish Synagogue (Cont.)

The golden dome of the **New Synagogue** overlooks the street it sits on. 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. The rebuilt synagogue 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 3,000 worshippers. A large, golden dome, which can 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 "Pogrom night" on November 9, 1938, when synagogues and Jewish shops were looted and burned throughout Germany, the spirited action of the chief of the Berlin Police Department 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. You may notice the bullet and shrapnel holes in many of the nearby buildings (and in other buildings in Berlin as you continue on this trail).

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 #4 – Museum Island

Museum Island is a museum complex on the northern part of the Spree Island in the heart of Berlin. It is one of the most visited areas in Berlin, and one of the most important museum sites in Europe. Built from 1830 to 1930, according to plans from five architects, the Island was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. The island features many important museums, such as the Altes Museum, the Neues Museum, the Alte Nationalgalerie, the Bode Museum, and the Pergamon Museum.

(continued on next page)



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Checkpoint #4 – Museum Island (Cont.)

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 #5 – Berliner Dom

The Museum Island also contains the beautiful **Berlin Cathedral**, which is notable because it is one of the most ornate examples of a Protestant church, and was designed by architect Julius Carl Raschdorff in the reign of Kaiser William II to be an answer to St. Peter's Dome in Rome. After its extensive restoration from 1974 to 2002, the grandiose Dom shines again.

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

*Head south and cross the street towards the **Berlin City Palace**.*

Checkpoint #6 – Berlin City Palace

Across the street is the **Berlin City Palace** which was rebuilt in 2020. The original city palace in that location was begun in 1443 by Frederick II of Brandenburg. The castle became the permanent seat of rulers of Berlin and Prussia, and in the centuries that followed, it was damaged in wars, partially destroyed, reconstructed, and re-designed in various such styles to include Renaissance, Baroque, and Italian. The palace was nearly completely destroyed in a bombing raid in 1945, and in 1973 the leader of the East Germany, Erich Honecker, had the "Palace of the Republic" constructed on the site, which housed the East German parliament from 1976 to 1990. After Germany's reunification, the building had to be closed due to heavy asbestos and the German government decided to demolish the building, tearing it down in 2008. Today, the newly rebuilt palace houses the Humboldt Forum (named after the famous German explorers and scientists Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt), which features various cultural and scientific institutions. (continued on next page)



INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

Checkpoint #6 – Berlin City Palace (cont.)

As you make your way to the next Checkpoint, you may want to visit the New Guardhouse (Neue Wache) on the north side of Unter den Linden, which was built according to plans by Karl Friedrich Schinkel from 1816-1818 and how houses a very solemn Central Memorial of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Victims of War and Dictatorship with a statue by German artist Käthe Kollwitz (note the open roof above the statue).

52°30'58.9"N 13°24'08.2"E – Schloßpl. 1, 10178 Berlin

*Head west on Unter der Linden towards your next stop, the **Bebelplatz**.*

Checkpoint #7 – Bebelplatz

Bebelplatz is named after German social democrat August Bebel. It was site of the infamous 1933 Nazi book burnings. The square was created in 1740 and was used for a variety of functions until 1928 when it was transformed back into open space during the reconstruction of the State Opera House. Surrounding the square, you will see buildings of the Humboldt University (including the university's law faculty), the German State Opera, and St. Hedwig's Cathedral, the most important Catholic church in the city. On May 10, 1933, the square was the main scene of book burnings carried out by the German Student Union. Around 70,000 students, professors, and members of the SA and SS, burned books described as "un-German." The books were taken from the nearby university buildings. Today, in the center of the square there is a glass window looking down into a chamber of empty bookshelves -- large enough to hold the books burned in the event in 1933.

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.*



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Checkpoint #8 – Gendarmenmarkt

Gendarmenmarkt is generally regarded as the most beautiful square in Berlin.

In 1685, the Great Elector of Prussia Friedrich Wilhelm issued the Edict of Potsdam, which welcomed religious refugees from France to Berlin and the Mark of Brandenburg. Around 20,000 Huguenots (Protestants from France who were persecuted by the Catholic King) settled in the area, especially concentrated in this district. The square was surrounded by the residences of officials, state authorities, hotels, and residential buildings.

This was one of the many times in Berlin's history when outsiders have been welcomed and assimilated into the city's population. The square has changed names several times but has been called Gendarmenmarkt since 1799, after the stables of the cavalry regiment of the Soldier King Friedrich Wilhelm I. Today the square contains a concert hall in the middle, with the French Cathedral and the German Cathedral facing each other across the square.

During the Second World War it was severely damaged and had to be rebuilt from 1976 to 1993.

On your way to the next Checkpoint as you walk down Friedrichstr, please take a look for a row of Stolpersteine (or stumbling blocks) on the sidewalk in front of Friedrichstr. 55. Stolpersteine are ten-centimetre (3.9 in) brass plates inscribed with the name and life dates of victims of Nazi extermination or persecution. The Stolpersteine project, initiated by the German artist Gunter Demnig in 1992, aims to commemorate persons at the last place that they chose to freely reside, work or study before they fell victim to Nazi terror. As of June 2023, 100,000 Stolpersteine have been laid, the majority of which commemorate Jewish victims but also other groups such as Roma and Sinti. Keep your eye out – these blocks can be seen throughout the city and throughout Germany! (continued on next page)



INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

Checkpoint #8 – Gendarmenmarkt (cont.)

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 #9 – Checkpoint Charlie

Checkpoint Charlie was the most famous Berlin wall crossing point, and became a symbol of the Cold War. Only Allied personnel and non-German citizens were allowed to cross here. In the tensions that followed the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, American and Soviet tanks briefly faced down one another at Checkpoint Charlie in October 1961.

Numerous legends and agent stories are told about Checkpoint Charlie, and it has been featured in multiple films and now has a museum dedicated to it.

On your way to the next checkpoint if you walk down Zimmerstr, you will come to the Topography of Terror, which can be found in the former headquarters of the Gestapo and SS and documents their crimes. Please note that due to the nature of the exhibit's content, this may be only appropriate for older Scouts (14 and above). From here on the way to Checkpoint #10 you can walk by "Potsdamer Platz", one of the busiest squares in Berlin during the 1920s and 1930s, which has a replica of the first ever traffic light which was installed there during that time, and is now a very modern area for businesses, shopping, and going out.

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 Stressemannstraße. Continue north through Potsdamer Platz and continue on Ebertstraße. Make a right on Hannah-Arendt-straße which will lead you to the Holocaust Memorial.



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Checkpoint #10 – 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. Beneath the memorial, the underground Information Center offers detailed exhibitions on the Holocaust, with personal stories and historical context (due to the nature of the exhibit's contents, it may only be appropriate for older Scouts, 14 and above). A visit here is a solemn journey through history, offering a space for reflection and remembrance of the millions of Jewish lives lost. 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 #11 – Brandenburger Tor

This iconic German national monument was built in 1793. The **Brandenburg Gate**, one of Berlin's most popular landmarks, is Berlin's only remaining historical city gate, and is one of the most important symbols of the city. The Brandenburg Gate was commissioned by King Friedrich Wilhelm II and was built between 1788 and 1791. The Gate concludes the magnificent boulevard "Unter den Linden" which is to the east of you. Immediately west of the Gate begins the scenic Tiergarten Park in the middle of which you can see the "Victory column", a tall column topped by a golden statue of an angel. (continued on next page)



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Checkpoint #11 – Brandenberger Tor (cont.)

Pariser Platz (Parisian Square), immediately next to the Gate, was destroyed in World War II. Since the Fall of the Wall, new buildings by renowned international architects have been built. On the Square you can see the new U.S. Embassy, which opened on July 4, 2008, as well as the French Embassy and the luxurious Hotel Adlon.

During the division of Germany in the Cold War, the Gate was situated in no-man's land just behind the Berlin Wall and became symbolic of the division of the city. The Gate was in the background when U.S. President Ronald Reagan gave his famous speech in 1987 imploring Soviet leader Gorbachev to "tear down this wall." After the Fall of the Wall, the Gate was reopened on December 22, 1989.

On top of the gate is the Quadriga, a sculpture depicting a two-wheeled chariot with four horses running side by side. The sculpture was meant to depict peace entering the city. The horses' reigns are held by Victoria, the goddess of victory. The original sculpture was removed after the defeat of Prussia in 1806 and Napoleon took it to Paris from where it was brought back to Berlin after the German-French War of 1814. During the Second World War, the Gate and Quadriga were severely damaged by bombing.

As you make your way to the next Checkpoint, if you walk through the Tiergarten, you can also visit the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Victims of National Socialism and the Monument to Homosexuals Persecuted under the National Socialist Regime.

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

Continue north on Ebertstraße to the final checkpoint.



BERLIN, GERMANY
HISTORIC TRAIL

INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

End Checkpoint #12 – Reichstag

This walk officially ends at the Reichstag, the historic building which has been restored as the seat of Germany's Parliament (Bundestag). The Reichstag was constructed from 1884–94 by Paul Wallot, as 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 Emperor Wilhelm II had previously been against it.

In 1933, precisely four weeks after Hitler was sworn in as Chancellor, an arsonist started a fire that severely damaged the building. Hitler blamed a Communist for the arson, and used this as an excuse to curtail democracy further, though even today we don't know the origins of the fire. The building was heavily damaged by Allied bombs between 1943-1945, and it was a target with deep significance for the Soviets to capture during the Battle of Berlin in 1945, which concluded with a famous picture of the Soviet flag flying over the building. Even today in some parts of the original building you can still see the graffiti scratched into and written on the walls by the victorious Soviets.

From 1994–99 the Reichstag was reconstructed and extended by the Architect Sir Norman Foster, taking into consideration both the immense historical implications and its function as a modern working parliament, and adding a dome accessible by the public (who can look down in the parliamentary chambers below). 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. (continued on next page)



INNER BERLIN HISTORIC TRAIL

End Checkpoint #19 – Reichstag (cont.)

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 opportunity to go up to the dome is a wonderful opportunity, however you must book a time slot online in advance (tickets are free).

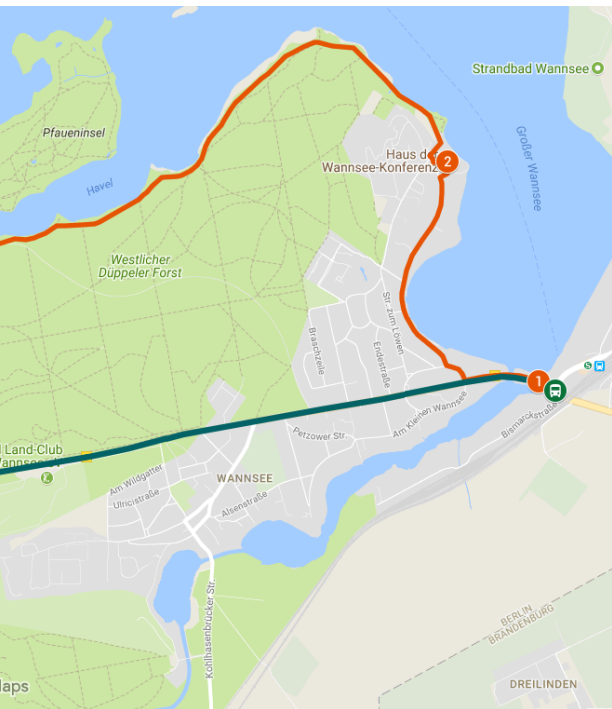
52°31'07.0"N 13°22'28.7"E – Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin

You have now completed the Berlin Historical Trail!



BERLIN, GERMANY
HISTORIC TRAIL

OUTER HIKE



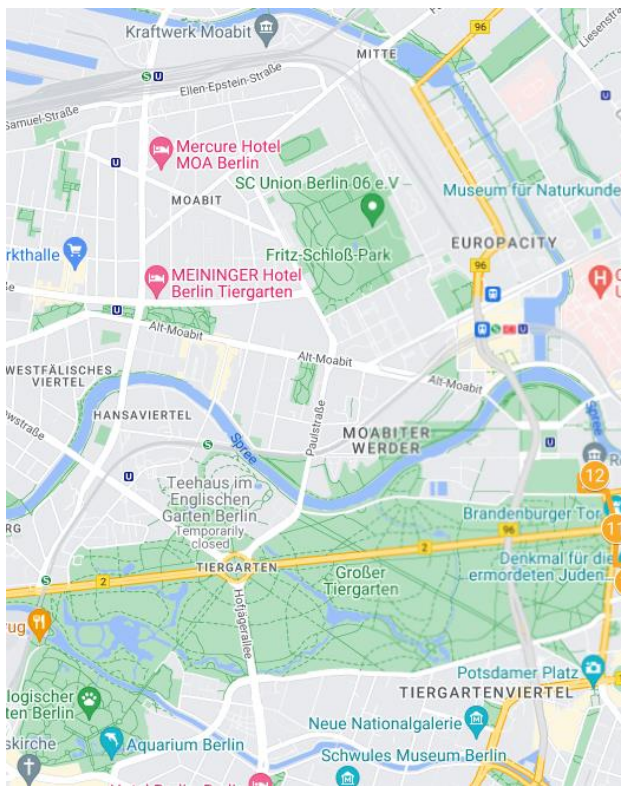
BERLIN, GERMANY
HISTORIC TRAIL



3

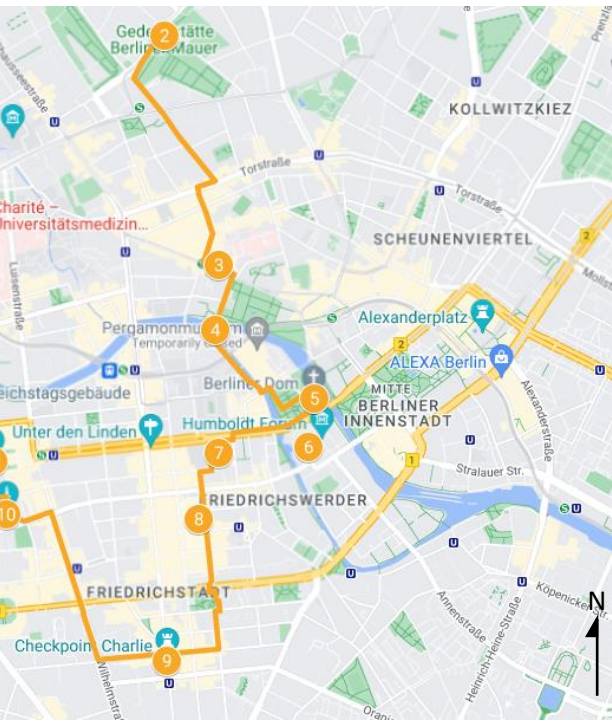


12



BERLIN, GERMANY
HISTORIC TRAIL

INNER HIKE



5



2



6



9

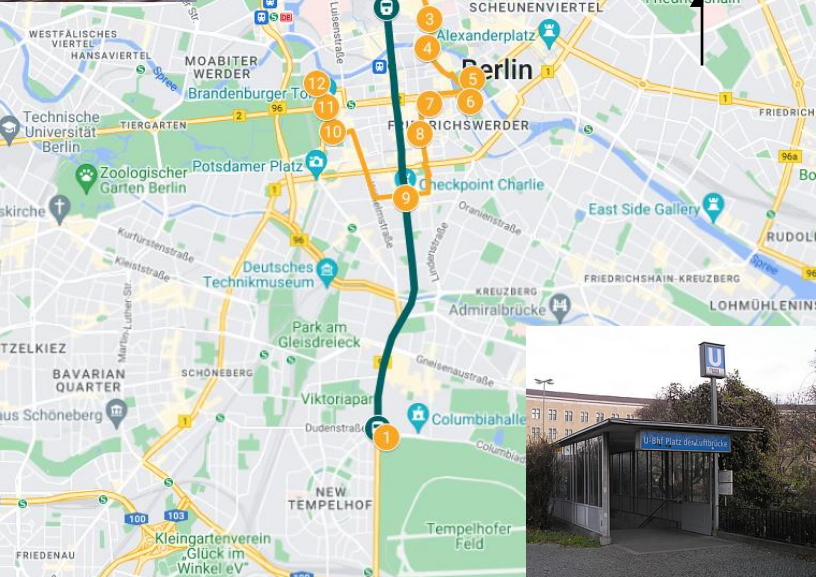


10



BERLIN, GERMANY
HISTORIC TRAIL

U-BAHN ROUTE MAP BETWEEN TEMPELHOF AND THE INNER HIKE



BERLIN, GERMANY
HISTORIC TRAIL

HISTORIC TRAIL QUIZ

1. When was the Wannsee Conference held? _____
2. Who built the Sacrower Heilandskirche? _____
3. How many prisoner exchanges happened on the Glienicker Bridge and in what years? _____
4. When did the Berlin Airlift occur and how many different planes participated? _____
5. When did the Tempelhof Airport finally close? _____
6. Who was in charge of building the Berliner Dom? _____
7. How high is the viewing platform on the Fernsehturm? _____
8. Who could cross the border at Checkpoint Charlie? _____
9. How many concrete slabs are in the Holocaust Memorial? _____
10. When did the Brandenburg Gate reopen? _____
11. What part of the German government works in the Reichstag? _____
12. What Scout Troops created the Berlin Historic Trail? _____

Answers on page 33



BSA REQUIREMENTS

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

Cub Scouts:

Lion:

Fun on the Run Req 3

Tiger:

Tigers in the Wild Req 1, 3

Wolf:

Paws on the Path Req 1-5

Finding Your Way Req 4

Bear:

Bear Habitat Req 1-9

Webelos:

Webelos Walkabout Req 1-7

Tech on the Trail Req 1-4

Arrow of Light:

High Tech Outdoors Req 1



Scouts BSA:

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

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 Historic Trails Award may be earned by completing this hike and learning about sites found on this hike.



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 and again by Troop 46 in 2024 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.



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