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## **Berlin – Basic Information**

This fact sheet about Berlin is addressed to foreign journalists who want to report from and about Berlin during the 2006 Football World Cup and who need basic information about the city.

### **The World Cup city**

Berlin is one of the 12 German cities hosting the Football World Cup. Six of the 64 matches will be played at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, among them the Final on 9 July 2006, as well as a quarter final and four group matches. The renovated stadium has 75,000 roofed seats and one of the world's most modern sound and light systems. A very distinctive feature is the blue running track in the team color of Berlin's football club Hertha BSC, which has a long tradition in the city.

### **The football city**

Football is Berlin's favorite sport. With more than 90,000 members, Berlin's football association is the largest sports association in Berlin. The football club Hertha BSC represents the city in the German Premier League and plays its home matches at the Olympic Stadium.

### **The sports city**

Berlin has over 1942 sports clubs (as of 2004) with a total of 447,000 members. The city boasts 1140 sports halls, 1136 fields and pitches, 113 circular 400-meter running tracks, and 101 swimming pools (including indoor pools). The most popular disciplines after football are gymnastics, tennis, swimming, sailing, handball, volleyball, and athletics. Clubs playing in Germany's top leagues are Alba Berlin (basketball), Spandau 04 (water polo), and EHC Eisbären (ice hockey). Two of Berlin's most successful athletes and Olympic champions are the swimmer Franziska van Almsick and the speed skater Claudia Pechstein. The next large-scale international sports event in Berlin is the 2009 World Championships in Athletics.

### **Culture**

Berlin hosts 52 theaters (as of 2004) and three opera houses (Staatsoper, Deutsche Oper, Komische Oper). The world-famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra gives its concerts at the Philharmonic Hall. Berlin also has 279 movie theaters and 153 museums (as of 2003), among them the New National Gallery built by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. The museum buildings and collections on Museum Island (Pergamon Museum, Bode Museum, Old Museum) form a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The sponsor of the most important museums is the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz). In addition, 108 public libraries can be found in the city. One of them is the State Library (Staatsbibliothek) designed by Hans Scharoun.

### **Business**

After the fall of the Wall, older industries collapsed in both the eastern and the western part of the city, although for different reasons. Berlin's economic policies today focus on the promotion of new business sectors, like the media and music industry and IT and biotechnology, as well as on design and fashion for young people. Small and medium-sized companies in the service and manufacturing sectors are the backbone of Berlin's economy. 94 percent of the city's companies have less than 200 employees. Among the 20 largest employers are the German railway company Deutsche Bahn, the hospital company Charité, Siemens, the local transport company BVG, Schering, and the service providers Dussmann and the Piepenbrock group. DaimlerChrysler manufactures car engines in Berlin, BMW motorbikes. The pharmaceutical company Berlin Chemie is particularly successful in its business with Eastern Europe. What is important to Berlin is the cooperation between research and business, and

this is reflected by the work done at the science and business park Berlin-Adlershof.

- 2 -

## **Education and research**

Berlin has 878 schools teaching 340,658 children in 13,727 classes (for the school year 2004/2005), 56,787 trainees (as of 2004) in businesses and elsewhere, and 141,010 students (for the term 2004/2005) at the four universities Freie Universität, Humboldt-Universität, Technische Universität, and Universität der Künste, as well as at art schools, schools of applied sciences, and administration schools. Private universities such as the European School of Management and Technology and the Jewish Touro College are also part of Berlin's educational landscape. A total of 62,000 scientists work in research and development at Berlin's universities and research institutions.

## **Traffic and transport**

Crossing 979 bridges, 5334 kilometers of roads run through Berlin, of which 66 kilometers are motorways. In 2004, 1.428 million motor vehicles, including 6800 taxis, were registered in the city. Local public transport is operated by the companies BVG and Deutsche Bahn AG and includes 1626 kilometers of bus lines, 187 kilometers of tram lines, 144 kilometers of underground lines, and 328 kilometers of city railways. Berlin has three airports (Berlin-Tegel "Otto Lilienthal," Berlin-Tempelhof, and Berlin-Schönefeld), which served 14.7 million passengers in 2004. A new large international airport is planned at Berlin-Schönefeld. The new main train station (Hauptbahnhof) will already be in operation for the World Cup, and the railway tracks within the city have largely been renewed, as have many stations, such as the northern and southern junction stations.

## **Media**

Berlin has the highest concentration of national and international radio and television stations in Germany. More than 1,000 journalists from Germany and abroad report from here. An important German publishing house with headquarters in Berlin is Axel Springer AG (publishing, for example, the newspapers "Bild" and "Die Welt"). The regional broadcasting station of the national radio and television network ARD is Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (RBB). With more than 1,000 production companies, the region is a major location for television and movie productions. More than 300 films are made here each year. The Berlin region is the reference region for UMTS and the digital television system DVB-T and supplies one million households with an 862 MHz broadband cable network. Berlin is Germany's center for the music business. Universal, Sony Music, and BMG are headquartered here, and they were joined by the music channel MTV and the music and entertainment fair popkomm in 2004. Large media events take place in Berlin on a regular basis, such as the Berlinale film festival, the German and the European film awards, and ceremonies for German media awards like the "Golden camera" (Goldene Kamera) and "Echo" (Echo).

## **Geography**

Berlin's geographical center (the Berlin Town Hall) is located at latitude 52° 31' 12" north and at longitude 13° 24' 36" east. Berlin covers an area of 89,182 hectares, the city border has a length of 234 kilometers, and the city extends to a maximum of 45 kilometers from east to west and 38 from north to south. 40.6% of the area is covered by buildings or open space, 15.2% by traffic and transport infrastructure, 18% by forests, 6.7% by water, and 4.9% by farm land. The highest elevations are the Müggelberge and Teufelsberg hills at 115 meters. Berlin lies on the rivers Spree (45.1 kilometers within the city) and Havel (27.1 kilometers). Two of the larger lakes are Müggelsee and Wannsee.

## **Memorial sites**

Three important memorial sites recalling the National Socialist era and the Holocaust are the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe with its information center in close proximity to Brandenburg Gate, the House of the Wannsee Conference (Am Grossen Wannsee 56-58, 14109 Berlin), and the German Resistance Memorial Center (Stauffenbergstr. 13-14, 10785 Berlin). Another place of interest is the Jewish Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind (Lindenstr. 9-14, 10969 Berlin). Three important sites commemorate the Berlin Wall: the Berlin Wall Documentation Center (Bernauer Str. 111, 13355 Berlin), the Museum Haus am Checkpoint Charlie (Friedrichstr. 43-45, 10969 Berlin), and the East Side Gallery (Mühlenstrasse, 10243 Berlin).

## **History**

Berlin is first mentioned in a document of 28 October 1237. This date is considered the founding date of the city. On 8 July 1411, Burgrave Friedrich VI of Nuremberg was the first of the house of Hohenzollern to become the sovereign prince of Berlin and Brandenburg. Hohenzollern rule ended with the abdication of Emperor Wilhelm II on 9 November 1918. When the Elector Friedrich III was made King Friedrich I of Prussia on 18 February 1701, Berlin finally became the undisputed capital of the Prussian monarchy. The Bismarck constitution of 16 April 1871 declared Berlin the capital city of the Empire. The Reichstag building was constructed as the seat of the

parliament. After his takeover of power on 30 January 1933, Hitler also ruled Germany from Berlin and had his chancellery erected in Wilhelmstrasse.

- 3 -

## **Berlin's division**

After 1945, the victorious allied forces of the Second World War, the United States of America, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and France, divided Berlin into four sectors. After the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic were founded, the building of the Wall, starting on 13 August 1961, led to the division of Berlin. A federal state belonging to the Federal Republic of Germany, the three western sectors (West Berlin) fell under the sovereignty of the three western "protective powers," while the Soviet sector became the capital city of the GDR. The Wall fell on 9 November 1989.

## **Germany's capital city**

After reunification of the two German states on 3 October 1990 (the national holiday called "Day of German Unity"), the federal parliament (Bundestag) decided on 20 June 1991 to relocate the parliament and parts of the government to Berlin. This means that Berlin is again the seat of the government, home to the Federal Chancellery and Germany's parliament, in the Reichstag building. In August 2000, the parliamentary chamber representing the German federal states (Bundesrat) also moved to Berlin. According to the coalition agreement between the political parties forming the current federal government, a clause stating that Berlin is Germany's capital city is to be included in the Basic Law, Germany's constitution.

## **Politics**

Berlin is both a city and one of the 16 federal states of the Federal Republic of Germany. Berlin's government is the Berlin Senate. The head of government is the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit (since 16 June 2001). Berlin's parliament is the Berlin House of Representatives. Its speaker is Walter Momper (since 29 November 2001). The seats in this assembly are distributed as follows: SPD (Social Democratic Party) – 45 seats, CDU (Christian Democratic Union) – 35 seats, Die Linkspartei/PDS (Left Party/Party of Democratic Socialism) – 33 seats, FDP (Free Democratic Party) – 12 seats, Bündnis90/Die Grünen (Alliance 90/Greens) – 14 seats, and 2 independent members. The Senate is currently governed by a coalition of the SPD and the Left Party. The city consists of 12 boroughs, which all have their own mayors and borough offices, as well as their own borough assemblies. The next elections in Berlin will be held on 17 September 2006.

## **Population**

Berlin has 3,391,344 inhabitants (as of July 2005), of which 453,977 are foreign nationals (as of June 2005). These include 119,124 foreigners from other member states of the European Union, and 117,624 from Turkey. 1,537,000 of Berlin's citizens are gainfully employed, 304,042 are unemployed. The unemployment rate is 18.1% (as of October 2005). 148,170 people (as of 2004) work for the state of Berlin. 757,000 people are Protestants, 312,000 Catholics, 12,000 belong to the Jewish Community and 213,000 to Muslim religious groups.

## **Tourism**

By 2006, more than 560 establishments will be offering accommodation for 85,000 people. About 170,000 people work in the tourism industry. With more than 13 million overnight stays per year, Berlin is Germany's top destination for city tours and welcomes the largest number of foreign visitors.

## **Boulevards**

The city's most prestigious boulevard is "Unter den Linden," which leads to Brandenburg Gate. Berlin is an international shopping metropolis. The main shopping boulevards are Kurfürstendamm/Tauentzienstrasse with the venerable KaDeWe (Kaufhaus des Westens) department store and Friedrichstrasse with the Galeries Lafayette, as well as Potsdamer Platz. Creative designer fashion can be found in the area around Hackescher Markt.

## **Sightseeing**

A host of dark blue signs with white letters, especially in the city center, show you the way to Berlin's major sights. Important sights, apart from the places already mentioned, are the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, Charlottenburg Palace, the Berlin Cathedral, Gendarmenmarkt, the two zoos, the Kulturforum, the Nikolai district, the New Synagogue, the Victory Column, and the Berlin Town Hall.

## **Brandenburg**

Berlin is surrounded by the territory of the federal state of Brandenburg. The two federal states are planning to merge into one. Brandenburg's capital city is Potsdam with its famous Sanssouci castle and the surrounding parks, which can be reached by city railway (S-Bahn). The famous Spreewald landscape also belongs to Brandenburg.

**Berlin on the internet:**

You will find further information about Berlin on the official Web site of the state of Berlin at <http://www.berlin.de> (partly in English), the homepage of Berlin's tourism agency at <http://www.btm.de>, and the marketing organization Berlin Partner at <http://www.berlin-partner.de>. Information about Berlin in other languages is available at <http://www.berlin-turkish.com/> (Turkish), <http://www.berlin-china.net/> (Chinese), <http://www.berlin-ru.net/> (Russian), and <http://www.doitsu.com/berlin/> (Japanese). Please also have a look at our special site for the FIFA World Cup at <http://www.berlin.de/fifawm2006/index.php>.