

# HISTORY TOURS TO BERLIN

*Berlin is a city that has experienced major political and economic changes. It is an excellent city for History students to visit, either on its own, or combined with a visit to Krakow and Auschwitz.*

**After World War One, defeat, together with the abolition of the monarchy, made Berlin a centre of political turmoil. Hitler took over in 1933 and remained in power for 12 years – a period known as the Third Reich. The Allied victory over Nazi Germany in 1945, marked the beginning of the Cold War – the division of Berlin, and in 1961 the construction of the infamous Berlin Wall. It was not until 1990 that Germany was unified and Berlin took its place again as the capital of Germany.**

The city offers a range of study options which can all be tailored to meet the needs of different age groups – in particular options such as Hitler's Berlin and the Cold War.

## HITLER'S BERLIN

Suggested visits could include:

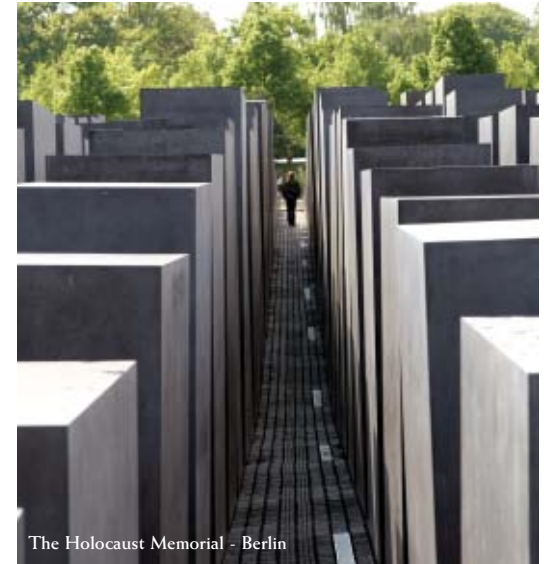
- Wannsee Conference Centre – where the formal plans were drawn up for the Final Solution.
- Plötzensee Memorial Centre – the former execution site where Hitler had his political opponents murdered.
- The Olympic Stadium – the home of the 1936 'Nazi' Olympic Games.
- Topography of Terror – an exhibition housed in the cellars of the former Gestapo Headquarters.
- The Holocaust Memorial – opened in May 2005 to remember the many murdered by the Nazis.
- The Reichstag – damaged by fire in 1933, but rebuilt between 1994-1999. A visit could include a climb up to the top of the glass dome.
- The Soviet War Memorial – to the Russians who died in the Battle of Berlin.
- Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp – one of the earliest camps built in 1936 and opened as a memorial in 1961 (30 miles north of Berlin).
- G Air Ministry Building – built on the orders of Goering between 1935 and 1936, it was one of the few major public buildings in central Berlin to escape serious damage during the Allied bombing offensive in 1944-45.
- Kaiser-Wilhelm Church – bombed in 1943, and it is now a small museum focussing on wartime destruction.

## THE COLD WAR

Suggested visits could include:

- Cecilienhof Palace – the sight of the Potsdam Conference of 1945 where Churchill, Truman and Stalin convened to redraw the post-war map of Europe.
- Allied Museum – which tells the story of the Allied Occupation of Berlin from 1945 to reunification.
- Checkpoint Charlie Museum – gives details of the Berlin Wall and attempts made to cross it.
- East Side Gallery – 1.3km section of Wall, decorated by artists, making it the largest open air gallery in the world, and a memorial for freedom.
- Brandenburg Gate – a landmark and symbol of the division and later reunification of Germany.

**NB Teacher's Guides on Hitler's Berlin (Third Reich) and the Cold War are provided.**



The Holocaust Memorial - Berlin



Jewish Memorial - Berlin



House of the Wannsee Conference

Top to Bottom:  
Reidstag - Berlin,  
Jewish Memorial -  
Berlin,  
Schloss Cecilienhof.