

PRESS INFORMATION

Exhibit: Berliner Blicke auf dem Potsdamer Platz.

One-of-a-kind. Moving. In the sky above Berlin.

Starting in mid-July, the open air exhibition “Berliner Blicke auf den Potsdamer Platz (Berliner Views of Potsdamer Platz),” the highest exhibit in the city at over 100 meters up, will be on display. The exhibit, which will take up the 24th and 25th floors of the Kollhoff Tower in the heart of Berlin, will enthrall guests with effective historical content and a spectacular installation.

The bilingual exhibit is based on the idea and concept of Paul Heinen, from Hamburg. It was implemented by Facts & Files, the Historical Research Institute of Berlin, and is the first of its kind to deal with life in Potsdamer Platz during this moving period of history. At the same time it offers the best view on the modern, ever-developing Berlin. All architectural and historical highlights of the city seem from the PANORAMAPUNKT to be close enough to touch.

The exhibit begins with a short film about the history of Potsdamer Platz. No other place in the world has gone through so many transformations: from a green field to a world city center, entertainment hub to debris, from no-man’s-land to the modern middle of Berlin. Nowhere else do happiness and tragedy lie so closely to one another. The Berliner filmmaker and winner of the Grimme prize Britta Wauer has composed a poignant collage of historical recordings which attune the viewer to the emotional tone of the display.

The exhibit includes 20 illuminated multimedia glass panels, hung around the building, which recount about 300 years of Berlin’s history and the story of Potsdamer Platz. The display begins in the 1830s, with the toll wall erected by King Friedrich Wilhelm the First. This wall comprised fourteen gates, the Potsdamer Gate being one of the main entrées into the city.

Further display boards elaborate on the excitement of life on Potsdamer Platz in the time before the Second World War. They describe the luxury of the hotels and cafes, which movie stars like Charlie Chaplin and Greta Garbo frequented; in those days, Potsdamer Platz was the busiest square in Europe.

The exhibit continues with the megalomania of the Third Reich and the sea of ruins after the bombing of the Second World War. The city lay in soot and ashes; a new epoch began. The Allies split Berlin into sections. Potsdamer Platz was divided by the construction of the Berlin Wall, and stayed divided for 28 years. As a symbol of this epoch, a piece of the Berlin Wall stands at the top of the Kollhoff Tower, the highest piece of the Wall on display in a building.

The time of the Cold War is a central theme, as well as the propaganda battle between East and West, the full effect of which unfolded in Potsdamer Platz. Concrete and barbed wire finalize the picture of devastation and desertion in the center of the city. This piece of the

exhibit ends with a quotation from Willy Brandt in the year 1989: "Now what belongs together, will come together."

The display goes on with the "New Times" and a representation of the construction and development of Potsdamer Platz. In the middle of the 1990s, this was the largest construction site in the world. A separate board hold the answer to the question, "What is where on Potsdamer Platz?" Which buildings stood on Leipziger and Potsdamer Platz before, and which buildings take their place today?

The "Berliner Blicke" display is rounded out with an audio guide (German/English), which helps the 45-minute historical tour of Berlin to be informative and entertaining. Soon, the guide will be translated into further languages.

Visitors to the observation deck will experience the past and the present in equal measure: On the one hand, the enigmatic city will lie at their feet, while on the other hand, they can dive into the history of the square with the help of the display boards. This combination of history and present is what makes the exhibit "Berliner Blicke auf den Potsdamer Platz" so unique and spectacular.

Potsdamer Platz in the mirror of German history—visitors leave the exhibit with the knowledge that they are in one of the most meaningful places in the world.

Panoramapunkt Potsdamer Platz, Potsdamer Platz 1, 10785 Berlin

Phone: 0049 (0) 30 2529 4372, open daily 10am-8 pm, depending on the sunset, sometimes longer

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