

35 MAUERFALL JAHRE

Press Release

10 November 2024

Berlin celebrates the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Wall with over 500,000 visitors

The German capital celebrated the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall yesterday with a series of events that attracted more than 500,000 visitors from at home and abroad. Over the course of two days, Berlin transformed into the backdrop of a diverse programme commemorating the historic events of 1989/90 while also paying tribute to that era's new sense of boundless freedom.

The celebrations began on 8 November with the launch of a 4-kilometre open-air-installation stretching along the route of the former Berlin Wall. The installation displayed replicas of historical banners from the 1989/90 era alongside posters conveying present-day sayings and slogans contributed by thousands of Berliners. This and a series of exhibitions set up at seven locations along the route provided the crowds of visitors with historical information and insight into the calls for freedom and human rights issued by the people of the GDR during the Peaceful Revolution. The installation was accompanied by lectures, tours and performances that emphasised the importance of freedom and social cohesion.

The highlight of the 35th anniversary celebrations was the "Concert for Freedom" held on five stages along the former route of the Wall, with the main focus placed on the massive stage at the Brandenburg Gate. Together with the roughly 700 singers and musicians playing in synch as part of the "Band for Freedom", the crowd transformed the city into the biggest rock 'n' roll stage in the world. By celebrating this year's anniversary under the motto "Hold freedom up high", Berlin once again set an example and sent out a message for freedom that made its way around the world.

Berlin's Governing Mayor Kai Wegner was also on hand at the celebrations and said the following: *"Berlin is and will always be the city of freedom. This year, on 9 November, we paid tribute to the courageous women and men who brought down the Wall in 1989. But we also celebrated freedom itself. We created a huge poster installation and staged a magnificent concert featuring 700 musicians at the Brandenburg Gate and other locations along the former Wall. I am very grateful to Kulturprojekte and especially to Moritz van Dülmen for these wonderful ideas and productions, all of which will no doubt ensure that this 35th anniversary remains a special memory for all of us for a long time to come".*

Yet another unique feature of this year's celebrations was a special 35th anniversary book, which was available in both German and English editions. Visitors were invited to take home their own copy free of charge as a souvenir. The book contains essays and interviews spotlighting the Peaceful Revolution of 1989 as well as images of each one of the posters designed by Berliners in the lead-up to this year's anniversary events and featured in the 4-km open-air installation.

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Grand finale at the “Campus for Democracy”

The celebrations commemorating the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall will come to a close today with an event called “Revolution! - Then what?” at the Campus for Democracy. At 8 pm, the band **Pussy Riot** will perform an open-air concert, and once again all Berliners and visitors to the city are invited to attend.

PRESS CONTACT – 35th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and Fall of the Berlin Wall

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Funding & Partnerships

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