

2025/26

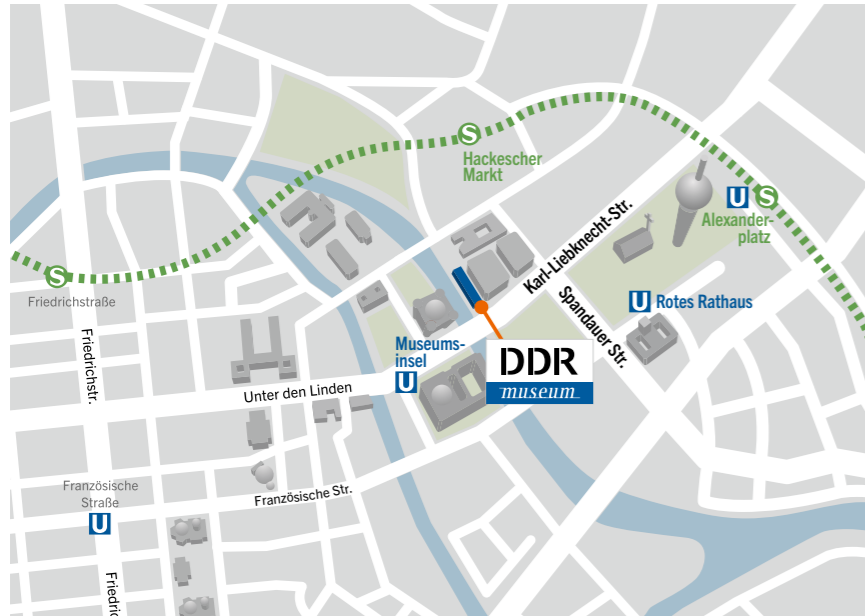


DDR
museum

PRESS KIT

A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF HISTORY

AT A GLANCE



ADDRESS

Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 1, 10178 Berlin-Mitte
Next to Museum Island, opposite Berlin Cathedral

GRAPHIC MATERIAL

You can download printable press pictures of the DDR Museum for your articles from our website:

www.ddr-museum.de/en/museum/press

PHOTOS AND RECORDINGS

We organise photo and recording inquiries promptly and in a straightforward way: [+49 30 847 123 7-47](tel:+4930847123747)

INTERLOCUTOR

In addition to interviews about the DDR Museum, we are happy to be your point of contact for GDR-specific topics. For questions about the history of the GDR, we recommend our scientific advisor **Dr Ilko-Sascha Kowalczyk**. If you have questions about GDR vehicles and other technical objects, we recommend exhibition director **Sören Marotz**. **Dr Liza Soutschek** is available to answer your questions about pop and youth culture and about the history of science and the environment. If you would like an overview of our collection, we would be happy to put you in touch with our collection manager and military historian **Eric Strohmeier-Wimmer**. If you have any questions about the DDR Museum, the director, **Gordon von Godin**, is at your disposal.

ONLINE-OBJEKTDATENBANK

In our online object database, you can find many pictures of original GDR objects from our collection of more than 360,000 items. For a small fee, we are happy to provide you with photos in a suitable resolution and format.

www.ddr-museum.de/en/objects

WELCOME TO THE DDR MUSEUM

Dear journalists,

A warm welcome to the DDR Museum. This press kit is intended to provide you with key information and to serve as an invitation: get an impression of our museum by visiting and experiencing the exhibition first hand.

In addition to interviews about the DDR-Museum, contemporary witnesses and historians are happy to talk to you about GDR-specific topics and support you in your interest in a topic that really matters to us.

If you would like to learn more about the museum, feel free to get in touch.

Your

Simone Uthleb
Spokesperson

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April
2004
birth of the idea
and start of
planning

15 July
2006
opening of the
permanent exhibition

10 October
2010
opening of the
second part of
the permanent
exhibition

29 October
2014
release of the
educational board game
»Bürokratopoly«

December 2014 award »Geschichte
erinnern – Geschichte gestalten«
from the Bundeszentrale für politische
Bildung in recognition of the game's
contribution to the commemoration of
the Peaceful Revolution and the fall of
the Berlin Wall.

27 August
2016
opening of the third
part of the permanent
exhibition

showing an originally
furnished prefabricated
building apartment.

9 August
2019
The DDR Museum
welcomes its six
millionth visitor.



1 Sep 2021 –
15 Jan 2023
Opening of the
motorbike exhibition
in the historic viaduct arches between
the Alexanderplatz and Hackescher Markt
train stations.

DDR MOTORRAD
museum



January
2008
nomination
for the European Museum
of the Year Award 2009



December
2011
Nominierung
for the European Museum
of the Year Award 2012

13 December
2013
opening of the worldwide
unique Trabant driving
simulation



4 Aug 2018 –
31 Dec 2019
opening of the
multimedia exhibition
»nineties berlin«

at the Alte Münze, created and
produced by the team of the
DDR Museum.

ninetiesberlin

1 April
2023
Reopening after three
and a half months of
closure

partial redesign of the DDR Mu-
seum following considerable water
damage.

16 March
2025
Opening of the
Museum Depot in
Berlin-Marzahn

The new depot will house one of
the largest collections of everyday
objects from the GDR, with around
360,000 exhibits being stored,
researched and restored.

DDR DEPOT
museum

A UNIQUE SOURCE OF FUNDING

As an entirely private company, the DDR Mu-
seum does not receive any state subsidies or
other sources of funding. It is funded entirely
by visitor fees and sales in the museum shop.
This experiment has turned out to be success-
ful. Maintaining the commercial viability of the
museum, the management carefully reinvests
profits into the museum's facilities and exhibi-
tions.



JOURNEY INTO A BYGONE STATE

The staging and concept of the permanent exhibition place particular emphasis on interactivity. Visitors are invited to learn about everyday life in the GDR and to expand their knowledge in an entertaining way. The exhibition is not chronologically but thematically divided into about 50 modules. In each of the thematic areas, exciting exhibits and interactive installations tell stories about life in the GDR.

Visitors enter the exhibition on the entrance level and are greeted by a six-metre-wide section of the original Berlin Wall with a diorama of the Wall in the museum foyer. The new sections »Divided Germany« and »GDR Compact« are presented in front of it with numerous new exhibits and information.

A special highlight is a model of the Palace of the Republic on a scale of 1:125 (2 x 1.30 metres), currently the largest model in the world. Visitors can also expect a new presentation of the topic »Magazines and Newspapers of the GDR«. With over fifty different

magazines, there is an overview of the numerous publications that appeared. When you enter the middle exhibition area, you enter the »semicircle of power« and see: the party is at the centre. Around this centre, the various areas gather in a semicircle around topics such as »politics«, »military« or »economy«. Visitors can open doors, flaps and drawers and thus get more detailed insights behind the facade of state power.

In the third and final part of the permanent exhibition, a completely furnished and authentic prefabricated flat shows aspects of private life in the GDR. A child's and teenager's room, a bedroom, a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom, a lift, a Stasi surveillance room as well as a garage can be freely explored and experienced.

Screens with descriptive texts in six languages introduce visitors to the respective areas, conveying content to visitors from all over the world.



FACTS & FIGURES

Opening DDR Museum: **15 July 2006**
 Expansion »Semicircle of Power«: **10 October 2010**
 Prefabricated flat WBS 70: **27 August 2016**
 Reopening after water damage: **1 April 2023**

CEO: **Quirin Graf Adelmann v. A.**
 Director: **Gordon Freiherr von Godin**

Exhibition space: **930 m²**
 Exhibitions in German and English, introductory texts in six languages, additional services in twelve languages

Opening hours: **Monday – Sunday: 9:00 – 21:00**
 365 Days a year



A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF HISTORY

Our concept »hands-on experience of history« does not only refer to the exhibits which visitors are encouraged to touch, handle and enjoy, but also to the exhibition technology. We use state-of-the-art multimedia technology to guarantee the best possible museum experience: futuristic technology such as a digital mirror, an interactive table, transparent screens, various multi-touchscreen applications, motion sensors, digital windows, bone conduction speakers, 2D-animations and magnet-contacts all complement traditional elements such as dioramas, cabinets, games and objects. This combination of tradition and innovation creates a unique and refreshing museum experience.

TRABANT DRIVING SIMULATION

In cooperation with the Fraunhofer Heinrich-Hertz-Institut, the DDR Museum developed a highly-authentic simulator, reproducing the sights, sounds and functions (ignition, accelerator, brake, steering) of an original Trabant P 601. Visitors can drive around a realistic 3D reproduction of a Berlin housing estate projected onto the front windscreen.

Costs: **40,000 €**
 Implementation time: **12 Monate**
60.000 m² housing estate
114 Trabant cars in original colours



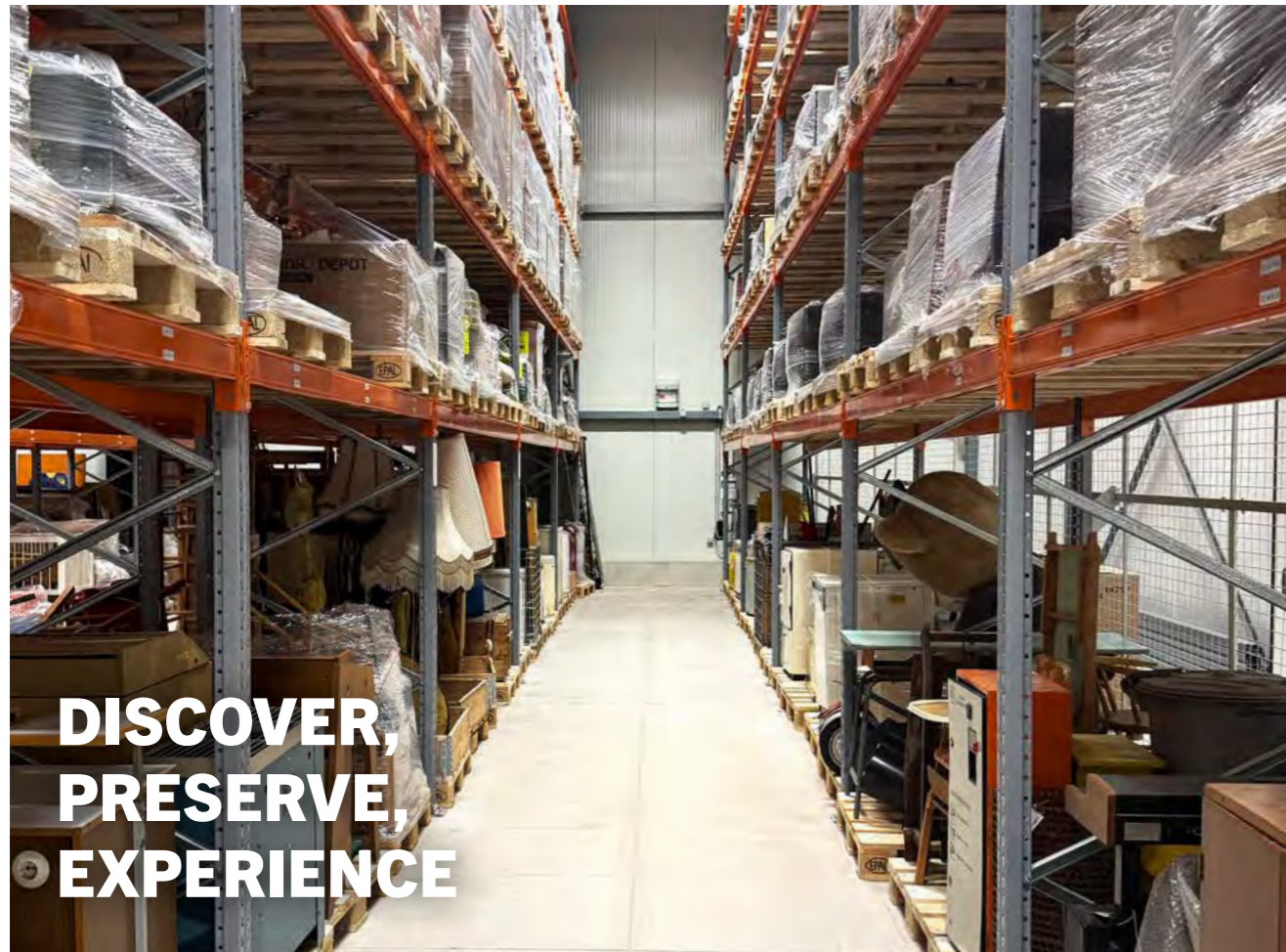
A UNIQUE APPROACH

The DDR Museum is so much more than simply viewing objects behind glass. Visitors have to actively participate to experience the exhibition. They can touch objects, open drawers and closets. On their exhilarating journey back in time, they will find themselves discovering and feeling a range of different things in every corner of the museum. They land in the East German socialist past, where they get to know the realities of everyday life in a communist dictatorship. Experiencing history hands-on, our visitors are invited to question clichés and expand their knowledge about a bygone state.

FACTS & FIGURES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Trabi driving simulation | 6 dioramas |
| 1 multi-touch table | 26 touch screens |
| 1 digital mirror | 23 audio stations |
| 4 digital windows | 56 monitors |
| 4 interactive telephones | |





**DISCOVER,
PRESERVE,
EXPERIENCE**

DDR **DEPOT** *museum*

The new DDR Museum Depot in Berlin-Marzahn is home to one of the largest collections of everyday objects from the former East Germany. Around 360,000 objects are collected, stored and researched here. Sustainably operated and climate-controlled, the depot provides optimal conditions for the preservation of these important cultural assets.

More than just a warehouse: special exhibitions, educational programmes and events make the depot a vibrant place of historical remembrance. A new milestone in the preservation and communication of the East German past between 1945 and 1990.

FACTS & FIGURES

number of objects: **ca. 360,000**

number of donors: **ca. 10,000**

most difficult acquisition:

1 megabit chip, Germina Speeder (skateboard)

most common donation: **medal »Activist of Socialist Labour«**

largest objects: **segments of the Berlin Wall, Barkas vans**

ADDRESS

DDR Museum Depot
Pyramidenring 10
12681 Berlin-Marzahn

www.ddd-museum.de/en/collection



Object Database

The online object database provides insights into our collection – one of the largest museum collections on GDR history in the world. We are constantly working on the digitisation and scientific description of original objects from the GDR, so that the database is growing day by day.

www.ddd-museum.de/en/objects



A Look at Our Collection

We use our small display case »A Look at Our Collection«, which is located in the entrance area, to present highlights from the collection and tell the story behind them. This way, we pick up on new, changing topics and expand the permanent exhibition.



Special Exhibitions

The DDR Museum offers changing special exhibitions that deal with different topics of the GDR history and expand the permanent exhibition. The exhibition area includes a large glass display case that is filled with various exhibits from our collection. Some of the topics of the last special exhibitions were »GDR Daily Life in 200 Objects«, »Little Brother, Big Brother – The GDR and the Soviet Union« or »The Baltic Sea – Holiday Destination, Border Area, Place of Longing«.

www.ddd-museum.de/en/museum/special-exhibitions

PAINTED UTOPIA



Ronald Paris

(*12 August 1933 † 17 September 2021)

In Praise of Communism MURAL, 1969/70

This work of art is an expression of an intellectual debate that reached its peak in the 1960s and is still highly relevant today. In 1969/70, Ronald Paris created the eight-metre-seventy-long fresco for the conference hall of the Haus der Statistik. He was inspired by Bertolt Brecht's poem of the same name, in which Brecht describes communism as 'the simple thing that is difficult to do'. This unique testimony bears witness to the victory of the working class and traces the historical path that led to it. Ronald Paris draws on the imagery of the Middle Ages and other eras for this. At the same time, he combines his commitment to the communist utopia with a critique of the existing system.

RESCUE AND RESTORATION

The House of Statistics was due to be demolished in 2010. The DDR Museum took over the painting and invested ca. €20,000 in its professional restoration. The painter himself unveiled the restored work of art in 2010, and it has since found its permanent place in the DDR Museum. The museum has set itself the task of preserving an important piece of German cultural history and making it accessible to younger generations as well.



In Praise of Communism at the Haus der Statistik, 2010

FACTS & FIGURES

Entstehung: **1969/70**

Enthüllung im DDR Museum: **2010**

Kosten der Restaurierung: **ca. 20.000 EUR**

Abmessungen: **2 meter hoch, 8,7 meter breit**





EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Not only focusing on a contemporary way to create an exhibition, the DDR Museum places great importance on the high-quality educational services, including guided tours of the exhibition, city tours and talks with contemporary witnesses. We offer tours and other services in twelve languages.

The divisible conference room was set up in 2008 for school classes to prepare and follow up their visit to the museum. Up to 50 people have the opportunity to carry out research, seminars, lessons, discussions with contemporary witnesses or film screenings at the same time. A media library and a well-stocked specialised library are available on site.

FACTS & FIGURES

- › More than 100,000 impressed students annually.
- › Over 95 percent of all teachers say they plan to come again.
- › Over 85 percent of teachers found that their pupils concentrated better in our exhibition compared to other museums.

Talks with contemporary witnesses

Talks with contemporary witnesses of the GDR offer a first-hand account of everyday life in East Germany. Audiences can ask questions and gain a vivid appreciation of the quality of life in East Germany. We provide witnesses to speak on almost any aspect of life in the GDR including everyday life, school life, work, oppositional activities and imprisonment by the Stasi.



ASSOCIATION AND EVENTS

The DDR Museum Berlin e.V. has set itself the goal of making history accessible to a broad public.

Besides special events in the DDR Museum itself, the association mainly organises a series of events (in German language) that are free of charge. Events with a thematic reference to the GDR take place regularly in the conference room of the DDR Museum. You can browse through past recordings of a large number of events in our event archive. You can watch recordings of the events in our YouTube playlist. Participation in the events is free of charge.

EVENT ARCHIVE

www.ddr-museum.de/de/termine

DDR MUSEUM ON YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/@ddrmuseum



DDR MUSEUM VERLAG

The DDR Museum Verlag publishes the publications, scientific literature of the in-house historians and works by selected authors who are dedicated to the GDR topic.

www.ddd-museum.de/en/publishing

ORDER REVIEW COPIES

verlag@ddd-museum.de

BOOKS AND EBOOKS ONLINE-SHOP

onlineshop.ddd-museum.de



DR. STEFAN WOLLE

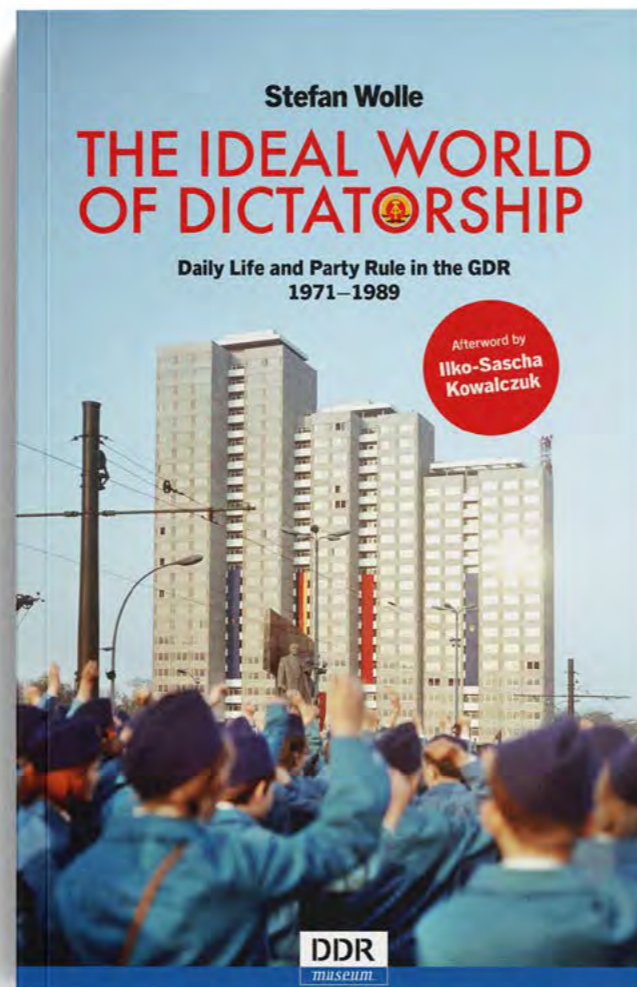
born in 1950 in Halle/Saale, studied history at Humboldt University in Berlin. Scientific director of the DDR Museum, from 2006 to 2024. His numerous books are among the most widely read on the subject.

Dr. Stefan Wolle
THE IDEAL WORLD OF DICTATORSHIP
978-3-939801-67-2

Non-fiction
13.5 × 21 cm | 464 pages
Soft cover
20.00 Euro

THE IDEAL WORLD OF DICTATORSHIP

Daily Life and Party Rule in the GDR, 1971–1989



Dr. Wolle succeeds in addressing the apparent contradiction between everyday life in a seemingly caring society and the mechanisms of dictatorial rule. With wit, irony and narrative power, Wolle describes how security and lack of freedom went hand in hand in the GDR, offering insights into the balancing act between adaptation and control.

For this new edition, renowned historian Dr Ilko-Sascha Kowalczyk has written the afterword. His contribution provides a profound reflection on the significance of the dictatorship experience in international historical discourse.

GDR GUIDE JOURNEY INTO A BYGONE STATE

Revised new edition for the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Peaceful Revolution.

Since its opening in 2006, the DDR Museum in the heart of Berlin has taken a special path. The exhibition tells of the realities of the lives of the people who lived in this country. It does so without glorifying or demonising. This book also attempts to do the same. It strives to be more than a museum catalogue, a kind of guide through the labyrinth of conflicting memories. It presents the current state of research and public debate on the GDR in an accessible form and offers food for thought for further examination of the past and the future of our society. Divided into ten thematic areas, the book describes the various aspects of life in the GDR in short, concise and richly illustrated articles. 21 »special objects« from the permanent exhibition are presented and form a red thread through the exhibition of the DDR Museum.

The publication is ideal for those preparing to visit Berlin, as well as for visitors wishing to deepen their knowledge after a tour of the exhibition.

Dr. Stefan Wolle, Sören Marotz:
GDR GUIDE — JOURNEY INTO A BYGONE STATE

Photo book/Non-fiction
12.5 × 21 cm | 244 pages
Soft cover with flaps, full colour
12.50 Euro

English 978-3-939801-57-3
German 978-3-939801-56-6
French 978-3-939801-58-0





GDR DAILY LIFE IN 200 OBJECTS

Everyday objects and consumer goods were highly valued in GDR society. They were used, repaired and kept for longer – the GDR was a kind of ‘society of retention’. In some cases, the material legacy of the SED state enjoys almost cult-like veneration. The things presented here show a cross-section of 40 years of everyday life in the GDR. There is a story behind each of these objects.

The exhibits, some of which are quite unassuming – from the K 109 coffee machine to the refrigerator to the mantel clock – provide insight into the everyday life of the people of the defunct state. In this book, we bring the past into the present. The detailed photographs by Thorsten Heideck and Adrian Serini and the texts by historian and GDR expert Dr Stefan Wolle offer a broad spectrum of life in the GDR.

GDR IN OBJECTS

The series »GDR in Objects« shows about 3,000 objects from the collection of the DDR Museum, which have been scientifically processed for this series. They all come from the collection of the DDR Museum, which, with over 360,000 artefacts, is the largest museum collection in the world on the subject of the GDR.

The team of authors, Dr Stefan Wolle and Quirin Graf Adelman, provides entertaining and informative insights into everyday life as well as the economic and product history of this bygone state. In three high-quality illustrated books, »GDR in Objects‘ offers an all-encompassing insight into the world of objects in the German Democratic Republic.

Adelmann, Quirin Graf / Godin, Gordon von (Hrsg.):
**GDR IN OBJECTS 1949–1990:
 DAILY LIFE, HOME, CONSUMPTION**
 ISBN 978-3-939801-46-7

Adelmann, Quirin Graf / Godin, Gordon von (Hrsg.):
**GDR IN OBJECTS 1949–1990:
 LEISURE, CULTURE, TRAVEL**
 ISBN 978-3-939801-48-1

Adelmann, Quirin Graf / Godin, Gordon von (Hrsg.):
**DDR IN OBJEKTEN 1949–1990:
 WORK, ECONOMICS, POLITICS**
 Planned

limited, hardcover editions,
 bilingual German/English,
 24 × 34 cm, 400 pages

Adelmann, Quirin Graf /
 Godin, Gordon von (Hrsg.):
**GDR DAILY LIFE IN
 200 OBJECTS**
 ISBN 978-3-939801-53-5

Adelmann, Quirin Graf /
 Godin, Gordon von (Hrsg.):
**DDR ALLTAG IN
 200 OBJEKTEN**
 ISBN 978-3-939801-51-1

Softcover with flaps,
 17.5 × 24 cm, 256 pages



OUR VISITORS

The DDR Museum has set itself the aim of disseminating a lively interest in history amongst all sections of society. Our exhibition is designed to make history accessible to the wider public, regardless of their level of knowledge. All exhibition texts are written in German and English. Additional services such as guided tours are available in twelve languages.

Since the opening of the DDR Museum in 2006, the number of visitors has risen. This means that, since 2012, well over half a million Berliners as well as tourists from Germany and abroad have experienced »hands-on history« each year.

Due to the large number of interactive exhibition elements, the museum is suitable for every age group, even for primary school students. Target group-specific guided tours, games and workshops also introduce younger generations to German history.

Sophie Google: 06/2022 ★★★★★
»The DDR museum is an excellent museum with great interactivity, good learning and well designed exhibits. A must do for anyone visiting Berlin who wants to see and touch examples of its past being the capital of the GDR.«

firoozeh nafisy Google: 10/2022 ★★★★★
»Highly recommend! The best museum I have visited in my life. [...] They made a great job of making [history] so exciting and adventurous. Hats off to the directors and all the staff.«



As of 09/2024

NeilGJ888 TripAdvisor: 05/2022 ★★★★★
»I don't usually review attractions, but am making an exception for the DDR Museum, as I was genuinely impressed with how it interpreted and presented life in the former East Germany. [...] I spent two hours in the museum, and could have been there longer.«

APhipps90 TripAdvisor: 09/2022 ★★★★★
»It's a very well thought out museum! Not only is the content and subject matter interesting and engaging but the layout and the design adds another layer of enjoyment to it. You can watch, listen, interact etc, etc, etc. There's something for everyone of every background and ago group.«

Beatrizm115 TripAdvisor: 09/2022 ★★★★★
»Interactive fun museum. So so cool, one of the best museums I visited in terms of interactivity, there are a lot of games you can play, you can explore an apartment of the GDR [...]. My friend and I had so much fun! For me a must when in Berlin!«



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