



DDR

museum

PRESS KIT

BERLIN'S INTERACTIVE MUSEUM

WELCOME TO THE DDR MUSEUM

Dear Sir or Madam,
dear journalists,

A warm welcome to the DDR Museum. This press kit is an invitation to discover Berlin's most interactive museum in the heart of the former capital of the GDR, providing an overview of the most important information about our institution and its activities. Enjoy our exhibition and talk to its curators, the staff and visitors.

In addition to interviews about the DDR Museum, our expert staff is happy to provide information about any aspect of the GDR and its history.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Your



Simone Uthleb
Spokesperson

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 **E-MAIL** presse@ddr-museum.de

CONTENTS

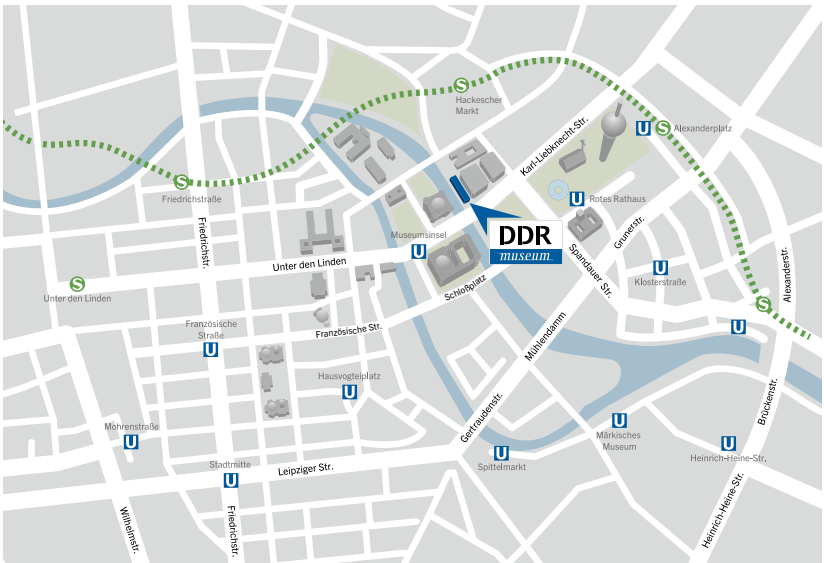
- 3 **AT A GLANCE**
- 4 **THE MUSEUM**
- 5 **HISTORY**
- 6 **THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION**
- 8 **THE COLLECTION**
- 9 **TECHNOLOGY**
- 10 **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**
- 11 **GUIDED TOURS**
- 12 **OUR PUBLICATIONS**
- 16 **OUR VISITORS**
- 18 **FACTS AND FIGURES**

BERLIN'S INTERACTIVE MUSEUM

ADDRESS

DDR Museum
Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 1
10178 Berlin-Mitte

Right on the river Spree,
opposite Berlin Cathedral



AT A GLANCE

Lively, interactive and thrilling—these are the ways in which the DDR Museum presents the GDR in all of its multiple facets. Visitors are taken on an interactive journey through time into the socialist past: take a seat in the worldwide unique Trabant driving simulation, dance the »Lipsi«, discover the rooms of an originally furnished WBS 70-prefabricated building apartment. Touching and trying out the exhibits is explicitly allowed and even encouraged.

DOWNLOADS

Graphic material

You can download printable press pictures of the DDR Museum for your articles from our website:
www.ddr-museum.de/en/media

Photos and recordings

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

Online object database

In our online object database, you can find many pictures of original GDR objects from our collection of more than 300,000 objects. For a small fee, we are happy to provide you with photos in a suitable resolution and format.
www.ddr-museum.de/en/objects

UNIQUE IN MANY WAYS

Since its opening in 2006, the DDR Museum has become one of the most-visited museums in Berlin. A number of features make it unique:

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.

A UNIQUE SOURCE OF FUNDING

As an entirely private company, the DDR Museum does not receive any state subsidies or other sources of funding. Financing its activities entirely by admission fees, this experiment has turned out to be successful. Maintaining the commercial viability of the museum, the management carefully reinvests profits into the museum's facilities and exhibitions. Due to an increasing number of visitors, we extended the permanent exhibition in 2010 whereby the DDR Museum was again nominated for the European Museum of the Year Award in 2012 (first nomination in 2008). In 2016, the third part of the permanent exhibition, an originally furnished WBS 70-prefabricated building apartment, opened to the public.

A UNIQUE FOCUS

The DDR Museum is the only institution of its kind to provide a holistic and interactive account of the conditions that prevailed in the East German dictatorship. From everyday life to political, military and economic structures, the museum conveys life in a dictatorship. Therefore, the exhibition shows history from the perspective of the population and focuses on the everyday consequences of the decisions made by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED). From this perspective, »history from below« does not only show how people lived, shopped, ate and occupied themselves, but also how they were forced to negotiate a difficult path through the competing demands of loyalty to the state and the precepts of their own conscience. This cultural-historical approach is close to those who experienced this part of history and goes far beyond a mere presentation of historical facts.

FROM THE IDEA TO THE PRESENT

APRIL 2004

birth of the idea and start of planning

15 JULY 2006



opening of the permanent exhibition

JANUARY 2008



first nomination for the European Museum of the Year Award

DECEMBER 2009

The DDR Museum welcomes its millionth visitor.

1. MIO

10 OCTOBER 2010

opening of the second part of the permanent exhibition

DECEMBER 2011



second nomination for the European Museum of the Year Award

9 NOVEMBER 2012

Google
CULTURAL
INSTITUTE

release of the online exhibition »Years of Change« in cooperation with the Google Cultural Institute

13 DECEMBER 2013



opening of the worldwide unique Trabant driving simulation

29 OCTOBER 2014

BÜROKRATOPOLY

release of the educational board game »Bürokratopoly«, including teaching material and launch of the website www.buerokratopoly.de; 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.

7 AUGUST 2016



opening of the third part of the permanent exhibition, showing an originally furnished prefabricated building apartment

4 AUGUST 2018

ninetiesberlin
alte münze
multimedia
exhibition

opening of the multimedia exhibition »nineties berlin« at the Alte Münze, created and produced by the team of the DDR Museum

9 AUGUST 2019

The DDR Museum welcomes its six millionth visitor.

6. MIO

1 JANUARY 2020

Since 2012 the DDR Museum has been welcoming well over half a million visitors annually and thus belongs to the 10 most visited museums and memorials in Berlin.

TOP 10

1 SEPTEMBER 2021

DDR MOTORRAD

Opening of the motorbike exhibition of the DDR Museum in the historic viaduct arches between the Alexanderplatz and Hackescher Markt train stations

1 APRIL 2023

Reopening after three and a half months of closure with partial redesign of the DDR Museum.

A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF HISTORY

The concept of the permanent exhibition puts special emphasis on interactivity. Visitors are invited to get to know everyday life in the GDR and to expand their knowledge in an entertaining way.

The exhibition is not chronologically, but rather thematically divided into 47 modules on life in the GDR, illustrated by interesting original objects as well as through interactive installations.

Visitors descend via an entrance level into the first part and find a prefabricated building estate on a scale of 1:20. Whilst this part of the exhibition appears grey, grim and monotone at first glance, it showcases aspects of lively everyday culture in the GDR upon closer inspection. The prefabricated building installations include both room dividers and showcase cabinets. Opening drawers and cabinets allows insights into exciting stories.

Once the visitors enter the second part of the exhibition, they will reach the »semicircle of power« and see that the Party was at the centre of everything. This centre is surrounded by a semicircle of different topics such as »Politics«, »Military« or »Economy«. Visitors can open doors, hatches as well as drawers and have a look behind the facade of the socialist dictatorship.

In the third part of the permanent exhibition, a completely furnished apartment shows aspects of private life in the GDR. A children's and youth room, a bedroom, a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom, a Stasi surveillance room as well as a garage can be freely explored and experienced.





THE COLLECTION

Highlights of the exhibition include: a Trabant driving simulation with its virtual journey through a typical East German landscape, an original ministerial Volvo, an authentic reconstruction of a typical East German flat, one of the first 1 MB chips produced in the GDR, the original film projector from the GDR State Council building, and the printer used by the opposition environmental movement.

The collection of the museum currently comprises about 300,000 objects, which are inventoried in order to make them accessible to external researchers, other cultural institutions and for research purposes. Most of the objects come from private individuals who donated their »prized possessions« to the museum. Thousands of different donors have preserved objects for posterity in this way.

You can find over 12,000 digitalised objects from the collection in the online object database:
www.ddr-museum.de/en/objects

FACTS & FIGURES

number of objects: **c. 300,000**
 number of donors: **c. 10,000**
 most difficult acquisition: **1 megabyte chip, Germania Speeder (skateboard)**
 most common donation: **medal »Activist of Socialist Labour«**
 largest objects: **segments of the Berlin Wall, Barkas vans**

The collection of the DDR Museum is not open to the public. However, to give insights into the diverse collection, there is a monthly changing display of the object of the month in the foyer of the DDR Museum. The foyer can be visited free of charge.



The mural »In Praise of Communism« by Roland Paris was created for the conference hall of the House of Statistics in the centre of Berlin in 1968. After the building was demolished in 2010, the DDR Museum purchased the mural from the Federal Agency for Real Estate and invested about € 20,000 in its restoration and new installation. In 2010, the painter himself unveiled the restored art piece—now a historical object—at its new place in the DDR Museum.



FUTURISTIC TECHNOLOGY

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.

FACTS & FIGURES

1 Trabi driving simulation	6 dioramas
1 multi-touch table	20 touch screens
1 digital mirror	23 audio stations
4 digital windows	56 monitors
4 interactive telephones	

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 months**
60,000 m² housing estate
114 Trabant cars in original colours



EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



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 conference room was set up for school groups wanting to prepare or talk about their visit to the exhibition. 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.ddr-museum.de/en/your-visit/lehrer-gruppen

ASSOCIATION AND EVENTS

The DDR Museum Berlin association, initiated by the management of the DDR Museum, has set itself the goal of making history accessible to the wider public. The association works independently. It is open to those interested and relies on donations.

In addition to special events of the DDR Museum, the association mainly organises a free series of events which take place every fortnight. These events with renowned historians from various research institutions, contemporary talks, book premieres, film screenings, readings, discussions, concerts, theatre shows and special exhibitions lead to a lively engagement with the history of the GDR.

CURRENT EVENTS

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

LISTENING TO HISTORY

A GUIDED TOURS IN THE DDR MUSEUM

1 Introduction 60 MIN

Here, experienced guides give visitors a brief insight into the most important topics related to everyday life in the GDR, from »work« to »economy«.

2 Overview tour 90 MIN

In addition to an overview, the tour offers the opportunity to deepen knowledge of individual topics, such as »public life«, »party and state« or »life in a tower block building«.

3 In-depth tour 120 MIN

During this tour, numerous topics of the permanent exhibition are explained and illustrated in detail to the visitors. The group can set individual priorities.

B COMBINED TOURS

1 Party and State 120 MIN

The DDR Museum is located in the former centre of East German power. A one-hour museum tour is followed by a further hour visiting the site of the former Palace of the Republic, the State Council Building and the Headquarters of the Socialist Unity Party.

2 The Karl-Marx-Allee 180 MIN

A one-hour tour of the DDR Museum is followed by a two-hour tour of East Germany's most prestigious boulevard. Designed to embody the victory of Socialism, the Stalin-era flats actually provided the starting point of the worker's uprising on 17 June, 1953.

C CITY TOURS

1 The Berlin Wall 120 MIN

During a two-hour tour the group will explore the former death strip between West and East Berlin, located between Eberswalder Straße and Bernauer Straße.

2 Opposition in the GDR 120 MIN

This tour leads groups through Prenzlauer Berg and shows what kinds of opposition existed, for example those of artists, intellectuals, punks and members of the church. This resistance eventually led to the Peaceful Revolution in the 1980s.

3 Everyday life in the Capital of the GDR 120 MIN

This tour shows everyday life in the GDR capital and takes the group to authentic places, such as the Marienkirche, the TV tower, the Centrum Warenhaus on Alexanderplatz, the Red Town Hall, the Nikolaiviertel district and the former Palace of the Republic.

4 Berlin-Mitte 240 MIN

This four-hour tour through the centre of Berlin takes visitors to the boulevard Unter den Linden, the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and other locations significant to the history of Berlin in the twentieth century.

D TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

1 Talking with contemporary witnesses

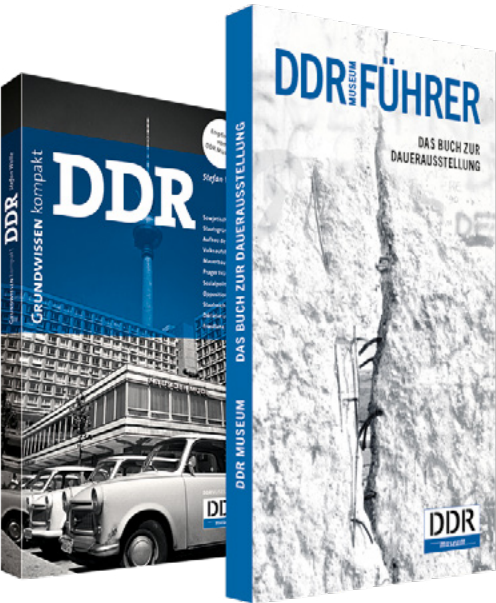
Talks with contemporary witnesses of the GDR offer a first-hand account of everyday life in East Germany. Audiences can ask questions and gain a vivid appreciation of the special quality of life in East Germany. We provide witnesses who can speak about almost any aspect of life in the GDR including everyday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

2 Workshops

Students learn best when they are active themselves. In our workshops, they work out the differences between democracy and dictatorship on their own. We offer workshops on the following topics:

- Ideology and propaganda
- Popular uprising of June 17, 1953

A NARRATIVE EXPERIENCE OF HISTORY



THE DDR MUSEUM VERLAG

The DDR Museum Verlag publishes the museum's own publications, specialised literature of the historians in-house, as well as works by selected authors who are dedicated to the topic of the GDR.

ORDER A REVIEW COPY
✉ **E-MAIL** verlag@ddr-museum.de

💻 **BOOKS IN THE ONLINE SHOP**
onlineshop.ddr-museum.de



NON-FICTION

Marotz, Sören / Sieber, Elke / Wolle, Stefan:
DDR-Guide. A Companion to the Permanent Exhibition
DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2017
ISBN 978-3-939801-20-7

The »DDR-Guide. A Companion to the Permanent Exhibition« is also available in German, French, Spanish, Italian and (modern) Chinese.

Wolle, Stefan:
Grundwissen DDR kompakt
DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2009
ISBN 978-3-939801-03-0

Geithner, Michael / Thiele, Martin (Eds.):
Nachgemacht – Spielkopien aus der DDR
DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2013
ISBN 978-3-939801-18-4

NON-FICTION E-BOOKS

The »DDR-Guide. A Companion to the Permanent Exhibition« is also available as an eBook in five different languages. You can find it in all popular eBook shops as well as in the online shop of the DDR Museum:
onlineshop.ddr-museum.de

Marotz, Sören / Sieber, Elke / Wolle, Stefan:
DDR-Guide. A Companion to the Permanent Exhibition
EAN 978-3-939801-26-9
DDR-Führer. Das Buch zur Dauerausstellung
EAN 978-3-939801-21-4
Guide du DDR. Livret de l'Exposition Permanente
EAN 978-3-939801-29-0
La Guía del DDR. Libro de la Exposición Permanente
EAN 978-3-939801-33-7
DDR Guida. Il Libro dell'Esposizione
EAN 978-3-939801-32-0
东德指南 - 介绍常设展览之书
EAN 978-3-939801-38-2
DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2018

NON-FICTION

Adelmann, Quirin Graf / Godin, Gordon von (Eds.):
GDR in Objects. Daily Life, Home, Consumption 1949–1990
DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2020
ISBN 978-3-939801-46-7

Adelmann, Quirin Graf / Godin, Gordon von (Eds.):
GDR in Objects. Leisure, Culture, Travel 1949–1990
DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2020
ISBN 978-3-939801-48-1

Adelmann, Quirin Graf / Godin, Gordon von (Eds.):
GDR in Objects. Work, Economy, Politics 1949–1990
DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2021
planned





EDUCATIONAL GAMES

Geithner, Michael / Thiele-Schweiz, Martin:

Stasi – Over and Out!

The card game enables players to immerse themselves in the historical events at the end of 1989/ beginning of 1990: they take on the work of the Stasi whose aim it is to destroy as many documents as possible before they are stopped by the citizens' movement. The development of the game was supported by the DDR Museum and the Stasi Records Archive.

ed. by Playing History, 2020

Geithner, Michael / Thiele-Schweiz, Martin:

Wendepunkte

The authors of Playing History, in cooperation with the DDR Museum, created an easy, entertaining card game to tangibly convey a chapter of East-West German History. The game includes 108 cards and a detailed description of how the game is played.

This game is only available in German.

ed. by Playing History, 2017



EDUCATIONAL GAMES

Kenzelmann, Peter / Rückel, Robert:

GDR-Game

Quiz cards, 162 questions and answers

DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2007

ISBN 978-3-939801-07-8

Kenzelmann, Peter / Rückel, Robert:

DDR-Spiel

Quizkarten mit 162 Fragen und Antworten

DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2007

ISBN 978-3-939801-05-4

Rückel, Robert / Strohl, Katrin:

Wall-Quiz

Quiz cards about the Berlin Wall

DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2009

ISBN 978-3-939801-12-2

Rückel, Robert / Strohl, Katrin:

Mauerquiz

Quizkarten rund um die Berliner Mauer

DDR Museum Verlag, Berlin 2009

ISBN 978-3-939801-10-8

Böttger, Martin:

Bürokratopoly

»Bürokratopoly« is an educational game with a historical context. Martin Böttger, its author, gave it its tongue-in-cheek name in the 1980s. The game spread throughout the political underground of the GDR.

This game is only available in German.

ed. by DDR Museum, 2014



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 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.«



Stand 09/2021

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 age 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!«

YOUR CONTACT
Simone Uthleb
Spokesperson

📞 **TELEPHONE** +49 30 847 123 7-47
✉ **E-MAIL** presse@ddr-museum.de

Graphic material
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Photos and recordings
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+49 30 847 123 7-47

THE DDR MUSEUM: FACTS AND FIGURES

OPERATOR

DDR Museum Berlin GmbH

OPENED

Part 1: 15 July, 2006

Part 2: 10 October, 2010

Part 3: 27 August, 2016

CEO

Quirin Graf Adelmann v. A.

DIRECTOR

Gordon Freiherr von Godin

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Stefan Wolle

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Matthias Kaminsky

AWARDS

Nominated for the European Museum of the Year Award 2008 and 2012

PERMANENT EXHIBITION SPACE

930 m²

LANGUAGES

Exhibitions in German and English,
additional services in twelve languages

ADDRESS

DDR Museum
Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 1
10178 Berlin-Mitte

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Sunday: 9 am – 9 pm
365 days a year

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.facebook.com/ddrmuseum

www.twitter.com/ddrmuseum

www.instagram.com/ddrmuseum

www.youtube.com/ddrmuseum

www.tiktok.com/@ddrmuseum

www.pinterest.com/ddrmuseum

www.linkedin.com/company/ddr-museum