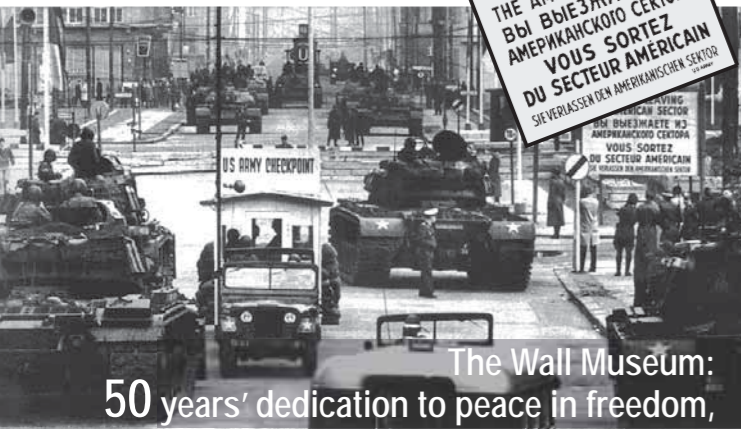


# MAUERMUSEUM MUSEUM HAUS AM CHECKPOINT CHARLIE



YOU ARE LEAVING THE AMERICAN SECTOR  
ВЫ ВЫЕЗЖАЕТЕ ИЗ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО СЕКТОРА  
VOUS SORTEZ DU SECTEUR AMERICAIN  
SIE VERLASSEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEKTOR

The Wall Museum:  
50 years' dedication to peace in freedom,  
founded in 1962 beside the legendary  
Checkpoint Charlie border crossing,  
the geographical focal point of the Cold War,  
where two worlds split apart  
and joined again.

**The Wall – history and incidents**  
**Original objects from successful escapes under, over and above ground**  
**World-wide non-violent struggle for human rights**  
The exhibition text is in German, English, French and Russian.

Open every day of the year  
from 9 am until 10 pm



**Origins  
Development  
Future**  
by Rainer Hildebrandt,  
Founder and Director of the  
Museum until his death  
14.12.1914-09.01.2004

The first exhibition opened on the 19 October 1962 in an apartment with only two and a half rooms. We suggested that tourists be thankful to those border guards who do not shoot to kill: "See through the uniform!" Some guards saw that we understood, and after their own escapes came to work with us.

The large number of visitors encouraged us to look for new premises: on 14 June 1963 the "Haus am Checkpoint Charlie" was opened and became an island of freedom right next to the border. From here, through a small window, escape helpers could observe all movements at the border crossing; escapees were always welcome and supported, escape plans were worked out, and injustice in the GDR was always fought against.

The aim was to document the "best border security system in the world" (GDR armed forces general Karl-Heinz Hoffmann) and the support of the protecting powers – until the tank confrontation between the USA/USSR. Further exhibitions followed: 1973 "Artists interpret THE WALL", 1976: "BERLIN – from a front-line city to Europe's bridge", 1984: "FROM GANDHI TO WALESA – non-violent struggle for human rights".

Because of our friendly contacts with escape helpers we got

hot-air balloons, escape cars, chairlifts, and a small submarine. We are grateful to resistance activists for a spring gun for the dismantling of which they had risked their lives and a piece of the wall's tubular top-cladding, knocked off by "wall runner" John Runnings.

We can also call ourselves the first museum of international non-violent protest. Our exhibits include: The Charta 77 typewriter, the hectograph of the illegal periodical "Umweltblätter" ("Environmental Pages"), Mahatma Gandhi's diary and sandals and from Elena Bonner the death mask of her partner Andrei Sacharov.

There are over a hundred military museums in the world. But in an epoch of growing responsibility for our planet we can be sure that more museums of international non-violent protest will be established. "The world is so well built that against every injustice there are stronger, vanquishing forces. ... From every injustice arises justice, from every untruth truth, from darkness light." – Words of Mahatma Gandhi.



**13 August 1961:** all around West Berlin, armed military units of the GDR hermetically seal off the city. The erection of the wall begins...

**9 November 1989:** politburo member Günter Schabowski announces the decision of the GDR government that "travel abroad for private reasons may be unconditionally applied for." A few hours later border controls can no longer deal with the crowds and let the people through...

These two historic dates mark the corner-stones of our exhibition about the Berlin Wall, the history of which is presented by means of photographs and texts. Numerous original objects from successful escapes demonstrate the courage and creativity of the escapees. Photos and objects show the development of the GDR's border security system,

**THE WALL**  
from 13 August 1961  
to its fall



The exhibition presents the history of both parts of the divided city – their contrasts and similarities – as from the end of World War II. The presentation is always "two-sided" – events in West Berlin are seen in relation to those in the East: Berlin in ruins, rebuilding, blockade and airlift, Ernst Reuter's appeal to the world (1948): "Look to this city and recognise that you must not abandon it and its people, that you cannot abandon it!"

**17 June 1953:** almost everywhere in the GDR the population is in revolt. The uprising is brutally put down with the help of Soviet tanks.

Further stages in the exhibition show the building of the Wall, the Four Powers Agreement, the 750th anniversary celebrations, the fall of the Wall and the German reunification.



**BERLIN**  
from a front-line city  
to the bridge  
of Europe



Checkpoint Charlie was the most well-known border crossing between East and West. In October 1961 American and Russian tanks faced each other here, when the USA intervened to defend the fundamental rights of Berlin's special status.

Again and again, Checkpoint Charlie is the scene of demonstrations. Escape attempts are either successful (eg. in an *Isetta*, a small car reconstructed for escape purposes is displayed in the museum) or fail just in front of the the white borderline. On 17 August 1962, Peter Fechter bleeds to death before the eyes of the world.



It happened at  
**CHECKPOINT  
CHARLIE**



Finally, on 22 June 1990, in the presence of the foreign ministers of the four victorious powers of World War II and both German states, Checkpoint Charlie is demolished in a solemn ceremony.

Friedrichstr. 43-45  
D-10969 Berlin-Kreuzberg

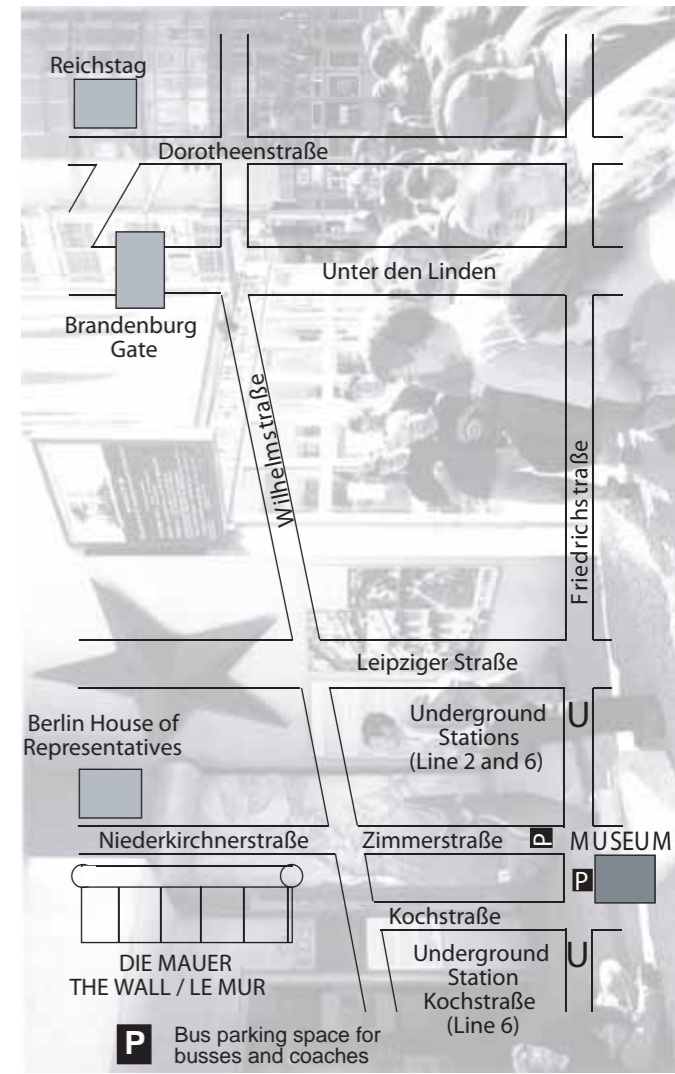
Tel.: (030) 25 37 25-0  
Fax: (030) 251 20 75

Postal address:  
Postfach 61 02 26  
D-10923 Berlin

**MAUERMUSEUM  
MUSEUM HAUS AM  
CHECKPOINT CHARLIE**

Open every day  
of the year  
from 9.00 until 22.00

Public transport:  
Underground line 6, Kochstraße  
Underground line 2, Stadtmitte  
Bus M29



**P** Bus parking space for busses and coaches

## The GDR border security system “Ring around Berlin (West)”

as of 31 July 1989

Total length of the “Ring around Berlin (West)” – of this:	155.0 km
between Berlin (West) and Berlin (East)	43.1 km
between Berlin (West) and the GDR	111.9 km

Concrete plate wall with tubular top-cladding or inserted tubes (3.5 - 4.2m; only near the border, in the rear area with often the same wall or a wall consisting of three boards not included)	106.0 km
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Metal fencing	66.5 km
Observation towers	302
Bunkers	20
Dog-runs	259
Motor vehicle trenches	105.5 km
Electric contact or signal fencing	127.5 km
Military roadway	124.3 km

Measurements of a wall segment:	
Height	3.60 m
Width	1.20 m
Breadth at the base	2.10 m
Wall thickness	0.2 m below; 0.1 m on top
Weight	2.6 tons
Material	thick reinforced concrete

### “Ring around Berlin (West)” (13.08.61-09.11.89) Fatalities and Escape Attempts:

Successful escape attempts of these members of armed brigades	5.075
Victims	457

Total fatalities of the GDR border regime (1948-1989; German-German border, Baltic Sea, other Eastern Block States included)	1.613
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This exhibition - including 14 loans from the Gandhi family, the typewriter belonging to “Charta 77” from the former Czechoslovakia, the hectograph of the illegal periodical “Umweltblätter” (“Environmental Pages”) from the GDR – can be called the first exhibition of international non-violent protest.

Examples from various countries show how justice was achieved without wrongdoing



## FROM GANDHI TO WALES A Non-violent struggle for human rights



with either humour or non-violent demonstrations. Included are the “Monday Demonstrations” in Leipzig and the demonstration on “4 November” in East Berlin, followed by the fall of the Berlin Wall five days later, and finally Moscow’s “Three Days in August”: In the museum, the 50 metres long, white, blue and red flag can be seen behind which Moscow’s citizens gathered to defeat the communists’ coup d’état.



“It is only because artists and poets have borne witness that we can understand past hopes and recognise their perspectives for the future.”

These words by the philosopher Ernst Bloch are the introductory motto to our art exhibition. It not only presents the at first rarely occurring portrayals of the Berlin Wall in visual art (Horst Stempel, Roger Loewig, Gisela Breitling), but also, among others, works by Johannes Grützke, Matthias Koepfel and Karl Oppermann appearing lateron.

The exhibition, which we are continually able to extend thanks to the kind support of the foundation “Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin”, is not only a comprehensive overview of artistic portrayals of the Wall, it also covers a wide range of

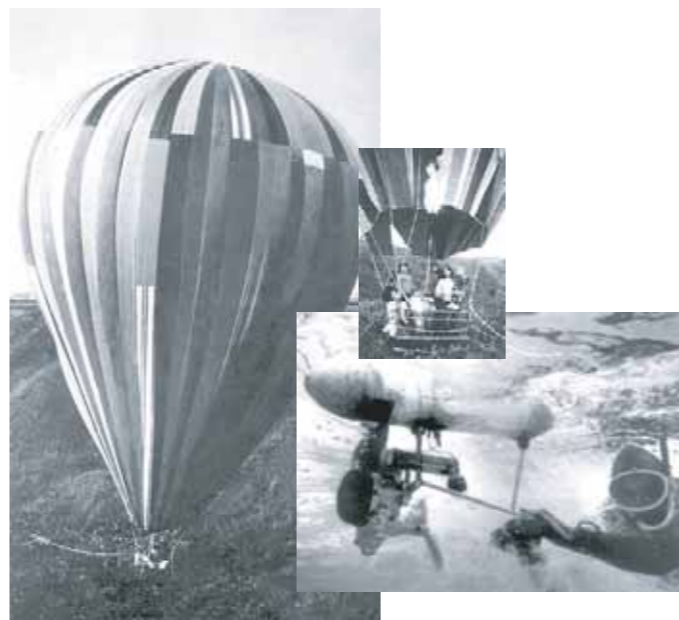
## Artists interpret THE WALL

artistic commitment to human rights as a whole.

Works can be seen by numerous internationally renowned artists such as Bill, Brussilowski, Bulatow, Roseline Granet, Hajek, Heiliger, Hannah Höch, Kolar, Kyncl, Makarov, Masson, Penck, Reuter, Rischar and Tapias. In the end, photographs and objects can only inform, but artists can exemplify how a particular time was experienced.



Between 1961 and 1989 more than 5,000 people were able to escape across the Berlin Wall. In the course of time the aids they used to overcome the increasingly perfected GDR border security system became more and more inventive, and many of them have found their way into the museum’s collection: several reconstructed cars, a mini submarine with which an escapee dragged himself along in the Baltic Sea, hot-air balloons and home-made motor-powered kites equipped with a Trabant engine or the tank of a



## Inventive ESCAPES

Java motorbike. People also escaped hidden in loudspeakers, or in a radiogram.

Full documentation is available on numerous escape tunnels. The most successful of them enabled 57 people to reach West-Berlin on two evenings in October 1964. In addition to many photographs of the tunnel, the car in which the earth masses were transported is also on view. For this donation we are grateful to one of the escape helpers, Reinhard Furrer, who lateron became one of the first Germans in space and who died in 1995 in a plane crash.

### Film shows:

daily from 9.00-22.00  
**Videos** on subjects from the exhibitions (“17 June”, Escape by Tunnel, John Runnings on the Wall, The End of the Wall, Rostropowitsch Plays at Checkpoint Charlie; films on passive resistance: Czechoslovakia, Moscow)

### Feature Films and Documentary Films

at 9:30 hours every day  
“The Miracle of Berlin” at 11:30, 13:30, 15:30 hours every day  
“With the Wind to the West” at 17:30 hours every day  
“Famine 33” at 19:30 hours every day  
“My Struggle”

### Lectures on Exhibition Subjects

With appointment please

### Guided Tours through the Museum and to the Wall

With appointment please

### Library:

Public reference library focusing on post-war history, the Cold War, Propaganda, GDR, the BERLIN WALL and border security system, state security, reappraisal of the past. Uprisings and revolutions in Eastern Europe: “17 June” 1953, 1980 (Poland, Solidarnosc), peaceful revolutions 1989. Non-violent protest world-wide.

### Library opening times

Mondays to Fridays  
10:00 to 17:00 h  
and upon prior appointment

### Cafeteria

Open daily from 09:00 to 22:00 h

## MAUERMUSEUM MUSEUM HAUS AM CHECKPOINT CHARLIE



### Admission:

Adults **12,50 €**  
University students **9,50 €**  
School students, pupils **6,50 €**  
Groups of adults from 20 persons **8,50 €** per person

### Wardrobe, luggage

Wardrobe free  
Lockers free  
Lockers for valuable free

### Open every day of the year from 9:00 until 22:00 h

### Friedrichstraße 43-45 D-10969 Berlin-Kreuzberg

### Postal address: Postfach 61 02 26 D-10923 Berlin

### Phone: (030) 25 37 25-0 Fax: (030) 251 20 75

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Internet: [www.mauermuseum.de](http://www.mauermuseum.de)



YOU ARE LEAVING  
THE AMERICAN SECTOR  
Вы ВЫЕЗЖАЕТЕ ИЗ  
АМЕРИКАНСКОГО СЕКТОРА  
VOUS SORTEZ  
DU SECTEUR AMERICAIN  
SIE VERLASSEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEKTOR

### Books by “Haus am Checkpoint Charlie Publications”

### IT HAPPENED AT THE WALL

230 p., 230 photos, 25th extd. ed. 2011 (hitherto 1,153,000), in Eng., Fr., Sp., It. ISBN 978-3-922484-55-4, **17,50 €**

### Alexandra Hildebrandt: THE WALL. It happened at Checkpoint Charlie

428 pages, 386 illustrations, parallel texts in English, German and French. The legendary Checkpoint Charlie was the most famous border crossing point between the eastern and western blocs. In October 1961 American and Soviet tanks stood muzzle-to-muzzle here as the USA upheld the fundamental rights of the city in accordance with Berlin’s special status. It was here that individuals fled successfully to the West and where escape attempts were thwarted a short distance from the white line that marked the border. On 17th August 1962 Peter Fechter bled to death in the death strip very close to the Checkpoint and in full view of the public opinion. The book is a record of the division of Germany, the creation and history of Checkpoint Charlie and events associated with the border crossing up to the present day. Includes an afterword by Klaus Lehnartz, Wall photographer at the time of construction. ISBN 978-3-922484-56-1, **24,90 €**

### THE WALL. Figures. Facts

152 p., 65 photos ISBN 978-3-922484-58-5, **17,50 €**

Please request our catalogue for information about other books available from “Haus am Checkpoint Charlie Publications” (“17 June” uprising, Berlin Wall, GDR border security system, Artists Interpret THE WALL, Stasi).

### Also available in the museum’s shop:

- T-shirts, Art-shirts (in limited numbers)
- original pieces of the Wall
- Postcards, posters
- Slides
- Leporello “Along the Wall” consisting of 33 postcards of wall-painting; total length almost 5 metres
- Souvenirs for friends and collectors

