

Art on the Wall

The East Side Gallery became famous in the spring of 1990 when artists painted more than 100 murals on the East Berlin side of the Wall to express their joy that the Wall had fallen and that the era of division had ended peacefully. The artists' paintings protected the Wall from demolition, further decay and destruction.

The gallery officially opened on September 28, 1990 and was added to the state of Berlin's monument register in November 1991. Many artists continue to support the conservation of the artworks, for example in the East Side Gallery Artist Initiative. The last comprehensive conservation work was carried out in 2009 when the paintings were almost entirely restored. The Berlin parliament handed over responsibility for the East Side Gallery to the Berlin Wall Foundation in May 2018.

Open-Air Exhibition

The permanent exhibition provides information about this site of the Berlin Wall and about the art action that took place here in 1990. It deals with themes of appropriation, push-back and transformation while also showing how the urban space and monument changed over time. It also addresses the life situations of the artists and people from East and West Berlin after 1961, in 1989/1990 and today. With more than 500 videos, the mobile website opens up previously unknown perspectives on the East Side Gallery.

To the artwork:

Scan the QR code in front of the painting.

To the digital exhibition:

www.east-side-gallery-exhibition.com

To participate:

Take a selfie in front of your favorite painting!

#MyEastSideGallery

Admission is free. The exhibition is accessible at all times.

Contact

East Side Gallery
Mühlenstraße 47–80, 10243 Berlin
www.stiftung-berliner-mauer.de/en/east-side-gallery
+49 30 213085-222
infomobil@stiftung-berliner-mauer.de

Free admission

Public Tours, Events and Workshops

The current program can be found on our website.

Group Tours

Tours can be booked on request through our website.

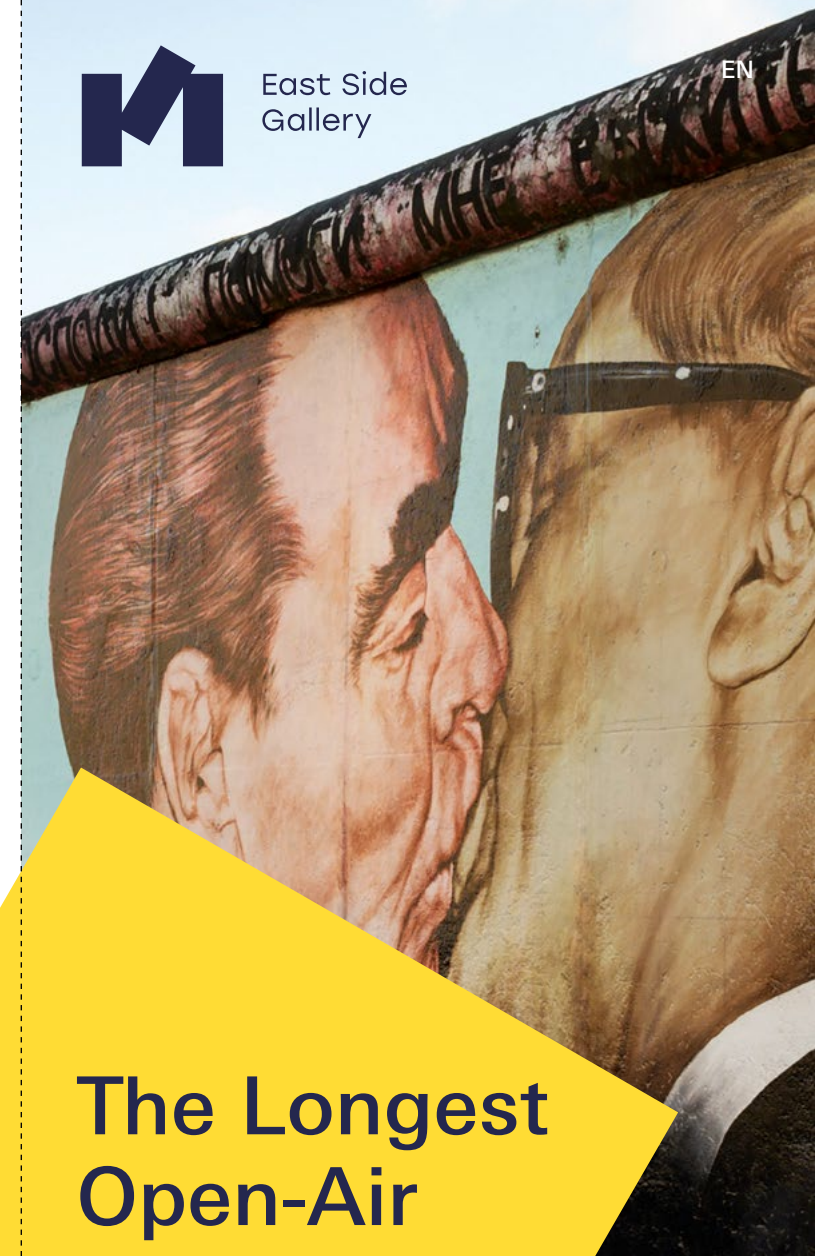
Public Transport

S-/U-Bahn station: Warschauer Straße
S-Bahn station: Ostbahnhof
Tram station: Warschauer Straße
Bus station: East Side Gallery



East Side
Gallery

EN



The Longest Open-Air Gallery In the World

Imprint

Publisher: Stiftung Berliner Mauer, www.stiftung-berliner-mauer.de
Photos: © Stiftung Berliner Mauer, unless otherwise stated
Cover: Dmitri Vrubel, *Lord Help Me Survive This Deadly Love*, 2018
Photo: Peter Adamik
Date: July 2022 – subject to change



East Side Gallery

The longest preserved piece of the Berlin Wall, standing between Ostbahnhof and Oberbaumbrücke, is known worldwide as the East Side Gallery. After the Wall fell, 118 artists from 21 countries redesigned 1.3 kilometers of the former border into the longest open-air gallery in the world. The East Side Gallery stands both as a symbol of joy over the end of Germany's division and as a historical reminder of the inhumanity of the GDR border regime. Today it is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the capital.

Birgit Kinder, *Test the Rest*, 2019



The Historical Site

The border fortifications at this site already bore special significance in the GDR. When the Wall was built on August 13, 1961, the River Spree between Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg became part of the border strip. The entire width of the river here belonged to East Berlin. West Berlin territory began at the riverbank on the Kreuzberg side. Thus, the East Side Gallery exists today on a section of former "Hinterlandmauer", the inner wall that had faced East Berlin.

In addition to this topographical distinction, the border grounds here exhibit another unique feature: Unlike at other areas, the eastern side of the Wall here was visible to all. This was because in the GDR, Mühlenstrasse, the street running parallel to the border, served as a "protocol route" to transport high-ranking visitors through the city. The inner wall here resembled the "Border Wall 75" that usually faced West Berlin. The 3.5-meter-high wall elements were supposed to block the death strip from view.

Border troops patrol boat on the Spree, 1980
Photo: Edmund Kasperski



Border fortifications on Mühlenstrasse, view to the southeast, 1988.
Border troops photo, © Berliner Mauer-Archiv Hagen Koch



Mühlenstrasse 1987
Photo and © Gerd Danigel, CC BY-SA 4.0



Thomas Klingenstein, *Detour to the Japanese sector*, 2018
Photo: Peter Adamik

Jim Avignon, *Doin' it cool for the East Side*, 2018
Photo: Jascha Fiebich



Deaths

At least 13 people died in the border area along Mühlenstrasse while trying to flee across the Spree to West Berlin. Some were shot and killed by GDR border soldiers; others drowned as a result of hyperthermia or exhaustion. Dramatic incidents also occurred on the West Berlin side of the river when children playing in Kreuzberg accidentally fell into the river and could not be rescued: West Berlin emergency workers were not allowed to enter the Spree here and GDR border guards did not intervene. By 1975, four children had died under these circumstances at the riverside in Kreuzberg.