

Sites of the Peaceful Revolution in Berlin

REVOLUTION STELAE

www.revolution89.de

SITES

1 Gethsemane Church

In the autumn of 1989 this was a key site for the revolution. Thousands of people came together here every day to voice their protest. Hundreds of candles burned outside the church, becoming a symbol of peaceful resistance. **Prenzlauer Berg, Stargarder Straße 77**



2 Schlossplatz

This square was the heart of political power in East Germany. It was the site of the ruling SED's central committee, the state council building and the Palace of the Republic. When the country's leaders celebrated themselves on the 40th anniversary of the GDR, enraged citizens held a spontaneous march to Schlossplatz. **Mitte, Am Lustgarten**

3 Potsdamer Straße

The West German media were a catalyst for the Peaceful Revolution. Radio 100 regularly reported on opposition activities in its programme Radio Glasnost. The editorial offices on Potsdamer Straße informed the East Germans about what was going on in their own country – uncensored. **Schöneberg, Potsdamer Straße 131**

4 Around Teutoburger Platz

In the 1980s, a lively subculture grew up around this square. Young people in particular, including many artists and opposition activists, lived in the decrepit old buildings. The painter and civil rights activist Bärbel Bohley had her studio here, one of the most important meeting places for the opposition. **Prenzlauer Berg, Fehrbelliner Straße / Templiner Straße**



5 Press Office of the GDR Council of Ministers

On 9 November 1989 the government representative Günter Schabowski held a press conference here, announcing the sensational news of the immediate relaxation of travel regulations for East Germans. Many East Berliners flooded to the border and the Berlin Wall fell only hours later. **Mitte, Mohrenstraße 37/38**

6 Schöneberg Town Hall

On the day after the fall of the Berlin Wall, tens of thousands of East and West Berliners came together for a rally outside the town hall, listening to speeches by prominent West German politicians including Willy Brandt and Chancellor Helmut Kohl. **Schöneberg, John-F.-Kennedy-Platz 1**

7 Dietrich Bonhoeffer House

One of the foundation stones for democracy in East Germany was laid in this house. In December 1989 representatives of the government and the opposition came together here for the first time at the Round Table, to negotiate democratic change and prepare for free elections in the GDR. **Mitte, Ziegelstraße 30**

8 Confessional Church

In the 1980s, the Confessional Church was a refuge for people under political pressure in East Germany: peace activists, environmental groups, people who wanted to leave the country. The grassroots movement Democracy Now and the Green Party in the GDR were both founded here in the autumn of 1989. **Treptow, Plesserstraße 4**

9 Zion Church

In the Environmental Library, opposition activists printed self-published illegal magazines and flyers, which were distributed across East Germany. At the end of 1987 the Stasi raided the church premises and arrested several activists. The move was intended to intimidate them, but instead mobilised resistance all around the country. **Mitte, Zionskirchstraße 32**

10 Kollwitzplatz

An alternative culture developed in this area from the mid-1970s on, forming the basis of the legend of Prenzlauer Berg. Counter-culture artists, dropouts and opposition activists occupied vacant houses, where they held readings, exhibitions and political discussions. **Prenzlauer Berg, Kollwitzstraße / Wörther Straße**



11 Church of the Good Samaritan

Some of the most prominent East German opposition groups met in this church. They included the church's own Peace Circle, which was involved in revealing the election fraud of May 1989. The blues masses held in the 1980s attracted many young people from all over the country. **Friedrichshain, Samariterstraße 27**

12 House of Democracy

The House of Democracy, set up in January 1990, provided space for opposition groups and parties. The building had previously housed the ruling SED party's local headquarters, its new use symbolising the success of the grassroots movements. **Mitte, Friedrichstraße 165**

13 Broadcasting House

Radio Free Berlin was the voice of the Peaceful Revolution in the West. It could also be heard in the eastern part of the city and was one of the most important information sources for the East Germans. The first interviews with East and West Berliners after the fall of the Wall were broadcast from here. **Charlottenburg, Masurenallee 8–14**

14 Görlitzer Ufer with Death Strip

Many opposition activists left East Germany or were forcibly expatriated. A number of them settled in Kreuzberg near the Berlin Wall. From here, they supported the opposition, smuggled books, films and manuscripts and reported on the events in the GDR. **Kreuzberg, Görlitzer Straße / Lübbener Straße**

15 St Elisabeth's Church

From the late 1980s on, St Elisabeth's Church was the meeting point of the Church from Below, a critical network across the whole GDR. On 7 May 1989 an alliance was founded and coordinated here, which observed the local elections and revealed widespread electoral fraud. **Mitte, Invalidenstraße 3**

16 Stasi Headquarters

This complex was the headquarters of the Ministry of State Security. On 15 January 1990 thousands of demonstrators stormed the Stasi offices to prevent files being destroyed and to force the closure of the secret police. **Lichtenberg, Frankfurter Allee / Ruschestraße**

17 Permanent Representation

Many East Germans fled to the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany, asking for help to leave the country. In August 1989 it had to be closed temporarily due to overcrowding. The singer-songwriter Wolf Biermann lived in the house on the opposite corner until he was expatriated in 1976. **Mitte, Chausseestraße / Hannoversche Straße**

18 Alexanderplatz

Known as „Alex“, this square was the site of the largest protest demonstration in the history of East Germany. On 4 November 1989 hundreds of thousands gathered here for a rally. The Berlin Wall fell only a few days later. **Mitte, Alexanderplatz**

STELAE



Berlin – Sites of the Peaceful Revolution

On 9 November 1989 the news of the opening of the East German borders spread like wildfire all around the world. But what happened in the weeks and months before the Berlin Wall fell? Berlin was one of the centres of the Peaceful Revolution. The Revolution Stelae help reconstruct the dramatic events at the original sites, from the protests against electoral fraud in May 1989 to German unity on 3 October 1990.

The information columns mark places in the east and the west of Berlin that are closely linked to the Peaceful Revolution: places where opposition activists lived and met up, sites of confrontation with the state and buildings where democratic history was written. They show the wide support from West Berlin and recall the joy at the peaceful course of the first successful revolution in Germany.

The focus is on the people involved at the time, whose courageous and determined actions ultimately brought the GDR to an end and who shaped democracy in their country.

Impressive photos and explanatory texts, available as audio tracks in eight languages, bring the history of the Peaceful Revolution to life at the authentic sites. Together with the Wall markers, the Revolution Stelae lead visitors through a fascinating chapter of German history.

WEBSITE



The multilingual website www.revolution89.de provides detailed information on sites of the Peaceful Revolution and includes documents, portraits and reports from the people involved. In fascinating pictures and documents, it tells the backstory to the revolution, describing the events that changed East German society and the route to German unity. The site also informs visitors about current exhibitions, events and publications on the subject.



ROBERT HAVEMANN GESELLSCHAFT ARCHIV DER DDR-OPPOSITION
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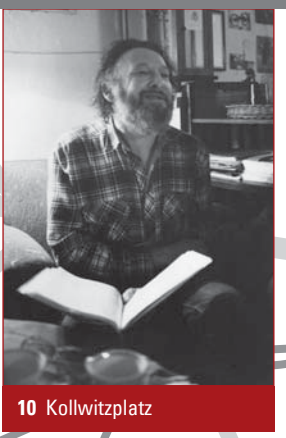
Overall planning, design and graphic design of the Revolution Stelae: Helga Lieser and Dagmar von Wilken, F 217 ausstellungDESIGNgraphik



9 Zion Church



1 Gethsemane Church



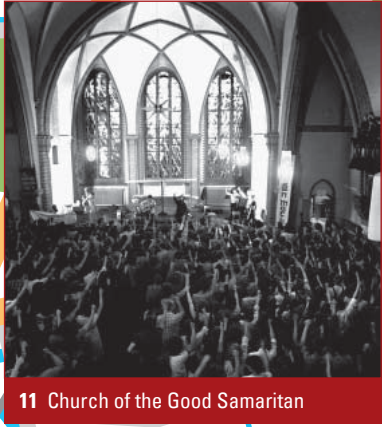
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2 Schlossplatz



17 Permanent Representation



11 Church of the Good Samaritan



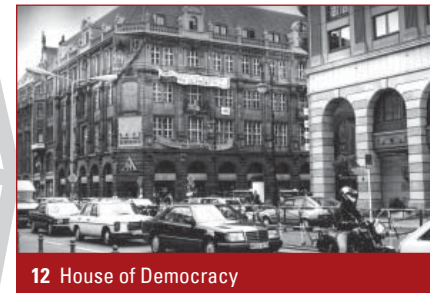
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18 Alexanderplatz



12 House of Democracy



16 Magdalenen Str. U5



16 Stasi Headquarters



3 Potsdamer Straße



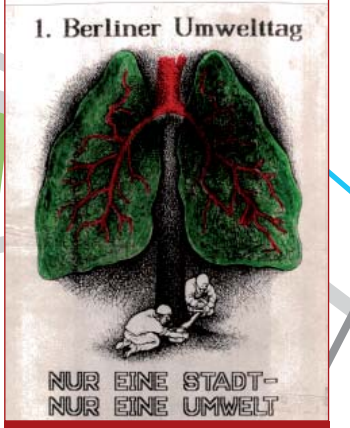
6 Schöneberg Town Hall



7 Dietrich Bonhoeffer House



5 Press Office of the GDR Council of Ministers



8 Confessional Church



14 Görlitzer Ufer with Death Strip

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- 1 Bornholmer Straße
- 2 Bernauer Straße
- 3 Nordbahnhof Station
- 4 Kapelle Ufer (Main Station)
- 5 Ebertstraße
- 6 Potsdamer Platz

- 7 Niederkirchner-/Stresemannstraße
- 8 Check-Point-Charlie, Krausenstraße
- 9 East-Side-Gallery
- 10 Oberbaum Bridge
- 11 Pariser Platz
- 12 Friedrichstraße Station

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