

## Berlin Airlift 2023

### A potted history of the historical significance of Berlin in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

Berlin is the cultural and political capital of Germany and has been the seat of power since German unification in 1871. The main government building is the Reichstag. Hitler ascended to power in 1933 as Chancellor of Germany, who still, constitutionally, had to answer to the President. However, less than a month after his appointment, the Reichstag caught fire, allegedly a terrorist attack by a young communist Marius van der Lubbe. Hitler used this as an excuse to extend his powers, banning all political parties and arresting and imprisoning any threats to his new government. In just over a year, with mass killings of his opponents and the death of Hindenberg, Hitler was able to declare himself ultimate ruler of Germany, or Fuhrer, and Nazi Germany came into existence.

Through the use of the gestapo (the secret police) concentration camps and extensive propaganda, Hitler was able to exert nazi control and influence over Germany ultimately leading them into World War 2, against Communist Russia (the Soviet Union) the capitalist USA and Great Britain.

Following the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945, and the death of Hitler, Berlin was occupied by the allied forces of Britain, USA and Soviet Union. The allied forces agree to divide Germany and Berlin into four sections, with each section being controlled by the allied forces, and France. However, the USA and Soviet Union had very different views on how to control Germany and Berlin. The Soviet Union wanted to crush Germany while the USA, Britain and France wanted to rebuild Germany into a capitalist, wealthy and self supporting country. The Soviet Union had also expanded into the rest of eastern Europe establishing control. Ultimately, this worried the Americans who announced the policy of **containment** to prevent the further spread of communism. Churchill proclaimed an *Iron Curtain* had descended across Europe, and division was set. By 1961, the new leader of the Soviet Union, Khrushchev, concerned about the numbers of the east Germans leaving the east to live and work in the west, built the Berlin Wall. This wall completely surrounded west Berlin preventing any movement between the two countries except at military checkpoints. The Berlin Wall symbolized the division of the world into two ideologically divided camps of communism and capitalism. Berlin had become the focus point of the Cold War.

In east Germany, citizens were tightly controlled and ordered. The extensive use of the secret police, the **stasi** kept records on most citizens. Meanwhile in the west, the population and economy flourished. By 1989, the Soviet Union was collapsing, as was soviet control over eastern Europe. By October 1989, the popular revolutions across Europe had brought down communist regimes, reached Berlin, and the Berlin Wall was pulled down. Germany was reunited as one country in 1990.

NT History  
The Berlin Airlift 2023  
Parent Information

**Travel**

<b>Outbound: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>	<b>Return: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023</b>
School for 2.30 AM – Hopleys coach to Bristol Airport <b>Flight No:</b> EZY2933 <b>Depart Bristol:</b> 7.35AM <b>Arrive Berlin:</b> 10.35AM	<b>Flight No:</b> EZY2934 <b>Depart Berlin:</b> 16.35 <b>Arrive Bristol:</b> 17.35 Return to school via Hopleys coaches ETA 21.30

**Accommodation and food:**

MEININGER Berlin Hauptbahnhof

It is central. Single sex, twin and triple rooms. Students have decided on rooms already. Breakfast is included. There can be no running around late into other rooms and slamming doors. There can be no leaving the hotel under any circumstances individually or groups.

**Luggage**

HAND LUGGAGE ONLY. In an effort to keep costs down, only carry on luggage. Please pack carefully. Please look at EasyJet website for guidance for pack size and what can be carried on.

**Essentials:**

Sun Cream; hats; lightweight waterproof; lightweight warm clothes. Basically keep an eye on the weather for Berlin. Currently very hot and dry!

**Spending Money:**

Students can have money. They are solely responsible for any money taken. Look into prepaid credit cards or travel cards available from Post Office. These are useful way to control spending and keep money safe.

**Itinerary:**

Reichstag visit and tour; Sachsenhausen concentration camp visit; TV Tower; GDR museum; various landmark sights around Berlin including East Side gallery; Berlin Wall exhibition; the Wall panorama; Checkpoint Charlie; Bunker Tour.....

We now have an extra day, so looking into possibility of a ride out to Potsdam, where the Big Three met after World War 2.

**Mobile Phones:**

Are absolutely welcome. I will ensure I have all students numbers as a further safeguarding. But I will insist that in areas of cultural or historical significance or sensitivity, that they are not to be used other than photos. **PLEASE CHECK CHILDS NETWORK OPERATOR FOR OVERSEAS ROAMING.**

**Insurance:**

Comprehensive cover provided by school. Up to date GHIC card also advised.

**Emergency:**

Parents contact details will be carried with me at all times.