

# Visiting the Wall

Because the Berlin Wall was torn down, it can be difficult to actually see, however there are various memorials around Berlin which you can visit.

**The East Side Gallery**

**Berlin Wall Memorial**

**Berlin-**

**Hohenschönhausen**

**Memorial**

**Mauerpark**



1961-1989

THE BERLIN WALL

Laurel Crocker

# The fall of the Berlin Wall

On November 9, 1989, the spokesman for East Berlin's Communist Party announced that citizens of the GDR would be able to cross the border to West Berlin starting at midnight that night. More than two million East Berliners crossed the border that weekend. On October 3, 1990, Berlin was officially reunified.



## Why was it built?

Between 1949 and 1961, an estimated 2.7 million people left the GDR and East Berlin, many of them young skilled workers. On August 12, 1961 the GDR Council announced that they would be building a wall to separate East and West Berlin - not to keep the West out, but to keep the East in.

## Building the Wall

Following this announcement, construction began immediately. Streets, neighborhoods, and transport lines were completely severed by the Wall. Homes along the wall route were incorporated into the wall itself - someone's front door could be in the East and their back door in the West.

## Escaping East Berlin

More than 5,000 East Germans were able to sneak across the border into West Berlin via secret tunnels, jumping out of windows, driving through the wall at high speeds, etc.

## Crossing the border

Diplomats and other officials were screened to enter or leave, but normal travelers were rarely allowed to move between sides. At least 170 people were killed by the GDR trying to cross from East to West Berlin