

## TO BERLIN FROM WEDNESDAY THE 10<sup>TH</sup> TO FRIDAY THE 12<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER

### Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September



The trip went as usual to Dalen Parking where we left the car.

Then we were at Explorer Bar and had a quick beer before it was time to get on board the plain.



We were going with Norwegian, which had departure at 09.30.

Here is the plain waiting for us.

The trip took about one and a half hour.



Here we are on Berlin – Schönefeld. This airport lays south east in Berlin and is mainly used by low budget companies.

We are standing taking this picture under a long passageway, which goes from the airport and over to the Metro.



There going trains over all in Berlin. There are S-train, U-train, express train and so on

Here is a schematic map over the rail network. It looks quite dense, but Berlin is a large city, so it is quite a bit to walk from station to station.

We bought day cards, which were valid one day for all public transportation in the town.



The station, which was nearest our hotel, was Potsdamer Platz.

Here we are on our way to the hotel.

Potsdamer Platz lies in the midst of the high buildings, which we can see in the background.



On the way to our hotel we went past this church, St. Matthäus, built in 1844-46.

The church is belonging to a foundation with the same name.



The hotel, which we had booked, was Pension am Potsdamer Platz. It was cheap and simple, but OK



The hotel was situated right besides a side channel to the river Spree, and the first we saw when we came out of the hotel again was a sightseeing boat that went past.

The channel is named Landwehrkanal and is 10.3 km long. It was excavated in the years 1845-50 and at that time it marked the city limit.

It goes from Schlesisches Tor to Charlottenburg.



Before we went on we had refreshment at this restaurant, which was situated right at the corner.

It was a Greek restaurant, Dionysos.



We went through Tiergarten. That is a great park of about 200 Ha in the middle of Berlin. It was made in the 1830's.



In the park is this column, Siegessäule. On the top stands the 3.8 meter high angel "Goldelse" and watch over Tiergarten.

It is a remembrance of the victories over Denmark (1864), Austria (1866) and France (1871).





The column was erected in the years 1864 to 1873.  
The column is 69 meter high and is placed in the middle of "Großen Stern", a big roundabout in the park.



Right north of the park lays Hansaviertel, a residential area with 1400 accommodations that was designed of 48 architects in 1948.

It in the middle of this area stands this figure.



After having walked so far we needed a beer at this restaurant.

Then we took the S-train from the station Bellevue.



We travelled to Hauptbahnhof. It was opened the 26<sup>th</sup> of may 2006 and is Europe's largest station with crossings in two levels.



Here is the same station sett from the other side



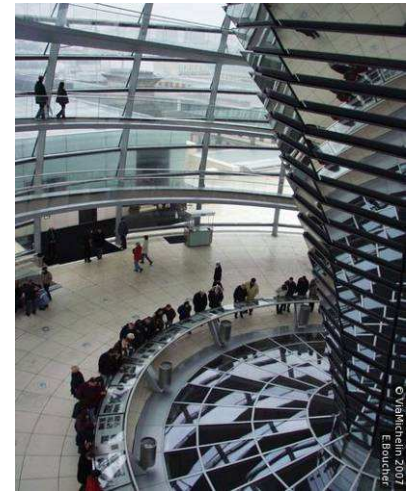
The river Spree goes right on the outside with walkways and plantings.

The river comes from the border with Czech Republic and flows into the river Havel just west of Berlin.



On the south side of the river Spree lays Platz der Republik with the Parliament building.

This is inside the dome.



Straight south of this lies Brandenburger Tor. This was first built in 1734. Since then it is changed and extended various times. Napoleon took it with him to Paris as war booty in 1806. It came back in 1814.



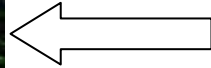
At this time it had become late in the evening and we were hungry.

There was a restaurant just besides Brandenburger Tor and we had dinner there.

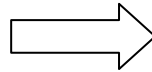
We had rump steak, salmon steak, Pinot Noir and Espresso and Bier whisky to conclude.



When we went back to the hotel where we stayed, we went past Potsdamer Platz again. Now the dome in Sony Center was illuminated. Here is a picture from inside.



When we went past Dionysos we found out that we had to have an Ouzo before we went to bed



## Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of September



This day we had breakfast at a Coffee Shop on Potsdamer Platz. Here they had good sandwiches, very good blueberry muffins and big cups of coffee.

Then we went past Checkpoint Charlie. This was one of the border crossings between East- and West-Berlin. It was in existence from 1945 to 1990.

This house is put up again as a memorial.



Before going further we had a beer at MR. BEANS.





After this we passed some remnants of the wall



Right besides there was a café and a possibility to have a balloon ride



There were also set up pieces from the wall and they had painted images on them



Right beyond, there was a whole section of the wall that was preserved.



**The Berlin wall** was a 45.1 km long obstruction of concrete, barbed wire and electrical fences, which were put by the government in DDR from 13. August 1961. It divided West-Berlin from East-Berlin and the rest of DDR. The purpose with the wall was officially to protect the inhabitants of DDR from fascism (The East Block countries meant that the capitalistic NATO-countries, and especially West-Germany, was fascistic). The real reason of building the wall was to prevent the inhabitants to flee to the democratic west.



The next are, which we came to was Gendamenmarkt. This is a place in the neighborhood of Mitte. It came into being in 1688. Here lies Französischer Dom (the French cathedral), Deutscher Dom (the German cathedral) and the architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel's Königliches Schauspielhaus, which is used as concert house (*Konzerthaus Berlin*).



Deutscher Dom, commenced in 1701



Französischer Dom, commenced in 1701



The next place we came to was Bebel Platz. Bebel Platz is the place where the book burning the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1933 took place. After initiative from Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister, burnt SA and Nazi youth organizations over 20 000 books her, mainly by Jewish writers, among others Thomas Mann, Heinrich Heine and Karl Marx. In the evenings there white light is flowing out of a glass plate in the middle of the place. Under it the empty shelves shall remind about the incident.



At the north side of Bebel Platz and on the other side of Unter den Linden, lies the Humboldt University.

It is Berlin's oldest university, founded in 1810 as Universität zu Berlin by Wilhelm von Humboldt.



Unter den Linden («under the lime trees») is one of Berlin's most gorgeous parade streets.

It is often compared with Champs-Elysees in Paris. A boulevard of lime trees was planted from 1647, from the castle to the streets of the city by Friedrich Wilhelm I, the great electoral prince, who wanted to ride from his castle to the hunting-ground in Tiergarten in suitable baroque surroundings.

West of Brandenburger Tor, Unter den Linden is continuing as Straße des 17. June in memory of the rebellion of the East Berliners against the soviet occupants in 1953.



Further on Unter den Linden we came past the Berlin Cathedral, a protestant church, which stands on an island in the river Spree, known as Museumsinsel. Originally it was a court church for Brandenburg's electors, later the Prussian dynasty, the family Hohenzollern. It lies in immediate proximity of the destroyed Berlin Palace, which is planned reconstructed. The bed stone of the cathedral was laid in 1894 and the building was inaugurated the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 1905. The main altar is made by Friedrich August Stüler in 1850. Karl Begas the older has done the alter piece. The main church was heavily damaged in 1944, and could be taken into use again in 1993. The restoration was finished the June 2002. Today there are regularly held services and concerts in "Berliner Dom".



Right near lies The German Historical Museum.

It was Friedrich III of Brandenburg (after 1701 King Friedrich I of Prussia) who gave the order to build Berlin "Zeughaus" the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 1695. It was finished in 1730, but it has been enlarged and renovated various times.

It was used as an arsenal that means warehouse for weapon and war trophies.

This is the oldest building that lies along Unter den Linden.



Then we went further on in Mitte to an area that is named Hackesche Höfe. It is a maze of courtyards that are designed of known German architects. There are used tiles and a lot of colors on the facades and it are kind of a master piece of the Art Nouveau style. The area was opened the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1906.

Here we found out that we needed some food and we ate at the restaurant, which can be seen in most to the left in the picture.

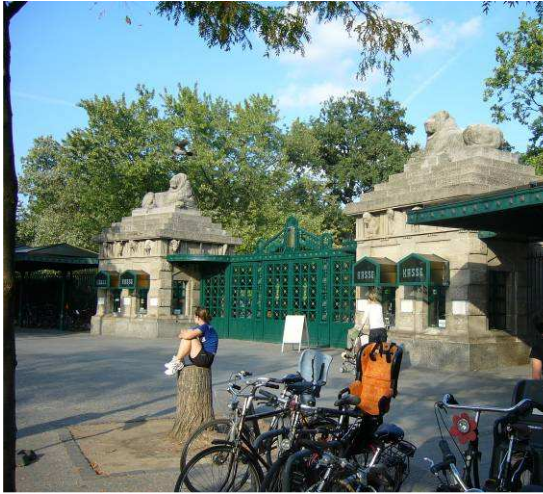
When we had eaten we took the S-train from Hackesche Markt to Ostbahnhof. Right below the station there is a long bit of the wall that goes along Mühlentorstrasse. It is 1300 meters long and in 1990, 106 artist from the whole world started painting on it. It is the world's longest art gallery. Below are various pictures, which we took from there.





When we had gone a bit along the wall we found out that we wanted to see other things on the other side of the city. We took the S-train from Berlin Ostbahnhof to Zoologischer Garten. Here we had to have some refreshments.

We managed to take a picture of a wasp that went up and down from the sugar bowl all the time to eat sugar.

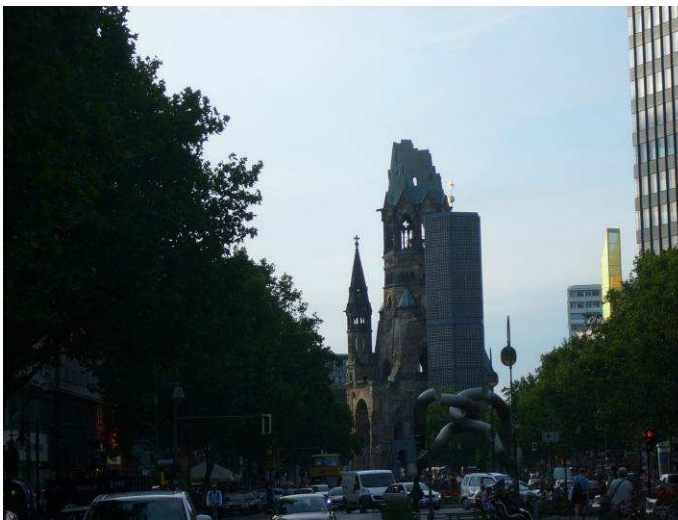


Here is the entrance to the zoological gardens. It was opened in 1844. There are 15000 animals and 1500 species and it is one of the largest in the world.



This is Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche near Kurfürstendamm. It was built in new romantic style between 1891 and 1895 as memory of emperor Wilhelm I of Germany, who had united Germany.

It has been standing like this since 1943 when it was damaged in the bombing of Berlin. Between 1951 and 1961 there was built a new church, where the 68 meter high old tower was integrated in the new building, as a memorial from the war.



We also had to have a look at Kaufhaus des Westens (*KaDeWe*), which is Europe's biggest department store.

The department store is 60 000 m<sup>2</sup> and has over 380 000 sales articles.

It was opened in April 1907.



We also had to have a couple of pictures of one of the many bicycle taxis in Berlin.



Now we had gone quite a bit again, so now it was time for a beer.

We sat down at an outdoor café on Breitscheid Platz, right besides Europe Center.

This world's fountain stands at the entrance to the center.



Then we took the S-train from Zoologischer Garten to Hauptbahnhof, and from there the U-train to Potsdamer Platz.

Here we had kangaroo, crocodile and chicken at Corroboree, a restaurant in the Sony Center.

Below are a few pictures from the center.





On our way home we took a picture of Potsdamer Platz "by night" (Below).



At the end of this day, after walking for 10 000's of meters in over 11 hours, we went straight to the hotel and fell asleep in the same second as the head hit the pillow.



## Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September

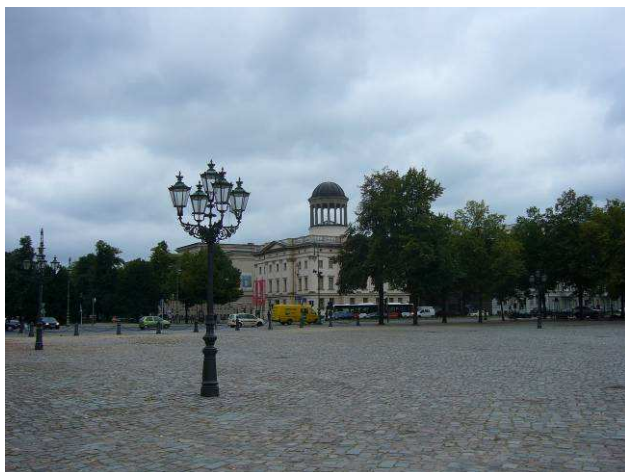
This day we slept late after the hardship the day before. Gradually we got out of bed, checked out and went for breakfast at Potsdamer Platz at the same place as we had eaten the day before.

Then we took the U-train to Hauptbahnhof and the S-train on to Charlottenburg. Here we had to walk for a bit to come to the U-train, Wilmersdorfer Strasse and from there to Richard Wagner Platz. From there we had to go a bit to come to Schloss Charlottenburg.

Before we had a look at the palace we found out that we needed something to drink. We sat down at Castello on Luisenplatz and had beer/rosé wine.



The palace was built in Italian baroque style between 1695 and 1699 by the architect Arnold Nering on commission of Sophie Charlotte, the wife of elector Fredrik III. After the crowning of Fredrik as Prussian king and Sophie Charlotte as queen in Königsberg in 1701, Charlottenburg, which originally had been built as a summer palace, was developed to a gorgeous property by the architect Eosander von Göthe. At the queen's death in 1705 the palace got its name Charlottenburg. Between 1709 and 1712 there was a further enlargement, where among other the special palace dome was made.



This house lies directly opposite Schloss Charlottenburg. It houses Sammlung Berggruen, which is a collection of modern art by the most famous artists as Cézanne, Matisse, Giacometti, Klee, Picasso, and so on.

The collection is made by the gallery owner Heinz Berggruen.

When on our way back to the U-train, we saw a bus that went to Spandau. We hopped as well on board that, for we had quite good time this day.



This is the town hall



This is the main street in the old city

The history of Spandau began in the 7<sup>th</sup> or the 8<sup>th</sup> year hundred when the Slav Heveler settled down here and built the first castle.

Spandau was given city rights in 1232.

The British pop band Spandau Ballet has got its name from here.

When we were in Spandau it was time to eat again. We had lasagna and spaghetti at Charlotte.



This is the castle (Citadel)

It is one of the best preserved renaissance forts in Europe. It is built from 1559–94 on top of a middle ages fort on an island where the rivers Havel and Spree are meeting.



Here is a map that shows where Spandau is located in Berlin.



When we were finished with Spandau we took the S-train via Sükreutz to Treptower Park.

Here we had to shift to a new line to get to the airport.

We were in this café and had coffee and liquor.



When we continued we had still plenty of time before we had to be at the airport, so we went off the train in Baumschulenweg to have a look how it was there.

This was in the outskirts of Berlin, but it was still as much city here.

This is the church.



This is the S-train station.

There were big posters at the station area that told that they are building new buildings here.

We came at last to the airport to stand in a check in queue, the safety check queue and then to wait for a late plane (1/2 hour). We were back at Gardermoen about 23.30.