

PROGRAMS

Interested in learning more about our programs? Let us help you plan the content and organization of your visit!

Guided Tour of the permanent exhibit for all age groups.
Length: 1,25 hours, price: 3.50 €, (reduced fee: 2.50 €)

Guided Tour and Talk with Contemporary Witnesses:
with former East Germans who fled or repatriates.
Length: 2,45 hours, price: 5.00 €, (reduced fee: 3.00 €)

All programs are free for schoolchildren.

Please submit your requests to our office:
Tel. +49 (0)30 75 00 84 00 or our Homepage:
www.notaufnahmelager-berlin.de (The booking request form is found under Visitor Services or Education)

MARIENFELDE REFUGEE CENTER MUSEUM

On June 30, 1990, as the East German state came to an end, the German Refugee Law was abolished. The Marienfelde Center ceased to function as a center for refugees and immigrants from East Germany. To insure that their history not be forgotten, the Marienfelde staff set up a small exhibit in a former refugee home in 1993. The memorial site was established through the voluntary efforts of the Marienfelde Refugee Center Museum Association, which continues to support the work of the museum today as a society of friends of the museum.

In 1998, the German parliament (Bundestag) ranked the site as a memorial with national significance.

The current permanent exhibition on flight in divided Germany opened in 2005. The Berlin Wall Foundation, established in 2009, includes the Marienfelde Refugee Center Museum and the Berlin Wall Memorial.

SERVICE

Marienfelde Refugee Center Museum
Berlin Wall Foundation
Marienfelder Allee 66/80
12277 Berlin
Tel.: +49 (0)30 75 00 84 00
Fax: +49 (0)30 75 44 66 34
info-enm@stiftung-berliner-mauer.de
www.notaufnahmelager-berlin.de

Opening Hours:
Tuesday through Sunday
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Admission is free.

Public Guided Tours:
Sunday 3 p.m.
Tour fee: 3.50 €/reduced 2.50 €

Audio guide available in English.

Guided Tours for Children:
No fee. Second Sunday
each month at 2 p.m.
For further information please visit
www.notaufnahmelager-berlin.de

Transport:
S-Bahn 2, Marienfelde
Bus M77, Erinnerungsstätte Marienfelde

Business account
Berlin Wall Foundation:
Berliner Volksbank
IBAN DE80 1009 0000 8847 016001
BIC BEVODEBB

Donation account
of the museum's association:
Berliner Volksbank
IBAN DE28 1009 0000 1002 6990 08
BIC BEVODEBB



MARIENFELDE REFUGEE CENTER
MUSEUM

FLIGHT IN DIVIDED GERMANY

PERMANENT EXHIBITION AT THE HISTORICAL SITE



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

FLIGHT IN DIVIDED GERMANY

Between 1949 and 1990, around four million people left East Germany for the West. They were fleeing the political pressures that accompanied the establishment of a communist system in East Germany, personal persecution and economic harassment. They craved personal freedom and democracy. Taking in and integrating so many refugees confronted West Germany with major social challenges. For East Germany, the flight and emigration of so many of its citizens meant not only a loss of laborers, but also of political prestige. Each flight was an act of "voting with one's feet," a clear rejection of the communist system that did not allow free elections.

The Marienfelde Refugee Center, located in the U.S. sector of West-Berlin, opened in 1953. By the time the East German state came to an end in 1990, 1.35 million people had passed through this "gate to freedom." German and Allied agencies helped take in and care for the new arrivals and allocated them to the West German states. Although many refugees remained only briefly in Marienfelde, the Refugee Center took on a special meaning for them. It represented the transition between their old life in East Germany and the new one that they longed for in West Germany. After the reunification of Germany in 1990 until summer 2010, the buildings were used by the Berlin Central Reception Center for Repatriates. In December 2010 the Marienfelder Allee hostel, a facility providing temporary accommodations for refugees, was opened here by the International Coalition.



August 13 or 14, 1961



HISTORY ON LOCATION



The exhibition in the former administration building of the Refugee Center covers almost 450 square meters of space and documents the history of the German-German refugee movement. More than 900 artifacts are on display – including numerous documents, photographs and objects from the Refugee Center and from refugees – offering a multifaceted view into this exciting chapter of recent German history.

The seven exhibition rooms are organized thematically, covering an array of topics ranging from the refugees' specific reasons for leaving East Germany to their social integration into West Ger-

many. Political developments are systematically related to the personal experiences of refugees and emigrants. The exhibition presents individual biographies, describing the system of persecution in East Germany and the reception procedure in the West. It uses both documents and photographs as well as audio and video stations to allow the contemporary witnesses to speak for themselves.

A reconstructed refugee apartment with original furniture from the 1950s provides an impression of the living conditions in the Refugee Center. A different view is provided by literary and artistic works that address themes of flight.

EXHIBITION SECTIONS

- Reasons for Leaving
- Ways to the West
- The Emergency Reception Procedure
- Marienfelde Refugee Center
- "Enemy Object" Marienfelde
- Arrival in the West
- The Artistic Perspective

