

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR US VISITORS TO EAST BERLIN

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Visitors to the Soviet Sector of Berlin (East Berlin) will find an area rich in history. Unter Den Linden (under the lime trees) is probably the most famous street in all of Germany. World War II sites worth visiting include the remains of Hitler's Bunker; Dr. Goebbel's former Ministry of Propaganda (now the Nationalrat); Goering's former Air Ministry; Bebelplatz, where the Nazis burned the books in 1933 (the German State Opera House, Humboldt University and St. Hedwigs Cathedral are located there); and the Soviet Garden of Remembrance--a memorial to Soviet soldiers killed in the Battle for Berlin. Other sites to see are Museum Island (the heart of the old city where five museums are located-- Old Museum, National Gallery, New Museum, Pergamon Museum and Bode Museum); Brandenburg Gate; Neue Wache (new Guard House where the guard is changed every two hours); The Zeughaus (the arsenal acclaimed as the largest and most impressive baroque building in Berlin); the television tower (an 1100 ft. tower, with a revolving restaurant at the top, claimed to be the second tallest building in Europe); and the "Palast der Republik" (a modern congress building with restaurants, cinema and discotheques, completed in 1976).

### PERMISSION

Members of the U.S. Forces who desire to visit East Berlin must have permission indicated on their pass, leave or travel orders. A statement such as "authorized to visit East Berlin" is adequate. Should a service member possess a clearance to sensitive information (SI), permission to travel to East Berlin must be obtained from Department of Army (or other Service) headquarters through SSO channels.

### UNIFORM

Any active service member must wear the Class A (or similar) uniform, without name tag, when traveling to East Berlin. The short sleeve TW/Khaki (or similar) uniform is permissible during the summer months. Civilian clothes and fatigues (utility) uniforms are not authorized.

### METHODS OF ENTRY

All foreign (i.e. non-German) visitors to East Berlin must enter through the Friedrichstrasse crossing point. U.S. citizens, affiliated with the U.S. government, must process first with the U.S. Military police at Checkpoint Charlie. There are several methods by which one can proceed through the Checkpoint:

(a) Military Personnel in Uniform can walk through; ride through in a U.S. Forces plated private vehicle (green plates); ride through in an official U.S. vehicle (military or State Department); or ride through on a U.S. Army Recreation Services tour bus. If not based in Berlin, they may also take commercial bus tours into East Berlin, but must debark at Checkpoint Charlie, process with the U.S. military police, reboard the bus and ride through the Friedrichstrasse crossing point. At no time will the uniformed member subject himself or herself to East German controls (e.g. showing identification to East German checkpoint guards or accepting East German visas). The uniform alone is proof of identification as a member of the U.S. Forces.

(b) Dependents of Berlin Based Personnel can enter East Berlin by riding in a U.S. Forces plated private vehicle (green plates); a U.S. Official vehicle (military or State Department); or a U.S. Army Recreation Services tour bus. They may neither walk through nor take a commercial tour into East Berlin. These personnel will carry their USFB (United States Forces, Berlin ) ID Card (Flag Card) for identification.

(c) Dependents of U.S. Forces Personnel Stationed Outside of Berlin: --  
With Diplomatic (black), Official (red), or other passport containing any stamps or wording identifying them with the U.S. Forces, may only enter East Berlin on a U.S. Army Recreational Services tour bus or in a U.S. Forces plated private vehicle (green plates) with a uniformed military driver. These passports, including "no fee" tourist passports, usually contain status of forces stamps or other wording which limits the traveler to these modes of access. NOTE: Bearers of Diplomatic (black passports may also walk through but should check with the US Mission Berlin (USBER) regarding the correct procedure. --With "full fee" tourist passports

(without any stamps or wording identifying them as members of the U.S. Forces) may travel to East Berlin on a U.S. Army Recreation Services tour bus, in a U.S. Forces plated private vehicle (green plates) with a uniformed military driver, or they may walk through the Friedrichstrasse crossing point. If a person elects walk through, a visa fee of DM 5 and a mandatory exchange of DM 25 will be charged, and the person will be subject to East German checkpoint controls. Commercial bus tour costs include a DM 17 tour fee, DM 5 visa fee and DM 6 road taxes. Persons walking through or traveling on a commercial tour bus travel purely as American tourists. (Individuals riding the U.S. Army Recreation Services tour buses or accompanying a uniformed military driver will not pass through the East German controls).

(d) Berlin Based Civilian Members of Forces are governed by the same restrictions as "Dependents of Berlin Based Personnel" (State Department Foreign Service Personnel excepted).

(e) Department of Defense Civilian Employees Based Outside of Berlin are governed by the same restrictions as "Dependents of U.S. Forces Personnel Stationed Outside of Berlin."

(f) Non-Defense Department U.S. Citizen Tourist (with "full fee" passports) are not subject to any U.S. controls when entering East Berlin. Tourists are encouraged, however, to stop and inform the U.S. military police (MP) at Checkpoint Charlie that they are going into East Berlin. The MPs will check passports to insure all is in order and answer any questions for the tourists. This category includes non-dependent relatives of members of U.S. Forces with full-fee tourist passports containing no limiting stamps or wording as described in (c) above. These individuals may travel to East Berlin in a U.S. Forces plated private vehicle (green plates) with a uniformed military driver who is assigned to Berlin and sponsoring their visit.

(g) Non-Berlin Stationed Civilian Bearers of U.S. Diplomatic, Official or No-Fee Passports, or whose tourist passports identify them with the U.S. Government, may not subject themselves to East German controls when entering or leaving East Berlin. This means they may not ride commercial tour buses or walk into East Berlin (see exception for bearers of Diplomatic passports in paragraph (c) above). They may enter East Berlin in a U.S. Forces plated private vehicle (green plates) with a uniformed military driver. Additionally, these persons, consistent with military regulations, may use the U.S. Army Recreational Services tour bus to visit the Eastern sector. Official transportation can be made available when official business requires a trip to East Berlin. The U.S. Mission Berlin, Political Section (telephone 819-7565/7644) should be consulted for exact guidance.

## PROCESSING

All U.S. Government affiliated personnel must process with the U.S. military police at Checkpoint Charlie (on the West Berlin side of Friedrichstrasse crossing point) prior to entering East Berlin and upon return to West Berlin. Department of Defense personnel must show the military police leave, pass or travel orders that authorize their entry into East Berlin.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs of East Berlin tourist sights are authorized, however, no photographs may be taken of police, military personnel or installations, bridges, fortifications, railroad facilities, elevated trains (S-Bahn), checkpoints, barriers around the West Berlin sector boundary, or any official building flying a GDR flag. Photos may be taken of the guards at the Neue Wache memorial on Unter Den Linden.

## CURRENCY

Facilities for conversion of western currency to GDR marks are conveniently located in East Berlin. Checkpoint Charlie military police can provide travelers with exact locations.

## QUESTIONS

If a traveler has any questions concerning entry into East Berlin, he or she should contact the Provost Marshal's Special Operations Office during duty hours at 819-3442/3467 or Checkpoint Charlie after duty hours at 819-5459/5439. For information regarding availability of U.S. Army Recreation Services tours to East Berlin, telephone the tours Office at 819-6588/6523.

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