

INFORMATION



Length approx. 23 km

Industrial heritage sights 19


Duration Day tour, around 5 hours (2.5 hours of cycling)

Starting point S-Bahn Westkreuz:  
exit on the top floor, direction of Messedamm

Public transportation links  
S-Bahn S3, S5, S7, S9, S41, S42, S46 Westkreuz

Lake Wannsee lido  
[www.berlinerbaeder.de/baeder/detail/strandbad-wannsee](http://www.berlinerbaeder.de/baeder/detail/strandbad-wannsee)

Route not suitable for road bikes due to unsurfaced paths. There are some inclines, so good fitness and/or e-bike recommended.



Digital route planner:  
Komoot

GPX Track and additional information (German only):  
[www.industriekultur.berlin](http://www.industriekultur.berlin)

Any comments or suggestions about this bike route can be sent to: [kontakt@industriekultur.berlin](mailto:kontakt@industriekultur.berlin)

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[www.industriekultur.berlin](http://www.industriekultur.berlin)

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**Translation:** Ling Serve Ltd  
December 2024





# Industrial Heritage in Berlin

## BIKE ROUTES



# NATURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## Route 6



**S-Bahn Westkreuz**  
*The train station for the exhibition grounds*  
—  
S-Bahnhof Westkreuz | 14057 Berlin

**ICC International Congress Center**  
*A futuristic meeting place*  
—  
Messedamm 22 | 14055 Berlin

**Funkturm radio tower**  
*A milestone in radio history*  
—  
Hammarskjöldplatz | 14055 Berlin  
[www.funkturm-messeberlin.de](http://www.funkturm-messeberlin.de)

**Exhibition grounds**  
*A meeting point for the world in Berlin*  
—  
Messedamm 22 | 14055 Berlin  
[www.messe-berlin.de](http://www.messe-berlin.de)

**Haus des Rundfunks**  
*Perfect sound and groundbreaking architecture*  
—  
Masurenallee 8–14 | 14057 Berlin  
[www.rbb-online.de/besucherservice](http://www.rbb-online.de/besucherservice)

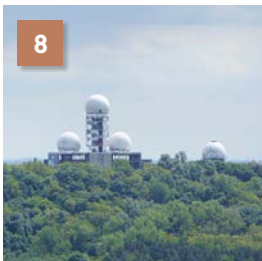
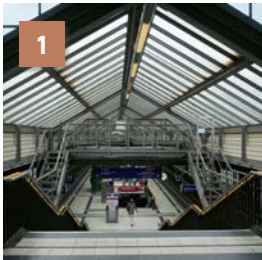
**Theodor-Heuss-Platz**  
*Central square of a new residential quarter*  
—  
Theodor-Heuss-Platz | 14055 Berlin

**Scholzplatz transmitter**  
*Replacement for the Funkturm radio tower*  
—  
Heerstraße 139 | 14055 Berlin

**Devil's Hill and Kite Hill**  
*Rubble with a view*

**US listening post**  
*Cold War spy center*  
—  
Teufelsseechaussee 10 | 14193 Berlin  
[www.teufelsberg-berlin.de](http://www.teufelsberg-berlin.de)  
—  
Bar auf dem Teufelsberg  
[www.teufelsberg-berlin.de/de/besuch](http://www.teufelsberg-berlin.de/de/besuch)

**Lake Teufelssee waterworks/ Naturschutzzentrum Ökowerk Berlin e.V.**  
*Drinking water for the city*  
—  
Teufelsseechaussee 22 | 14193 Berlin  
[www.oekowerk.de](http://www.oekowerk.de)  
—  
Bistro Ökowerk  
[www.oekowerk.de/ueber-uns/das-bistro](http://www.oekowerk.de/ueber-uns/das-bistro)



LEGEND

- Highlight of Berlin's industrial heritage  
[www.industriekultur.berlin](http://www.industriekultur.berlin)
- Industrial heritage worth visiting
- Bike shop
- Bike rack
- Car park
- Dangerous crossing
- Elevator
- Beware of pedestrians
- Drinking fountains
- Food and drink at industrial heritage sites
- Viewpoint
- Information panel(s)
- Admission fee
- Swimming area
- Beach
- Mural
- Steamer landing stage
- Train station (S-Bahn, U-Bahn, regional/intercity)
- Cycle route
- Detour
- Short cut
- Incline
- Sandy stretch
- Groundwater wells

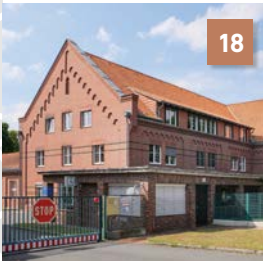
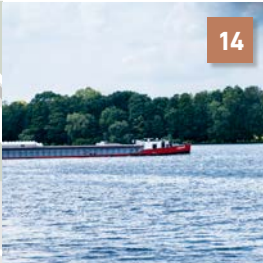
1 km

↑ N

Close-up II



Close-up I



**Berlin's gas storage facility**  
*Energy reserves*  
—  
Am Postflenn 22 | 14055 Berlin

**Alte Liebe floating restaurant**  
*From cargo vessel to dining experience*  
—  
Havelchaussee 107 | 14055 Berlin  
[www.alte-liebe-berlin.de](http://www.alte-liebe-berlin.de)  
—  
Alte Liebe

**Groundwater wells of Beelitzhof waterworks**  
*A gallery of wells*  
—  
Along the banks of the Havel river

**The Havel river**  
*Waterway with a rich history*  
—  
Kaisergarten am Grunewaldturm  
<https://info996594.wxsite.com/website>

**Lindwerder island**  
*Ferry across Lake Wannsee*  
—  
Havelchaussee 43 | 14193 Berlin  
[www.lindwerder.de](http://www.lindwerder.de)  
—  
Restaurant Lindwerder  
[www.lindwerder.de](http://www.lindwerder.de)

**Schwanenwerder island**  
*An idyll for the wealthy*  
—  
Inselstraße | 14129 Berlin

**Lake Wannsee lido**  
*A beach on the edge of the city*  
—  
Wannseebadweg 25 | 14129 Berlin  
[www.berlinerbaeder.de/baeder/strandbad-wannsee](http://www.berlinerbaeder.de/baeder/strandbad-wannsee)  
—  
Andis Imbiss „easy rider“

**Beelitzhof waterworks**  
*Water treatment today*  
—  
Kronprinzessinnenweg 150  
14129 Berlin  
[www.bwb.de/de/wasserwerk-beelitzhof.php](http://www.bwb.de/de/wasserwerk-beelitzhof.php)

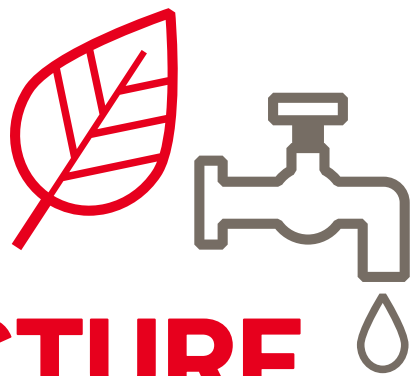
**S-Bahn Wannsee**  
*Destination for sun worshippers*  
—  
Kronprinzessinnenweg 250/251  
14109 Berlin  
[www.sbahn.berlin/fahren/bahnhofsuebersicht/wannsee](http://www.sbahn.berlin/fahren/bahnhofsuebersicht/wannsee)  
—  
Loretta am Wannsee  
<https://loretta-wannsee.berlin>

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Route 6

# NATURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## NATURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE BIKE ROUTE

As Berlin's population grew rapidly in the wake of industrialization, the city center became increasingly crowded. Open space on the outskirts became more accessible by train and could be reached even more quickly following the 'great electrification' of the rail network from 1926 to 1928. The fringes of Grunewald forest were cleared for new residential districts and major infrastructure. This boosted the economy and provided water, radio and leisure facilities for the population.

The generously proportioned new buildings included the Haus des Rundfunks broadcasting center, the exhibition grounds, and the bathing resort of Lake Wannsee lido. The choice of locations on the periphery demonstrates how forward-thinking the planners were in the 1920s, and how certain they were that Berlin would expand. The city's growth was boosted by the huge subterranean layer of water beneath it. Work on Berlin's central water supply began in 1852, and the system was steadily expanded with new waterworks on the Havel river and in Grunewald forest, for example.

Under Nazi rule, there were grandiose plans for a world capital of Germania in Berlin. The monumental scale of the exhibition grounds and the Olympic stadium is a stark reminder of the regime's megalomania. In contrast, the ruins of its military technical college lie buried beneath Teufelsberg, or Devil's Hill.

Opened in 1921, the AVUS traffic and training road was the world's first automobile-only road and the venue for spectacular motor racing until 1998.

## INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN BERLIN BIKE ROUTES

Berlin is a gigantic open-air museum of industrial heritage. Our five bike routes invite you to discover a new side of the city. Each route traces a different chapter of the city's history:

- Route 1: Bright Lights and Cold Beer
- Route 2: Manufacturing and Munitions
- Route 3: Water and Power
- Route 4: Innovation and Elegance
- Route 5: Railroads and Runways
- Route 6: Nature and Infrastructure
- Route 7: Pilots and Skylarks
- Route 8: Canal and Industry

The routes are each 20–25 km long. There is a lot to see, so plan a whole day for them. All the routes run through diverse urban environments and stick to relaxing waterfront paths, quiet side streets, and official bike lanes. If you feel like taking a break, there are many restaurants and cafés with a special industrial flair.



Route 6 Nature and Infrastructure  
Digital route planner: [Komoot](#)

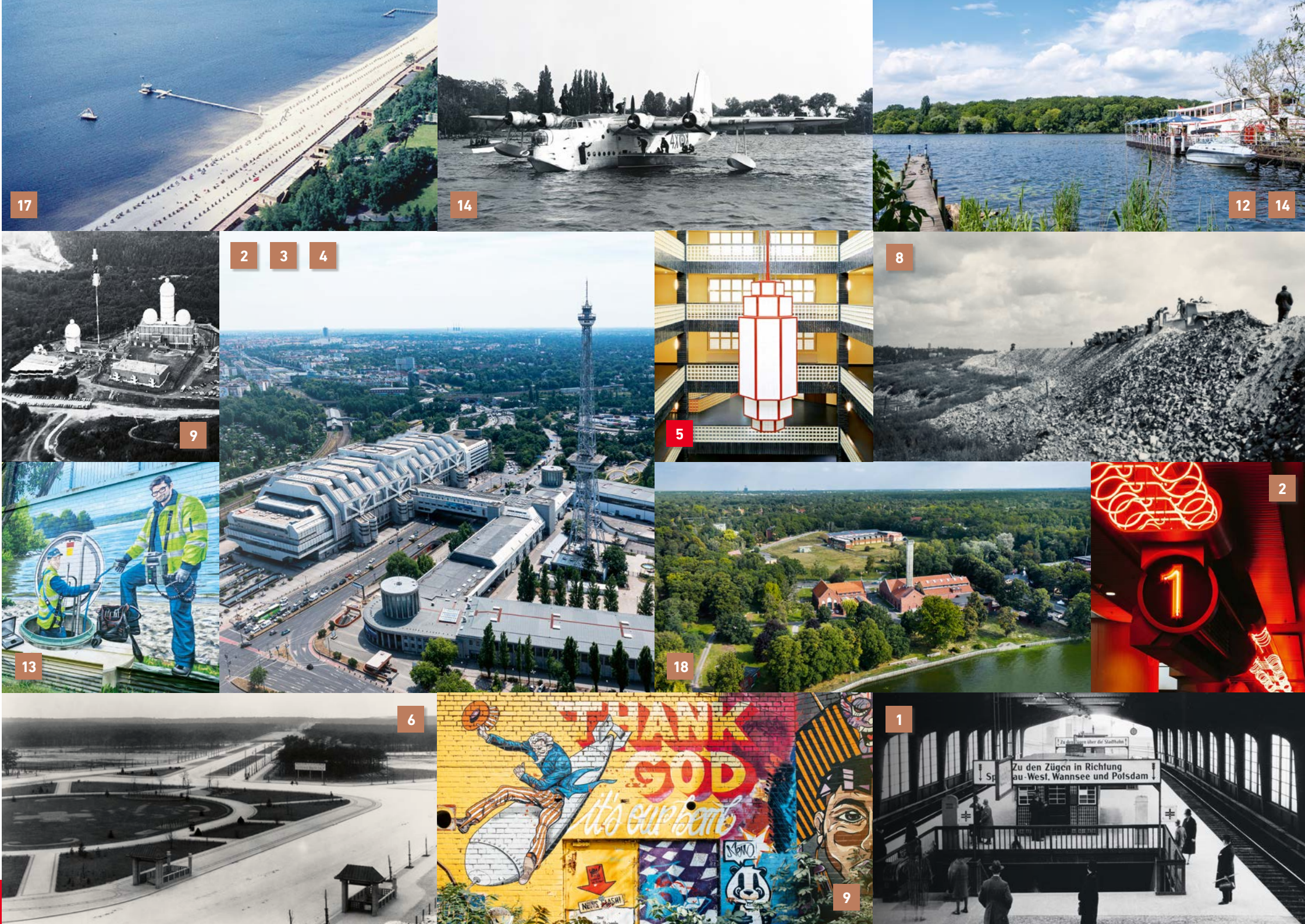
GPX Track and additional information (German only):  
[www.industriekultur.berlin](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN BERLIN

Our 18 highlights are representative of Berlin's industrial development. They testify to the city's exceptional rise as an 'electropolis', to hard times and many fresh starts. Beginning with the Industrial Revolution in Prussia, they illustrate Berlin's transformation into the most modern metropolis on the Continent. Traces of the First and Second World Wars can still be seen in many places. Some of the sites also bear witness to changes entailed by the building and fall of the Berlin Wall. The highlights include museums, historical locations, and even actively operating businesses. Some are open every day, others only by appointment.

[www.industriekultur.berlin/en/](#)

The network of Berlin's industrial heritage highlights is part of the European Route of Industrial Heritage. [www.erih.net](#)



### 1 S-Bahn Westkreuz | 1928 *The train station for the exhibition grounds*

The railroad junction between the suburban and ring railways was the access point to the planned exhibition grounds. Opened in 1928 as Ausstellung (exhibition) train station, it was renamed Westkreuz in 1932 as the counterpart to Ostkreuz.

### 2 ICC International Congress Center | 1979 *A futuristic meeting place*

The ICC opened in 1979 as an ultra-modern congress venue. It was designed to attract major international events and provide a boost to the economy of isolated West Berlin. In keeping with the idea that the car is king, the venue was integrated into Berlin's traffic flows. The aluminum façade, reminiscent of a spacecraft, was inspired by the first moon landing in 1969. A three-story bridge linked the ICC to the historical exhibition grounds [see 4]. Designed by architects Ralf Schüller and Ursulina Schüller-Witte, the ICC remained Germany's leading conference venue for more than 30 years. It closed in 2014, with plans in the pipeline to turn it into a center for arts, culture, innovation, and the creative economy.

**TIP**  
The pedestrian subway between the ICC and the exhibition grounds is a popular film location thanks to its bright orange tiles.

### 3 Funkturm radio tower | 1926 *A milestone in radio history*

With radio hugely popular, the wooden transmission tower was to be replaced by a steel one in the 1920s. As the Association of the German Radio Industry had been showcasing its latest products at the exhibition grounds [see 4] since 1924, and was planning a special presentation and broadcast in 1926, the Funkturm radio tower was erected here. In return, the association committed to showcasing its latest developments every year. To this day, the IFA consumer electronics trade fair features many world premieres. None other than Albert Einstein gave the opening speech at the fair in 1930. It's hard to imagine today how important radio was at the time. The Funkturm's design with its restaurant and viewing platform was inspired by the Eiffel Tower. It's actual function, transmitting radio signals, was handled by an antenna at the top. The number of broadcasts rapidly increased when the Haus des Rundfunks building opened [see 5 & 7]. Today, the Funkturm only transmits regional police frequencies and mobile phone signals.

### 4 Exhibition grounds | 1930/1935/ to the present day *A meeting point for the world in Berlin*

Berlin has a long history of hosting trade fairs dating back to 1822, when the Prussian government combined markets and trade exhibitions into a single event for the first time [see route 3]. There was no fixed venue at the time, with buildings erected and taken down as required. In 1913, a new train station (now S-Bahn Messe-Nord/ICC) made an old parade ground and shooting range in Grunewald forest more easily accessible. The Haus der Funkindustrie (radio industry house) opened here in 1924 in time for the first Grosse Deutsche Funkausstellung (Great German Radio Exhibition) [see 3]. In 1930, architects Martin Wagner and Hans Poelzig produced an overall concept that was only partially realized. Under the Nazi regime, architect Richard Ermisch radically changed the design, which is evident in the entrance building and the Ehrenhalle (hall of honor) completed in 1936. From 1939, the space served as storage for the Reich Grain Office. Reconstruction of the war-damaged site commenced in 1946. A year later, an exhibition was held under the banner 'Werte unter Trümmern' (values under rubble). The site is constantly being expanded to this day.

### 5 Haus des Rundfunks | 1931 *Perfect sound and groundbreaking architecture*

When the temporary studio on Potsdamer Platz became too small, architect Hans Poelzig was tasked with designing Berlin's first broadcasting center. It opened in 1931 and became the model for Europe's major broadcasting centers. To this day, the clever design with its triangular layout offers the best functionality and production environment. The offices and editorial spaces on the outside shield the internal studio complex from noise. For two years, broadcasts were independent, but then the Nazi regime started broadcasting propaganda. At the end of the Second World War, the Soviets controlled the radio transmitter in the British sector. Before handing it over to the British, they removed all the technical equipment and used it to kit out the broadcasting center in Nalepastrasse in the Soviet sector in 1951 [see 13 route 3]. In 1954, the new channel Radio Free Berlin (SFB) went live in West Berlin, while 1970 saw the opening of the TV center, which is linked to Haus des Rundfunks by a footbridge.

**TIP**  
Public guided tours  
[www.rbb-online.de/besucherservice](#)

### 6 Theodor-Heuss-Platz | 1906 *Central square of a new residential quarter*

Theodor-Heuss-Platz square opened in 1906 as the entrance to the Westend estate. Much like in its namesake in London, the living space created here was upmarket. In both Berlin and London, the westerly winds brought clean air, which only became polluted once it passed over the city. Property developer Quistorp planned the estate, built the waterworks [see 10] and hoped for significant profits. Architectural planning was handled by Martin Gropius. The square, originally named Reichskanzlerplatz, was renamed in 1933. As Adolf-Hitler-Platz, it became part of the plans for the world capital of Germania. Albert Speer's idea for a heroes' monument came to nothing. Instead, an eternal flame burns here as a memorial to the victims of persecution and expulsion. It was inaugurated by the German President Theodor Heuss in 1955. After his death, the square was renamed in his honor.

### 7 Scholzplatz transmitter | 1963 *Replacement for the Funkturm radio tower*

Its location was meant to be temporary until the TV Tower in West Berlin opened. Unlike the Funkturm [see 3], this transmitter was designed as a purely functional building. It went into operation in 1963 for Radio Free Berlin (SFB) [see 5]. The 230m tall mast replaced the Funkturm, whose 150m antenna broadcast radio and television, and allowed programs to be broadcast deep into East Germany. The transmitter was never demolished as no television tower was ever built in West Berlin. It still broadcasts radio and TV programs today.

From Devil's Hill and Kite Hill, you can see the Funkturm radio tower in the east and the Scholzplatz transmitter in the west.

### 8 Devil's Hill and Kite Hill | 1950–1972 *Rubble with a view*

One hill of rubble, from the ruins of the bombed-out city, is named after nearby Lake Teufelssee (devil's lake), while the other is great for flying kites in the fall. A whole lot of history lies beneath both of them. The Nazi regime began to construct a military technical college here as part of its plans for a world capital of Germania. The shell of the building was blown up after the end of the war and the area turned into a rubble dump. Over the course of 22 years from 1950, trucks carried a third of the rubble from Berlin's bombed-out buildings to the site. The area was then covered with earth and trees were planted. By 1972, the hill had become the highest point in West Berlin and grown into a popular place to visit. You can still enjoy lovely views across Berlin from Kite Hill today.

### 9 US listening post | 1962–1992 *Cold War spy center*

Starting in the 1950s, the Western allies monitored communications behind the Iron Curtain from Devil's Hill. The listening post was extended in 1962 with five radomes made from white plastic, which offered protection against the weather and counter-espionage. Within a radius of 500km, deep into Warsaw Pact territory, all unprotected radio and telecommunication links could be detected, listened to, and disrupted. The post was abandoned in 1992 after the end of the Cold War. An investor bought the land, but his plans failed and the area fell victim to vandalism. Thanks to its eerie atmosphere, the site is now one of the world's largest street-art galleries and hosts many events and festivals.

- TIPS**
- Visit the street-art gallery and the exhibition on the site's history, and enjoy the panoramic views across Berlin (check website for admission prices)
  - Guided tours
  - Food and drink available every day

### 10 Lake Teufelssee waterworks | 1871 Naturschutzzentrum Ökowerk Berlin e.V. 1985 *Drinking water for the city*

Opened in 1871, the waterworks on Lake Teufelssee provided drinking water to wealthy Westend [see 3] and other areas of the city. The original main building features an engine and boiler room, a round water-collection facility, and a chimney. In the 1890s, the deaerator building, the filter halls, and the drinking water tank were added. The plant remained in operation until 1969 and is now the oldest intact waterworks in Berlin. An interactive environmental education center was opened here in 1985. Guided tours provide insights into how the waterworks operated and the history of Berlin's water supply. Key elements of the historical technology, including the flywheels of the steam engines, have been preserved in the restored buildings.

- TIPS**
- The site is freely accessible during opening hours.
  - Events and guided tours
  - GPS explorer tour (by arrangement)
  - Bistro with organic food and drink

### Grunewald forest *Berlin's green lungs*

When the train stations Grunewald (1879) and Havelchaussee (1885) opened, the forest became more easily accessible and developed into a popular recreation area. At the turn of the century, property speculators cut down large parts of the forest to build mansions [see 4]. A successful green movement arose in response. In 1915, local municipalities that had joined forces in the Association of Greater Berlin [see route 4] purchased vast areas of forest in an agreement with the Prussian government. Grunewald forest remains the property of the city of Berlin to this day. In addition to offering a place to relax, the forest also provided wood. The US military closed off large areas during the Cold War and built firing ranges, ammunition depots, and an area for conducting controlled explosions. This area is still used to defuse ammunition today. The 'Forest. Berlin. Climate.' exhibition in the forest explores – including via an app – the link between climate change, the forest, and its importance to the city.

[www.berlin.de/forsten/walderlebnis/wald-berlin-klima](#)  
Havelchaussee 61 | 14193 Berlin

### 11 Berlin's gas storage facility | 1992 *Energy reserves*

In the 1980s, the Allied Control Council called for a natural gas storage facility to be built to reduce West Berlin's dependency on Soviet supplies. It didn't come on stream until 1992, by which time the political landscape had completely changed. It was not needed any longer as Berlin gained access to other suppliers of natural gas, but it was at least possible to use its storage capacity to manage price fluctuations. If the price of gas rose in winter, the city was able to use the cheap gas purchased in the summer. The facility covers an area of 12km² at a depth of 850 meters beneath Lake Wannsee and Grunewald forest. Here, trapped between layers of clay and loam, is a porous sandstone layer filled with water. The water is pushed out under high pressure and replaced with natural gas. The facility was closed in 2017 as it was no longer profitable, and work to decommission it is in progress. Using the facility for geothermal energy is one of the options under consideration.

### 12 Alte Liebe floating restaurant | 1911 *From cargo vessel to dining experience*

Turning decommissioned boats into floating restaurants has been a tradition in Berlin since 1900.

### 13 Groundwater wells of Beelitzhof waterworks | 1893 *A gallery of wells*

Berlin's drinking water comes almost exclusively from protected areas within the city limits. These areas make up around a quarter of the city's surface area. 30 percent of the drinking water is obtained from groundwater and 70 percent from river-bank filtration. The water takes several months to seep from the Havel and Spree rivers through numerous layers of sand into the groundwater wells. From here the water is pumped through huge pipes to the waterworks. There are more than 80 wells along the banks of the Havel river between here and the Wannsee lido that feed Beelitzhof waterworks [see 18]. They go down as far as 50 to 170 meters and are maintained regularly [see the mural between 13 and 14]. Filters that have become clogged with sand are cleaned by means of targeted blasting.

### 14 The Havel river *Waterway with a rich history*

Berlin's waterways have always been important supply lines. As early as the 17th century, the rivers were linked by canals to make them more navigable. This network was key to transporting goods and raw materials across the region and beyond. During the Berlin Airlift in 1948/1949 [see route 5], the Havel river was both waterway and Berlin's longest landing strip. Allied seaplanes used it as a runway to reduce the pressure on the airports, primarily carrying salt as they were highly resistant to corrosion. To this day, the federal waterways such as the Havel are a key part of the transportation network. In addition to transporting goods, they are mainly used for water sports and leisure boating.

- TIP**
- Online exhibition on the Berlin Airlift [https://berlinairlift75.org](#)
  - More info: Berlin-Gatow Airfield Military History Museum [https://mh-m-gatow.de](#)

### 15 Lindwerder island *Ferry across Lake Wannsee*

The island was accessible by ferry from 1905, and soon after by pleasure steamer. It developed into a popular visitor attraction. After 1945, rubble from the bombed city was dumped off the eastern shore to increase the island's size. Today, a passenger ferry and a goods ferry supply the restaurant.

**TIP**  
Visitors to the restaurant can ring a bell to call the private ferry.

### 16 Schwanenwerder island *An idyll for the wealthy*

In 1882, the island was bought by a manufacturer of petroleum lamps. He added land through infill. Then he divided it into plots for the construction of country houses to create an idyll for the wealthy. Thanks to the profits from industry and finance, the new upper classes were able to enjoy a lifestyle previously reserved for the nobility. But a lack of infrastructure and transportation links meant that sales were very slow. This only improved with the opening of Nikolassee train station in 1902 and the installation of a modern water and electricity supply. The island then evolved into a hideaway for wealthy industrialists and bankers, who built exclusive country estates here.

High-ranking Nazis, including Joseph Goebbels, Albert Speer, and Hitler's personal physician, Theodor Morell, appropriated the island after 1933. Jewish owners were forced to sell their properties. One of the country estates was converted into the Reich Bride School, where the fiancées of SS and Nazi Party functionaries were ideologically prepared for married life. After the end of the war, senior US army officials prepared for the Potsdam Conference in one of the mansions. This was also where Lucius D. Clay scheduled aid flights during the Berlin Airlift [see routes 5 and 7].

The properties were returned to their rightful owners as part of the restitution process. The majority of them sold the land to the federal state of Berlin. Some of the properties were turned into recreational facilities for young people. From the 1960s onward, properties were once again purchased by private individuals. The most high-profile arrival was publishing magnate Axel Springer in 1961. Only six of the historical country houses remain, one of which is Schwanenhof at no. 37 Inselstrasse.

### 17 Lake Wannsee lido | 1928/1930 *A beach on the edge of the city*

A new ideal of healthy living emerged during the Weimar Republic. The working population was to enjoy sunshine and the outdoors while staying fit by engaging in sports. Berlin built public parks, sports arenas, and outdoor pools. Standing in front of the lido entrance, which was built in 1928 in the conservative Heimatschutz style, there's no hint of how modern the resort was. The project, designed by Martin Wagner and Richard Ermisch in the New Objectivity style, featured four halls for dressing rooms, showers, and shops. These halls, built into the banks of the lake, were connected by a long colonnade, and the roofs offered space for terraces and sports. Only part of the site was completed by 1930. Originally, the plans included a further five halls, a large circular building with a restaurant, a pier, a marina, and an open-air theatre. But there was no money to complete the project after the global financial crisis. In 1933, the Nazi regime blocked any further construction due to the 'unGerman' style. Nevertheless, it was Europe's largest and most modern lido when it opened. You can still enjoy the beach today, which is over a kilometer long and 80 meters wide.

### 18 Beelitzhof waterworks | 1888/1981 *Water treatment today*

The waterworks has been supplying drinking water to Charlottenburg since 1888. The water passes through a series of processes before it reaches people's homes. From the groundwater wells [see 13] it flows through huge pipes into the waterworks' aeration facility, where it is enriched with oxygen and fed into the reaction basin. This is where iron and manganese compounds dissolve, and the resulting particles are removed by sand filtration. The purified water is stored in special tanks and then pumped to households via a complex network of pipes. In 1981, an additional treatment plant for water from the Havel river improved the water quality in the lakes in Grunewald forest. Together, Berlin's water companies currently operate nine waterworks and six sewage-treatment plants.

### 19 S-Bahn Wannsee | 1928 *Destination for sun worshippers*

With its octagonal ticketing hall, dome, and pointed arches, the train station is a real temple to transportation. The square in front of the building, which opened in 1928, offers shops and transportation links. It is a popular place to meet. A pedestrian underpass connects the station to the ferry landing stage. This ensures that the train station can cope with the masses flocking to Lake Wannsee even on the hottest of days.

**TIP**  
BVG's Fro ferry to Alt-kladow only takes 20 mins and has room for bicycles

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