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Berlin - the Good & the Horrific

Saturday, October 10, 2015

This was our 3rd visit to Berlin so of course we saw the Brandenburg Gate, Museum Island and the Octoberfest & reunification anniversary events that I described yesterday.



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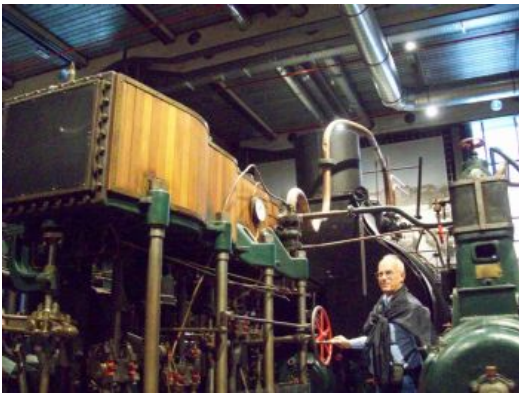
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When married to an engineer every city's technical museum is also on our list. Berlin's is excellent with every aspect of technology documented historically



Construction cranes are everywhere. On our 2012 visit this site was a hole in the ground. They are reconstructing the Palace of the Hohenzollern rulers. It survived WWII but was destroyed by the Communists.



Berlin doesn't ignore the dark side of their history

Here against a piece of the Berlin Wall is a "Timeline of Terror" which traces Hitler's rise to power. The adjacent museum is really intense with original documents, photos & video as well as a research library.



Memorials to those who died trying to flee to the west.



A line of bricks trace the path of the wall that once divided the city



The Holocaust Memorial covers an entire square. The undulating walkways and stones of varying heights elicit many different emotions. People suddenly disappear from sight just as once happened in reality





This sculpture in front of a Jewish cemetery remembers the deportations to the camps.



Bronze plaques in front of residences document the names of those who once lived here before being sent to their deaths.



Outside of Berlin on our trip to Potsdam, we stopped at a lovely, peaceful location with a sinister history.



Here on Jan 20, 1942 representatives of the SS and other Nazi ministries developed the Wannsee Protocol documents which detailed and clarified the plan to murder all European Jews and well as coordinate the active participation of Germany's public administration in the genocide.

Perhaps combining memorial and educational aspects of sites like this will keep in front of the eyes of succeeding generations what can happen when we succumb to an atmosphere of division and hatred.

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KELLIEBEAN

Thanks for "taking me along" on your trip! i love reading about your travels.



2063 days ago



CD6939912

Wow... intense.... especially your description of people on the undulating walkways suddenly disappearing. Very moving..



2067 days ago



WALLAHALLA

So important to remember, but such a heavy sorrow to bare.



2069 days ago



MARYJEANSL

I was in Berlin in 1983, before the Wall came down. Just seeing the Wall was upsetting and distressing. And when I visited East Berlin, one of the secret police tried to entrap me. One of the scariest things I had ever experienced, and something I will never forget, not least because it drove home what it was like living under Communism.



I am very glad the Wall came down, and I do hope that future generations will remember.

2070 days ago



PHEBESS

"Never forget," right?



So absolutely right to have all of the horror of what their nation did out in the public eye. There are too many deniers of the Holocaust, too many who want to pretend it never happened, too many who want to forget. Or hide their complicity.

So thank you for sharing this!

2070 days ago



NUMD97

Thank you, B_B, for your somber post, and for noting its importance for us today.



Hard lessons, but perhaps if more people are like you, this will not be repeated again ever.

2070 days ago



PHOENIX1949

THANK YOU! I SP



2070 days ago



ALEXSGIRL1

you are learning a lot on vacation way to go



2070 days ago



LIVEDAILY

It's always important to remember history, but especially what happened in Germany, so that it is not repeated.



2070 days ago



SUBMOM2

Beautiful, haunting, educational...



Enjoy the rest of your trip.

2070 days ago





HOLLYM48

That must have been a very emotional visit. I am glad they remember and are putting names to all of those people that died horrific deaths and families that were torn apart.

Thanks for sharing!

2070 days ago



GINIEMIE

It's important that we remember and show proof. There are people trying to say that the genocide did not happen. I'm glad to see memorials in GERMANY about what really happened.



2070 days ago



WILSONWR

I think it's a great vacation when you can incorporate the sights with the history of the location, no matter how dark it may have been. Hopefully we all learn from the mistakes of the past.

2070 days ago



GARDENCHRIS

thank you for sharing

2070 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM

I'm glad you shared these photos... we must never forget the lessons of the dark periods, lest we begin to think we aren't capable of repeating evil deeds. Haunting, indeed!



2070 days ago



CD4114015

YOU are SO cute! Always thought that! I envy you this city...my dad went to Germany near the end of WWII and had horrid stuff to do there....but we are over 75% German...I love Germany....Say hello for me there!



2070 days ago



KRISZTA11

It is horrible what happened, but the German people found wonderful ways to remember. I was deeply moved by the memorials everywhere in the city.

Thanks for the reminder.



2070 days ago



SWEDE_SU

great blog! we were in germany (hamburg, cologne) a couple of times in the 70s, but i never felt comfortable there, being jewish, knowing the history. reading your blog intrigues me, though - maybe it is time to visit, to see how germany remembers, regrets.

2070 days ago



LYNDALOVES2HIKE

OMG, we were both in Berlin at the same time - wish I had known so we could have lunch or dinner together, haha! We may have passed each other on the street as we did many of the same things you described. Did you go up in the TV Tower? It was also our 3rd trip to Berlin together [my husband has been there many times before we were together] but it was our first time in the tower - amazing views! We left Berlin a few days ago and visited Lubeck, Leer and now we are in a suburb of Cologne.

Small world!

2070 days ago



BBEAGAN

what a lovely blog - thank you.

2070 days ago



CD2244567



2071 days ago

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