

## Time Line of the Brandenburg Gate

- 1789 – 1791 the Brandenburg Gate is built as a copy of the Propylaea in Athens; originally called the *Friedenstor* (Peace Gate) and is now the only city gate in Berlin left from the 14 which once existed
- 1793 the quadriga is installed; the six meter high statue is a copper embossed team of four horses carrying Victory, facing the city on their return home
- 1806 Napoleon takes the quadriga with the horses to Paris as booty. It is brought back from Paris to Berlin 8 years later
- 1918 on November 9, the day of the founding of the Weimar Republic is celebrated at the Brandenburg Gate
- 1933 on January 30, the group of former front-line soldiers called the “Steel Helmets” marches through the Brandenburg Gate with torches to celebrate the “gain of power” by their party leader Adolf Hitler
- 1945 the Brandenburg Gate is in ruins as a result of fighting in Berlin near the end of World War II
- 1953 on June 17, workers revolt in East Berlin; the angry workers take the Communist flag down from the Brandenburg Gate and then march with the German flag to the western side of the city
- 1961 the Brandenburg Gate is tightly sealed; the gate and quadriga are not allowed to be approached by visitors since the area of the “Anti-Fascist Protective Wall” is off-limits for defense reasons
- 1963 U.S. President J.F. Kennedy visits Berlin in June and says his famous words, “*Ich bin ein Berliner!*”
- 1985 the Brandenburg Gate is blocked by the border wall; sightseeing platforms in West Berlin allow visitors to take a look into the east
- 1987 the east Berliners can only see the Brandenburg Gate from a distance; U.S. President Ronald Reagan stands in front of the gate and appeals to USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a noted speech to “Tear down this wall.”
- 1989 on October 19, no one believes the wall will one day disappear
- 1989 on November 9, travel restrictions for citizens of East Germany are lifted; a wild celebration occurs next to and on top of the Brandenburg Gate; the wall falls
- 1999/2000 thousands of people celebrate New Year 2000 at the Brandenburg Gate