

Berlin Germany

The Brandenburg Gate -- Das Brandenburger Tor

The 2009 Richmond Oktoberfest coincides with the celebrations of twenty years since the German reunification. For this reason the Oktoberfest Committee has decided to make the Brandenburger Gate, the symbol of Berlin and Germany, the theme of this year's Oktoberfest Beer Stein.



Below are a few facts regarding the Brandenburger Gate.

During the cold war

Bordering East and West Berlin, the Brandenburger Gate stood as the principal symbol of the division between East and West at the Pariser Platz.

Since the fall of the wall

The Brandenburger Gate has become the symbol of a re-unified Berlin. The Pariser Platz, once a desolate area during the cold war, is completely redeveloped and has regained much of its 19th century grandeur.

Designed by By Carl Gotthard

The Brandenburger Gate was constructed between 1778 and 1791. It took an additional 4 years to complete the Greek mythology decorations. Johann Gottfried Schadow built the Quadriga (crowning four horses) in 1793. It represented the symbol of peace. During Berlin's occupation by France, in 1806 Napoleon ordered the Quadriga to be taken to Paris. After the Battle of Waterloo, the Quadriga was triumphantly taken back to Berlin, and it was turned into a symbol of victory.

Unter den Linden ...

Situated at the end of Unter den Linden street, the 200 ft. tall Brandenburger Gate was part of a wall surrounding the city and was the main entrance to the city. It is the only remaining gate of this former large city wall.

When the Berlin Wall

was erected in 1961 it adjoined the Brandenburger Gate, leaving the East Berlin side desolate and isolated. Since the fall of the wall in 1989, millions of people from all over the world visit the Brandenburger Gate to celebrate a unified Germany and freedom.

On the 9th of November, 2009

We celebrate twenty years since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

