

Suggested Berlin Museums/Sights, Cold War Movies and History Books by Dennis Molnar

City of Berlin Tour Suggestions (* means recommended)

- The Berlin Wall Memorial and Documentation Center**
Excellent and worthwhile
- The Berlin Wall Museum at Checkpoint Charlie*
Documents many of the Escapes
- The Trabant Car Museum
This is a short walk from the Berlin Wall Museum
- The Stasi (Secret Police) Museum**
The museum's guided tour is recommended
- Hohenschoenhausen (Stasi) Prison Museum**
The museum's guided tour is recommended
- The Allied Museum
Interesting aircraft, displays and film about the Berlin Airlift
- Deutsches Historisches Museum*
German History Museum with excellent exhibits on the Weimar Republic, WW 2 and Cold War East/West Germany)
- The Television Tower
- A Boat Cruise on the River Spree*
Be sure to pick a boat that has the tour guide speaking the language you wish to hear)
- The Reichstag**
It is usually sold out for regular visit admission, but if you make a lunch reservation in advance by Internet, you go past the lineups for lunch and can tour the Reichstag after.

Berlin Wall Tour Guide

- Ralf Grunder ralf.gruender@berlin.de
Ralf is a Berlin Wall Documentary Journalist and Author.
My suggestion is for a 3 hour tour that covers
Berlin Wall Memorial
Ghost Railway Station
Remnants of the Wall
Berlin Wall Victims

Cold War Movies and TV Series (* means recommended)

- The Lives of Others **
A celebrity East German writer is secretly writing an anti East Germany play and is suspected by the Stasi. Stasi Secret Police methodology is well illustrated
- The Same Sky** (TV Series)
An Stasi agent is sent to West Berlin to seduce a lady for information. The series follows families both sides of the Berlin Wall, has Stasi informants, spy handlers, tunnel plotters, CIA employees, lots of suspense and, well illustrates ordinary life behind the wall
- The Ipcress File
British Actor Michael Caine investigates brainwashing of British scientists by East Germany
- Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy
Tracking down a Soviet spy high up within the British Secret Service during the Cold War. There is a 1979 miniseries and a 2011 film. I recommend the film
- Torn Curtain*
American actor Paul Newman plays an American scientist who defects to East Germany but has a surprise motive.
- Funeral in Berlin **
British actor Michael Caine prepares to receive a defecting East German but the story has many twists
- The Spy who came in from the Cold *
British actor Richard Burton is sent to East Germany as a spy but there are complications
- The Third Man
This thriller takes place in post WW II Berlin (late 1940s) and shows the devastation of Berlin

Cold War Books (* means recommended)

- Behind the Wall* by Patrick Major
- Stasi* by John Koehler
- The Tunnels* by Greg Mitchell
- Six Months in 1945 by Michael Dobbs
- Berlin 1961 by Frederick Kempe

- The Race against the Stasi by Herbie Sykes
Famous East German bike racer defects
- Iron Curtain by Anne Applebaum

World War I Books (* means recommended)

- Paris 1919 by Margaret MacMillan
Chronicles the meetings following WW I that decided the conditions and reparations of Germany
- Dreadnought * by Robert Massie
The German/British naval race leading up to the outbreak of WW I and how this led to Britain built the first, game changing, Battleship called Dreadnought in 1905
- Castles at Sea by Robert Massie
Starts at the outbreak of WW I and presents the Naval Battles in highly readable form

World War II Books (* means recommended)

- Hitler's Warrior by Danny Parker*
This is the true story of SS officer Colonel Jochen Peiper who was an assistant of Himmler, a favourite of Hitler and who later led a group of soldiers who committed war crimes. He was convicted and this story goes all the way to the 1970s.
- In the Garden of The Beasts** by Erik Larson
Fascinating story taken from the 1930's diary of the American Ambassador in Berlin who initially did not believe the Nazi program was as bad as it turned out to be.
- Operation Paperclip by Annie Jacobsen
How German scientists were spirited off to America after WW II
- Burning the Reichstag by Benjamin Hett
There was always suspicion that the Nazi party lit the fire and blamed extremists in order to assume dictatorial powers. This book uncovers the true story
- Chasing Gold* by George Taber
How various countries in WW II spirited their Central bank gold away before the Germans invaded
- Wine and War** by Don and Petie Kladstrup
How did the Germans get French wineries to co-operate in order to send up to 400,000 bottles a week back to Germany?
- Champagne (in War) by Don and Petie Kladstrup

- *The Wages of Destruction* by Adam Tooze
How Germany smartly managed their currency and economy in WW II and were always able to purchase imports and finance the war
- *The Taste of War* by Lizzie Collingham
How America, Britain, Soviet Union and Japan fed both their civilians and their armed forces in WW II
- *Hell's Cartel*** by Diarmuid Jeffreys
How German Industry, incentivized by profit, formed cartels and delivered levels of armaments needed by their Armed Forces in WW II
- *The Invention that changed the World* by Robert Buderl
How radar was invented and very quickly applied by the British and Americans to help in WW II
- *Battle of Britain* by James Holland
- *Bomber Boys* by Patrick Bishop

Other Books (* means recommended)

- *Stealth at Sea* by Robert van der Vat
History of the Submarine
- *The House by the Lake*** by Thomas Harding
Fascinating true story of a summer cottage outside of Berlin with 100 years of different ownership.
- *War and Gold* by Kwasi Kwarteng
A look at the role gold played with respect to financing various wars. For example, Spain financed its expansionary wars with Gold and Silver from the New World but with the consequence of a phenomenon never seen before: Inflation.
- *Vienna 1814* by David King
After the Napoleon was defeated, a Congress was held in Vienna to decide on the fate of France. Amazingly, Talleyrand, the French Foreign Minister, manoeuvred himself into a position of great influence and participated in the Congress in a depth one would never imagine given France's defeat.