



# BERLIN

—GERMANY—

HIGHLANDS HISTORY TRIP TO BERLIN, GERMANY

JULY 2024



# Highlands school trip to Berlin

## Year 12 A Level history trip to Berlin, Germany

The primary objective of this educational trip was to enhance the students' understanding of Nazi Germany, a crucial component of their A Level coursework. The itinerary was designed to bring historical studies to life through immersive experiences in Berlin. These experiences were intended to provide students with first-hand insights into key historical events and sites associated with Nazi Germany.

By visiting locations such as the Reichstag, the Memorial to the Murdered Jewish People of Europe, and the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, students were given the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of Germany's history from the rise of National Socialism to its impact during World War II. The trip aimed to contextualise classroom learning, facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter before students embarked on their independent research projects.

Through guided tours, discussions, and visits to significant landmarks such as the Wannsee Conference House and the Olympic Stadium, students engaged with the complexities of historical memory and interpretation. These experiences were intended to provoke thoughtful reflection as students prepare to undertake their coursework assignment on Nazi Germany.



## Day 1: 9th July

Our journey through Berlin began with a visit to the Reichstag, where we explored the transformative history of Germany from its unification to the aftermath of World War I. Discussions ranged from the transition between democracy and dictatorship to pivotal events like the Reichstag Fire of 1933 and Berlin's role during the Cold War.

We then visited the Memorial to the Murdered Jewish People of Europe, a poignant reflection on the Holocaust designed by Peter Eisenman. This site prompted deep contemplation about Germany's modern approach to remembering this tragic chapter in history.

At the Brandenburg Gate, we delved into its symbolic significance, from being a backdrop to Nazi rallies to its role as a dividing point during the Cold War, symbolising both division and eventual reunification of Germany.

The day concluded with a visit to the Fuhrer Bunker site, offering insights into the final days of Adolf Hitler and the collapse of the Third Reich, as depicted in the film "Der Untergang."



## Day 2: 10th July

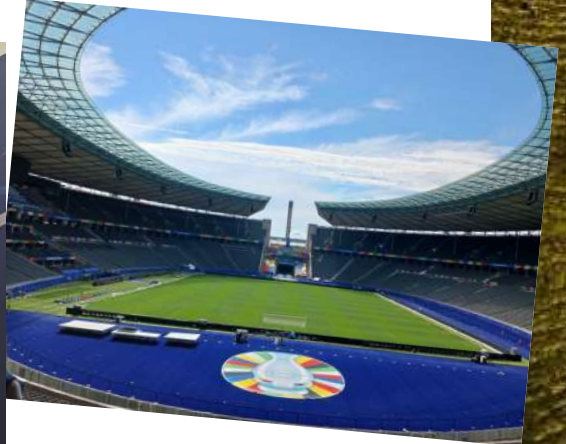
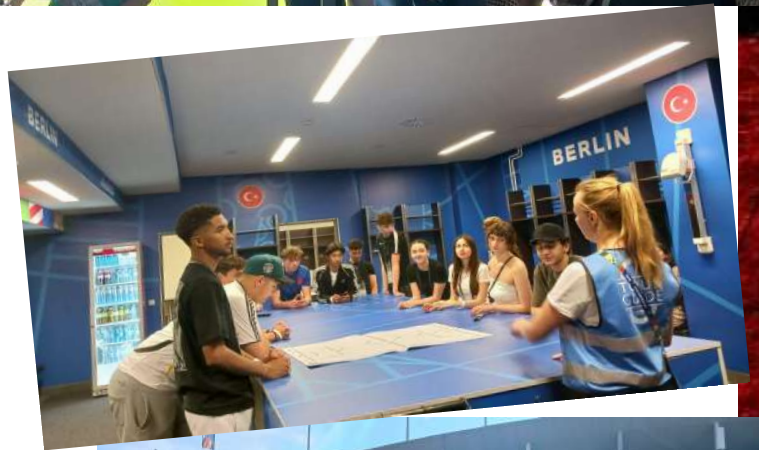
Our second day began with a sobering visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. We explored various aspects of the Nazi camp system, including the barracks and haunting remains of gas chambers and the memorial to the range of victims who were taken into this camp. This experience deepened our understanding of the atrocities committed during the Nazi regime and the range of groups targeted.

Next, we visited the Wannsee Conference House, where Nazi officials finalised plans for the "Final Solution." This historic site underscored the systematic genocide of European Jewish people during World War II.

At the Olympic Stadium, built for the 1936 Berlin Olympics under Nazi rule, we explored the propaganda and legacy of the Games.

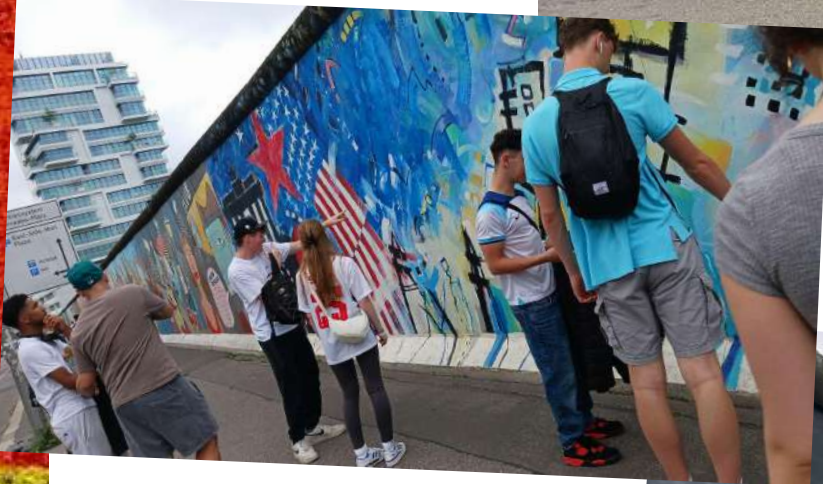


Day 2: 10th July



### Day 3: 11th July

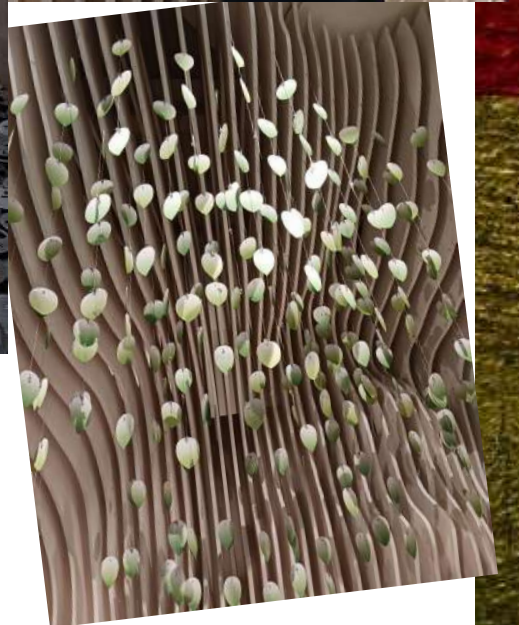
On our third day, our itinerary broadened its temporal scope by delving into post-war life and developments. This included a visit to the East Side Gallery, the longest remaining section of the Berlin Wall. Adorned with colourful murals, it served as a powerful testament to freedom and resistance during the Cold War era.



### Day 3: 11th July

We then visited the Jewish Museum, where exhibits detailed the rich history of German Jewish people, the devastating impact of the Holocaust, and the resilience of Jewish communities in post-war Germany.

Our trip concluded with a visit to Checkpoint Charlie, once a critical crossing point between East and West Berlin during the Cold War. Here, we reflected on its historical significance and its role in the city's division.



## Student feedback

Overall, the trip served as a pivotal educational experience, equipping students with the necessary insights to approach their coursework with a nuanced understanding of the complexities of Nazi Germany and its enduring impact on global history.

***'The history behind the building of the stadium and its classical influence was fascinating'***

***'It was a very informative trip and I certainly learnt a lot of information that will not be forgotten!'***

***'It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to see iconic landmarks.'***

***'It brought the course to life by seeing things in person.'***

***'Going to the concentration camp was a humbling experience. It was disturbing to explore how the rule of law was overridden, a terrifying reality. Upon reflection the, this visit highlighted the inadequacy of Nuremberg trials. Learning about the individual accounts of prisoners and their demographic (i.e. age being the same as myself) shocked me. Another observation was the paradox of the idyllic landscape of the Wannsee House and the purpose it served during the Final Solution that resulted in the deaths of millions of people. The divisions caused amongst the ranks of Nazis who attended the conference known as the Final Solution after its implementation was also remarkable and surprising.'***

