

PRESS RELEASE OF 30.09.2019

15. FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, 11.-20. Oktober 2019

## Berlin is celebrating freedom for 30 days! Kick-off with the major event 15th Festival of Lights

**The number of festival visitors in Berlin is expected to exceed 3 million again -  
The festival celebrates its 15th anniversary for the first time at more than 100  
locations**

### **The Theme of the 15th Anniversary Festival: "Lights of Freedom"**

"The Lights of Freedom Illuminate Berlin! In our 15th anniversary Festival of Lights, the City of Freedom will become the largest open-air gallery in the world - a total of 100,000 square meters of Berlin will be covered with art, including more than 180 shows at 100 locations," declared festival director Birgit Zander.

**With the Festival of Lights this year, the special celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall which was accompanied by the Peaceful Revolution begin.** Therefore this year's festival motto is "**Lights of Freedom**". FREEDOM as the main theme will play a special role at all locations. In addition to Brandenburg Gate, TV Tower, Berlin Cathedral, Bebelplatz, Alexanderplatz, Memorial Church, the festival productions also include Bornholmer Straße Train Station, the Stasi Headquarters in Lichtenberg, Potsdamer Platz, the Palace of Tears and Friedrichstraße S-Bahn Station - the number of train stations totals 17 (!) - as well as the place where the fall of the Berlin Wall was initiated at Günter Schabowski's historic press conference, the building of today's Federal Ministry of Justice.

The Federal Government is represented in numerous buildings through the campaign "30 Years of Peaceful Revolution and German Unity". Altogether, **10 federal ministries** are taking part in the Festival of Lights, including the Federal Foreign Office, for instance with video scenes of Hans-Dietrich Genscher's legendary words from 1989 on the balcony of the Prague Embassy and the Federal Ministry of Finance with an interactive action: A digital wall, designed by wall artists such as Thierry Noir, which is gradually torn down.

The Federal Press Office, the European Commission, and the European Parliament will also be illuminated with productions on their building. A free bus tour connects the various locations. All the information you need can be found at [www.festival-of-lights.de](http://www.festival-of-lights.de)

For the very first time, Berlin's new palace, the Humboldt-Forum, will be spectacularly staged from two sides simultaneously.

The 15th Festival of Lights is being represented by E.ON. "Light art at its finest, which inspires millions of people - that's what the Festival of Lights epitomizes. We are proud to represent it and look forward to more highlights and even more

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happy faces for the fifth time in a row," says Carsten Thomsen-Bendixen, E.ON's corporate press spokesman.

The Festival of Lights, together with E.ON, invited renowned street art artists from 14 countries this year to bring their interpretations on canvas under the motto "Free your Energy". The resulting creations will be exhibited throughout the festival as projections on the facade of the "Hotel of the Year 2019". The audience can participate in the Street Art Challenge worldwide via social media through voting their favorite motif.

Around the Hotel de Rome, the St. Hedwigs Cathedral, the State Opera Unter den Linden, the Law Faculty of the Humboldt-Universität and the Humboldt-Universität are being illuminated and together they form an artistic 360-degree production of the entire Bebelplatz.

Two international Festival of Lights Awards will be assigned this year. The official 5th International Festival of Lights Championship for Video Artists will take place on the television tower. Before the festival, selected artists were invited to interpret the motto "Freedom" and present their visions in a 90-second video. Besides, there will be a second spectacular event on the television tower, "Faces of Freedom", that everyone can take part in and, with a bit of luck, can even be seen on Berlin's tallest building in XXL format for 10 seconds at a time. Together with GetYourGuide, the Festival of Lights is encouraging fans worldwide to upload their portraits to the festival website as a sign of freedom.

A second contest will feature international artists and designers who will be competing with their works under the theme "Kaleidoscope" on the facade of the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore. The Embassies of Honduras, Great Britain and Korea are also part of the anniversary festival.

"Freedom" glows during the festival on the facades of the government district. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, 10 federal ministries let the evening sky shine in the sign of freedom. Worth discovering: Light projections depicting the Peaceful Revolution, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unity of Europe, but also concerning the civil liberties of the Basic Law, which is celebrating its 70th birthday this year.

A beautiful mix of impressive stagings and installations at the shopping train stations Friedrichstraße, Hauptbahnhof, Hackescher Markt, Alexanderplatz, Zoologischer Garten, Ostbahnhof and Savignyplatz will impress. In different ways, they dedicate themselves to light art. Also, the shops at Berlin Central Station and Ostbahnhof invite you to shop, dine, stroll and unwind during the entire ten days.

With its spectacular architecture, Potsdamer Platz offers a fascinating backdrop for the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, various works of art and productions can be admired. There is hardly a better location for this than Potsdamer Platz, over which the Berlin Wall ran until 1989. An absolute highlight at Potsdamer Platz will be the monumental light installation "Menschen Leipzig - Berlin" (People Leipzig - Berlin) by the French



light artist Philippe Morvan, which is dedicated to two 30th anniversaries: the peaceful revolution in Leipzig and the fall of the Berlin Wall. In a circle with a diameter of 9 meters, the artist abducts the visitors into the heart of the installation and merges it with it and its luminous message.

The Brandenburg Gate - A symbol for the reunification of Germany and a peaceful liberal-democratic revolution. This year, the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, is presenting a 3D video mapping under the motto "Lights of Freedom", reflecting "30 Years of Peaceful Revolution" at this historic location.

For the first time this year, GetYourGuide is the official partner of the Festival of Lights and offers 150 multifaceted LightSeeing tours. "The Festival of Lights has developed into a visitor magnet for locals and travelers from all over the world. We are delighted to be able to accompany the festival on its path as a partner and to inspire even more people to experience this unforgettable experience", says Mathis Boldt, Vice President of GetYourGuide Germany.

Follow in the tracks of the brothers Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt! The video animation on the modern east facade dedicated to Alexander von Humboldt's 250th birthday takes you on a journey through his life and work and illuminates his central statement "All is Interaction". Inspired by Wilhelm von Humboldt, the universe of language opens up on the west façade: According to him, this is the essential key to the experience and organization of the world.

On the facade of the recently inaugurated James Simon Gallery by star architect David Chipperfield, a 15-minute 3D video mapping under the motto "A Journey through the Evolution of Humanity" is reflecting a cross-section of the art and culture of the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center in Kuwait as well as the cultural treasures of the world-famous museums in Berlin.

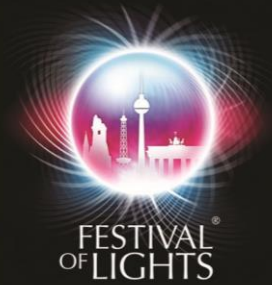
For the first time, a video projection can also be seen on the facade of the Museum für Naturkunde, breathing life into Tristan. The T-Rex takes visitors on a discovery trip into the interior of the museum. Furthermore, events during the festival period allow visitors to immerse into the exciting world of research and science related to the theme of nature.

The famous "Gärten der Welt" become the premier location of the first Magical FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Garden. Every evening from 11 to 27 October, around 30 spectacular light installations can be discovered throughout the park - glowing ships & water lilies, whispering pastures and an army of penguins await young and old in green Marzahn. Especially the water playground and the fairytale forest will be transformed into light art highlights that no festival visitor should miss. Information:

Tickets are available at: [www.festival-of-lights.de](http://www.festival-of-lights.de) & [www.gaertenderwelt.de](http://www.gaertenderwelt.de)

The City West will again be prominently represented this year with further buildings: For the first time the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Hotel Waldorf Astoria and the rbb-Funkhaus are included. On The Westlight, a colourful





pop art projection is being created, POLIS presents a collage on the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund (German Pension Insurance Association) demonstrates with three artistic motifs that it defines itself as a modern service company.

The former Stasi headquarters in Lichtenberg is also part of the program. Large-scale projections onto the facades of the former Stasi service buildings document history: Of dictatorship, repression, and surveillance. Of departure, peaceful revolution and the opening of documents.

In Berlin-Mitte, the Chocolate House Rausch represents itself with a plantation motif, the Bode Museum simultaneously from two sides, the Alexanderhaus with a colorful Pop Art motif and the Illuseum with the installation "U Morph" - You Transform". On the DomAquaree, various projected images tell the story of the location from the "Palasthotel" in the 90s to the "Hotel de Saxe" over 200 years ago. The Hotel Adlon adorns an emotional projection.

Historical moments of the 20s, paired with modern urban mobility design, illuminate the facade of the Jandorf department store. The New Marstall is transformed into the "House of Nature" with breathtaking pictures of nature. The "Nikolaiviertel" sets its mark for freedom with selected light sculptures.

The Bärenquell brewery in Schöneeweide is transformed into a giant canvas, also the Treptowers stand out in a modern way. "Das Schloss" in Berlin Steglitz is artfully staged during the Festival of Lights under the theme Berlin and the Fall of the Wall - on one of the largest indoor projections worldwide.

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the festival, special guests are congratulating: Asterix and Obelix are coming to Berlin! Which places they will visit is not yet revealed!

Again on 12. October from 19 to 24 o'clock the "night of the open doors" takes place, among others things with: Rausch, the Museum für Naturkunde, the exhibition "Europa Erleben" in the European House, at the Spree-Bogen (also on 11. October) as well as in the Tränenpalast (also on all other festival evenings until midnight). ZDF will be offering an exclusive look behind the scenes on 19. October. Many more event-dates under [www.festival-of-lights.de](http://www.festival-of-lights.de)

The Festival of Lights Kiez Tour 2019 takes you to all Berlin districts, including Lichtenberg (to the town hall) and Marzahn (to the Bockwindmühle).

[Das Brandenburger Tor im Licht der Freiheit \(Visualisierung\)](#)

[18 Bahnhöfe mit kunstvollen Lichtinstallationen \(Visualisierung Ostbahnhof\)](#)

[Die Bärenquell-Brauerei im FOL 2019 Visualisierung.jpg](#)

[Das Alexanderhaus im FOL 2019 Visualisierung.jpg](#)

[Die Gedächtniskirche im FOL 2019 Visualisierung.jpg](#)



[Das DomAquaree mit Historischem Motiv Hotel de Saxe Visualisierung.jpg](#)

[Die James Simon Galerie im FOL Visualisierung.jpg](#)

[Bahnhof Friedrichstraße im FOL Visualisierungs-Video.mp4](#)

[Museum für Naturkunde im FOL Ausschnitt aus dem Mapping](#)

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