

Radiant Celebration of Love:

22nd FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS presents “Colours of Love” at around 40 Locations across Berlin From October 9 to 18

- Festival Director Birgit Zander: “With radiant light art under the sign of love, we promote greater cohesion and mutual respect in society.”
- From the TV Tower to the Brandenburg Gate and on to Potsdamer Platz: Berlin’s most famous buildings and squares transform into Europe’s largest open-air gallery
- Two highlights at the Berlin Cathedral: Event series “Beyond the Light” and “Festival of Lights in Concert” turn the cathedral’s interior into a spherical world of experience with spectacular 3D video projections and soundscapes
- 10 evenings of light art from October 9 to 18, free for visitors from Berlin and all around the world for the 22nd consecutive year

Berlin, October 1, 2026. The 22nd FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS will take place from October 9 to 18, 2026, at around 40 locations across Berlin. For 10 evenings, historic monuments, famous buildings, and popular squares will turn into radiant gathering places for people from across the globe under the motto “Colours of Love”. These include several landmarks and locations celebrating their light art premiere this year. Once again, Berlin becomes Europe’s largest open-air gallery.

With the motto “Colours of Love”, the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS aims to set radiant signals for greater cohesion and mutual respect in society. Organizer and Festival Director Birgit Zander states: “With great attention to detail, we combine light, art, and music with new perspectives on living together, allowing Berlin’s landmarks to shine in vibrant colors and inspiring our guests. This year, everything revolves around perhaps the most beautiful and deeply felt emotion of all: love. Love has many facets and countless forms of expression. Love is not just a single moment—it is a wonderful way of life. We dedicate the ten evenings of this year’s Festival of Lights to precisely this feeling and warmly invite visitors from around the world to fall in love with Berlin.”

A Premiere and a Festival Classic at the Berlin Cathedral

Among the special highlights of this year’s festival program are two distinct event series hosted at the Berlin Cathedral: “Beyond the Light” and “Festival of Lights in Concert”.

“Beyond the Light” serves as a new event format on the first festival weekend (October 9 to 11), featuring eight 30-minute 3D video shows accompanied by gentle ambient background music in the cathedral’s altar area. Elaborate light art illuminates the cathedral interior in vibrant colors, bringing even the finest details of its monumental architecture to life. Tickets are available online at: <https://festival-of-lights.de/de/beyond-the-light/>

“FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS in CONCERT” presents a unique fusion of light and sound art across five evenings and ten concerts during the second half of the festival (October 13 to 17). Once again, world-renowned musicians and DJs have been recruited: Alle Farben, Westbam, Klangkarussell, Anja Schneider, Chris Bekker, and Ukai Ndamé will transform the cathedral with spherical soundscapes into an extraordinary total work of art, seamlessly merging light and sound for about an hour per show. Tickets are available online at www.festival-of-lights.de/inconcert.

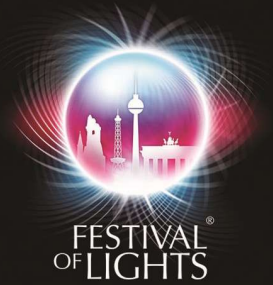
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An Excerpt From the 2026 Program:

- Germany's tallest structure, the **Berlin TV Tower**, becomes a grand stage for love: "Highest Emotions for Berlin: TV Tower in Love". Six national and international artist studios wrap the Berlin TV Tower in a spectacular display of colors, shapes, and emotions centered around "Colours of Love"—a radiant symbol above the rooftops of the city celebrating what connects us.
- **Potsdamer Platz** turns into a mosaic of light. On the **Kollhoff Tower**, the projection "AURORA VITA" dynamically breathes life into the building's massive architecture. The motif on the **Forum Tower** feels almost like an optical illusion, causing the façade to visually pulsate. The artistic **floor projection** in front immerses the ground in a lively mosaic of radiant colors and dynamic patterns. Anyone strolling through literally walks right through the light. On **Alte Potsdamer Straße**, the installation "Papillons" lets countless colorful butterflies flutter high up between the treetops above the audience's heads. At **Haus Huth**, the masterful analog light artwork "Nautilus" delights visitors with high-performance projectors and kinetic mechanics layering different image planes live on top of one another.
- Right next door at **Das Center** am Potsdamer Platz, an oversized house of cards awaits visitors. The glowing artwork "House of Cards" features an impressive installation of 126 oversized playing cards arranged as a living structure made of light. The house of cards represents not fragility, but the courage to venture into new territories, grow beyond oneself layer by layer, and trust in one another.
- At the **Ritz-Carlton** and **P5** at Potsdamer Platz, large-format Art Deco-style imagery with a touch of the 1920s shines alongside a vibrant, cheerful statement for love and joy made of countless colorful hearts—a true eye-catcher that guarantees good spirits.
- As one of Berlin's grandest landmarks, the **Berlin Cathedral** at Lustgarten once again serves as a monumental canvas for expressive art. Ten multifaceted, large-format light artworks illuminate the giant façade on the theme "Colours of Love". Simultaneously, the event series "Beyond the Light" and "Festival of Lights in Concert" bring the monumental architecture of the interior to life.
- The **Brandenburg Gate** becomes the stage for the "Festival of Lights Contest", featuring spectacular 3D video mappings by international artists and creative teams from Spain, China, and Hungary. Their impressive artworks utilize the world-famous backdrop for a creative, captivating play of color, form, and motion. These particularly elaborate international video productions on Berlin's iconic landmark are made possible by McDonald's Germany as the main sponsor of the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS.
- In celebration of the **Pergamonmuseum's** reopening on June 4, 2027, a three-minute projection will be displayed on the future interim entrance of the Pergamonmuseum on Museum Island. It takes visitors on a journey through the museum's ten-year renovation phase, showcasing architectural transformations through striking photographs by Alexander Schippel. The production connects the history of the renovation with a glimpse of what awaits visitors at next year's grand reopening.

The best view of the projection is from the opposite bank of the Spree at Monbijoupark, where the illuminated façade of the Pergamonmuseum is mirrored in the water.



On the Spree side of Museum Island, the historic colonnades of the **Alte Nationalgalerie** provide a glowing backdrop for colorful projections, blending historic architecture with modern light art.

- A touch of the Golden Twenties comes to the **Nikolai Quarter**: Coinciding with the final season of the hit German series “Babylon Berlin”, the corner building on Rathausstraße becomes the canvas for a visually powerful video projection. It features imagery of the former Israel department store, Alexanderplatz in the 1920s, and the building that housed the legendary dance café “Moka Efti”. Blended with iconic clips and thrilling scenes from “Babylon Berlin” (made possible by X Filme Creative Pool), the projections evoke the palpable atmosphere of 1920s Berlin. Around the Nikolaikirche, visitors can feel like 1920s show stars themselves with the interactive art installation “Angels of Love”—five of which are hidden throughout the Nikolai Quarter. In front of the Nikolaikirche, the light installation “Prima Ballerina” brings a classic music box back to life.
- Interactive experiences await at Gendarmenmarkt: The façade of the **Konzerthaus** transforms into a huge digital interactive activity with the show “Guestlings”. The more people participate and upload their self-created Guestling avatars to the building's façade, the denser, brighter, and more vivid the artwork becomes, creating a giant digital guestbook. Additionally, the charming 3D video mapping show “Listen to my love” tells a heartwarming story about the power of love. Love is also the central theme of the children's drawing campaign “Draw What You Love”. Participants include children, teenagers, and young adults from the Björn Schulz Foundation who drew their favorite motifs. From favorite toys and pets to colorful patterns, the drawings fill the building with small, loving moments of happiness—a colorful symbol of life's joys in the heart of the city.
- The entire **Bebelplatz** glows in a 180-degree production unique to Berlin. The State Opera, St. Hedwig's Cathedral, and the Faculty of Law enchant festival guests with colorful motifs from three sides simultaneously. The façade of the historic Hotel de Rome serves as the projection screen for several impressive video shows, bearing atmospheric titles like “Beyond the Dream”, “Colours in nature: the love bug”, and “Shifting Garden” created by international artists and creative teams from the UAE, UK, and Germany.
- The façade of the historic **Humboldt-Universität** zu Berlin features a show themed “Art, science, research, and teaching are free”. Additionally, the Zagreb Tourist Board and WWF present a visually stunning video show from the Zagreb Festival of Lights titled “We are all connected”.
- The historic façade of **The Westin Grand** Berlin hotel, at the corner of Friedrichstraße and Unter den Linden, transforms into a sea of sunflowers and countless colorful butterflies, turning the architecture into a giant, blooming summer garden.
- The **Oberbaumbrücke** sends “Greetings of Love Across the Spree”. Its striking red-brick architecture and characteristic towers become a captivating interplay of light and shadow, dynamic animations, and innovative art that bathes the river in a romantic sea of lights.
- The **THF TOWER at Tempelhof Airport** tells the story of the “Harbor of the Future”. Through light art, the façade is gradually reconstructed: from a primeval rock monolith into a surveying hologram, before revealing its steel skeleton. Throughout the show, the monumental backdrop opens up like a huge, bustling dollhouse filled with studios, workshops, and meeting spaces—a masterful interplay of history, architecture, and vision that makes the transformation of this special location tangible.



- FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS locations can also be discovered in various Berlin neighborhoods: Spectacularly illuminated highlights include the **Victory Column (Siegestsäule)**, the **Radio Tower (Funkturn)** marking its 100th anniversary, **John Jahr Haus**, the **Postbahnhof** at Ostbahnhof, **St. Mary's Church** at Alexanderplatz, and **Lichtenberg Town Hall Park** (October 9 only).
- Furthermore, exciting side events await, such as the "ERLEBNIS EUROPA" exhibition at the **European House** Berlin, the **Street Art Festival** at Alexanderplatz, experiential tours through the **Olympiastadion** Berlin with two exclusive light shows set to music developed by Finnish lighting designer Mikki Kunttu specifically for the stadium, and—for the first time—the "**Festival of Lights Club Nights**", bringing light art directly into selected Berlin clubs after 11:00 PM.



For the 22nd Consecutive Year: Free Admission to All Open-Air Locations

Thanks to partners and sponsors, admission to all open-air locations of the privately funded FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS has been free of charge every year since its inception in 2005—and 2026 will be no exception. "We are looking forward to inviting Berliners and guests from all over the world to experience fascinating light art and magical moments in Berlin," says Festival Director Birgit Zander.

Major and Dedicated Partners Make the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS Possible

As in previous years, festival management carefully curated not only the artistic stagings but also the selection of sponsors and partners. "It is particularly important to us that our partners align with our motto and actively advocate for greater cohesion and mutual respect in society," said Zander. Festival partners for 2026 include prominent names such as McDonald's, Klarna, Life360, Ferrero Rocher, NVIDIA, Kearney, Sephora, Potsdamer Platz, GASAG, BSR, visitBerlin, Zagreb Tourist Board, WBM with the Nikolai Quarter, Center am Potsdamer Platz, THF / Tempelhof Projekt, SEBRACON, The Ritz-Carlton Berlin, and many more.

The festival program can be found at www.festival-of-lights.de/de/programm-2026/

The complete program of this year's Festival of Lights, all information regarding partners and buildings, as well as an easy-to-read illumination map are available at www.festival-of-lights.de/

Tickets for the popular Lightseeing Tours can already be booked on the festival website. The central marketing partner for this year's Lightseeing Tours is festival partner visitBerlin.

The FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2026 is made possible by McDonald's, Klarna, Life360, Ferrero Rocher, NVIDIA, Kearney, Sephora, Potsdamer Platz, GASAG, visitBerlin, Zagreb Tourist Board, WBM with the Nikolai Quarter, Center am Potsdamer Platz, THF / Tempelhof Projekt, BSR, SEBRACON, TV-Turm Alexanderplatz, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Commerz Real, John Jahr Haus, The Westin Grand Berlin, Olympiastadion, European Parliament, Fischer & Lustig, Bezirksamt Lichtenberg, The Ritz-Carlton Berlin, Metropolitan Chapter St. Hedwig's Cathedral, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, X Filme Creative Pool, Grüntmacher, OM Consult & Event, BEDE Catering & Eventmanagement, Postbahnhof.

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