

„Grenzenlos“ Tours

without any borders

Public tours are offered between May and October, beginning at the “Zonengrenz Museum Helmstedt” at 2:00 p.m. After a guided tour of the museum, participants are taken by bus to the border monument at Hötensleben and then to the Memorial to the Division of Germany in Marienborn. Before returning to Helmstedt, there is opportunity to view the sculpture by Josep Castell. The tour, which takes about 3 hours, is led by specially trained tour guides. Special tours for individuals or groups can be organised all year round and foreign language guides are also available.

For further information please contact:

Grenzenlos

Wege zum Nachbarn e. V.

c/o Stadt Helmstedt

Markt 1, 38350 Helmstedt/Germany

Tel.: 0049 (0)5351/17-7777

Fax: 0049 (0)5351/595714

Internet: www.grenzdenkmaeler.de

www.stadt-helmstedt.de

e-Mail: info@grenzdenkmaeler.de

In addition to these visible sites of commemoration, the “Project Grenzenlos” sponsors the Helmstedt “Universitätstage”, an annual conference which focuses on specific topics of academic interest in connection with German separation and reunification. Historians and researchers from all around the world gather for lectures and discussions in the “Juleum”, the beautiful main lecture hall of the former university which was founded by Duke Julius in Helmstedt in 1576.



University Academia Julia



Memorial Marienborn

At Marienborn, a memorial has been established at the largest East-West checkpoint on the most important transit highway to Berlin. The history of the checkpoint, originally created by the Allied Occupation Forces in 1945, reflects the political tensions between two opposing blocs in divided Germany. Facilities for car and truck inspection and control, customs and staff buildings have been preserved and restored to demonstrate the fortification system which made escape from East Germany almost impossible. A documentary centre and video presentations offer visitors detailed information.



Sculpture „La Voûte des Mains“

Not far from Marienborn, the French artist Josep Castell created a sculpture entitled “La Voûte des Mains” as a monument to the victory of humanity over a cruel and inhumane political system. The cast-iron sculpture consists of two hands joined above a huge granite block and serves as a reminder to all Germans to preserve and cherish their regained unity.

Grenzenlos - Wege zum Nachbarn Without any Borders



Encountering Neighbours

Grenzenlos
Wege zum Nachbarn e.V.



Where can the history of the division of Germany be better observed than at the point where the former inner-German border is most visible today? Few reminders of the separation of East and West Germany still remain, but the former border area near Helmstedt offers visitors a visible encounter with the fortifications which divided Germany from 1945 until 1989. The "Project Grenzenlos—without any borders" is an attempt to keep the memory of this period of German history alive and to provide a basis for dialogue on the reunification of East and West Germany. "Grenzenlos" was registered as an official project of the EXPO 2000. On 17 June 2007, the project "Grenzenlos" was named as one of the "365 landmarks in the land of ideas".

"Grenzenlos" was honoured for an inventive and inquisitive spirit of innovation and progress.

"Grenzenlos – without any borders – encountering neighbours" attempts to promote a better understanding of history and show perspectives for a common future.

"We bring history to life!"

Das Projekt „Grenzenlos“



Zonengrenz-Museum
Helmstedt

The Zonengrenz Museum Helmstedt documents the history of the former inner-German border from its beginnings until reunification. In addition to an impressive model of the barrier installations, the museum displays original warning signs, landmines, uniforms, metal fencing and further objects which help to provide a better understanding of the many facets of the division between East and West. A photo exhibition depicts the dramatic opening of the border in 1989. In the section "Border Art", contemporary artists present abstract, realistic or satirical views of the German division.



Grenzdenkmal
Hötensleben

Just a few kilometres from Helmstedt, the border monument at Hötensleben is the only remaining site where the original extensive barrier systems intended to prevent citizens of the German Democratic Republic from crossing into the Federal Republic of Germany still exist. A 350-metre long section of the highly sophisticated border control system has been preserved and includes a 3.2 metre high reinforced-concrete wall, a metal alarm fence, a concrete observation tower, a camouflaged vehicle shelter, the patrol path of perforated concrete plates and vehicle obstacles known as "dragons' teeth".