

**The Peace Marches in Leipzig and Fall of the Berlin Wall 1989:** This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and the Fall of the Berlin Wall. These events triggered drastic changes around the world, marking the end of the Cold War and of the division of Europe. In 2009, Berlin and Leipzig focus on this anniversary – a reminiscence of the happenings in 1989: Awakening – Revolution – Unity. **AWAKENING:** In the GDR of the 1980's, dissatisfaction is growing among young people – they increasingly refuse to bow to the dictates of the State. Political opposition is organizing itself under the aegis of protestant church and in private circles. **REVOLUTION:** Some wish to reform society, others leave the GDR. Emigrations and escapes make a considerable contribution to the collapse of the regime of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED). On October 7<sup>th</sup> 1989, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GDR, security forces still are still crushing the protest in Berlin – two days later, the mass demonstration in Leipzig progresses peacefully. Parties and initiatives emerge and now openly raise the question of power. Even after the Fall of the Wall on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the development still remains completely uncertain – the SED does not wish to abandon its absolute claim of power... **UNITY:** As early as during the demonstrations late in 1989, calls for national unity of Germany are being expressed. The first free elections in the GDR on March 18<sup>th</sup> ,1990, work out in favor of the “Alliance for Germany” which promises rapid unification. There are still many political hurdles to overcome, the paeceful “Monday Demonstrations” continued... Shortly before the signing of the reunification agreement on October 3<sup>rd</sup> ,1990, the citizen's movements succeed in forcing opening of the GDR secret police “Stasi” files. A euphoric spirit of optimism reigns throughout the country. The citizens of the former GDR can finally start to radically transform their country... Since the Paeceful Revolution 1989, it is not just the facades, streets, towns and cities of East Germany that have changed in appearance. Population, Culture, Art, Business, Science etc. have, to this day, all been undergoing constant change... In October and November 2009, we offer special “Fall of the Berlin Wall” tours which take you on a exciting journey to East Germany. You will experience young German history at original places – where it happened! Be part of the “Nights of the Candles” in Leipzig or the “Festival of Freedom” in Berlin, celebrate with people from all over the world in Berlin & Germany!

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