

The Spandau Citadel



A historical monument of European importance



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|---|---|
| 1 Bastion King (<i>König</i>) | 8 Cannon-tower (<i>Kavalier</i>) |
| 2 Bastion Queen (<i>Königin</i>) | 9 former barracks |
| 3 Bastion Brandenburg | 10 former magazine |
| 4 Bastion Crown Prince (<i>Kronprinz</i>) | 11 former drilling shed, workshops |
| 5 The commander's building, Gate | 12 former arsenal, now Museum of Spandau Town History |
| 6 Juliustower (<i>Juliusturm</i>) | 13 former administrative building |
| 7 Palas | 14 Ravelin Schweinekopf |



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Spandau – its original name was Spandow – was first mentioned officially in 1197 and got its charter of a city in 1232. Long before that there had been a Slavic fortress on exactly the same site as today's Citadel. Having occupied in 1157 the territory west of the river Havel for good, margrave Albrecht, called The Bear, build a frontier fortress at this strategically important location on the confluence of the rivers Spree and Havel to secure his rule over the occupied territory and over the long-distance trade route from Magdeburg to Poland. At the same time he used the fortress as a base for further conquest of the Mark Brandenburg.

Many of the documents show that up to the middle of the 15th century the castle of Spandau was the preferred dwelling and seat of the government of the Brandenburg Margraves and Electors. Elector Friedrich II moved his government to Berlin and the castle became a widows' seat for the Brandenburg Electresses after it had been changed into a palace.

New weapons made structural alterations or the rebuilding of fortresses necessary. Elector Joachim II had built a fortress in the 'new-italian-style', which was begun in 1560 at the latest. It included buildings of the old Spandau castle, the Palas and the Juliustower. Joachim II died in 1571, his son Elector Johann Georg finished it in 1594.



The builders were: Christoph Römer (up to 1562), Franciskus Chiaramella de Gandino (up to 1578), who was responsible for the basic planning, and Rochus Guerini Earl of Lynar. He died in 1596 and was buried in the Spandau Nikolaichurch under the altar Lynar himself had donated.

The fortress is completely surrounded by water. Its basic form is a nearly equilateral square. The spacing of the bastion tips is approximately 300m.

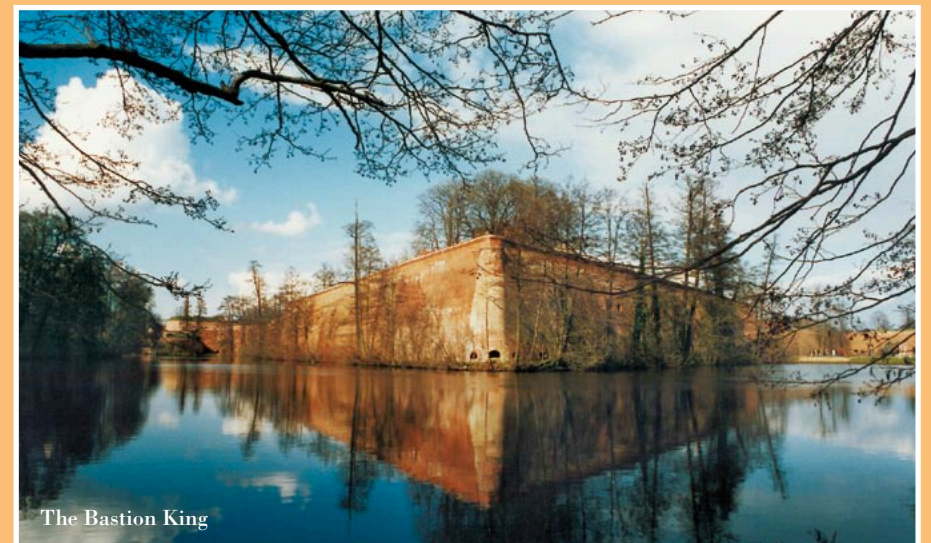
Photo: The statue of Albrecht The Bear was erected at the former Alley of Victory (*Siegesallee*) in Berlin-Tiergarten and was brought up to the Spandau Citadel in 1979.



We can assume that the construction corresponded to the ideal concept of that time. It was a fortress, a means of protection for the residency Berlin, a refuge for the dynasty in case of war and a state prison at the same time.

During the Thirty Year's War the whole town of Spandau was fortified and became part of a common defence system. The fortress was its centre and citadel. From 1874 to 1919 there were 120 millions Goldmark kept in the Juliustower. This was the war indemnity France had to pay after the Franco-Prussian War (1870/71).

Only once the fortress was fought for. During the German Wars of Liberation Russian and Prussian troops besieged Spandau which was defended by



Napoleon's soldiers (1813). The town as well as the fortress were considerably damaged. It wasn't before 1843 that the fortress was rebuilt. In 1903 the fortification of Spandau was removed but the Citadel was kept and still used militarily.

After 1935 constructional changes were completed in order to equip a gas defence laboratory for the German Wehrmacht. During the final stage of World War II the Citadel had to be defended to the end. But the historically valuable buildings remained undamaged. On 1 May 1945 the Citadel was surrendered to the Red Army without any fighting.

Photo right: The *Palas* of the old Spandau castle was built instead of some former buildings in the beginning of the 15th century.



Photo below: The arsenal built in 1856 to 1858 seen from the southern main rampart (*Südkurtine*). In the foreground you can see the ruins of the former magazine, which was destroyed in 1813.



The Citadel of Spandau hasn't been used for military purposes since the end of World War II. Over a long period the buildings hadn't been looked after very well which caused severe damages. In 1962 an extensive and expensive program of redevelopment and restoration of the historical monument has been started.

A technical college for the building trade had its residence at the Citadel from 1949 to 86. Already in those days guided tours and cultural events were offered. It is the special aim of the Berlin Senate and the Spandau Bezirksamt to establish a centre for museums, culture and leisure within the historical monument which is a museum in itself. With the opening of the 'Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Spandau' (Museum of Town History) in 1992 a start was made.



Photo: Musicians playing historical instruments at the castle festival (*Burgfest*).

Cover: The commander's building of the Spandau Citadel with the Juliustower built in about 1200. The tower is the oldest profane building in Berlin and as a part of old Spandau castle it was used for defence and dwelling. During the German Wars of Liberation (1813) the tower was severely damaged. In 1838 the pinnacles were installed on top of the tower.

**Please order your guided tour by telephone: ☎ 0049 30 33 97 87 74
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Photo: The hall of the *Palas* is a favoured place for cultural events in Berlin.

