

MUSEUM NIKOLAIKIRCHE



BERLIN'S MIDDLE

Eight hundred years
of history and culture

www.stadtmuseum.de

HIGHLIGHTS



Treasury sacristy

In keeping with their historical purpose, precious items are kept in the sacristy: implements used for church services, reliquaries, books and vestments from churches in the Mark Brandenburg region as well as the huge embroidered altar cloth (around 1300) from the Zehdenick Monastery.



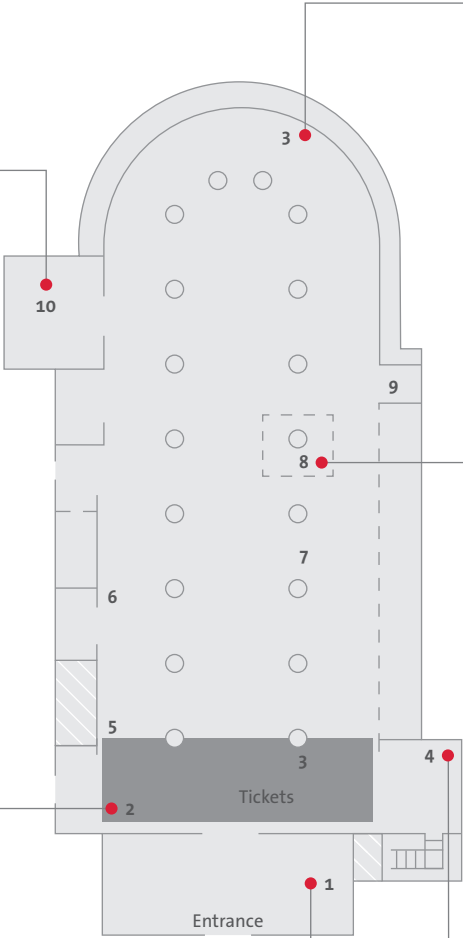
Paul Gerhardt II and Johann Crüger

Under the portrait of the composer Johann Crüger, listening and reading stations explore Paul Gerhardt's song poems and their best-known settings. In addition to a contemporary hymnal, rare original music books for Crüger's compositions are on display.



Spire ball treasure trove

Starting in 1514, Berlin's private individuals, court officials and sovereigns regularly left coins, medals and documents in the brass sphere at the top of the medieval south spire. Learn more about the fascinating history of this treasure in the audio guide.





Understanding architecture

Using true-to-scale tactile models, blind, visually impaired and sighted people can literally grasp the aesthetic and functional interrelationships of the architecture. Audio texts provide historical contexts, explanations and orientation.

- 1 Spire ball treasure trove
- 2 Paul Gerhardt II and Johann Crüger
- 3 Understanding architecture
- 4 The Kötteritz memorial painting
- 5 Film on the history of architecture
- 6 Nicolaiviertel
- 7 Paul Gerhardt I
- 8 Archaeological window
- 9 Schindler chapel and choir gallery
- 10 Treasury sacristy

■ Gallery with organ

○ Pillar

▤ Stairs



Archaeological window

Formerly above-ground fieldstone masonry of the late Romanesque basilica. A model shows what this may have looked like. The archaeologically determined structural plan can be traced on special tiles in the present-day floor of the church.

EVENTS

CONCERT

NIKOLAI MUSIC ON FRIDAY

every Friday | 5 pm

WORKSHOPS

**can be booked individually
reservations under:**

[www.en.stadtmuseum.de/
schools-and-nurseries](http://www.en.stadtmuseum.de/schools-and-nurseries)



The Kötteritz memorial painting

The painting of the Electoral Councillor Johann von Kötteritz and his wife Caritas shows what the St. Nicholas' Church looked like in 1616. Even 75 years after the Protestant Reformation, some old Catholic furnishings were used for the new service.

FOUNDATIONAL SITE AND MIRROR OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The construction of the St. Nicholas' Church in around 1230 marks the founding of the city of Berlin. The lower sections of the present-day double spire, made of fieldstone, have been preserved from that era. As the oldest church building in the city, the St. Nicholas' Church also reflects Berlin's rapid cultural and economic upswing. While the fieldstone basilica in late Romanesque style, completed after 1250, was based on a centuries-old building tradition, it was only a few decades later that older parts of the building began to be demolished and replaced by more modern brick architecture. Around 1460, these ongoing building projects finally came to an end with the erection of a single spire. It was not until 1876 that the St. Nicholas' Church was given its present appearance by demolishing this tower and building a neo-Gothic double spire.



St. Nicholas' Church Museum

© Stadtmuseum Berlin | photo: Michael Setzpfandt

DESTRUCTION AND REBUILDING

Towards the end of the Second World War, the St. Nicholas' Church was so badly damaged that it mostly collapsed a short time later. Although the ruins were provided with makeshift reinforcements, for decades nothing else was done to restore them. Parts of the ornate interior decoration were lost due to weathering and theft. The preservation of churches had low priority in the now socialist-ruled half of Germany. For Berlin's 750th anniversary, however, the GDR government moved away from this mind-set. It decided to rebuild the St. Nicholas' Church and the surrounding Nikolaiviertel for the anniversary year 1987 because of its unique significance as the "cradle of Berlin". Thanks to a commitment to the preservation of historical monuments and the knowledge and experience of individuals, Berlin has regained an almost lost building of central importance to the city's history as a museum.

The destroyed St. Nicholas' Church in Berlin in 1945

© Stadtmuseum Berlin | photo: Albert Weinsheimer





Contemporary art by Nikolai Makarov

© Stadtmuseum Berlin | photo: Albrecht Henkys

SITE OF URBAN SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY

The St. Nicholas' Church was never a centre of ecclesiastical or secular power, nor was it ever a burial ground for bishops or sovereigns. From the beginning, under the patronage of the Berlin Council, it was a meeting place for all residents of the city. When the Reformation was introduced here in 1539, it became the definitive centre of bourgeois encounters and self-expression. In the side chapels, the Catholic side altars and devotional pictures were replaced by protestant hereditary family tombs and commemorative artworks. In this way, urban society passed down its civic heritage. So it was no coincidence that the Nikolaikirche was the founding site of Berlin's first freely elected city council in 1809. The founding assembly of the first all-Berlin House of Representatives after German reunification also took place here in 1991.

A PLACE OF ART AND MUSIC

Alongside the history of the city and democracy, art and music are also inextricably linked to the St. Nicholas' Church. The partially reconstructed Kraut Chapel and the restored Schindler Chapel are baroque masterpieces by the sculptor Johann Georg Glume (1679–1765). He had also designed parts of the Baroque interior in the Berlin Palace, which was demolished in 1950. Through the musical collaboration between the cantor and composer Johann Crüger (1598–1662), who was responsible for the choral music, and the pastor and poet Paul Gerhardt (1607–1676), Berlin made European cultural history for the first time in the mid-17th century. This artistic and musical tradition remains alive in the St. Nicholas' Church Museum in a series of art exhibitions, concerts and a wide range of events.



Nikolaiviertel model and media station

© Stadtmuseum Berlin | photo: Michael Setzpfandt

THE EXHIBITION

The St. Nicholas' Church Museum uses a vivid presentation of the historical interior features to illustrate the former functions of the building. Various thematic sections focus on different aspects of the building's content. An audio guide in six language and interactive media stations in four reveal the monument and convey in-depth exhibition content. Various participatory exhibition elements, learning and experience sites, and inclusive activities are provided. For example, visitors' senses are activated by an audio-commentated tour that presents tactile exhibits. In addition to these and other elements in the permanent exhibition, there is a wide range of educational activities and events as well as guided tours and workshops.

SERVICE-INFORMATION

St. Nicholas' Church Museum

Nikolaikirchplatz | 10178 Berlin-Mitte (Nikolaiviertel)

Opening hours & Admission

daily | 10 am – 6 pm

5,- / 3,- Euro | free admission under 18 years

Different admission may apply for special exhibitions.

Tickets

Available at the ticket shop in the museum and at:

tickets.stadtmuseum.de

Audioguides

free of charge

German / English / French / Italian / Russian / Spanish /

Videos in German Sign Language / Family

Directions

S+U Alexanderplatz | U5 Rotes Rathaus | U2 Klosterstraße

Bus M48, 248 | Tram M2, M4, M5, M6

Infoline: (030) 24 002 - 162



If you would like to keep in touch
with regular updates about exhibitions
and events, you can subscribe to our
newsletter (only in German).

www.stadtmuseum.de/newsletter

