

Strong start to the year for tourism in Berlin

More international visitors in the city than ever before in January

Berlin, 8 March 2013. According to the Amt für Statistik Berlin-Brandenburg (Berlin-Brandenburg Statistics Office), around 700,000 people visited Berlin in January (5.9 % more than last year), staying a total of 1.5 million nights in the city (that's an increase of 9 %).

visitBerlin CEO Burkhard Kieker says: "We've just had the best January ever for tourism in Berlin. That's right in the dead of winter too, so it really is a great compliment to all of those providing tourist services throughout the city. In particular, we've been remarkably successful in terms of tourism from abroad. We no longer have a low season here in Berlin."

The increase in the number of international visitors to the city (up 11.6 % / 14.6 % for overnight stays), was significantly higher than for guests from Germany (up 3.4 % from last year / 5.6 % for overnight stays).

(981 Characters)

"We know Berlin". This is the slogan that Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH, operating under the trade name *visitBerlin*, has been using since 1993 to globally advertise for Berlin as a travel destination. *visitBerlin's* Berlin Convention Office markets the German capital as a congress metropolis. As a tour operator, the company offers a wide range of travel packages and also issues the official tourist ticket, the Berlin WelcomeCard. *visitBerlin* operates three Berlin Tourist Infos. The Berlin Service Center (Tel. 030-25 00 25) provides information on the complete spectrum of tourist services in Berlin. visitBerlin.de

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