

Tourist numbers rising despite low temperatures

March: 23 per cent increase in numbers of overnight stays by international guests / Growing numbers of visitors in the first quarter of 2013

Berlin, 14 May 2013 A new tourism record in Berlin was set in March: about a million visitors (+6.4%) came to Berlin. The numbers of overnight stays rose by 17.1 per cent (2,194,700). International visitors in particular are drawn to Berlin (+ 12.7%), spending nearly a million nights (+ 23.3%) in the city in total. Burkhard Kieker, managing director of *visitBerlin*: "There can be no talk of a hibernation: despite the long, cold winter, more visitors came to the capital than ever before."

Looking at the first quarter of 2013, around 2.3 million visitors (+ 5.2% compared to the previous year) came to the German capital, staying a total of about 5.3 million nights (+ 12.3%). These figures reveal that tourism in Berlin has had its most successful first quarter ever.

According to the Berlin-Brandenburg Statistics Office, the number of visitors from abroad continues to increase at a good rate. From January to March, around 830,000 foreign visitors came to the German capital (+10.9% compared to the previous year), staying for about 2.2 million nights (+17.8%). For comparison, there were about 1.5 million visitors (+2.2%) from Germany, who stayed about three million nights (+8.5%) in Berlin.

March 2013				
Country of origin	Visitors / Number	Change in % compared to March 2012	Overnight stays	Change in % compared to March 2012
Germany	582,909	3.1	1,273,804	12.9
Abroad	337,347	12.7	920,895	23.3
Total	920,256	6.4	2,194,699	17.1

January to March 2013				
Country of origin	Visitors	Change in % compared to Jan-Mar. 2012	Overnight stays	Change in % compared to Jan.-Mar. 2012
Germany	1,455,457	2.2	3,034,212	8.5
Abroad	831,377	10.9	2,212,145	17.8
Total	2,286,834	5.2	5,246,357	12.3

Source: Berlin-Brandenburg Statistics Office

(1,484 Characters)

visitBerlin

"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 private company offers a wide range of travel packages and also issues the official tourist ticket, the *Berlin WelcomeCard*. *visitBerlin* operates four Berlin Tourist Infos. The Berlin Service Center (Tel. 030-25 00 25) provides information on the complete spectrum of tourist services in Berlin. Information on the capital city is available in 13 different languages at visitBerlin.com.

visitBerlin / Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH

Press and Public Relations
Am Karlsbad 11 +49 (0)3026 47 48
D-10785 Berlin
Fax: +49 (0)3026 47 48
visitBerlin.de
facebook.com/visitBerlin

Press officer:

Katharina Dreger

katharina.dreger@visitBerlin.de

Tel.: +49 (0)3026 47 48

christian.taenzler@visitBerlin.de