

Wroclaw-Berlin 2016
European Neighbours

Press Release

PR/Communication:

c/o Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH
Susanne Kumar-Sinner
Klosterstr. 68
10179 Berlin

Tel: +49 (0)30 247 49-849
Fax: +49 (0)30 247 49-879
breslau.presse@kulturprojekte-berlin.de
www.breslau.berlin

On the Culture Train to Wroclaw in 2016 **A special direct connection between Berlin and Wroclaw**

Berlin, 30 April 2016. The Polish city of Wroclaw (Wrocław) is the official European Capital of Culture in 2016. For visitors from the Berlin and Brandenburg region, a newly launched "Culture Train" will provide a comfortable, direct and environmentally friendly train connection between the two cities. The first Culture Train left Berlin on Saturday April 30th on its way to Wroclaw with a number of special guests and travellers on board. The train was given a ceremonial send-off at the Berlin Ostkreuz Train Station by the Polish Ambassador to Germany, S.E. Jerzy Margański, together with Brandenburg's Transport Minister Kathrin Schneider, Berlin's Transport Senator Andreas Geisel, DB Group Representative Alexander Kaczmarek and Dr. Volker Hassemer representing the Stiftung Zukunft Berlin. All welcomed the launch of the Culture Train as a further step towards improving rail connections between German and Poland. The federal states of Berlin and Brandenburg contributed €100,000 each to financing the Culture Train with the goal of fostering reliable, cross-border train connections as an essential element in joint, pan-European development. According to the participants, there is still plenty to be done to acknowledge and address these important international connections moving forward.

Initiators:

Stiftung Zukunft Berlin
Wrocław 2016 –
European Capital of Culture

Cooperation Partners:

Hewlett Packard Enterprise
Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH
German Federal Cultural Foundation
Luneta
Mediapool GmbH
Mica Moca project berlin e.V.

Support from:

LOTTO Foundation Berlin
City of Wrocław

A Four-and-a-Half Hour Ride

The Culture Train will leave from Berlin-Lichtenberg Station in the morning on Saturdays and Sundays (and additionally on the 5th and 16th of May) and arrive in Wroclaw at around 1 pm. On Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, the Culture Train will travel from Wroclaw in the direction of Berlin. The train will consist of railcars from the 628 series, which are permitted for use in both Germany and Poland. The main contract partner in Germany is DB Regio AG; in Poland it's the Koleje Dolnośląskie S.A. (Lower Silesian Railway).

Culture on Board

Working together with German and Polish partners, the Culture Train will offer a variable programme of cultural offerings. Through to September, there will be readings and discussions with different authors focussing on the relationship between Wroclaw and Berlin. Travellers will be invited to engage in discussions, summon up memories and exchange experiences. Plus, seeing as "travel time is reading time" the Culture Train will also offer a mobile library. Throughout the

journey, travellers will be able to borrow books, including Wrocław crime novels, works focusing on the shared history of these European neighbours and, of course, city guide books. And don't worry about travelling alone on the Culture Train: guests will be invited to enjoy the company of famous personalities just waiting to be discovered on posters and headrests, including Hans Poelzig, August Borsig, Clara Immerwahr, Jerzy Grotowski and many Nobel Prize winners. These prominent figures will also provide information on the exhibition known as "Breslau/Wrocław. Faces of a City. Oblicza miasta", which will be on display first in Berlin and then in Wrocław starting this summer.

One-Way Ticket 19 Euro – Also valid for busses and trains in Wrocław

A one-way ticket on the Culture Train costs 19 euro (return ticket, 38 euro). Tickets can be purchased at all DB ticket counters, at the Koleje Dolnośląskie (Lower Silesian Railway), at DB machines or online at www.dbregio-shop.de. You can also purchase your ticket from the train attendant on the train. Children aged 5 and under travel free of charge. Tickets for the Culture Train will also be accepted as "day tickets" in busses and trams belonging to the MPK Wrocław in Wrocław city transport. Ticketholders will also be able to rent bicycles in Wrocław free of charge on the day they arrive with a Culture Train ticket. Tickets to Wrocław are valid on the weekend they are used (until Sunday at midnight). Tickets to Berlin are valid all day on the day of departure (until midnight on that day).

Wrocław-Berlin 2016. European Neighbours

In 2016, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the German-Polish Border Treaty as well as the city partnership between Berlin and Warsaw. Together with the European Capital of Culture Wrocław and many other partners drawn from culture, politics, business, science and sports, the forum for civic responsibility known as Stiftung Zukunft Berlin has taken this opportunity to draw attention to the relationship between the two cities. The initiative known as *Wrocław-Berlin 2016. European Neighbours* encourages everyone to enjoy the interactive LUNETTA installation, the In Between Festivals, exhibitions, club nights, concerts, films and much more. The Culture Train is a key part of the programme.

For more information on the Culture Train, please visit www.vbb.de and www.bahn.de. For more on the *Wrocław-Berlin 2016* initiative, please visit www.wroclaw.berlin.

Wrocław-Berlin 2016 European Neighbours

PR/Communication:

c/o Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH
Susanne Kumar-Sinner
Klosterstr. 68
10179 Berlin

Tel: +49 (0)30 247 49-849

Fax: +49 (0)30 247 49-879

breslau.presse@kulturprojekte-berlin.de
www.breslau.berlin

Initiators:

Stiftung Zukunft Berlin
Wrocław 2016 –
European Capital of Culture

Cooperation Partners:

Hewlett Packard Enterprise
Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH
German Federal Cultural Foundation
Luneta
Mediapool GmbH
Mica Moca project berlin e.V.

Support from:

LOTTO Foundation Berlin
City of Wrocław

Culture Train Berlin-Wrocław

30 April 2016 – 25 September 2016 (Saturdays and Sundays and on the national holidays 5th & 16th May 2016)

Berlin to Wrocław:

Saturday and Sunday Departure **8:31 am**, Berlin-Lichtenberg, **8:36 am** Berlin Ostkreuz, (Arrival **1:03 pm** Wrocław)

Return trip Wrocław to Berlin on Saturdays:

7:21 pm, Arrival **11:50 pm** Berlin Ostkreuz, **11:54 Uhr** Berlin-Lichtenberg

Return trip Wrocław to Berlin on Sundays:

Departure **4:29 pm**, Arrival in Berlin **9:28/9:35pm**.

On the 5th & 16th May 2016 (Ascension Day and Whit Monday), the Sunday timetable applies.

One-way trip **19 EUR** / Return trip **38 EUR**.

Please note that the VBB fare does not apply in these trains and it is not permitted to bring a bike on the train. Unfortunately, the trains used for the Culture Train are not wheelchair accessible and there is no seat reservation.