

17-19 July 2026 Bilateral competition exhibition Germany-Sweden
in the Sparkassen-Arena Bernau at the Ladeburger Dreieck, 16321 Bernau near Berlin

Places of interest in Bernau

Bernau is also worth a visit

Bernau near Berlin is worth a visit, and not just because of BEPHILA 2026. The town just outside Berlin can look back on a long history. Some elements from earlier centuries have been preserved, while much has been added in the last thirty years. With its blend of old and new, today's Bernau is a charming town whose sights we would like to present in this and two or three further newsletters. As a little inspiration for a walk or as a destination for a trip to the surrounding area.

Part 1 – A stroll along the city walls



When you leave the S-Arena, the venue for BEPHILA 2026, you will see a green space on the opposite side of Jahnstraße, characterised by several ramparts and ditches. Part of the town fortifications in the Middle Ages, the ramparts are now a popular place for rest and relaxation between Schwanenteich and Mühlenstraße. The park offers several access points to the walled town centre of Bernau.

The city wall was built in the 14th and 15th centuries as a mighty fortification, constructed mainly from field stones, with 42 watchtowers, two round towers and three city gates. Much of the original structure, which was around 1,500



Steintor (Stone gate)

metres long, up to eight metres high and between half a metre and one and a half metres wide, has been preserved. This is not the case with the city gates, of which only the **stone gate** at the eastern end of Berliner Straße has survived to the present day. Built in the second half of the 15th century in the late Gothic style, the gate is now considered a landmark of the city. Since 1882, it has housed the city's local history museum. On display are

weapons and armour from the Middle Ages, as well as examples of ancient craftsmanship and writings from the town's history. The gate includes the striking Hungerturm (hunger tower), from which visitors to the museum, provided they are not afraid of the climb, are rewarded with a sweeping view over Bernau town centre.



Kantorhaus

Following the city wall clockwise, past several Lughäuser houses and the oldest surviving residential building in the city, the **Kantorhaus** in Tuchmacherstraße, you will reach the **Powder Tower**, which stands like a guardian at the entrance to the city park. Open-air events are held here regularly, such as the annual Hussite Festival, art and craft markets and various sporting events. If you need a little break at this point in the tour, we recommend the

café in the Stadtgärtnerhaus next to the **Powder Tower**. Lovers of modern art forms may be interested in the **Wolf Kahlen Museum**, a private institution dedicated to the mediation and research of intermedia art. This is also located right next to the **Powder Tower**.



**Pulverturm (Powder Tower)
with Wolf Kahlen Museum**



Henkerhaus
(executioner's house)

We follow the city wall path for a few more metres and reach the **executioner's house**, which is integrated into the city wall. The former residence of Bernau's executioner now houses further exhibits from the local history museum, including a 'black kitchen' and a 19th-century bourgeois living room. It contains numerous beer mugs as a reminder of Bernau beer, for which the town was famous in the Mark Brandenburg for centuries. Anyone interested in medieval jurisdiction and

the work of the executioner should take a look at the cellar of the house.

The next attraction on our circular route is the Mill Gate, a replica of the northern city gate that was demolished in 1885, built in 2012–2013.

We will give the imposing St. Mary's Church the attention it deserves in a later newsletter. For now, we will leave it to our right and continue our walk along the city wall path to **Katzenellenbogen** with its beautiful half-timbered houses from the 17th/18th century and Wilhelminian style buildings with classicist and Art Nouveau façades. A popular photo motif for many visitors to the city.



Katzenellenbogen

A few metres further on, we find ourselves back at the end of our little walk around Bernau town centre. Now it's just a few steps through the ramparts back to the colourful world of philately in the S-Arena.

Further information can be found on the Bernau town website

<https://www.bernau.de>