

Places of interest in Bernau

Bernau is also worth a visit

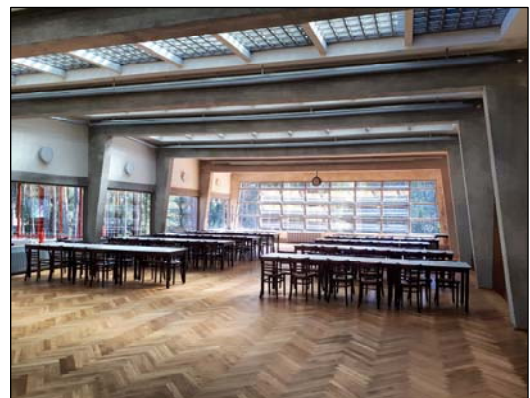
With this newsletter, we continue our short series of articles on places of interest in Bernau and the surrounding area. Having previously looked at a few attractions in the town centre, this time we are heading out into the surrounding area.

Part 3 – Bernau's World Heritage Site



About four kilometres northwest of the city lies the district of *Bernau-Waldfrieden*, which is also easily accessible by public transport (bus lines 894 and 897 from Bernau station). The trip is well worth it, because in the middle of the settlement, nestled in the Mark Brandenburg forest, there is a building complex that has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site 'The Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar, Dessau and Bernau' since 2017: the

former Federal School of the General German Trade Union Federation (ADGB). The school, designed by Bauhaus architects Hannes Meyer and Hans Wittwer, was built between 1928 and 1930. Five three-storey boarding school buildings provided accommodation for around 120 participants in the four-week courses run by the trade union federation in Bernau. A large auditorium, various seminar rooms, a library with a reading room, a large dining room with a winter garden, a sports hall and three teachers' residences completed the educational complex, which is now also known as the *Meyer-Wittwer-Bau*.





The best place to get an initial overview of the Bauhaus monument is the visitor centre, which opened in 2022. It is open daily except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the summer months. The permanent exhibition provides a wealth of interesting information about Bernau's world cultural heritage. The visitor centre is also the starting and ending point for the approximately 90-minute guided tours of

the Bauhaus ensemble, which take place every Saturday and Sunday at 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Important to know: The interior can only be viewed as part of a guided tour! Tickets (10 euros, reduced rate 8 euros) can be booked in advance via the visitor centre's website at <https://www.welterbe-bernau.de>.

Just as interesting as a tour of the former ADGB federal school is a look at its subsequent history. The trade union federation was only given three years to use the school for the further training of its officials. On 2 May 1933, the SA occupied the building complex. From then on, the National Socialists used the buildings as a 'leadership school' for the SA, SS, Gestapo and police. After the end of Nazi rule in 1945, the school briefly served as a military hospital for the Red Army, but was handed over to the Free German Trade Union Federation (FDGB) in 1946, which used it again for the further training of its members from 1947 onwards. After structural expansion, the school was renamed the 'Fritz Heckert Trade Union College' in 1951. After reunification and the closure of the college in 1990, the association 'baudenkmal bundesschule bernau' took care of the preservation of the building complex, which had already been listed as a historical monument in the GDR since 1977. After changing hands several times, the Berlin Chamber of Crafts took over the complex in 2001, which was extensively renovated and restored. Today, the former federal school is part of the 'Hannes Meyer Campus', which also includes the Barnim Gymnasium Bernau and the Barnim I Upper Secondary School, which trains students in social and commercial professions.



If you would like to find out more about the former ADGB Federal School in Bernau and its history before visiting, you can use the Bauhaus World Heritage Bernau app, which is available free of charge in the Android and iOS stores.

Further information can be found on the Bernau town website

<https://www.bernau.de>