

The Open-Air Exhibition

The airfield today has two shortened runways that are activated for the museum's annual airfield festival. The open-air exhibition is spread over an area of approximately a million square meters in which 70 aircraft and more than 60 items of major equipment from the Cold War period are on display. Two of the nine hangars are used for exhibitions, one for restoration work and three as depots. After the reconstruction work has been completed, the other hangars will be used for exhibitions and as depots.

The focus of the open-air exhibition is on aircraft and helicopters that have been operated by the Air Force of the Bundeswehr or the Air Forces of the NVA since the 1950s. There are also a number of aircraft from other NATO and Warsaw Pact countries.

Air defense missile systems that were operated by the Bundeswehr and the NVA since the 1960s are presented in combination with the related radar systems and ground support equipment. A special item among the major exhibits of the museum is the Giant Würzburg radar (Würzburg-Riese) that dates back to the Second World War.



Aircraft of the Cold War period in the open-air exhibition

The Museum

The museum at Berlin Gatow Airfield is a branch of the Military History Museum of the Bundeswehr. Like the principal museum in Dresden, it sees itself not just as a technology museum, but also as a modern museum of cultural history.

While the museum in Dresden presents a general look at the cultural history of violence, the museum in Berlin focuses on air warfare as the most recent form of use of military force. The idea is for visitors to experience how air warfare has changed the way in which we think of war.

The museum sees itself as a center of learning for Bundeswehr soldiers and interested visitors. As an interface between the military and society, it would like to provide impetus for debate and contribute to the integration of the armed forces into public life in Germany.



On the left: The Libeskind Wedge at the Museum of Military History in Dresden
On the right: The tower building at Gatow



ADDRESS

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OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 AM – 6 PM
Closed on Mondays except for public holidays

FREE ADMISSION

GUIDED TOURS

For guided tours, please call the secretary's office
Phone: +49 (0) 30 - 3687-2601

FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Förderverein des Luftwaffenmuseums der Bundeswehr,
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Account for donations:
Postbank BIN: 100 100 10 Account no.: 630 470 105

VISITORS' ENTRANCE

Am Flugplatz Gatow 33
14089 Berlin

HOW TO GET THERE

Bus 135, H Seekorso/
Kurpromenade
Free parking



MILITÄR HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

Flugplatz Berlin-Gatow



Information for visitors

The Airfield

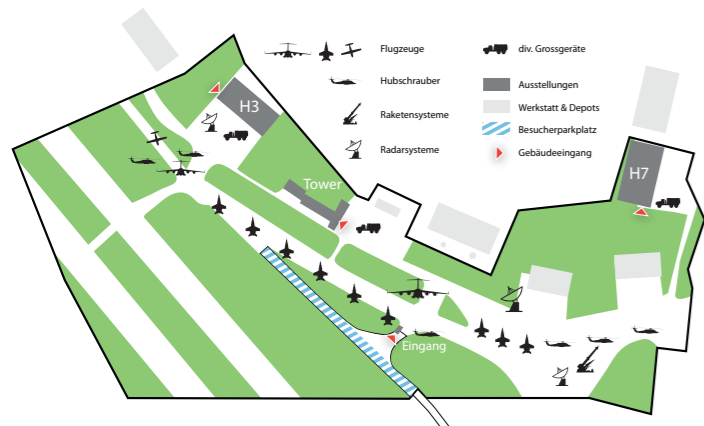
Experiencing history at a historical site

Berlin Gatow Airfield has landmark status. It allows the museum to tell how history was made at a historical site.

Work began on building the airfield in 1934 to support the secret rearmament of Germany. During the Third Reich period, it housed a major Luftwaffe training complex, including the Air War School (Luftkriegsschule) II.

In April 1945, Soviet forces occupied Berlin Gatow and in July of that year handed the airfield over to the British occupation forces. During the Berlin Airlift, the airfield gained particular importance when around a third of the allied aircraft took off and landed here.

In 1994, the airfield was handed over to the Bundeswehr, which since 1995 has used it as the home of the Air Force Museum of the Bundeswehr (today, the Museum of Military History of the Bundeswehr, Berlin Gatow Airfield).



British aircraft during the airlift in 1948/49

Exhibitions

Exhibitions on the history of military aviation in Germany since 1884

Hangar 3

In Hangar 3, visitors are given an overview of the history of military aviation in Germany since 1884.

Aircraft, helicopters, antiaircraft guns, engines and many other exhibits illustrate the historical themes.

Detailed texts provide visitors information on the exhibits and put them into the overall historical context.



Above: A look into hangar 3 Below: Wreckage of a Messerschmitt Bf 108

The Tower Building

Like the exhibition areas in hangar 3, the topic of the exhibition in the tower building is the history of military aviation in Germany since 1884. While the exhibition in Hangar 3 centers on major exhibits, the tower building contains small exhibits such as uniforms, insignia, items of equipment, photographs and documents. Many staged displays and showcases, supplemented with media stations and text and picture plates, bring the over 120-year history of air forces in Germany to life.



Above: A staged display of a fighter aircraft in the First World War Below: The tower entrance

Hangar 7

Some 2,000 square meters are dedicated to the exhibition "Die Luftwaffe der Bundeswehr" (The Air Force of the Bundeswehr) in which the history of the Luftwaffe is presented within the context of the history of the Bundeswehr.

Unique exhibits such as the MiG 29 vividly illustrate this epoch of military history. In addition to items of major equipment such as aircraft, helicopters and antiaircraft guns, the exhibition is supplemented by smaller objects in showcases.

Media stations with more than 70 film documents present the history of the Luftwaffe since 1956. Concept rooms on training in other countries, air defense systems, the Pershing IA missile and air traffic control supplement the main exhibition.



Above: A look into hangar 7 Below: A staged display of the end of the war in 1945