

Berlin, 16th June 2009

Springtime increase in Berlin tourism **Sharp increase in overnight stays by domestic and foreign travellers in April**

The number of overnight stays in Berlin increased by 6.7 percent to 1,587,000 in April compared to the previous month. The number of guests increased by 0.7 percent to 685,000.

The Berlin-Brandenburg Agency for Statistics' survey shows that the increase this time was in visitors from abroad: 242,700 international guests (+8.5 percent) spent 623,000 nights (+10.2 percent) in Berlin's hotels and guest houses. While the number of visitors from Germany decreased by 3.1 percent to 442,600, the number of overnight stays by domestic visitors rose 4.5 percent to 963,400.

"The figures for April show that tourism in Berlin is so far proving to be a winner in the economic crisis," commented Burkhard Kieker, CEO of Berlin Tourismus Marketing GmbH (BTM). "It is our job to continue stoking up the fire of enthusiasm for the city. With this aim, our new campaign "You get more out of Berlin" spotlights its exceptional value for money, directly linked to the unique cultural and events offering. You first look at what's on, then look at what it costs, then head to Berlin."

In April, significantly more visitors came from Spain (+43.7%), Denmark (+29.9%), France (+22.1%), Sweden (+18.2 percent) and the USA (+6.4 percent). Numbers of visitors from Great Britain (-2.7%) and Italy (-2.1%) fell, but less so than in previous months.

In April there were 101,500 beds in 668 accommodation facilities available to visitors to Berlin. The number of hotel beds was up 8.3% compared to April 2008, with occupancy at 51.9% (previous month: 52.8%). Burkhard Kieker adds: "This means that in April alone we had an increase of almost 2,500 hotel beds, more than cities like Fulda or Cottbus."

Balance sheet for the first four months shows a small plus

In the first four months of the year a total of 2,264,800 hotel guests travelled to Berlin. This roughly corresponds to the result for the previous year (+0.2%). An increase of 1.2% to a total of 5,016,000 was recorded for the number of overnight stays.

The number of domestic visitors to Berlin rose 0.3% to 1,502,000. These guests accounted for 3,069,800 overnight stays (+1.9%). From January to April 762,800 tourists came from abroad, spending 1,946,200 nights here. This represents increases of 0.1% and 0.3% respectively.

(2,649 characters)

April 2009				
Country of origin	Guests	Change comp. to April 2008 in %	Overnight stays	Change comp. to April 2008 in %
Germany	442,600	-3.1	963,400	4.5
Foreign	242,700	8.5	623,600	10.2
Total	685,300	0.7	1,587,006	6.7

January to April 2009				
Country of origin	Guests	Change comp. to Jan.-April 2008 in %	Overnight stays	Change comp. to Jan.-April 2008 in %
Germany	1,502,000	0.3	3,069,800	1.9
Foreign	762,800	0.1	1,946,200	0.3
Total	2,264,800	0.2	5,016,000	1.2

Source: Berlin-Brandenburg Agency for Statistics