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Athletics World Championships with Triple Dose of Culture The IAAF World Championships in Athletics *berlin 2009*TM offer an exciting program of events in August

During the IAAF World Championships in Athletics *berlin 2009*TM, a large cultural center will emerge right in the middle of the German capital. From August 15-23, 2009, everyone in Berlin will be able to attend numerous events in the vicinity of the Brandenburg Gate. The program being presented by the organizing committee of the World Championships in Athletics will features three major highlights.

In the run-up to the event, an open-air exhibition will put visitors in the mood for the year's largest sporting event in the world. The boulevard Unter den Linden will serve as the display area for sixty large-format works of photography. Beginning on July 23, these will convey impressions from the world of sports in a cross-section of 125 years of photography for the world championships of athletics. A great many visitors are expected to attend this exhibition as well as the second highlight, the big world championship kick-off event at the Brandenburg Gate.

The third highlight, and the heart of the supporting program for the IAAF World Championships in Athletics *berlin 2009*, is the large "KulturStadion" ("Culture Stadium") structure at the Pariser Platz. This is being erected in the immediate vicinity of the Brandenburg Gate as a temporary counterpart to Berlin's Olympic Stadium, the main venue for the world championship events. This miniature arena will include a festival stage, a "Champions' Lounge", and a blue running track. For nine days, visitors will have the chance to enjoy cultural highlights at the KulturStadion. But they will not be merely spectators, they will also have the opportunity to meet their sports idols as well as enjoy rock concerts and live performances by the ballet company Staatsballett Berlin.

Approximately 1.5 million spectators, both residents and visitors, are expected for the IAAF World Championships in Athletics *berlin 2009*TM. In addition, for the first time in the history of the event, the marathon and the walking competitions will not end in the Olympic Stadium, with this year's starting and finishing lines being at the Brandenburg Gate.

More information on the sports highlight of 2009 in Berlin can be found at the Internet site www.berlin2009.org.

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