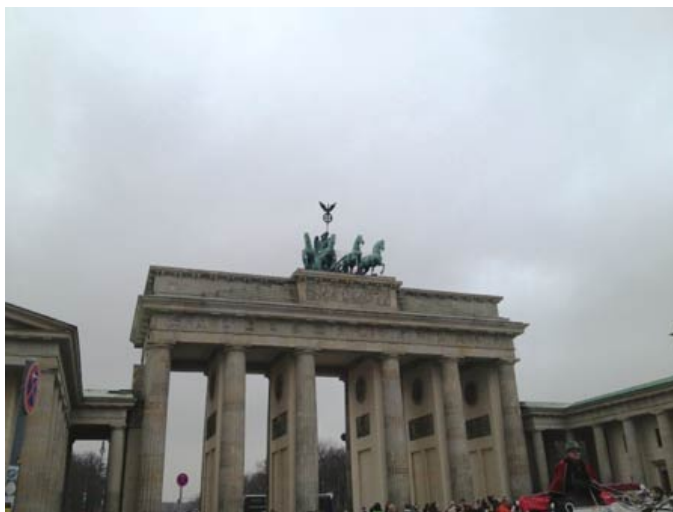




DEC 1

Posted 12:10pm

Berlin: Fascinating Epicenter of European History

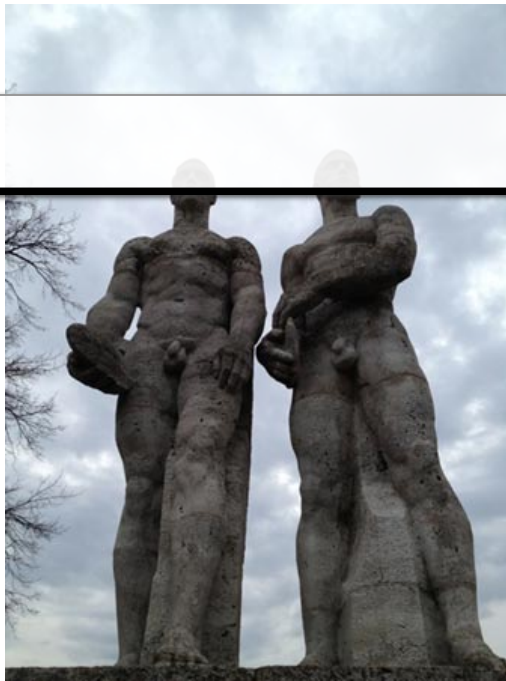


Berlin presents a breathtaking sweep of historical moments.

At the base of the Brandenburg Gate, the plaza has hosted many of the city's crucial gatherings (from Napoleon's time to WWII).



To stand in the 1936 Olympic Stadium, stirs memories of Hitler and Goring sitting in the prime center seats as Jesse Owens streaked down the straightaway to gold and "Hitler's Olympics" in ten seconds became "Jesse Owens' Olympics". These two huge athlete statues were commissioned by Hitler. They're almost android figures. Military more than sport. No emotion whatsoever.



You will find a bratwurst on virtually corner of the city. Tender, fresh....trust me, you will never approach a DodgerDog again.



Only a fragment of the Cold War's Berlin Wall remains. The Holocaust Museum is just behind this stretch. It is easy to visualize how the city was starkly divided, the stories dramatic and poignant of those trying, with risk of life, to escape austere, controlled East Berlin to the warmth and freedom of the West.



Berlin is sheer eye candy for architecture buffs, from the ultra-modern to the centuries-old churches.



Candace and I walked the city streets for nine hours one day, biked for seven hours another. As well-traveled as I like to think I am, I had never had the chance to visit this fascinating epicenter of European history. For our short Thanksgiving week's time, Candace and I immersed ourselves days and nights. One of the great urban discovery trips of my life.

As they say in German: "Shöne Tag"....have a beautiful day.