

Freundeskreis Berlin Pankow-Ashkelon

The goal of our association is to further consolidate the relationship between Pankow and Ashkelon. Our focus is on the promotion of cultural, sport and civil-society activities as well as regular meetings between people from Ashkelon and Berlin in Israel and Germany. We have made it our mission to cultivate a culture of democracy, tolerance and civic education in both cities and countries.

On 7 July 1994, the mayor of Ashkelon, Benny Vaknin, and the mayor of Berlin's Weißensee district, Gert Schilling, signed an agreement officially establishing this partnership. Since then, we have implemented the following projects and ideas:

- Trinational art camp in Pankow
- Cleaning stumbling stones (Stolpersteine) in Pankow
- Visits to cultural events, e.g. the exhibitions »Art from the Holocaust« and »Welcome to Jerusalem«
- Promoting our association in public, e.g. at district festivals

Our independent association was founded in 2011. We organize, for example, readings with Holocaust survivors, provide information through websites of historical witnesses, present Israeli artists, visit exhibitions on Jewish history and maintain subject-specific collaborations.



FREUNDESKREIS BERLIN PANKOW – ASHKELON E.V.
חברים ברלין פנקו-אשקלון

Any person, association or business interested in supporting our Freundeskreis is welcome to join us. Annual membership fee is 25 € (reduced: 12.50 €/sponsoring membership: at least 50 €).

If you would like to join us, please fill in and sign the admission application which can be downloaded from our website www.pankow-ashkelon.org and send it to Ines Koenen (address see below).

Freundeskreis Berlin Pankow-Ashkelon e.V.

Register of associations:
Amtsgericht Berlin-Charlottenburg VR 30940 B

Contact

c/o Ines Koenen
Eschengraben 121
13189 Berlin

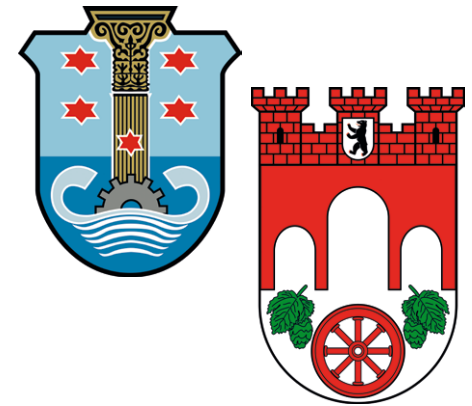
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Freundeskreis-Berlin-Pankow-Ashkelon](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Freundeskreis-Berlin-Pankow-Ashkelon)

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Town Twinning



Ashkelon Pankow



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Ashkelon is a prosperous city in Israel. It is located south of Tel Aviv and north of Gaza on the Mediterranean coast. Ashkelon is home to slightly more than 134,000 inhabitants (2016) on an area of about 50 square kilometres.

At the beginning of the 1950s, the city was re-established in Israel. It has a marina and a long sandy beach. On the southern outskirts near the sea, an archaeological park with the ruins of ancient settlements can be found. Ashkelon has a long and rich history. Already in the Stone Age there was a port. In ancient times, Ashkelon was inhabited

by Canaanites, Philistines, Egyptians, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Phoenicians, Hasmonidians, Romans, Persians, Arabs, Christian Crusaders and Malmuks.

Ashkelon Pankow

The district of Pankow is located in the north of Berlin, comprising 13 neighborhoods, including the eponymous Pankow, Blankenfelde, Karow, Prenzlauer Berg and Weißensee. More than



400,000 people live in this part of Berlin – more than in any other district of the German capital.

Pankow has a broad and rich Jewish history and presence. Having 1,200 seats in its prayer room, the Rykestraße Synagogue is the biggest synagogue in Germany. With almost 116,000 graves, the Jewish cemetery in Berlin-Weißensee is the largest existing Jewish cemetery in Europe by area. It is preserved as a site of historical interest.

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