

The site of the **former US-Camp Point Alpha**, which gave the whole area its name, still houses the soldiers' barracks and the observation tower. Learn about the background in a special exhibition.

Between the US-Camp and the "House on the Border", **original border installations** from the 1970s and 1980s demonstrate the inhumanity of the German division. This open air museum is enhanced by reconstructed parts from the first decades of the GDR border regime's partitioning.

The one and a half kilometer long "**Path of Hope**" on the former GDR border guard's patrol path invites you to contemplate: 14 monumental sculptures, created by the artist Ulrich Barnickel, mark a piece of the former death strip between Hesse and Thuringia. The **Point Alpha Foundation** erected these in 2009 to commemorate the resistance against the communist dictatorships in Central and Eastern Europe.

You will come across a **former GDR border troop command post** on the patrol path near **Wiesefeld**.

Stop for a bite to eat and spend a night at **Geisa Castle**. The Baroque building which was erected at the beginning of the 18th Century also houses the **Point Alpha Foundation** and its **Academy**. Here interesting seminars help to broaden your knowledge of the historical place.

The **Geisa Museum** is also worth a visit. Here you will learn about the ancient and recent history of the town and the surrounding region. Entry is free with a memorial site ticket.

### Opening Hours

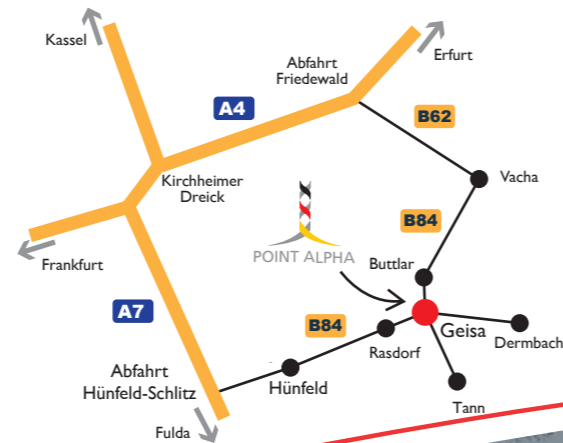
April to October, daily 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.  
 November and March, daily 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.  
 December to February, Tues-Sun 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
 Please pre-book guided tours!

### Entry Fees

Adults and pensioners ..... 6 €  
 Groups with 10 persons or more receive a 10% discount  
 Special Conditions  
 (pupils, students, disabled persons) ..... 5 €  
 Family ticket (2 adults, max. 4 children) ..... 18 €  
 School group  
 (minimum 10 pupils, secondary level) ..... 1,50 €/person  
 One teacher may accompany the group free of charge  
 Group  
 pupils/students/trainees (minimum 10 persons) ..... 3 €/person  
 Guided tour of the museum ..... 35 €  
 Guided tour of the Path of Hope ..... 35 €  
 Guided tour of the museum (in English/French) ..... 45 €  
 Guided tour of the museum (school groups) ..... 23 €

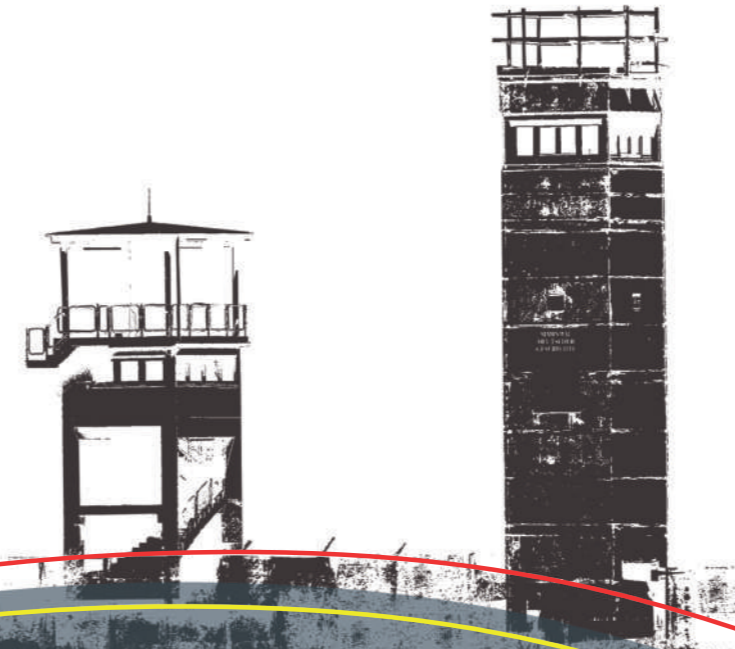
### Bookings and information

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## BORDER EXPERIENCE

Experience history first-hand



## POINT ALPHA – AN UNFORGETTABLE TESTIMONY

The Rhön was divided for four decades. Here in the heart of Germany the Iron Curtain not only divided the country but also a historically united region. The former US-Army observation post "Alpha" makes this part of the previous inner-German border a unique testimony to German history. Today, walkers hike across the rolling hills where NATO and Warsaw Pact once stood face-to-face. Explore the **Point Alpha memorial** site where the outbreak of a Third World War always was expected. The confrontation of the two opposing military blocs is depicted in the various exhibitions, border installations, watchtowers and observation towers. Highlights there are the historic patrol path of the GDR border troops and, of course, the US-Camp.

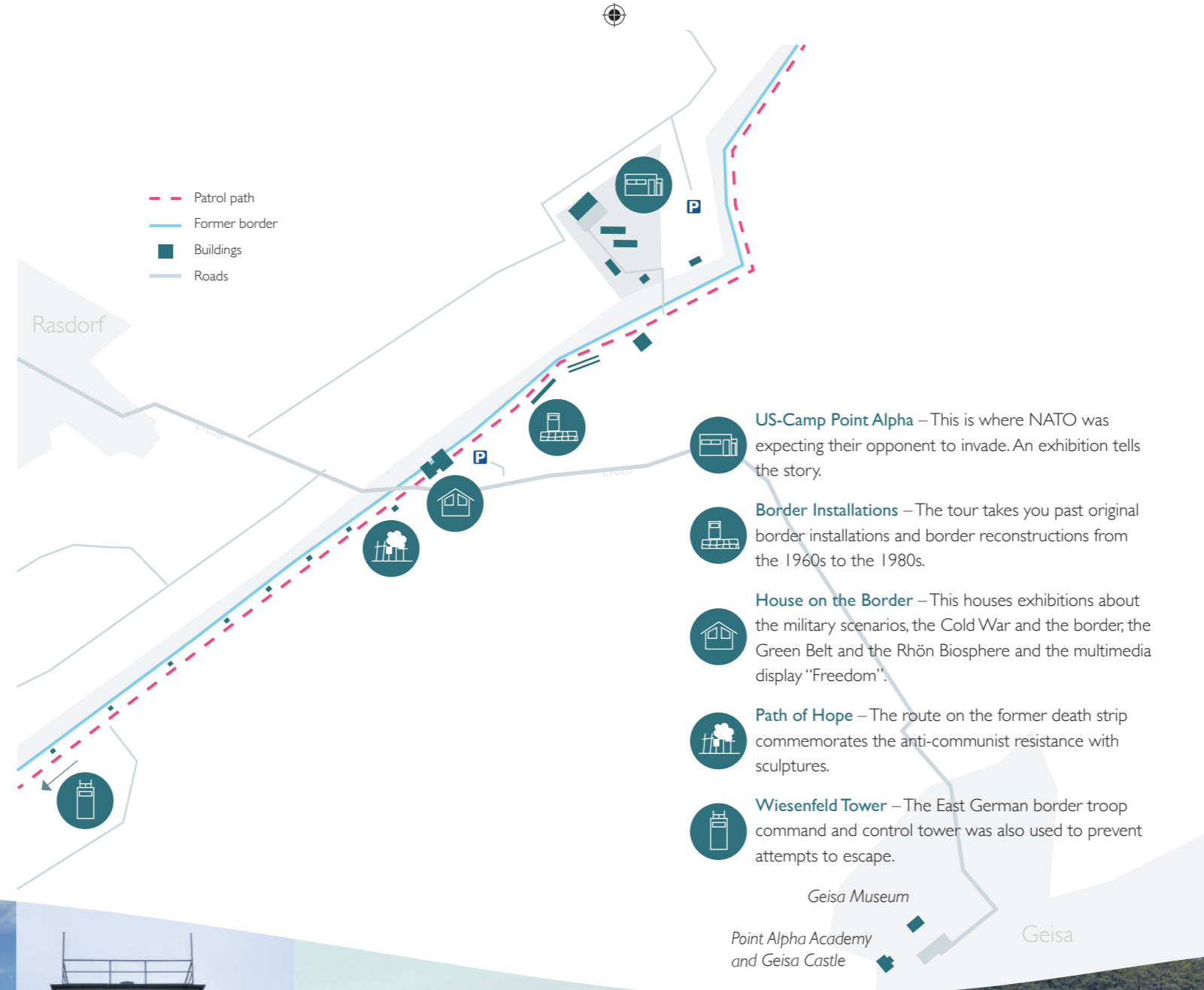
See how the people in the region lived with the threat and the communist repression in the "**House on the Border**". 20 contemporary witnesses from the region give real-life accounts of the division and their lives in the restricted zone near the border. The **Point Alpha Foundation exhibition** also illustrates the connections between world history and the military.

On the upper floor of the building, you will find an **exhibition about the Green Belt and the Rhön Biosphere**. This incorporates a history of the division with a focus on nature.

## HOUSE ON THE BORDER

The new permanent exhibition on the ground floor takes you on a historic trip back to the time when Geisa was the westernmost town in the Warsaw Pact. At this time, people living there were forcibly resettled and their houses demolished to allow the GDR border guards a free line of fire. Animated war plans for the area around Geisa emphasize the threat in the "Fulda Gap" during the Cold War. Get a feeling for the historic context of the location and watch the changes in the border fence installations parallel to the old patrol path over the decades of the division. Behind the fence installation inside the House on the Border contemporary witnesses from the villages in the East and West give accounts of everyday life, escape, displacement and the happy moment when the regime was brought down in 1989.

In the upper floor, the Rhön Biosphere Administration exhibition illustrates that the fall of the Berlin Wall presented unique opportunities not only to the people, but also to the environment. Eyewitnesses give accounts of the nature during the division and today. Sculptures of the native animals and plants, such as wildcats and orchids, in the green belt – the former death strip and the heart of the biosphere today – offer visitors the possibility to touch and explore.



## US-CAMP POINT ALPHA

Have a look round the most important US Cold War observation post. The authentic army facilities and the original military equipment can still be seen today. Citizens from the region campaigned for this memorial site to be preserved to commemorate the American contribution to the security of the Federal Republic of Germany. You are welcome to walk around the whole site where US soldiers were on guard duty at "Freedom's Frontier" for 40 years. All around the observation tower, you will listen to accounts of contemporary witnesses. At the same time you will receive information about the use of the barracks during the Cold War era. An exhibition in one of the former barracks provides a detailed insight into the threatening military scenario which could have unfolded here during the Cold War as well as the history of American military commitment in the famous "Fulda Gap". Experience the history and the development of the camp as well as the historic highlights of the East West conflict. Treat yourself to a break in the Cafeteria at the end.



Fotos: Stiftung Point Alpha