

# THE BERLIN WALL: ESCAPE TO FREEDOM

1 X 1 HOUR

**Berlin, Germany, August 1961: an authoritarian regime builds a monstrous concrete wall that severs a city.**

On the Western side, it is a hated symbol of a bitter Cold War. On the Eastern side it is far worse: a deadly obstacle to freedom. They call it the "Wall of Shame".

Over the next 38 years, ten thousand people will try to defy it in a bid to reach freedom - some will succeed but hundreds will pay with their lives.

**The Berlin Wall** explores this most infamous barrier, examining its design, construction and evolution through four distinct phases - each time it got bigger, stronger and more impenetrable.

Through the stories of people who attempted to escape, we also learn the true impact that the Berlin Wall had on the lives of ordinary Germans.



*Produced by Michael Hoff Productions, Inc. in Association with Off the Fence B.V. for National Geographic Channel*