

Beelitz Heilstätten – Health park Beelitz

The sanatoriums in Beelitz are the tuberculosis sanatoriums of the regional insurance institution Berlin, which were erected between 1898 and 1930 in the town forest of Beelitz. The sanatoriums were built especially for the medical treatment of the workers from the metropolis Berlin, they were exemplary for this time and convey even today with which social commitment and greatly medical expenditure one proceeded against the tuberculosis, when it became the disastrous illness at the end of the 19. century. Today there is the health park Beelitz with modern medical installations of the rehabilitation in this place.

The historical facilities include about 200 hectare space. About 6 km northwest of Beelitz the clinic area consists of about 60 buildings, the huge patients pavilions and numerous supply facilities, for example the kitchen, the laundry, the bakery, the butcher's, the market garden and the central heating- and engine plant for the supply with current and heating. The railway to Berlin was decisive for the location choice. The location offered the necessary conditions for medical precaution: in a large forest, calm, protected against the wind, in smoke- and dust-free surroundings. While in this time comparable tuberculosis sanatoriums for about 150 to 200 patients were planned, the facilities in Beelitz were with about 1.600 beds the probably biggest institution of that kind in Europe.

The sanatoriums were used military for more than fifty years. In both World Wars the area was a Red-Cross-military hospital and a military tuberculosis sanatorium. After the World War II the area was confiscated by the Soviet army and was a prohibited area. Here the central military hospital of the western group of the Soviet forces was situated until 1994.

After the return of the plant to the regional insurance institution Berlin the listed buildings and the parks arranged by gardeners were sold to a private investor group. For the rebirth of the sanatorium the redevelopment of the historical buildings and the construction of complementing new buildings were intended. New health facilities and hospitals for about 500 patients as well as a new district for 2500 to 3000 inhabitants were the essential aims of the development starting 1996.

Since today there were built especially the new hospital facilities of the health park, partly in the redeveloped historical buildings, partly in additional new buildings. Neurological rehabilitation, Parkinson-therapy, rehabilitation for children and young persons as well as geriatric care is now the emphasis of the health area. Several small buildings of the sanatoriums were reconstructed by private owners and got a new use as housing space. The redevelopment of the historical thermal power station was started. The still existing technical installations of the thermal power station were refurbished and are place at the visitor's disposal.

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