

Press Release, June 2010

Football brings the world together...and not just in South Africa

In South Africa this month football fans from around the world will be coming together to cheer on their teams. Elsewhere, football fans of all nations will sit glued to their screens. But in hostels such as The Circus in Berlin there will be a touch of both, as an international mix of backpackers and travellers with different nationalities and loyalties gather together with one thing in common: a love of the global game.

Four years ago of course the world came to Berlin as Germany hosted the event, but the team at The Circus are expecting a special month of festivities this time around as well. Jim Hadfield, one of The Circus owners explains: "It is the same for every major championship such as the World Cup or the Euros. We have guests staying with us from every corner of the world, and even on their travels they follow their team's fortunes. I can remember in 2002 a group of Mexicans singing the national anthem down in the bar, and the Aussies in 2006, face-painting on the pavement outside the hostel...not to mention the excitement of the games themselves."

For a Berlin hostel such as The Circus, with its typical clientele, there are a couple of games that stand out in the first round already. They are expecting the basement bar to be packed even in the first couple of days of the tournament, as Germany take on Australia and England play the United States. "Then again," Jim says, "we have over 200 guests staying with us every night in the hostel, so you never know which game will capture the attention...any of the 64 matches could be a big event."

As a football fan born and brought up in Stockport, near Manchester, there is one game that Jim is longing for and dreading in equal measure: "England versus Germany, without a doubt. Despite living here for ten years, there is no question where my loyalties on the football pitch lie." With teams from their two groups due to meet after the group stages, it is a game that could happen as early as the second round. "Just as long as it doesn't go to penalties. Not again."

Throughout the four weeks of the World Cup The Circus Hostel will be showing all games live, either in the street-level cafe or down in the basement Goldman's Bar. A whole series of events and activities are planned, such as barbecues, tipping competitions, live music and DJ sets, to keep the fans entertained alongside the matches themselves. Nobody knows who will emerge victorious at the end of the competition – that's the beauty of football – but one thing is for sure: whoever lifts the trophy on the 11th July there will be someone at The Circus heading to bed happy, whilst a neighbour – perhaps even in the same room – will be lying awake, and wondering what might have been.

About the Circus Hostel

The Circus Hostel is located in Berlin on the Rosenthaler Platz, across the street from the sister Circus Hotel. Between the two houses The Circus has beds for over 360 guests, from dorm-rooms via en-suite doubles and Junior Suites to penthouse apartments complete with kitchen and bathroom. Prices start from €19 for a dorm bed at the hostel, and €70 for a room at the hotel.

The Circus Hostel/Cafe/Goldman's Bar – Weinbergsweg 1a, 10119 Berlin – U-Bhf. Rosenthaler Platz (U8)
The Circus Hotel/Restaurant Fabisch – Rosenthaler Strasse 1, 10119 Berlin – U-Bhf. Rosenthaler Platz (U8)

Contact, Pictures and Further Information

Paul Scraton – Company Communications, The Circus GbR, Weinbergsweg 1a, 10119 Berlin
paul.scraton@circus-berlin.de / +49 (0) 30 2000 3939 / www.circus-berlin.de