BERLIN
in your pocket
February - March 2013

Museum Night
One night, 75 museums

Berlinale
Europe’s best film festival
As Berlin slogs its way through winter, there’s a lot to commemorate. Last year we had the 775th birthday of the city, but this year the occasion is less happy. It’s 80 years since Hitler came to power, and 75 years since the infamous Kristallnacht pogrom on the Jews of Germany. Recently, several exhibitions and events linked to these events kicked off, which will run throughout 2013. For starters, the biannual Long Night of the Museums, when 75 institutes stay open till early morning; this year’s theme is “Diversity destroyed”. The Historical Museum has become a capital not only in the political sense, but culturally and intellectually as well. As a result, it is now considered one of the most exciting and diverse cities in all of Europe.

Cover story
The shadow of Berlin’s Fernsehturm Tower - the tallest building in Germany - crosses the facade of the Park Inn hotel - the tallest hotel in the country. Both structures were erected in Alexanderplatz, Germany, in the late 1960s. In this relatively low-rise flat city, they stand out like landmarks to this day.

From the mayor
Since the fall of the Berlin Wall nearly 25 years ago, Berlin has experienced breakneck change: its infrastructure was modernized from the ground up, while entire city districts were either created from scratch or thoroughly remodeled. Moreover, Berlin has become a capital not only in the political sense, but culturally and intellectually as well. As a result, it is now considered one of the most exciting and diverse cities in all of Europe.

Berlin finds its positive image reflected in its tourist industry statistics: more and more people are visiting our city to see its countless attractions for themselves. These include, for example, the ubiquitous traces of a turbulent and emotional history and the city’s compelling museums, which invite you to browse the world’s cultures. The contemporary art scene, too, has long since found a home in Berlin, proof of which can be seen in the city’s hundreds of galleries, many stellar collections – often exhibited in innovative settings – and, most recently, the new temporary art gallery in the heart of the city.

Great art can of course also be experienced in Berlin’s opera houses and its many renowned theaters. Its wide range of orchestras – including the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Staatskapelle, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester, the Rundfunkchor and countless others – is unmatched in its quality and diversity. And let’s not forget Berlin’s exciting club scene and the many different restaurants, pubs, and bars that make the city the place to be for anyone looking for cosmopolitan flair and the latest trends.

In this spirit, I would like to wish you an eventful stay in our city, to see its countless attractions for themselves. In this spirit, I would like to wish you an eventful stay in our city to see its countless attractions for themselves.

Lord Mayor
Klaus Wowereit

Drinks & Alcohol
Germans like their beer, drinking about 107 litres per capita per year (down from 136 litres 15 years ago). Unfortunately Berlin’s local brew, the slightly sour Berliner Weisse, is only really palatable ‘mit Schuss’, with a shot of sweet fruit syrup. Cocktails and long drinks of varying quality and price are available in a multitude of places. Non-alcoholic drinks often sipped in Berlin include Apfelschorle, a refreshing mix of apple juice and sparkling water, and Club-Mate (‘Yoboo mah-tee’) ice tea, made with extract of the South American mate plant, caffeine and tannins, and is popular with local hipsters as it comes in a screw top bottle so you can top it up yourself.

Crime & Safety
Berlin is a relatively calm and safe place. Instances of petty crimes are low compared to other Western European capitals, though you should still always keep an eye on your valuables and never leave bags, wallets and mobile phones unattended. Just like anywhere else, be careful when walking in unlit streets late at night. Race-related hassles seldom occur in Berlin’s touristic central areas.

Money
Germany uses the euro (€). Banknotes come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 €, and coins, whose design depends on in which country they were minted, come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents and €1 and €2. Credit and debit card payments are possible in a wide range of shops, restaurants and nightlife venues, though always have cash on you for small payments just in case. This guide indicates which places do not accept plastic. ATMs can be found everywhere; those that charge for transactions clearly indicate the fee during the process. Exchange offices can be found at the major train stations.

Visas and entry formalities
EU citizens can stay in Germany as long as they like, though registration at a Bürgeramt office is officially required for stays more than a few months. Citizens of Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Mexico USA and a few others can enter Germany without a visa for stays of up to three months. Additionally, citizens of the USA and Canada should register within 14 days of arrival; EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival. EU citizens can enter with a valid EU identity card or passport that is valid for at least four months from the date of arrival.

Travel
The Rhine is 1319km. The Spree is 403km. The highest point of Berlin is Zugspitze, 2962m. The lowest point of Berlin is Teufelsberg, 314m.

CLIMATE

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It’s almost 21 years since we published the first In Your Pocket guide - to Vilnius in Lithuania - in which time we have grown to become the largest publisher of locally produced city guides in Europe. We now cover more than 75 cities across the continent (with Ostrobothnia, on the Italian island of Sardinia, the latest city to be pocketed) and the number of concise, witty, well-written and downright indispensable In Your Pocket guides published each year is approaching five million. We also publish an iPhone app, including more than 40 guides, which can be downloaded for free from the AppStore. Search for “YP Guides” by name.

To keep up to date with all that’s new at In Your Pocket, like us on Facebook (facebook.com/inyourpocket) or follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/inyourpocket).
Arriving in Berlin

By plane
Begel Airport (TXL) is 7km northwest of the city centre. Behind the airport information desk in the main hall are the BVG public transport ticket office and the luggage office. Nearby are a post office and ATMs. The TXL bus runs every 15-20 minutes between 05:00 and 23:30, and is the quickest connection to the U-bahn station. Linien and Alexanderplatz. Bus X9 (every 5-10 minutes from 04:50 to 23:00) gets you to Zoo Bahnhof in 20 minutes. Tickets can be bought from the BVG, the machines outside or from the driver. A taxi to the city centre will cost about €18.

By train
All trains stop at Berlin’s gleaming, glass-sheathed Hauptbahnhof main station which has all the essentials: a supermarket, post office, toilets, tow- ers, lockers and a tourist information centre. Use the S-Bahn, U-Bahn or buses to reach your final destination. International trains often also stop at Hauptbahnhof, which is handy for Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain, and Spandau, where you can change for Charlottenburg.

Cycling
As long as it’s dry, getting around Berlin is really best done by bicycle. It’s a flat city, there are plenty of cycle paths and wide bus lanes for you to use and you see so much more from the saddle than from the U-Bahn train window. Note that cycling on the pavement is illegal and may get you fined, even though everyone does it. Cycling across town may take a while, though, if €160 you can take your bike on an S-Bahn train too. There are dozens of bike rental places, many BVG and €10-12 per day. The urban bike trip planner www.bbb.de can suggest low-traffic and cyclist-free routes across Berlin.

Berlin’s integrated network of public transport in Berlin, you’ll wish that your home town had such good public transport.

Transport & Sights Cards
Discounts are a welcome relief, so if you are planning to travel around town a lot and see more than one museum, get a reduced rate card. Note that students and youths may get better reductions at museums using their student ID cards.


The Berlin WelcomeCard is a combined transport and sightseeing reduction card (museums, bike tours, rental boats, etc) valid for zone AB or zone ABC which includes Potsdam and S-Bahn trains. The WelcomeCard costs €30-50 per person per day; €18.50, ABC €20.50, 72 hours (€24.50/26.50) or 5 days (€31.50/36.50). Cards are sold from BVG ticket machines, travel agencies, and railway and airports anklets. The similar City TourCard (www.citytoucard.com) is a little cheaper, with restaurant, bar and club discounts geared towards younger travellers: 48 hours (AB €16.50, ABC €18.50), 72 hours (€22.90/24.90) or 5 days (€29.90/34.90).

Get2Card, tel. +49 30 438 09 80, www.get2card.de. A tourist discount card (€24, valid for seven days) that allows you to get two for the price of one, whether it’s the admission to a club, museum, cinema, night at a hotel or, food and drinks at a wide range of bars and restaurants. For sale at most theatre ticket agencies.

Berlin Museum Pass, www.smb.museum. 60 museums, including the permanent collections of the Staatliche Museen (state museums), can be visited with the Berlin Museum Pass (€19/9.50, valid seven days). It’s for sale at the museums, tourism offices and online.

Transport

Taxis
Berlin’s friendly and ubiquitous beige Mercedes taxis can be called or hailed on the street. They can also be found queuing at S-Bahn stations and near nightlife hotspots. Not all taxis accept credit cards, ask when you book. Prices are the same day and night; flagfall plus the first kilometre is €3.40; then up to 7km it’s €1.65/km, thereafter €1.28/km. Waiting costs €25/hr. For short hops hail a taxi already driving in the direction you need to go and immediately ask them to go to the street name, ticket, €6 for 2km. By the way, Funk means radio.

Berlin’s street network

The Prussians certainly missed a trick when they decided to build a very straight street system. Numbering may well be opposite number 453. Thankfully, most Berlin street names signs indicate which numbers can be found along each block. The peculiar German letter, pronounced as an “w”, is used in the word for street. Some common German street-related words:

| Allee | avenue |
| Straße | street |
| Platz | square |
| Tor | gate |
| Ufer | riverbank |

Driving
With wide roads, calm traffic and ample free parking, Berlin is one of the easiest European capitals to navigate by car, though for city centre sightseeing public transport is definitely easier.

Tourist information

Berlin Infostore E2, Hauptbahnhof station, Mitte, M5/U Hauptbahnhof, tel. +49 30 25 00 25, www.visitberlin.de. The helpful staff at the official Berlin tourist information provides a wide range of information and publications. Open 08:00 - 22:00. Also at F2, Brandenburger Tor south wing (open 09:30 - 18:00); C3, Kurfürstendamm 22 (passage, open 10:00-20:00, Sun 9:30-18:00).

Travel day visitors are advised to Park & Ride; leave your car for free at a dedicated S-Bahn station and continue by S-Bahn train. Arriving on the A10 road use Buch station; A100 - Innsbrucker Platz; A11 - Jungfernheide; A113 - Bundesplatz; A109 - Pankow; A115 - Heidel- berger Platz.

All cars entering the city centre within the S-Bahn ring sticker, which can be ordered online before your trip (for around €30) via the Climate Company, www.umwelt-plakette.de, tel. +49 30 39 87 21 10, www.umwelt-plakette.de, or purchased (from €5,50) at Dekra and TÜV garages around Berlin.

Drivers

Deutsche Bahn (DB, German Railways) runs sleek 300km/hr highspeed ICE (InterCity Express) trains, IC (Intercity) and IC (InterCity) trains. Train tickets are considerably cheaper when purchased well in advance; book online at www.bahn.de and print print your own ticket. Cheap last-minute DB tickets for German destinations can be found at www.bahn.tur, or www.bahn.de. To explore the region, get the excellent-value Brandenburg: Berlin-Radio which covers regional train travel and travel for up to five people for one day, for €28 total (€21 after 18:00); for €39 the Schönes-Wochenende-Ticket has a similar deal but for up to five people for three days. The Queer-durchs-Land Ticket (€42 for one person, additional people €6 each) is the weekday version.

Berlin is well-connected to major cities by rail, with direct daily connections to Amsterdam, Brussels, Budapest, Copenhagen, Prague, Rome, Vienna and Zurich.


Berlin In Your Pocket berlin.inyourpocket.com

February - March 2013
The Berlin-based betterplace.org provides a new and unique way linking various kinds of projects to potential donors across the world. Their online platform allows fundraisers of aid projects, events and other charitable causes to promote their proposal; users can then decide to donate any amount of money to a specific project need (such as €20 for a wheelbarrow) or more generally (such as ‘building a school in Kenya’). Betterplace.org passes on 100% of all donations to the projects. Going beyond simple financing, donors can sometimes also offer their time, experience or goods in kind to projects. What makes betterplace.org unique is its transparency ensured through donor feedback: users familiar with the projects can rate them online, add comments and videos, and easily promote the project via social media.

Examples of current projects include the Gelbe Villa project that helps 600–800 children every year with free computer workshops, preparing them for a career in which they need to be familiar with technology. The Berliner Stadtmission charity collects donations to help homeless people with food, medicine, clothing and shelter in the cold winters; a bus picks up those who want to spend the night in a house that sleeps up to 100 people, others are given blankets and hot food and drinks. An example of a project abroad is Nkosi’s Haven, which offers long-term residential care for HIV/AIDS infected mothers, children and orphans in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Betterplace

tel. +49 30 76 76 44 88 44
change@betterplace.org
www.betterplace.org

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Betterplace

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Berlin is blessed with a large number of quality theatres and halls, top-quality artists and relatively cheap tickets - and an annual cultural budget of over €900 million to fund it all.

**Opera & Classical Music**

**Komische Oper F-3, Behrenstraße 55, Mitte, M5/U Französische Straße, tel. +49 30 20 26 00, www.komische-oper-berlin.de.** Starting off as the Theater Unter den Linden in 1892, the building’s monumental neo-baroque main hall survived wartime bombing, and reopened in 1947. It shows classic music, ballet and opera pieces. Translations in English are shown on a screen on the seat in front of you. 

- Tickets €9-120.

**Konzerthaus Berlin F-3, Gendarmenmarkt 2, Mitte, M11/U Stadtmitte, tel. +49 30 203 09 21 01, www.konzerthaus.de.** Together with the Deutscher and Französischer Dom churches, the Konzerthaus forms Berlin’s most spectacular architectural ensemble. Built by Friedrich Schinkel in 1821, it was destroyed in the war and only reopened as a concert hall in 1984, The Berliner Sinfonie-Orchester plays at the venue. 

- Tickets €10-99.

**Philharmonie E-4, Herbert-von-Karajan-Straße 1, Tiergarten, M5/U Potsdamer Platz, tel. +49 30 25 48 89 99, www.berlin-philharmonic.de.** The crumpled-looking yellow modernist building behind the chrome gizmos of the Potsdamer Platz developments was once just as revolutionary as its new neighbour. The excellent Phil orchestra is directed by Liverpudlian Sir Simon Rattle. 

- Tickets €7-220.

**Dinner: 18:00, concert 20:30. Tickets €21-79.**

**Staatstheater im Schillertheater C-3, Bismarckstraße 110, Charlottenburg, M4/U Ernst-Reuter-Platz, tel. +49 30 20 35 45 55, www.staatstheater-berlin.org.** The venue for Daniel Barenboim’s award-winning Staatskapelle orchestra. Temporarily housed in the Schillertheater until renovations of their grand theatre on Unter den Linden are completed in 2014. 

- Tickets €14-220.

**Shops**

There’s always something on in Berlin; these venues often have revue-style shows suitable for a foreign audience. The prices listed here indicate the cost of regular tickets, which may fluctuate depending on the show or day of the week.

**Admiralspalast F-3, Friedrichstraße 103, Mitte, M5/U Friedrichstraße, tel. +49 30 47 99 74 99, www.admiralspalast.de.** This former army bathhouse was famous for its cabaret, operetta house, spa and brothel in Berlin’s roaring 20s. Hitler cleaned up their acts in the 1930s, installing a private box so that he could watch his favourite operetta ‘The Merry Widow’, and Brecht tried out his new theatre here from the 1950s. With several theatres, it now puts on plays, concerts and musicals. 

- Shows Tue-Sun 20:00. Tickets €21-79.

**Berlin Residenz Konzerte**

Classic à la Carte Dine & Dream by Berliner Residenz Konzerte

Masterpieces from the days of Frederick the Great

- Winter concerts
- Fridays & Saturdays in February
- Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays in March
- Dinner: 6pm | Concert: 8:30pm
- Tickets www.concerts-berlin.com Tel.: 030-258 10 35-0

**shows-berlin.de**

**Berlin Residenz Konzerte**

B-3, Spandauer Damm 22-24, Charlottenburg, M4 Westend, tel. +49 30 526 61 96 96, www.concerts-berlin.com. The Berlin Residenz Orchestra plays famous Baroque-era works by candlelight, with musicians in period costumes - a unique opportunity to get a good idea of what it was like to attend a party in the 18th century. Guests can combine the concert with a tour of Charlottenburg castle or a trip on the river Spree, and dinner amidst hundreds of candles. 

- Dinner 18:00, concert 20:30. Tickets €29-79.
Ellington Hotel events

Berlin’s grooviest hotel is well-known for its relaxed jazz brunches, held every Sunday between 11:30 and 14:30 in the Duke restaurant. A set fee allows you to sample anything from the buffet, while talented jazz musicians take care of the atmosphere. Brunchtime performances for February are the the Denis Duo on the 3rd, Craig Burton Duo on the 10th and 17th, and the Jeffrey Dinnin Duo on the 24th. The Ladies’ Styling Dinner, every Tuesday and Thursday, gets you an evening of hair and make-up treatment followed by a three-course meal.


Blue Man Group

E-4, Marlene Dietrich Platz 4, Mitte, tel. +49 18 05 44 44, www.blueman.de. The (quite literally) Blue Man Group has been wowing audiences for years at their Blumax Theatre, with a show that has a kaleidoscope, a whirlwind, a puzzle, psychedelic, and many more adjectives that people just haven’t managed to sum up the visually and musically powerful show with. The few texts that are spoken are in English. Shows Tue, Fri 21:00, Wed, Thu, Sat 18:00, 21:00. Sun 18:00. Tickets €55-77.

Friedrichstadtpalast

Friedrichstadtpalast. This venue normally puts on the glitziest, biggest revues in town. Friedrichstadtpalast.de.

Liptziger Streichquartet

Works by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, and Brahms.

Wintergarten Variéte

One of Berlin’s famed variety theatres was revived here as a dinner theatre. Seated around tables, you’ll enjoy a show with acrobats, magicians, clowns, jugglers and more. Before the show, waiters take orders for meals which are served during the break. New shows are put on several times per year. Shows Wed-Sat 20:00, Sun 18:00. Tickets €25-60.

Theatre, Music & Dance

Berlin has dozens of venues for performances. There’s lots of great theatre, but most of it is German-language; it’s getting better, with English plays or surtitles in some theatres.

English Theatre Berlin

English Theatre Berlin F-5, Fildicinstraße 40, Kreuzberg. Tel. +49 30 691 12 11, www.etheberlin.de. Berlin residents, whether native English speakers or not, come to this theatre for the edge in the theatre for the edge programming on the little black box stage. Tickets €14-18.


Hebbel am Ufer (HAU) F-4, Hallesches Ufer 32, Kreuzberg. Tel. +49 30 295 00 04, www.hebbel-am-ufer.de. Three small theatres (the others at Stresemannstraße 29 and Tempelhofer Ufer 10) perform, concerts and music. Tickets €11-18.

Kookaburra G-2, Schönhauser Allee 184, Prenzlauer Berg. Tel. +49 30 46 72 31 86, www.kookaburra.de. A fantastic theatre, dance and music venue in an old pumping station along the Spree river. There’s a restaurant and café too. Tickets €5-41.

Venue list Berlin


Wintergarten: rocking variety

The “Forever Young” rock variety show at Wintergarten (playing until 11 May) reminds us all of our careless youth, using classic hits, played live by a six-man band, as background music to stunning acts. For example, “Satisfaction” on the trapeze, juggling and comedy to the guitar riff of “Light My Fire” and music by the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Nirvana, Pink Floyd and many others. Fittingly, the Wintergarten itself has a musical past, starting off as a cinema in 1913 but used as a rock concert hall from 1970 to 1989.

Wintergarten Variéte

Koka 36 H-4, Oranienstraße 24, Kreuzberg. Tel. +49 30 61 10 13, www.koka36.de. Kreuzberg’s Konzertkasse has tickets in their shop and online (German only), for mailing and pick-up. Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00, Closed Sun.


Wintergarten: rocking variety


Event tickets

Tickets can be purchased at the venues, via hotel concierges, at ticket offices (also in major department stores) and online.

Eventim, tel. +49 180 557 00 70, www.eventim.de. An online booking service with event tickets mailed or available for home printing.

Hekticket C-4, Hardenbergstraße 29, Charlottenburg, www/U Zoologischer Garten, tel. +49 30 230 99 50, www.hekticket.de. Ticket shops and online sales (for home printing, pick-up or mailing). Reduced same-day tickets for shows and attractions are available after 14:00. Also at Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 13, Mitte. Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sun 14:00 - 18:00.

Koka 36 H-4, Oranienstraße 24, Kreuzberg. Tel. +49 30 61 10 13, www.koka36.de. Kreuzberg’s Konzertkasse has tickets in their shop and online (German only), for mailing and pick-up. Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00, Closed Sun.


Cultural & Events Berlin

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Cultural & Events Berlin February - March 2013

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Berliner Residenz Concerts

Enjoy classical concerts and a festive dinner in royal surroundings. Baroque-era culinary delicacies and musical masterpieces are combined in the magical surroundings of the extravagant former summer residence of the Hohenzollern dynasty.

February 1, 2, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23; March 1, 2, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30:

“Masterpieces of the 17th and 18th centuries, by J.S.Bach, G.F.Händel, W.A.Mozart, A.Vivaldi and Frederick the Great and his court composers.”

CULTURE & EVENTS

Exhibition: Diversity Destroyed

With over 450 exhibits, the new museum and cultural highlight ‘Dali - The Exhibition at Potsdamer Platz’ offers the most complete overview of Dalí’s virtuous and experimental mastery in almost all art techniques, right here in the heart of Berlin. As Dalí once said: “Come into my brain”. In keeping with this spirit ‘Surrealism for all’, visitors to Berlin now have the chance to discover ‘their Dalí’.

19 Feb, 20:00
Zürcher Kammerorchester, Albrecht Mayer (oboe)
Conductor: Masahiro Iizaki; Works by Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Rossini, and Ravel
PH

20 Feb, 20:00
Rudolf Buchbinder (piano)
Works by Beethoven
PH

21 & 22 Feb, 20:00
Berliner Philharmoniker
Conductor: Sir Simon Rattle; Works by Dutilleux, Lutoslawski, and Schumann
PH

23 Feb, 20:00
Artist in Residence: Leonidas Kavakos (violin), Emanuel Ax (piano)
Works by Beethoven
PH

2 March, 20:00
Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Emanuel Ax (piano)
Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev; Works by Reimann, Haydn, Stravinsky and Brahms
PH

3 March, 15:30
Oeundrer Philharmonie
Conductor: Kurt Masur; Works by Beethoven
PH

Berlinale Film Festival

Taking place at the Cinestar cinema at Potsdamer Platz and all over Berlin from February 7-17, Berlin’s 63rd International Film Festival brings a cinematic buzz to town. With about 400 films and 300,000 tickets sold to tens of thousands of local and international visitors, the Berlinale is one of the most popular and certainly the best-attended film festival in the world.

The festival will be opened with the epic martial arts drama ‘The Grandmaster’ by Chinese director Wong Kar Wei, who’s also in the jury for the Golden Bear award. Films not in English sometimes have English subtitles. Pick up the Berlinale programme booklet and newspaper for all film screening details, reserve tickets online at www.berlinale.de, or prepare to queue. The participating cinemas only sell same-day tickets.

5 March, 20:00
Handel Festival Choir of Japan, Berliner Symphoniker
Conductor: Masahiro Iizaki; George Friedrich Handel - Messiah, Oratorium HWV 56
PH

7-9 March, 20:00
Berliner Philharmoniker
Conductor: Andris Nelsons; Works by Mozart, Wagner, and Shostakovich
PH

10 March, 20:00
Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Ivo Pogorelich (piano)
Conductor: Myung-Whun Chung; Works by Chopin, Debussy, and Ravel
PH

Berlinale in Your Pocket

The Berlinale is a community event which brings the world to Berlin. Discover the wild side of Berlin.

5 March, 20:00
Handel Festival Choir of Japan, Berliner Symphoniker
Conductor: Masahiro Iizaki; George Friedrich Handel - Messiah, Oratorium HWV 56
PH

7-9 March, 20:00
Berliner Philharmoniker
Conductor: Andris Nelsons; Works by Mozart, Wagner, and Shostakovich
PH

10 March, 20:00
Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Ivo Pogorelich (piano)
Conductor: Myung-Whun Chung; Works by Chopin, Debussy, and Ravel
PH
19 March, 20:00
Lil Wayne (Hip Hop)
VD

Exhibitions
Until 31 March
Divided Heaven - 1945-1968
The 1950s economic miracle and the construction of the Wall, Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War, Sputznik and Apollo, Kennedy and Mao - contrasts and conflicts determined the years between 1945 and 1968. The visual arts in this period reflect the atmosphere of the Cold War and the associated political ideologies.
NA
Until 12 May
Martin Scorsese - The Exhibition
The world’s first exhibition about this famous American film director. Learn about Scorsese’s sources of inspiration, working practices and his unique artistic storytelling methods.

Fairs
6-10 March
ITB Berlin Travel Trade Show
www.itb-berlin.de
MB
23-24 March
VELOBerlin Bicycle Trade Fair
www.veloberlin.com
MB

A night in Berlin... is always a night to remember.

IN THE VERY HEART OF THE CITY – AT POTS DAMER PLATZ, THE SPELBANK BERLIN PROMISES VISITORS THE ULTIMATE CASINO EXPERIENCE. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SPEND A NIGHT IN BERLIN, BUT SPENDING AN EVENING AT ITS LARGEST CASINO COULD BE AN UNFORGETTABLE ONE. MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.SPELANKASINO.BERLIN.DE.

A WORLD OF EXCITEMENT AND THRILLS AWAITS YOU ON FOUR FLOORS, FROM THE GLAMOROUS CASINO ROYAL WITH FRENCH AND AMERICAN ROULETTE AS WELL AS BLACKJACK, CONTINUING WITH THE WIDE VARIETY OF 360 SLOT MACHINES, TO THE HUDDLE AND UNIQUE "POKERFLOOR", WHICH IS ONE OF EUROPE’S BEST POKER SPOTS AND A MUST FOR ALL POKER PLAYERS.

Open daily 11am - 5am. Guests must be 18 or over and show a valid ID card. Please remember you gamble responsibly.

Cinemas
Berlin’s top hotels all have concierges that are there to make the guest’s lives easier. They can inform you about current events, book tickets, make restaurant reservations and hand out copies of Berlin In Your Pocket, transport maps, programmes and brochures. Concierges can be recognised by the crossed golden keys on the lapels of their jackets.

Ask the concierge

Berlin In Your Pocket
berlin.inyourpocket.com

February - March 2013
ITB Travel Fair

The most important place for the international travel industry to network under one roof is the annual ITB in Berlin’s convention centre. It is not just for people in the business, but for anyone who wants a quick and convenient taste of other lands, cultures, and adventures... and kilos of brochures and information with which to plan a dream vacation. The fair won’t just attract thousands of Germans; it will also cause a considerable influx of foreign visitors from all corners of the world to Berlin. Some 170,000 people attend every year, about half of them trade visitors. They have plenty to look at: 10,000 exhibitors from 180 countries and territories worldwide try to catch their attention. These figures make Berlin’s travel fair the largest in the world.

The ITB first started in 1966, with nine exhibitors (of which Iraq was one) and 250 trade visitors. Hungary and Romania joined ITB in 1968 during the temporary relaxation of travel restrictions in Eastern Europe. By 1980 the ITB had outclassed all other tourism fairs. Countries and tour operators hand out more than paper – they entertain and host games. The general public visiting the fair is ever more geared towards getting information about far-flung destinations. This year, wonderful Indonesia is in the spotlight.

ITB International Tourism Fair, March 6-10, 2013, March 9-10 for the general public.
Messegelände (Conventioanl Center), Messedamm 22, CB, S-Bahn Messe Nord or Messe Süd, www.itb-berlin.com. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Admission €14.50, trade visitors €38 (cheaper when purchased online).

Irish Harp & Kilkenny

Kilkenny Irish Pub
Fun & football, a drink or two and a bite to eat go hand in hand. And if that’s what you’re after, the Kilkenny Irish Pub is where you find it. Watch all major sport events, Champions League, Premier League, Formula One etc. on large screens, together with locals and tourists from all over the world.

G-3, Am Zwingergraben 17-20, Mitte, M5 Hackescher Markt, tel. +49 30 27 59 31 14, mail@kilkenny.pub.de, www.kilkenny-pub.de. Open Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu. Sun 1200 - 01:00, Fri. Sat 1200 - 03:00. €€-

Irish Harp Pub
Just one minute off Kurfürstendamm, the Irish Harp Pub is a haven for music and sports fans alike. Two bars, a cozy ambience, four large TVs and two big screens provide the setting for a great night out, or an afternoon full of excitement and entertainment while following international football, rugby and other sports, or playing a round of darts.

B-4, Giesebrechtstraße 15, Charlottenburg, M4 Adenauerplatz, tel. +49 30 22 32 87 35, mail@harp-pub.de, www.harp-pub.de. Open 10:00 - 01:00.

ITB Travel Fair

Welcome to the New Berlin Dungeon!

NEW opening spring 2013
Between Hackescher Markt and Alexanderplatz you can experience the dark history of Berlin, grippingly told by nine infamous Berliners - from the medieval times to the 19th century in nine scarly funny shows. The journey takes you from the historic city wall through the maze of the Hohenzollern to the ghosts of the underground of Berlin. Meet the last remaining plague doctor just before you need to defend yourself against the Holy Inquisition in order to flee across the river Spree. A truly unique experience! For more info see p. 31
Since reunification, the old city centre district Mitte (meaning ‘middle’) has rightly snatched back the title of most-visited district from Charlottenburg. On and off the boulevard Unter den Linden are baroque and classical monuments to Prussian culture. The architecturally humbler but more neighbourhood-like Scheunenviertel area allows the casually chic to saunter from courtyard gallery to sidewalk café. Only traces are left of the Jewish community that lived here from the late 17th century, welcomed by the Great Elector Friedrich Wilhelm.

Between Mitte and Charlottenburg, the huge Tiergarten park began as the Great Elector’s hunting grounds in the 1600s. Traffic passes through it, doing a dosey-doe around the Siegessäule victory column. The Straße des 17. Juni leads east to the Brandenburger Tor: just south of it are the state museums of the Kulturforum and the Potsdamer Platz district with its soaring corporate buildings.

Getting there
Arrivals by plane and train usually end up at Hauptbahnhof station, central for the city but not really close to anything. S-Bahn trains from the top level link to the east and west of the city, while the fancy new two-stop U5 U-Bahn line takes sightseers straight to Brandenburg Tor.

Pocket Walk
Start off at Brandenburger Tor and the Reichstag before heading south past the Holocaust memorial and Potsdamer Platz to the Topographie des Terrors exhibition and the adjacent stretch of Berlin Wall, Follow Zimmerstraße for the Stasi Exhibition and Checkpoint Charlie. Walk north along Friedrichstraße and turn right at Mohrenstraße for Gendarmenmarkt square, before ambling to Unter den Linden via Bebelplatz. Walk east past the Neue Wache and Berliner Dom, turn left into Spandauer Straße, and pass through Hackescher Markt station. Visit the Hackesche Höfe complex before walking down Oranierburger Straße for the Neue Synagoge. You can catch the S-Bahn from here back to Brandenburger Tor.
Hotels

Over €200

Adlon F-2, Unter den Linden 77, Mitte, U Unter den Linden, tel. +49 30 226 10, adlon@kempinski.com, www.adlon-berlin.com. The most reconstructed, historic Adlon. Adlon has views of the Brandenburger Tor; unfussy 1920s-style rooms with cherry wood, marble and rich fabrics, plus the staff provides impeccable service. Often voted the best hotel in Germany and even Europe, this is the only place to sleep. 375 rooms (302 singles €240 - 310, 302 doubles €290 - 360, 72 suites €530 - 3800, 1 Presidential suite €5300). Breakfast extra. €€€€€

Hilton F-4, Fohrenstraße 30, Mitte, U-Mitte Stadtmitte, tel. +49 30 202 30, info.hilton@hilton.com, www.hilton.com. Maybe it’s the excellent breakfast and not the privileged view your room has that makes guests staying long. The formal rooms are supplemented by good restaurants and exotic spa treatments. 591 rooms (singles €145 - 345, doubles €114 - 345, suites €220 - 1440). Breakfast extra. €€€€€

Hotel de Rome F-3, Behrenstraße 37, Mitte, U-5/S5 Brandenburg Tor, tel. +49 30 460 60 90, info.dorome@roccofortecollection.com, www.hoteldorome.com. Overlooking Bebelplatz, this top-class hotel occupies a magnificent former bank building from 1889. Wooden paneling, marble and even shrapnel damage pervade the 1200 rooms and, and the bank’s vault is now a 20-metre pool. 146 rooms (303 singles €195 - 395, 103 doubles €395 - 495, 43 suites €130 - 380, 3 suites €75 - 205). Breakfast extra. €€€€€

Marriott E-4, Inge-Beisheim-Platz 1, Mitte, U-5/S5 Potsdamer Platz, tel. +49 30 22 00 00, www.marriott.com. Ten floors of superb rooms and conference facilities overlooking the Platz. The lobby has a serenely苍老 3-tonne black granite cube, and the copper facer of one wall plays an unlighty light show. That plus a wellness centre and a classic Art Deco New York bar and grill make this one of Berlin’s finest hotels. 379 rooms (350 singles €159 - 219, 350 doubles €159 - 219, 9 suites €350 - 1200, 80 executive room €199 - 295). Breakfast extra. €€€€€

Ritz-Carlton E/F-4, Potsdamer Platz 3, Mitte, U-5/S5 Potsdamer Platz, tel. +49 30 33 77 77, berlin@ritzcarlton.com, www.ritzcarlton.com. A gift-edged hotel with superlative gourmet and fine fare and marble Corinthian columns lining a sweeping staircase in the lobby. The classic dark wooden bar opens with a ceremony every evening at 18:00 and serves over 400 fine fruit brandies. 302 rooms (singles €260 - 360, doubles €280 - 440, 40 suites €330 - 500). Breakfast extra. €€€€€

Westin Grand F-3, Friedrichstraße 158-164, Mitte, U-5/S5 U Friedrichstraße, tel. +49 30 202 70, info@westin-berlin.com, www.westin-berlin.com. Classic and perfectly situated in a grand, marble and rich fabrics, plus the staff provides impeccable service. Often voted the best hotel in Germany and even Europe, this is the only place to stay. 432 rooms and apartments, and the bank’s vault is now a 20-metre pool. 101 rooms (103 singles €100 - 195, 569 doubles €100 - 245, 29 suites €220 - 900). Breakfast extra. €€€€€

Hackscher Markt E-G-3, Große Präsidialstraße 8, tel. +49 30 38 0 30 03, info@hackscher-marke.de, www.hackscher-marke.com. After a night of bar-hopping in Mitte, you’ll wish that this small hotel on a quiet street was your crash pad. Furnished rooms, in a variety of styles. There’s live sports action in the hall. The staff provides impeccable service. Often voted the best hotel in Germany and even Europe, this is the only place to stay. 701 rooms (103 singles €100 - 195, 569 doubles €100 - 245, 29 suites €220 - 900). Breakfast extra. €€€€€

Mandala E-4, Potsdamer Straße 3, Tiergarten, U-5/S5 Potsdamer Platz, tel. +49 30 30 50 00 00, welcome@madison-berlin.de, www.themandala.de. Excellent rooms and apartments for both short and long-term stays. The Potsdamer Platz hotel location has great views over Tiergarten park and hosts the top-notch Facil restaurant and the most-ceilinged suites an 1891. 157 rooms (157 suites €130 - 5800). Breakfast extra. €€€€€


Mercedes Berlin an der Charité F-3, Invalidenstraße 36, Mitte, U-5/S5 U Invalidenstraße, tel. +49 30 30 82 60, h5341@accor.com, www.mercure.com. Very slick for a three-star, the Charité is closed in the trendy cream and brown colours, and oozes subtle style. Rooms are light and functionally designed; the more luxury comfort class rooms have come with wine and water. 246 rooms (246 singles €77 - 106, 246 doubles €86 - 126). €€€€€

Park Inn Berlin Alexanderplatz G-3, Alexanderplatz 3, Mitte, U-5/S5 U Alexanderplatz, tel. +49 30 238 90, berlin@reizdonparkinn. com, www.parkinn-berlin.com. Tons of rooms and apartments for both short and long-term stays. Rooms are light and functionally designed; the more luxury comfort class rooms have come with wine and water. 246 rooms (246 singles €77 - 106, 246 doubles €86 - 126). €€€€€

Restaurants & Cafés

Asian

Jolly F-3, Am Kupfergraben 4, Mitte, U-5/S5 U Friedrichstraße, tel. +49 30 30 05 95 01, service@restaurant-jolly.de, www.restaurant-jolly.de. Opposite the Pergamon Museum, with tourists, S-Bahn trains gliding by the windows, Jolly is a spacious and modern restaurant with delicious Cantonese Chinese and Thai dishes. Specialities include dim sum and Peking roast duck, served with pancakes and special sauce, but there’s also a wide variety of soups, and good portions of steamed meats and Thai curries, with servings of fluffy rice. Open 11:30 - 23:30. €€€€€

Marron G-2, Maluckstraße 29, Mitte, U-5/S5 Weinmeisterstraße, tel. +49 30 28 04 05 58, www.marron.de. A friendly and deliciously enticing Vietnamese with a small, perfectly formed menu and a curious collection of Klimt artworks on the walls. The authentic curry, satay, spring rolls and soups are very affordable, while fresh juices, Ba Hoi and Saigon beer also up the ante. Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sat 13:00 - 24:00, Closed Sun. €€€€€

Monsieur Vuong G-2, Alte Schönhauser Straße 46, Mitte, U-5/S5 Weinmeisterstraße, tel. +49 30 99 29 69 24, www.monsieurvuong.de. Hao and Saigon have landed in a chic little red Vietnamese restaurant in Mitte. There are only five dishes and two daily specials, but they’re so delicious you’d be ordering a second bowl of rice to soak up the leftover sauce. After your gòi bò, try some jasmin or artichoke tea. Prices have risen and you’ll have to fight the over-crowds for a table as Mr. Vuong doesn’t take reservations. Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€€€€

Austrian

Brechthaus Kellerrestaurant F-2, Chausséestraße 155, Mitte, U-5/S5 U Oranienburger Tor, tel. +49 30 282 38 43, www.brechthaus.de. The recipes served here are those of a busy Austrian actress making do with East German ingredients, though decent, it’s not the Tafelspitz (rump steak) that’s famous, but the spirit of the place where playwright Bertold Brecht and his wife Helene Weigel learned. The small basement cellar is full of family photographs and original notes set models of plays like Mother Courage. Also inside is what could only be described as a romantic brick-lined lounge area. A wall separates a terrace from the cemetery where the couple are buried. Open 18:00 - 01:00. €€€€€

Fast food

DomCurry F-3, Gendarmenmarkt 1 (Hilton hotel), Mitte, U-5/S5 U Französische Straße, tel. +49 30 202 30 44 55. Elevating fast food to a gatronomic experience, the Hilton allows you to style your own currywurst using top-quality ingredients, right beside the Deutsche Dom on Gendarmenmarkt. There are several types of sausage (rohrisch, eco, fine), sausages and bread to choose from. Open 11:00 - 18:00.
Beer houses

Gaffel Haus F-3, Dorotheenstraße 65, Mitte, Mi-S/U Friedrichstraße, tel. +49 30 31 01 16 93, www.gaffelhaus-berlin.de. Serving the famed Gaffel Kolsch beer from Cologne in the small glasses typical for that city. Gaffel, a large and authentic beer house serving traditional German cuisine, lives up to expectations. Try the food at Gaffel.

Fine dining

Facil E-4, Potsdamer Straße 3, Tiergarten, Mi-S/U Potsdamer Platz, tel. +49 30 597 71 12, www.restaurant-facil.de. At the Mandala Hotel’s Michelin-starred gourmet restaurant, chef de cuisine Michael Kempf creates elegantly light fare from fresh, local products. In the international cuisine - with hints of the Orient - the dishes change by the season, such as codfish fillet or Asian duck breast. Open from 11:00, kitchen closes 23:30. €€€€. 

Refugium F-3, Gendarmenmarkt 5, Mitte, Mi-S/U Unter den Linden, tel. +49 30 21 74 74 01, www.refugium-de.de. Once a refuge for Huguenots fleeing to Germany, this elegant Baroque eatery beside the French Church is indeed an excellent spot to escape the city. The international cuisine - with hints of the Orient - the dishes change by the season, such as codfish fillet or Asian duck breast. Open from 11:00, kitchen closes 23:30. €€€€. 

VAU F-3, Jägerstraße 54/55, Mitte, Mi-S/U Französische Straße, tel. +49 30 202 97 30, www.vauberlin.de. It’s easy to spell and rhymes with wow, and the latter is the word-of-mouth that has kept chef Kolja Kleeberg’s restaurant fully booked for years. Using many products from the Berlin area, Michelin-starred Kleeberg, follows his mentor Josef Viehlauser’s rule: never more than three products on a plate. Open 12:00 - 14:30; 19:00-22:30. Closed Sun. Open 12:00 - 14:30; 19:00 - 22:30, Sun closed. €€€€. 

Alpenstueck F-2, Gartenstraße 9, Mitte, Mi-S Nordbahnhof, tel. +49 30 21 75 16 46, www.alpenstueck-de.de. Wiener Schnitzel with Schwabian potato salad, Maultaschen with Bavarian cream: Maultaschen with Bavarian creme are just a few of the dishes available at Alpenstueck, a designer restaurant with a traditional twist. The chef prepares southern German and Austrian home cooking with fresh ingredients, changing the menu every three days. A feast for the eyes and the palate. Open 18:00 - 01:00. €€€€. 

Mutter Hoppe G-3, Rathausstraße 21, Mitte, Mi-S/U Alexanderplatz, tel. +49 30 241 56 25, www.mutterhoeppe.de. Head down the winding staircase into this restaurant in the Nikolai quarter. You’ll smell the aroma of sausages from far away, and the bar staff can shake up a great cocktail. You’ll find the space divided into cosy, low-ceilinged nooks with staircases and old furnishings originating from a famous Viennese café that retracts. Leave the pork to the Germans, the beef dishes here are the best in Germany in 2003. Open 11:00-13:30; 19:00-23:00. €€€. 

Back to school at Die Schule

The Die Schule restaurant in the Prenzlauer Berg district is not just a pizzeria. German cuisine is the watering hole for adult students from all around the world who are learning German at the GLS language school, in the same complex. They’re greatly helped by the location of the school in a vibrant neighbourhood with plenty of bars, restaurants and quirky boutiques.


We offer fresh regional German cuisine!

Große Hamburger Straße 37 10115 Berlin
Tel.: 0049(0) 30 283 40 65
Fax: 0049(0) 30 285 99 860
E-mail: info@sophieneck-berlin.de www.sophieneck-berlin.de

Schwarzwaldstuben F-3, Tucholskystraße 48, Mitte, Mi-U Cranienburger Straße, tel. +49 30 28 90 80 84, www.schwarzwaldstuben-berlin.de. Serves cold dishes until 03:00. €€€. 

Restauration 1840 G-3, Am Zwirngraben 8-10, Mi-S/Nordbahnhof, tel. +49 30 21 75 16 46, www.restauration1840.de. Rich cuisine by Chef Michael Hoffmann at this Michelin-starred restaurant, which uses only the best ingredients for a daily menu that is chosen by quality of supplies. Fish are only live-caught, mostly in the Atlantic and in Brandenburg. Save room for the French cheese plate. A good way to sample the cuisine is the four- or seven course dinner. Open 19:00-22:30. Closed Mon. €€€€. 

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February - March 2013

MITTE
Food with a view

Zionskirchplatz, Aapka offers healthy vegetarian, curry and grill dishes. You can drop by for the lunch menu and Sunday launch the young Prenzl Berg crowd for a relaxed brunch - or drop by later for cocktails. Open 1200 - 0100, Sun 1100 - 0100. €€

International

Dressler F-3, Unter den Linden 39, Mitte, M/S Alexanderplatz, tel. +49 30 204 44 22, www.restaurant-dressler.de. The 1520s Berlin town house on the boulevard between Brandenburger Tor and the Komische Oper. There's an Art Deco wooden paneling, large mirrors, and good bistro and proper restaurant meals served in a very relaxed atmosphere. Also in Charlottenburg at Kurzdamm 207. Open 0800 - 0100. €€

Cocosolo G-2, Gipsstraße 3-4, Mitte, M/S Friedrichstraße, tel. +49 30 28 59 90 46, www.cocosolo-berlin.de. Strolling along the Spree or after a show at the beloved Berliner Ensemble, stop off at Cocosolos's historical rooms for Alaskan Flammluken, French choucroute and beers, oysters, wines and the menu du soir. The terrace has a view of the Spree and the trains pulling into Friedrichstrasse station. Open 1200 - 2400, Kitchen from 1200 until 2400. €€

Nala’s am Weinberg G-2, Veteranenstrasse 9, Mitte, M/U Rosenthaler Platz, tel. +49 30 44 04 07 66, www.nalasaamweinberg.de. This hip restaurant overlooks a spa park. The predominantly Swiss menu lends itself to the terrace, which is perfect for pretending to be in the mountain area of St. Moritz. Breakfast is served until 1100 and you can order meals until midnight. Open 1000 - 0100. €€

Oranienburger Straße 33-34, Mitte, M/U Rosenthaler Platz, tel. +49 30 30 88 29 67, www.oranienburger-strasse.de. Just down the street from the Neue Synagoge, Oranienburger Straße is a pleasant emporium of coffee and light snacks, and tinynaped with dark wood, a long bar and pretty lights. There are great breakfasts (served until 1600), lunches and good-value dinner options. The menu is as international as it can get; for something special try the chicken with strawberry/chili sauce. Wash it all down with a cocktail or two. Open 0900 - 0100, Fri, Sat 0900 - 0300. €€

Reinhard’s G-3, Poststraße 28, Mitte, M/U Klotzestraße, tel. +49 30 27 99 93 93, www.reinhardsch.de. Reinhard’s friendly staff will whisk your table in no time, or if you’re here for the food, one of the light meals. The large restaurant is situated in the Nolliareale, and is well positioned for a break during a city walk. Open 0900 - 2400. €€

Traube F-2, Reinhardtstraße 33, Mitte, M/S Friedrichstraße, tel. +49 30 27 87 93 93, www.taupe-berlin.de. In an elegant building from 1840, The Grape serves smoking cuisine together with an exceptional range of wines. Dishes are often Alpine-inspired: cross-over food from southern Germany, Alsace, Switzerland and Austria. Guests can choose from a la carte dishes or compose their own menus, with or without wines. The two-course set lunch menu is great value. Open 1200 - 1500, 1800 - 2300, Sat 1800 - 2300, Closed Sun. €€

Sophieneck G-2, Auguststrasse 36, Mitte, M/U Rosenthaler Platz, tel. +49 30 28 91 23, www.alcontadino.com. Be sure to book ahead at ‘the farmer beneath the stars’ as this Italian restaurant is often full. The good pastas, excellent lamb dishes and sweet desserts are all worth a try. Their new Mozzarella Bar nearby at Auguststrasse 34 has small appetisers to eat in or take away, and is also a deel with mozzarella and other Italian specialities. Open 1800 - 2400. €€

Japanese

CocoSolo G-2, Gipsstrasse 3, Mitte, M/U Weinmeisterstelle, tel. +49 30 17 23 04 75 84. A completely authentic and great-value Japanese ramen noodle soup restaurant, complete with an efficiency of smoking clouds of fragrant steam, cramped conditions on shared benches and a line of waiting guests. Start off with a bowl of salty green beans, choose from five delicious broths, have an Asahi beer and remember to slurp. Open 1200 - 2400. €€

Sushi Circle F-3, Französische Straße 48, Mitte, M/U Französische Straße, tel. +49 30 20 38 79 60, www.sushicircle.de. This sushi bar caters less to the guests of the upscale hotels in the area and more to shoppers and office workers on the go. If you’re not quick enough to grab the pieces passing by on the bar’s conveyor belt, be patient and it will circle around again. If not, ask the sushi chef stuck in the meat娇的 to toss one for you. Open 1200 - 2300, Sun 1800 - 2300. €€

Moroccan

Kasbah G-2, Gipsstrasse 2, Mitte, M/U Rosenthaler Platz, tel. +49 30 27 35 43 63, www.kasbah-berlin.de. The lighting throws mysterious Oriental patterns of the modern walls of this fabulous little eatery. It offers a couple of specialties, including courous dishes and kofte (spicy meatballs) and homemade bread as well as tasty Moroccan teas and wines. The friendly staff will wash your hands in rosewater and give you a bowl of olives. The clubby music played here and the cocktails on the menu make it attractive to linger after dinner. Open 1800 - 2400. Closed Mon. €€

Turkish

Hasir G-3, Oranienburger Straße 4, Mitte, M/U Weinmeisterstelle, tel. +49 30 28 04 16 16, www.hasir.de. Don’t let the Grand Bazaar-style hawker at courtyard entrance put you off: the red marble entrance way leads not to apple tea and a pile of carpets but to Europe’s best Turkish kebabs for cuisine and service. The most upscale restaurant of this Berlin chain prepares its many lamb dishes either over a wood coal grill or within a stone oven. Open 1110 - 0030. Also at Alt-Berlinerstrasse 10 in Kreuzberg, and Maasenstraße 10 in Schöneberg. €€

Cafés

Barcomi’s Dell F-5, Sophienstraße 21, Mitte, M/U Mecklenburger Markt, tel. +49 30 74 68 74 56, www.barcomis.de. Barcomi’s is well known for its house-roasted coffee and luxuriant American hand-made baked goods. In the one-street area there are several cafes, a cheese shop, a lemon merigue cake, devil’s cake, pecan pie and other heavenly creations. Bagels can be eaten with Phily cream cheese spreads, and at the Mitte outlet there’s a salad, sandwich, quiches, soups, coffee and wine. Kaffeehaus/er/etore (Bergmannstraße 21) has coffee fresh from the roaster in the window. Open 0900 - 2100, Sun 1000 - 2100. €€

Sankt Oberholz G-2, Rosenthaler Straße 72a, Mitte, M/U Rosenthaler Platz, tel. +49 30 24 08 58 86, www.sanktobeholz.de. A two-floor café overlooking the busy street crossing. Something of a public workspace for IT entrepreneurs from the surrounding Silicon Alley internet startups, it’s the ideal place to crack open a Mac and get some work done using the free wifi and electricity plugs. Or just enjoy the closing coffee cups, muffins and New York cheesecake. Open 0800 - 2400, Fri 0800 - 0300, Sat 0900 - 0400. €€

Sophieneck G-2/3, Große Hamburger Straße 37, Mitte, M/U Weinmeisterstelle, tel. +49 30 283 40 65, www.sophieneck-berlin.de. A favourite of locals and tourists alike, Sophieneck is one of the most charming cafés in Mitte. Located near Hackescher Markt since the revamp of the district in 1984, it has resisted trendification, staying true to its warm mishmash décor of art nouveau and poster art. The menu offers delicious Central European fare, accompanied by an international wine list. Open 1200 - 0200.

Startbucks F-3, Pariser Platz 4a, Mitte, M/U Brandenburg Tor, tel. +49 30 27 89 02 30, www.startbucks.de. Tourists love this convenient American coffee chain outlet on the prestigious square in front of Brandenburg Gate. Summertime adds fruity tea concoctions to the menu board. Open 0900 - 2330, Sat 0930 - 2400, Sun 0930 - 2230. Also at Friedrichstraße 61 and 96, Rosenthalerstraße 40, Checkpoint Charlie and elsewhere. €€

Nightlife

Bars

Auffor 3.1. F-3, Oranierburger Straße 67, Mitte, M/U Brandenburg Tor, tel. +49 30 28 04 74 07, www.auffor.de. The great 19th-century explorer Alexander von Humboldt lived in this building, but nowadays the only expeditions done here are through the long drinks menu, listing dozens of excellent Belgian, German and other beers. Have a Kwek beer to really kick off your night. Prices are reasonable and the place looks good, with changing modern art exhibitions on the walls. Our favourite Oranierburger Straße haunt. Open from 1200. €€

Zum Nussbaum G-3, Am Nussbaum 3, Mitte, M/U Rosenthaler Platz, tel. +49 30 24 08 55 86, www.zumnussbaum.de. What seems a charming old German restaurant is in fact a charming new German restaurant. The legendary Under the Nut Tree Inn used to stand in a street on the island 200m to the southwest. When the war-ravaged area was rebuilt in the 1980s, the inn was reconstructed here. Most patrons don’t care for authenticity, and tick in the well-priced Berlin specialties with curious translations, such as brown rolls with dripping. Open from 1200. €€

Indian

Aapka G-2, Kastanienallee 50, Prenzlauer Berg, M/U Rosenthaler Platz, tel. +49 30 44 01 04 94, www.aapka.de. Located on a pretty street corner near Zionskirchplatz, Aapka offers healthy vegetarian, curry and grill dishes. You can drop by for the lunch menu and on Sunday launch the young Prenzl Berg crowd for a relaxed brunch - or drop by later for cocktails. Open 1200 - 0100, Sun 1100 - 0100. €€

Berlin In Your Pocket

berlin.inyourpocket.com

February - March 2013
Kaffee Burger, well known through Vladimír Kaminer’s Russian Disco, offers events, concerts and DJs late into the night. 7 days a week.

Kaffee Burger | Torstraße 58-60, 10119 Berlin
www.kaffeeburger.de

### Clubs

**Kaffee Burger G-2, Torstraße 60, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Luxemburgplatz, tel. +49 30 28 64 64 95**, www.kaffeberger.de. The patterned wallpaper and wood panelling has withstood decades of the alternative scene’s smoke and its stuck-in-the-Socialist-Sixties look is perfect for DJ/author Vladimír Kaminer’s wild and sweaty Russendisko nights. Happenings like poetry slams and jams start evenings that end with DJs spinning anything from Balkan and surf rock to samba. 

*Open from 21:00.

**Roter Salon G-2, Volksbühne, Rosa-Luxemburgplatz 2, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Luxemburgplatz, tel. +49 30 28 64 64 95**, www.kaffeberger.de. This place probably began with a faded elegance, but let’s say it’s just settled in after ten years of clubbers bouncing off its red walls. Most nights feature electro pop, electro lounge, and electroclash - the music Berlin is known for. 
*Open 22:00 - 04:00. Closed Tue, Sun.

**Soda Club**

**Posh E-4, Vossstraße 4, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Luxemburgplatz, tel. +49 30 20 52 29 90 00, www.posh-bar.de. A small, rather desolate-looking Austrian bar, lost in a corner of Potsdamer Platz. The only thing Oz about it are the Australian wines and beer; otherwise it’s a cocktail bar (120 kinds) in disguise. Happy Hour 17:00-21:00. *Open 17:00 - 02:00.

**Reingold F-2, Novalisstraße 11, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Luxemburgplatz, tel. +49 30 28 38 76 76, www.reingold.de. A lounge glowering in parquet tones recalls the thirties with an oversized drawing of Thomas Mann’s fortnight offspring, Klaus and Ericha, and leather and velvet seating. Though it often has a DJ, no one dances here. It’s a setting for making stationary moves on your date, or your taps. *Open from 19:00, Closed Mon, Sun.

**Strandbar Mitte F-3, Monbijoustraße 3, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Luxemburgplatz, tel. +49 30 28 38 68 77, www.strandbar-mitte.de. A lovely open air beach bar (with no sand) beside the Spree. Grab a deckchair or a bench by a table and slump down some nicely priced cocktails. It’s a great spot to chill out after overdosing on the collections on Museum Island, just across the bridge. There’s dancing by the riverside most nights too; try out some salsa, tango an swing dance moves here. *Open from 10:00.

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**Belushi’s Bar G-2, Rosa Luxemburgstraße 39-41, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Luxemburgplatz, tel. +49 30 81 45 39 60, www.belushis.com/bars/berlin. Belushi’s is a home away from home for lovers of sports fans, beers. It’s a connoisseurs of delicious home-made burgers. Based on the American sports bar, this friendly chain pub especially caters for English speakers and anyone who can’t bear to miss a crucial match. *Open 10:00 - 02:00. €.

**Billy Wilder’s E-4, Potsdamer Straße 2, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Luxemburgplatz, tel. +49 30 26 55 48 60, www.billywilder.de. Low-backed booths and a oval bar make this the idea spot for people-watching, though you’ll mostly be watching other tourists and businesspeople. On the walls are scenes from Wilder’s films, such as One-Two-Three-Three (shot on location as the Wall went up), which starred Jimmy Cagney, and Horst Buchholz from Prenzlauer Berg. Sandwiches, salads and drinks are served lightning fast: waiters zap your order to the bar with hand-held computers. *Open daily from 09:00.

**Eschschloraque Rümschrump G-3, Rosenthaler Straße 39, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Luxemburgplatz, www.eschschloraque.de. An island of insanity in the middle of overpriced Hackescher Markt pomp: this veritable den of delights and monsters can be found hidden at the dark end of a griffithed courtyard. There are disturbing metal beasts stucking from the crumbling walls, affordable beers and cocktails, a stage, plenty of smoke, and a wonderful set of characters intent on having a good night out. In summer, the outdoor cinema in the back-yard projects foreign films in original version. *Open from 14:00.

**Harry’s New York Bar D-4, Lützowerufer 15 (Grand Hotel Palace), Tiergarten, **Müller Nollendorfplatz, tel. +49 30 25 47 80, www.esplanade.de. Known for its drink menu consisting of nearly 200 choices, at Harry’s you step back in time to a when the key elements for unforgettable nights were present - life-size shots of nude Amazons and their dates sip expertly made cocktails. Dress sharp to compliment all the black panelling has withstood decades of the alternative scene’s smoke and its stuck-in-the-Socialist-Sixties look is perfect for DJ/author Vladimír Kaminer’s wild and sweaty Russendisko nights. Happenings like poetry slams and jams start evenings that end with DJs spinning anything from Balkan and surf rock to samba. 

*Open 20:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Sun.

**Kumpelnest 3000 E-4, Lützowstraße 23, Tiergarten, **Müller Nollendorfplatz, tel. +49 30 26 21 69 18, www.kumpelnest3000.com. Stragglers of all sexual orientations head here for a nightcap or one last drunken spin on the tiny metal dance floor. The velvet paintings and carpeted walls remains lily white during the day, when Mediterranean lunches are served at the low-lying couches or at the bar. *Open 18:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 16:00 - 01:00, Thu, Sun 12:00 - 03:00. €€€.

**Mein Haus am See G-2, Brunnenstraße 197, Mitte**, **Müller Rosenthaler Platz, tel. +49 30 27 63 86 73, www.mein-haus-am-see.blogspot.com. It’s all about seeing and being seen at some Mitte bars; the ‘My Lake House’ makes it very easy with its large slope of seating steps overlooking a landscape of granite furniture lit up by discoball sparklers and all draped with rattering locals and backpackers from adjacent hostels. Open 24/7, it’s a cafe, bar and restaurant all at the same time. On the menu are drinks, exotic coffee varieties and chill hot choc, as well as great breakfasts (till 09:00). €.

**Newton Bar F-3, Charlottenstraße 57, Mitte**, **Kaffee-Französische Straße, tel. +49 30 20 29 54 21, www.newton-bar.de. Men smoke cebars beneath Helmut Newton’s life-size-shots of nude Amazonas and their dates sip expertly made cocktails. Dress sharp to compliment all the black leather and dark green marble. *Open 10:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 04:00.

**Soda Club**
Cold War Berlin

The physical division of Berlin during 28 years, and the development of two completely separated cities on both sides of the Wall that ran between them, has led to huge differences that cannot be erased in a matter of a few years. Key sights relating to this era are the Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer in Prenzlauer Berg, Checkpoint Charlie in Mitte with the Haus am Checkpoint Charlie Wall museum, BlackBox Cold War, Wall Panorama and Stasi exhibition, and the Tränenpalast, the former border crossing beside Frederick's Cathedral. Get insights into daily GDR life at the DDR Museum in Mitte and the Museumswohnung WBS 70 out in the suburbs.

Week-End Club
G-3, Alexanderplatz 5, Mitte, Mitte, www.week-end-berlin.de. A club, bar, gallery and lounge set on the 21st floor of the beautiful, hidden Haus des Reisens (the GDR state travel agency specializing in saying ‘no’) on the corner of Otto-Braun-Straße. Open Thu Sat 23:00-04:00.

Pubs
Kilkenny Irish Pub G-3, Am Zwirngraben 17-20, Mitte, www.kilkenny-pub.de. The three large rooms whitting the Hackescher Markt S-Bahn station offer more than enough space for natives and tourists alike to eat homemade food, meet and mingle, party and follow live sports events. Large TVs and screens make sure that you won’t miss a single goal. Irish and German beers and other cold beverages flow freely. Open Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun 12:00 - 01:00, Fri Sat 12:00 - 03:00. 

Oscar Wilde F-2, Friedrichstraße 112a, Mitte, Oranienburger Tor, tel. +49 30 282 81 66, www.oscar-wilde-irish-pub.de. A brass, large Irish pub that fills up with expats and visitors whenever there’s a football rolling over some foreign field. Its big screen shows Sky Sports, Premiership, Champions League and mixture of international sport, while the kitchen churns out Irish food, including all-day breakfast, and a menu that changes every day. Every Friday and Saturday there’s live music, and a menu that changes every day. Every Friday and Saturday there’s live music.

Sightseeing

Landmarks

Brandenburg Tor F-3, Pariser Platz, Mitte, Mitte, www.brandenburgertor.de. Berlin’s landmark monument is one of 14 city gates completed in 1702 by Carl Langhans. Nike, the goddess of victory, drives the four-horsepower chariot atop the gate. German armies used to begin their military regiments were stationed here.

Neue Synagoge F-3, Oranienburger Straße 28-30, Mitte, www.brandenburger-berlin.de. The New Synagogue (dating to the early 1870s), the Konzerthaus (from 1818, by Carl Langhans) and a row of luxury hotels make up this classic square. The name stems from a mid-1700s when military regiments were stationed here.

Nikolaiviertel G-3, Nikolaikirchplatz, Mitte, www.klosterstrasse.de. Once a medieval heart is the Nikolai Quarter, whose only truly medieval-looking building today is the Nikolaikirche. The church dates to 1230 and was rebuilt along with the entire quarter in the 1890s to mark Berlin's 750th birthday in the area in which the fishermen’s settlement first began. No one was trying to outdo Walt Disney, and more than the chilly concrete facades that the GDR government could afford. The small shops in the area mostly deal in toys and souvenirs and tourists glug down pricey cocktails to see the old buildings from the river. On Rathausstraβe, there’s a row of restaurants that flaut the old-fashioned Berlin cuisine and atmosphere. Other reborn WWII buildings are the Eden-City and the concrete facade of the Nikolaikirche.

Third Reich Berlin

Wilhelmstrasse, the centre of government in Prussia, continued to be so under Nazi rule. Between Unter der Linden and today’s Niederkircherstrasse, the only non-Reich structure in 1936 was the British Embassy, which still holds its ground today in a modern building. The sole remaining example of fascist architecture is the former Reichsluftfahrtministerium (Air Force Ministry) built in 1939 by Ernst Sagnitz. Get the best views of that once stucco faced tower from the dome of the Reichstag. More windows and a mushroom-shaped roof make the building in advance online; otherwise queue up for remaining places at the visitor centre just across the road. Photo ID is required. Open 08:00 - 23:00. Prebooked rooftop access every 15 minutes. Guided tours at 09:30, 12:00, 13:30, 15:30, 17:00, 18:30, 20:00. Admission €7/4.

Deutscher Dom F-3, Gendarmenmarkt 1, Mitte, www.deutscher-dom.de. The northernmost domed tower in the Gendarmenmarkt’s grand architectural triptych dates back to 1789, and similarly to its counterpart was badly damaged in the war. It now has regular concerts in the small baroque Friedrichstadtikirche church to the rear. From the other side for the Hugenottenkirche (German and French only), dedicated to the thousands of French protestants who moved to Berlin in the 17th century. Yet another entrance leads to the viewing balcony at 40 metres above street level, with great views all around. Open 12:00-17:00, viewing balcony 10:00-19:00, closed Mon. Admission €2/1, viewing balcony €2.50/1.

with its huge atrium and tent-like roof, best viewed at night for its impressive lighting. The neighbouring Daimler Chrysler complex holds architecture by Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers, and the Arkaden shopping mall.

Reichstag F-3, Platz der Republik 1, Tiergarten, www.deutschestag.de/ticket/visits. The name together with its monumental size make most people associate Germany’s neoclassical parliamentary building with the Nazis, but they have little history here. After hosting parliamentary sessions since 1894, it was set on fire just one month after Hitler was appointed chancellor in January 1933. It was a conference centre in the years during which it abutted the Berlin census 1934, the ‘Kristallnacht’ Kristallnacht) was captured in January 1933. It was a conference centre in the years during which it abutted the Berlin census 1934, the ‘Kristallnacht’ Kristallnacht) was captured in 1945. It was used as parliament again after a reunited German government returned to Berlin in 1990. Renovated by Norman Foster, this building is perhaps the most public federal building in the world through its glass dome. On the rooftop, there’s a row of restaurants that flaut the old-fashioned Berlin cuisine and atmosphere. Other reborn WWII buildings are the Eden-City and the concrete facade of the Nikolaikirche.

Churhers

Berlin Dom G-3, Am Lustgarten, Mitte, www.architekturarchiv.berlin.de. The cathedral dating from 1905 might not look as massive if the State Denkmalsamt had been standing across Unter den Linden and today’s Niederkirchnerstraße, the only non- Reich structure in 1936 was the British Embassy, which still holds its ground today in a modern building. The sole remaining example of fascist architecture is the former Reichsluftfahrtministerium (Air Force Ministry) built in 1939 by Ernst Sagnitz. Get the best views of that once stucco faced tower from the dome of the Reichstag. More windows and a mushroom-shaped roof make the building in advance online; otherwise queue up for remaining places at the visitor centre just across the road. Photo ID is required. Open 08:00 - 23:00. Prebooked rooftop access every 15 minutes. Guided tours at 09:30, 12:00, 13:30, 15:30, 17:00, 18:30, 20:00. Admission €7/4.

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Memorials

Fuhrerbunker F-3, In den Mindestädten, Mitte, M/5/U Potsdamer Platz. No educational historic plaques mark the site of Hitler’s bunker. For 10 minutes, for the last month of his life, Hitler lived roughly eight meters below ground in an air-raid shelter topped by a four-metre-thick, reinforced concrete ceiling. The unremarkable spot can be reached by walking to the end of In den Mindestädten, Oberestraße. A parking area surrounding a pre-fabricated apartment block, which was entirely sealed off during the complex’s construction in 1988-89. The bunker was once accessed through the Festsaal (ballroom) behind the Reichskanzler-Palais on Wilhelmstraße.

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe F-3, Cora-Berliner-Straße 1, Mitte, M/5/U Brandenburg Tor, tel. +49 30 20 24 32 34, www.stift-berlin.de. This bluntly named memorial avoids any vagueness surrounding the term Holocaust. Six million Jews are estimated to have been killed by the Nazis and this site serves as Germany’s national memorial to those victims. The design by American architect Peter Eisenmann is a field of 2,700 concrete stelae, or pillars, of varying height, set on an undulating landscape that fills two city blocks. The memorial has an underground information centre which is not suitable for children. ➥ Information centre open 10:00-20:00, Oct-Mar 10:00-19:00. Closed Mon, Admission free.

Newe Wache F-3, Unter den Linden 4, Mitte, M/5/U Friedrichstraße. Germany’s national war memorial is housed in the former royal guard house of the Prussians. The neoclassic building from 1819 was the first commission the young Karl Friedrich Schinkel received in Berlin. The sole architect of Prussian war chest in this early 18th-century building sitting on Lenin-Russia-Road, wires and a watchtower. Just up the street, the Chapel of the Resurrection in Potsdamer Platz.

Museums

Dali - The Exhibition at Potsdamer Platz F-4, Leipziger Platz 7, Mitte, M/5/U Potsdamer Platz, tel. +49 30 20 24 32 34, www.stift-berlin.de. The Spanish master of surreal, Salvador Dali, left a rich heritage of amazing artworks when he went to molten-watch land himself. Over 450 exhibits are on show here, especially a whole dazzling extension designed by architect I.M. Pei. ➥ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Admission €8/4. Free for visitors under 18.

Deutsches Historisches Museum F-3, Unter den Linden 2, Mitte, M/5/U Hackescher Markt, tel. +49 30 20 24 32 34, www.dhm.de. Who’d have thought to look for an Infrachet on October 1961, and there are videos of a lady working in the Internship duty free kiosk and a gum border guard, indicating that the Wall (and his job) didn’t last 10 years as promised. ➥ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Admission free.

Wall Panorama F-4, Friedrichstraße 205, Mitte, tel. +49 30 695 80 86 12, www.asisi.de. The tall round structure makes it possible to see the world’s largest panorama painted in Germany. In 1980-83, it was housed in the former arsenal houses the Berliner museum, has 72 rooms full of works spanning the 13th to 18th centuries. German masters include Dürer, Cranach the Elder, and Holbein. The Italian works of Botticelli, Titian, Raphael and others are from the 15th and 16th centuries. The Rembrandt collection, one of the world’s largest, has 16 works. ➥ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 22:00, Closed Mon, Admission €6.4/3.50.

Neue Nationalgalerie E-4, Potsdamer Straße 50, Tiergarten, M/5/U Potsdamer Platz, tel. +49 30 26 42 42 42, www.museumberlin.de. Berlin’s largest, most modern art museum is situated in a converted train station. It’s well worth a visit by those curious about the expressiveness of a sculpture made of animal tallow (Joseph Beuys) or urban dwellers fixated by bars of neon lighting (Dan Flavin). Andy Warhol and Jasper Johns are the stars here, with the exhibition of his post-1960 collection. ➥ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 20:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission €12/6.

Hamburger Bahnhof E-2, Invalidenstraße 50-51, Mitte, M/5/U Hauptbahnhof, tel. +49 30 26 42 42 42, www.hamburgerbahnhof.de. Berlin’s wonderful modern art museum is situated in a converted train station. It’s well worth a visit by those curious about the expressiveness of a sculpture made of animal tallow (Joseph Beuys) or urban dwellers fixated by bars of neon lighting (Dan Flavin). Andy Warhol and Jasper Johns are the stars here, with the exhibition of his post-1960 collection. ➥ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 20:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission €12/6.

Haus am Checkpoint Charlie (Wall Museum) F-4, Friedmannstraße 45, Kreuzberg, tel. +49 30 251 20 75, www.mauerundmuseum.de, A homegrown Great Escape museum of false trunks, tunnels, videos, even a submarine, and stills of tunnel-diggig at dissect to necessity and desire being the mother of invention. Visit this museum for dramatic stories of separated lovers, freedom-seeking families, and up-front senior citizens in the GDR who breached the Wall. The museum also has art interpreting the concrete division of the city, an exhibit on human rights movements. ➥ Open 09:00 - 22:00. Admission €12,50/9,50.

Markisches Museum (City Museum) G-3, Am Kölnerischen Park 5, Mitte, M/5/U Märkisches Museum, tel. +49 30 26 42 42 42, www.museumberlin.de. The tall round structure makes it possible to see the world’s largest panorama painted in Germany. In 1980-83, it was housed in the former arsenal houses the Berliner museum, has 72 rooms full of works spanning the 13th to 18th centuries. German masters include Dürer, Cranach the Elder, and Holbein. The Italian works of Botticelli, Titian, Raphael and others are from the 15th and 16th centuries. The Rembrandt collection, one of the world’s largest, has 16 works. ➥ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 11:00 - 20:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission €12/6.

Museum für Kunsthandwerk (Natural History Museum) F-5, Reinhardtstrasse 20, Mitte, M/5/U Friedrichstrasse, tel. +49 30 27 59 40 65, www.smb.museum. Take a showpiece World War II bunker, previously used to store fruit and to house one of Berlin’s earliest clubs; spend five years renovating it, fill the rooms with 80 wonderful, controversial modern art and build a huge penthouse apartment The execution of Christian Boros and his wife, and visitors are welcome to view the collection on excellent English-language tours which need to be booked in advance. The art bunker reopens with a new exhibition on 17 September 2012. ➥ Open 16:00 - 20:00, Fri 14:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. Admission €10.

Tränenpalast F-3, Reichstagstrasse 17, Mitte, M/5/U Friedrichstrasse, tel. +49 30 467 77 79 11, www.hdq.de/berlin. The Border Experiences exhibition highlights the everyday reality of the border running through Berlin. The glass pavilion beside Friedrichstraße station was the main crossing point between West and East Berlin between the 1960s and 1990s. Trains from West Berlin arrived here, separate from the East German platform, and arrrives were checked, searched, registerd and removed. Visitors can exchange 25 marks. Those visiting family and friends in the East may never see them again, hence the name Palace of Tears. Sutcases of memories tell the stories of GDR emigrants, escapees and returnees; maps show the planning of the implementation of the Wall, photos recall the political transition, and for those who missed the Infrachet in 2001, a film shows reenactment of the event on the 12th anniversary of the fall of the Wall, 1990. ➥ Open 10:00 - 20:00. Admission €10/8,50.

Terrain of the Implementation of the Wall and surroundings, as it looked in the 1980s. The artist Yadegar Asisi, known for his Pergamon panorama, has captured the everyday banality of the Wall with fascinating small scenes of life going on both sides. ➥ Open 10:00 - 20:00. Admission €10/8,50.

Viewpoints

Ferneuturm (TV tower) G-3, Panoramastraße 1a, Mitte, M/5/U Alexanderplatz, www.tv-turm.de. The skewed disc ball on the tower peering over rooftops certainly brings a level of humour to Berlin’s skyline. The 368 metre television broadcast tower, completed in 1969, 70m higher than the Eiffel tower and the tallest building in Germany, has an observation deck and the Sphere restaurant with a rotating floor. Photos point out the landmarks for you. ➥ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Admission €12/7,50.

Hi-Flyer Ballon F-4, Wilhelmstraße, corner Zimmerstraße, Mitte, M/5/U Kochstraße, tel. +49 30 226 67 98 02, www.air-service-berlin.de. By taking off over Potsdamer Platz, you can enjoy excellent views floating 150 metres above central Berlin. The balloon is tethered to the ground with a steel cable, ensuring you land on the same spot 15 minutes later. On very windy days call ahead to check it’s in service. No advance bookings; departs every 15 minutes. ➥ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Nov-Mar 11:00-18:00. Tickets €19/13.

Attractions

Berlin Dungeon G-2, Spandauer Straße 2, Mitte, M/5/U Hackescher Markt, tel. +49 1805 25 55 44, www.theodungeons.com/berlin. The brand Dungeon is essentially a 68-room, 16th century themed family fun activity. The brand combines theatrical, searing and sometimes eerie, to tell stories, from the plague in Klosterstrasse and about the fearsome torture chamber. Book online in advance for discounts up to 50%, and to skip the queue. ➥ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Admission €19/15. Children under 10 not allowed.
Museumsinsel

The cluster of majestic nineteenth century neoclassical buildings on the tip of the island in the Spree offers the avid or the temperate museum-goer a number of impressive collections of art, history and ethnology, covering many facets of Berlin's diverse cultural life, as well as their cross-overs into modernity.

Alte Nationalgalerie G-3, Bodestrasse 1-3, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 20 66 42 42, www.smb.museum. The neoclassical building by Prussia’s star architect Schinkel was custom-made in 1830 for the art collection of the royal Hohenzollerns. Classical antiquities were the focus, and today the museum uses pottery and sculptures to take you on a well-presented tour through ancient Etruscan, Greek and Roman history. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 22:00. Admission €6/4.

Altes Museum G-3, Am Lustgarten, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 20 66 42 42, www.smb.museum. This neoclassical building by Bode is the jewel in the crown of the Museumsinsel. The temple-like structure itself was built in 1876, and is surrounded by a beautifully battered colonnade. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon. Admission €6/4.

Bode-Museum G-3, Am Kupfergraben 1, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 20 66 42 42, www.smb.museum. This neoclassical building by Prussia’s star architect Schinkel was custom-made in 1830 for the art collection of the royal Hohenzollerns. Classical antiquities were the focus, and today the museum uses pottery and sculptures to take you on a well-presented tour through ancient Etruscan, Greek and Roman history. Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 22:00. Admission €6/4.

Neues Museum G-3, Bodestrasse 1-3, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 20 66 42 42, www.smb.museum. Built in 1855, damaged in the war and only restored in 2009, the ‘New Museum’ is now again and is full of ancient art. The excellent Egyptian Museum and Ptolemaic and Roman Collection are housed here, with spectacular finds from ancient Troy and Lycopolis to medieval King Echnaton. The Pre- And Early History collection and Papyrus Collection are housed here, with spectacular and is full of ancient art. The excellent Egyptian Museum only restored in 2009, the ‘New Museum’ is new again outside (€13 extra).

Pergamon Museum G-3, Am Kupfergraben, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 20 66 42 42, www.smb.museum. The Pergamon has the best of Berlin’s classical antiquities; the Greek Pergamon Altar, the market gate of Miletus and the blue-tiled Ishtar Gate (€13 extra). Open 10:00 - 18:00, Thu 10:00 - 22:00. Admission €6/4.

Legoland Discovery Centre E-4, Potsdamer Platz 1, Tiergarten, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 301 04 00, www.legolanddiscoverycentre.de. The fun indoor Lego theme park below the Sony Center on Potsdamer Platz can entertain children for up to 1,5 hours, you could book a €23 ticket that allows you to visit the Lego exhibition, and if you want to play with Lego bricks, you could buy a Lego brick bag for €23. Open 10:00 - 20:00, from 28 Oct daily 10:00-18:00. Admission €5/4,50.

Sea Life G-3, Spandauer Straße 3, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 1805 66 98 01, www.sealife.de. This marine aquarium complex start local with the Spree River and proceed to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. The grand finale is a five-minute glass elevator trip through a massive 14 metre high aquarium tank, which offers you a view of some of the largest fish in the world. Tickets booked online are cheaper and some allow you to skip the queue. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Admission €17/10/12,50.

Shopping

Books

Berlin Story F-3, Unter den Linden 40, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 20 45 38 42, www.buchbinder-buchhandel.de/buchhandlung-bredt. Famous Madame Tussauds exhibition has wax lookalike statues of up to 1,5 hours, you could book a €23 ticket that allows you to visit the Madame Tussauds exhibition, and if you want to play with Lego bricks, you could buy a Lego brick bag for €23. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Admission €17/10/12,50.

Department stores

Alexa Centre G-3, Grunstrasse 20 (Alexanderplatz), Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 26 39 40, www.alexcentrum.de. The fun indoor Lego theme park below the Sony Center on Potsdamer Platz can entertain children for up to 1,5 hours, you could book a €23 ticket that allows you to visit the Lego exhibition, and if you want to play with Lego bricks, you could buy a Lego brick bag for €23. Open 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Fashion & Shoes

Adidas Originals G-2/3, Münzstraße 13, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 27 59 43 80, www.adidas.de. Adidas Originals in Berlin’s trendiest shopping street has a sleek grey and white industrial look, and stocks the top products of the famed German brand, including retro sneakers and items that can’t be found elsewhere. Take a seat in a barber chair to design your own shoes on the mi adidas screens. The selection of products on offer is changed often, making regular visits worthwhile. Open 11:00 - 20:00, Closed Sun.


Markets

Berliner Töpfermarkt G-3, D-3, Straβe des 17. Juni, Tiergarten, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 26 30 09 06, www.berliner-töpfermarkt.de. Most of the vendors at this antique and craft market are well-organised, making finding that door handle, French glass vase, Turkish kilim, or amber necklace more of a shopping than rummaging experience. Open Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.


Berlin In Your Pocket

berlin.inyourpocket.com

East Berlin Supply Store G-2, Alte Schloßhauer Straβe 33/34, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 24 72 41 89. Put that Prussian eagle on your chest (in cotton, or wrap an East Berlin belt around your waist. You won’t find these T-shirt, bag or jewellery designs anywhere else, and many make cool references to Berlin. Open 12:00 - 20:00, Sat 11:00 - 19:00, Closed Sun.

Onitsuka Tiger G-2, Alte Schloßhauer Straβe 20-22, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 26 30 09 06, www.onitsukatiger.de. A remarkable ambition of high quality materials and exciting design, combining traditional and modern Japan, Onitsuka Tiger presents the full variety of its Japanese shoe and apparel collections. Open 11:00 - 19:30, Sat 11:00 - 19:00, Closed Sun.

Skoda G-2/3, Alte Schloßhauer Straβe 35, Mitte, 10117 Berlin, tel. +49 30 26 30 09 06, www.skoda.de. Claudia Skoda is the German designer who convinces even the thrifty that sometimes a dress is worth €650. Her form-fitting outfits and crazy dresses shimmer with acetate this season. Women with long torsos are especially in luck here. Men can choose from sweaters. Open 12:00 - 20:00, Sat 12:00 - 18:00, Closed Sun.
If “downtown” to you means wide, traffic-filled streets, crowds of shoppers, five-star hotels and tall buildings, then Charlottenburg comes closest to fitting the bill in Berlin. Left as a ruin after the war, the ruined Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche church is the nexus of activity. Between it and Zoologischer Garten station, over a billion euros is being invested in impressive highrises, hotels and offices. Follow what becomes an increasingly silken ribbon down Kurfürstendamm (KuDamm) and the setting becomes more genteel. West Berlin’s young scene nests in the bars and cafésbranching off Savignyplatz, even if the S-Bahn has moved east. Nearby but isolated from the hoi polloi is Schloss Charlottenburg, the residence of King Friedrich I. This chapter also covers other parts of western Berlin: leafy Wilmersdorf and Schöneberg, the centre of gay Berlin since the days of Christopher Isherwood’s Berlin Stories.

Getting there
Charlottenburg’s nerve centre is Zoologischer Bahnhof station, along the main west-east raised city railway. From here it’s a short walk to many hotels and sights, or else hop on the M29 bus, going east along Tauentzienstraße and west down Kurfürstendamm.

Pocket Walk
Explore Charlottenburg from Zoologischer Garten station. Walk east to Breitscheidplatz for the ruins and modern reincarnation of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. Stroll further east down Tauentzienstraße for the KaDeWe department store and other upmarket shops, or head west along Kantstraße to leafy Savignyplatz for calm cafés and refined dining, or southwest down grand old Kurfürstendamm for more shopping. When you’re done, hop on the M45 bus from Zoologischer Bahnhof to visit Prussia’s huge royal residence, Schloss Charlottenburg, and its beautiful gardens.

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Additional symbols for hotels
- Air conditioning
- Credit cards accepted
- Guarded parking
- Conference facilities
- Fitness centre
- Restaurant
- Sauna
- Swimming pool

Dinner price guide
The number of euro symbols in our restaurant, café and nightlife reviews indicates the approximate price level based on a main course with a glass of wine.

€€€€ Expensive; more than €30 per person.
€€€ Not cheap; €20-30 per person.
€€ Middling; from €10-20 per person.
€ Cheap; less than €10 per person.

Hotels

**Over €200**

**Ellington Hotel D-4, Nürnberger Straße 50-55, Charlottenburg, W5 U Wittenbergplatz, tel. +49 30 36 10 00, info@ellington-hotel.com, ellington-hotel.com.** Set in a beautiful 1920s building near Kurfürstendamm and named after the American jazz legend, the hotel’s rooms have clean, understated and elegant design, with the Tower Suites offering great views. The Duke hotel restaurant serves up international cuisine in fabulous surroundings, and has regular jazz brunches.  285 rooms (singles €108-238, doubles €118-248, suites €168-428). [Map](#)

**Hôtel Concorde Berlin C-4, Augsburger Straße 41, Charlottenburg, W5 U Kurfürstendamm, tel. +49 30 90 90 90, concordeberlin@concorde-hotels.com, www.concordehotels.com/concordeberlin.** The hotel’s 11-story Concorde impresses with sleekly designed rooms with fine woods, contemporary art and fantastic views from the upper floors. The curved suites have sliding walls and elegant free-standing bathtubs.  311 rooms (singles €230 - 280, doubles €240 - 300, 44 suites €280 - 950). Breakfast extra.

**InterContinental D-4, Budapester Straße 2, Tiergarten, M5/U Zoologischer Garten, tel. +49 30 260 20, berlin.interconti.com, www.interconti.com.** Near transport options, the Zoo and Tiergarten park, the InterContinental offers quiet nights in modern and spacious rooms and conference facilities with intelligent business solutions. After work, there’s gourmet food at Hugos and live music at the Marlene Bar. Further relaxation options can be found in the large, complex pool, with several saunas and fitness facilities.  558 rooms (498 singles €165 - 350, 498 doubles €170 - 400, 60 suites €215 - 2500). Breakfast extra.

**Kempinski Bristol C-4, Kurfürstendamm 27, Charlottenburg, W5 U Ulandstraße, tel. +49 30 88 43 40, reservations.bristol@kempinski.com, www.kempinski-berlin.de.** The elite Kempinski and Adlon are sister properties, but this is where well-travelled regulars feel more at home - out of the limelight, but still in upmarket locations on a swankier corner of KuDamm.  301 rooms (249 singles €285 - 326, 249 doubles €322 - 447, 52 suites €470 - 1800). Breakfast extra.

**Palace D-4, Budapester Straße 45, Charlottenburg, M5/U Zoologischer Garten, tel. +49 30 260 20, palace-hotel@palace.de, www.palace.de.** Near the Europa Center shopping mall and the zoo, gourmets feast at the First Floor restaurant and guests schmooze in the conference rooms that include Tai-Ping carpets, oak paneling and fireplaces. The staidly furnished rooms are large.  239 rooms (59 singles €205 - 300, 191 doubles €225 - 325, 32 suites €325 - 2150). Breakfast extra.

**Savoy Berlin C-4, Pasanenstraße 9-10, Charlottenburg, M5/U Zoologischer Garten, tel. +49 30 31 10 30, info@savoy.com, www.savoy-berlin.com, info@savoy-berlin.com.** Just un-Berlin, this stylish Cuban-flavoured abode once made Latin-music lover David Byrne a happy guest. Who knows who you’ll trade smoke rings with in the cigar shop near the clubby Times Bar.  125 rooms (45 singles €142 - 222, 62 doubles €152 - 232, triples €192 - 272, 16 suites €202 - 292).

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**Seehof A-4, Lietzensee-Ufer 11, Charlottenburg, W5/U Messe Nord, tel. +49 30 32 00 20, info@hotelseehof.de, www.hotel-seehof.de, www.hotel-seehof.de.** Central between the Trade Fair and Zoologischer Garten, yet overlooking a peaceful lake and park, this is a good base for western Berlin. Decoration varies from classical to glam, and rooms have large four-poster beds.  75 rooms (singles €105 - 250, doubles €125 - 185, 1 suite €215 - 275). Breakfast included.

**Swissôtel Berlin C-4, Augsburger Straße 44, Charlottenburg, W5 U Kurfürstendamm, tel. +49 30 22 01 00, emailus@swissotel.com, www.swissotel-berlin.com.** Every room here has a Lavazza espresso machine and suites are cranking with Bang & Olufsen stereos. When you’re done playing in your room, downtown western Berlin beckons. You’ll never want to go home.  316 rooms (219 singles €160 - 310, 219 doubles €160 - 310, 14 suites €310 - 480, 11 junior suites €360 - 430). Breakfast included.

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**The Duke Berlin Hotel, W5/U Wittenbergplatz, tel. +49 30 36 10 00, info@ellington-hotel.com, ellington-hotel.com.** Set in a beautiful 1920s' building near Kurfürstendamm and named after the American jazz legend, the hotel’s rooms have clean, understated and elegant design, with the Tower Suites offering great views. The Duke hotel restaurant serves up international cuisine in fabulous surroundings, and has regular jazz brunches.  285 rooms (singles €108 - 238, doubles €118 - 248, suites €168 - 428).

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**Swissôtel Berlin C-4, Augsburger Straße 44, Charlottenburg, W5 U Kurfürstendamm, tel. +49 30 22 01 00, emailus@swissotel.com, www.swissotel-berlin.com.** Every room here has a Lavazza espresso machine and suites are cranking with Bang & Olufsen stereos. When you’re done playing in your room, downtown western Berlin beckons. You’ll never want to go home.  316 rooms (219 singles €160 - 310, 219 doubles €160 - 310, 14 suites €310 - 480, 11 junior suites €360 - 430). Breakfast included.

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**Bleibtreu C-4, Bleibtreustraße 31, Charlottenburg, W5 U Ulandstraße, tel. +49 30 88 47 40, info@bleibtreu.com, www.bleibtreu.com, www.bleibtreu.com.** It’s hard to tell the hip guests from the hip neighbours that share the deli and café fronting the boutique-lined street. The designer rooms operate by remote-control but are furnished using allergy-friendly, ecological, natural fabrics and furniture.  80 rooms (35 singles €115 - 155, 47 doubles €185 - 215).

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**Berlin Plaza C-4, Kneesebeckstraße 63, Charlottenburg, W5 U Ulandstraße, tel. +49 30 88 41 30, info@plazahotel.de, www.plazahotel.de, www.plazahotel.de.** The Plaza has elegantly simple rooms equipped with all modern conveniences, such as allergy-free bedding and free wi-fi. The in-house Kneese restaurant has solid traditional Berlin cuisine, and an attractive terrace.  131 rooms (singles €90 - 159, doubles €79 - 189, triples €105 - 200).

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**February - March 2013**
**Hotels in Berlin**

Finding accommodation is not such a problem in Berlin; the city has hundreds of hotels and thousands of beds. And in a city this large, every place can call itself ‘central’. The hotel categories in this guide are based on the highest double room rack rate price, but actual prices often depend on the season and booking method. Prices include VAT and breakfast unless mentioned otherwise. Apartment rentals are booking; renting one off a day or a month is usually much cheaper than checking into a hotel.

- **Grand Hotel Esplanade** D-4, Lützowufer 15, Tiergarten, 10785 Berlin, tel. +49 30 25 47 80, www.esplanade.de, Overlooking the Bauhaus museum between Kurfürstendamm and Tiergarten park, the modern Esplanade has bright, well-furnished rooms and impresses with a large glass-covered atrium, the Harry’s bar and a sizeable spa and fitness centre. 
- **Slyter Hof** D-3, Kurfürstenstrasse 114, Schöneberg, 10999 Berlin, tel. +49 30 212 00, info@slyterhofberlin.de, www.slyterhof.de. Slyt may be a skinny island in the North Sea, but these suites in a building that now holds the Albergo is a good base for exploring western Berlin. Decorated flamboyantly by Italian artists, the hotel has spacious rooms with terracotta tiles, leather furniture and palmleaf roofs. Drop by for the lunch specials, or dine on spicy Thai dishes accompanied by wine or fresh coconut milk, perhaps followed by a cocktail. ❖ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri 12:00 - 24:00, Sat 16:00 - 24:00, Sun 17:00 - 23:00.
- **SensCity Hotel Albergo** B-5, Hohenzollendamm 33, Wilmersdorf, 14055 Berlin, tel. +49 30 86 88 90, stay@senscity-albergo.de, www.senscity-albergo.de. Once a Russian Orthodox cathedral with onion domes until refurbishment in 1938, the corner building that now holds the Albergo is a good base for exploring western Berlin. Decorated flamboyantly by Italian artists, the hotel has spacious rooms with terracotta tiles, cherry wood furniture and a top-floor breakfast room. ❖ 36 rooms (singles €75 - 125, doubles €85 - 135).

**Restaurants & Cafés**

**Asian**

- **Suksan** D-4, Ansbachers Straße 4, Schöneberg, 10999 Berlin, tel. +49 30 21 01 86 73, www.suksan.de. A short stroll from west Berlin’s shops and sights, Suksan is a cozy Thai restaurant decorated with ample bamboo poles and palmleaf roofs. Drop by for the lunch specials, or dine on spicy Thai dishes accompanied by wine or fresh coconut milk, perhaps followed by a cocktail. ❖ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri 12:00 - 24:00, Sat 16:00 - 24:00, Sun 17:00 - 23:00.

**Austrian**

- **Ottenhals C-4, Kantstrasse 153, Charlottenburg, 10623 Berlin, tel. +49 30 313 31 62, www.ottenhals.com.** The pleasure in this intimate, classy bistro is that of fresh, seasonal ingredients, often from the owner’s home town, Ottenhals. Daily specials might include foam of goose liver or venison pie with apple-celery salad. The portion of Wiener Schnitzel could feed two. Service is excellent, and you can rely on wine recommendations (the list is extensive). Wines and other products from Ottenhals such as pumpkinseed oil, are available for purchase. ❖ Open 17:00 - 01:00. €€€

**Schnitzelei B-3, Röntgenstrasse 7, Charlottenburg, 10623 Berlin, tel. +49 30 30 70 27 78, www.schnitzelei.de.** Nearly as far from central Berlin as Austria, Schnitzelei is well off the beaten track, but well worth looking up. No tacky alpine decorations here, but a light take on the genre, with oak panels and subdued lighting creating a good vibe. There are delicious schnitzels in different variations, though you may also want to try the German tapas. ❖ Open 16:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 01:00. €€€

**Fine Dining**

- **Die Quadrilla C-4, Eislebener Straße 14, Charlottenburg, 10623 Berlin, tel. +49 30 21 40 56 50, www.brandenburger-hof.com.** Chef Saul Kemppainen dishes up innovative Scandinavian cuisine in the intimate, Michelin-starred gourmet restaurant. The main room is in the style of a classic Berlin salon, with paintings from the Berlin Secessionist movement and KPM porcelain; the cherrywood chair design is by Fritz Lehmbruck, dating to 1904. ❖ Open 12:00 - 14:00, 19:00 - 2200, Mon, Sat 19:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun. €€€

**First Floor D-4, Budapester Straße 45, Charlottenburg, 10623 Berlin, tel. +49 30 25 02 10 20, www.palace.de.** A Michelin star has been the beacon at Matthias Dieter’s restaurant for over 25 years. The cuisine has knife and fork service and is the height of modern German cooking. The corners, entrees and desserts are all exciting and delicious. ❖ Open 13:00 - 23:00, Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu. €€€€

**Food with a View**

- **Funkturm-Restaurant** A-4, Messedamm 22, Charlottenburg, 10623 Berlin, tel. +49 30 30 38 29 00, www.capital-catering.de. Berlin’s Eiffel Tower is the shorter of the city’s two TV towers. The viewing platform at 126 meters is the perfect starter for the tower restaurant, sitting pretty at 55 meters. There’s an a la carte menu with changing lunch courses during the day, and hot or cold buffets in the evening. ❖ Open 11:30 - 23:00, Tue 18:00 - 23:00, Closed Mon. €€€

**Sawdy Kap** - welcome to Suksan. Experience a temple for Thai food and cooking culture in the heart of West Berlin, offering varied dishes with captivating aromas and tasty combinations that will tickle the palate. Quality, freshness, and healthy and original ingredients are central to our dishes, without losing sight of modern cuisine. Under bamboo roofs, Suksan seats over 60 guests in Thai settings. Let us take you on a culinary trip to the land of smiles.

**Ansbacherstrasse 4** (corner of Kurfürstenstrasse) tel. 21 01 86 73, www.suksan.de.
German

April D-5, Winterfeldstraße 56, Schöneberg, U Nollendorfplatz, tel. +49 30 216 88 69, www.restaurant-april.com. This bistro is great value with a generous appetiser plate for two and various specials. The dining is a bit more formal out back, where tables get the white-linen treatment. Open 10:00 - 24:00. €€.

Kneese C-4, Knesebeckstraße 63, Charlottenburg, M/U Uhlandstraße, tel. +49 30 88 41 34 48, www.restaurant-kneese.de. Alt-Berliner, traditional Old Berlin cuisine, is on offer at rustic Kneese. Try the Königsberger Klöße, meatballs with potatoes, the pork knuckle or the calf liver with apples, onions and potatoes for a taste of the Berlin of yesteryear at reasonable prices. There’s also a selection of international meals and desserts for you to tuck into. Wash it all down with some good South-African wine. Open 11:00 - 01:00, €€.

Renger-Patzsch D-5, Wartburgstraße 54, Schöneberg, M/U Eisenacher Straße, tel. +49 30 784 20 59, www.renger-patzsch.com. Upscale German dining with a difference. The interior is kept casual and simple, with all focus on the people and the food. Serving regional cooking, you can order dishes such as sautéed mushrooms in chervil sauce, pan-seared pike-perch and a selection of tasty Asian flammekuchen. The Sunday roast is a true feast, with wine-braised beef. Open 18:00 - 23:30, €€.

Charlottenburg & The West

Kneese

International

Bamberger Reiter D-5, Regensburger Straße 7, Schöneberg, M/U Viktoria-Louise-Platz, tel. +49 30 74 92 00 90, reservierung@bambergerreiterberlin.de, www.neueerbambergerreiter.de. Chandeleirs, wooden panels, drapes, antiques and old portraits set the classic atmosphere at this restaurant named after a famous medieval statue of a knight in Bavaria. The menu lists good international food, with the owners’ Argentinian, Austrian and Dutch roots showing through in the excellent steaks with Chimichurri sauce, the Schnitzel and soups. Open 18:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun. €€.

Diekmann C-4, Meinekestraße 7, Charlottenburg, M/U Uhlandstraße, tel. +49 30 883 33 21, www.diekmann-restaurants.de. Herr Diekmann was one of the first to grace Berlin’s simple tables with some French finesse, even if it wasn’t in what began as a sandwich shop in 1976. Shelves and drawers of colonialware store the fine wines, and Diekmann still uses French techniques to primp excellent ingredients. Always on the menu are oysters and a selection of French cheeses. Open 12:00 - 01:00. Sun 18:00 - 01:00. €€.


Italian

Francucci’s B-4, Kurfürstendamm 90, Charlottenburg, M/U Adenauerplatz, tel. +49 30 323 33 18, www.francuccis.com. Francucci’s kitchen churns out fresh, fresh food, with home-made pasta and bread and plenty of regional ingredients in dishes like the veal scallop with fresh food, with home-made pasta and bread. Ask for the three-course surprise menu. Opposite the Schaubühne theatre. Open 10:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun, €€€€.

Locanda B-4, Lehniner Platz 2, Charlottenburg, M/U Adenauerplatz, tel. +49 30 31 80 69 68. A tiny restaurant with Ganni can be found welcoming guests, cooking, pouring wine, serving food and washing dishes, all the while singing along to Italian classics. The pasta, fish and meat dishes are simple and all simply delicious. Ask for the three-course surprise menu. Opposite the Schaubühne theatre. Open 10:00 - 23:00, Closed Sun. €€€€.

Zwölf Apostel C-4, Bleibtreustraße 49, Charlottenburg, M/S Savignyplatz, tel. +49 30 313 22 82, www.sachikosushi.com. An innovative kaiten sushi restaurant - the oldest in town, dating back to 1995 - has little boats circling the restaurant with some of the best sushi in town. Not afraid to serve classic and new sushi varieties with world wines, here’s your chance to have bonito with Sauvignon Blanc, or tuna rolls with Riesling. Beneath the railway arches. Open 12:00 - 24:00. Sun 16:00 - 24:00. Closed Mon. €€€€.

Japanese

Sachiko Sushi C-3, Jeanne-Mammen-Bogen 584, Charlottenburg, M/S Savignyplatz, tel. +49 30 313 22 82, www.sachikosushi.com. An innovative kaiten sushi restaurant - the oldest in town, dating back to 1995 - has little boats circling the restaurant with some of the best sushi in town. Not afraid to serve classic and new sushi varieties with world wines, here’s your chance to have bonito with Sauvignon Blanc, or tuna rolls with Riesling. Beneath the railway arches. Open 12:00 - 24:00. Sun 16:00 - 24:00. Closed Mon. €€€€.

Francucci’s

Cafés

Café am Neuen See D-4, Lichtensteinallee 2, Tiergarten, M/U Zoologischer Garten, tel. +49 30 254 49 30, www.cafeamnuensesee.de. The perfect Berlin biathlon is riding a bike through Tiergarten park, rehydrating with beer here, and then renting a rowboat on the adjacent lake. This café, restaurant and bar serves a breakfast of champions until 16:00 as well as regional food, coffee, cakes and cocktails. Food served till 22:00. Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 23:00. €€€€.

Francucci’s Kurfürstendamm

Francucci’s Kurfürstendamm

Francucci’s Kurfürstendamm

Francucci’s Kurfürstendamm

Francucci’s Kurfürstendamm
**Nightlife**

**Bars**

- **Alt Berliner Biersalon** C-4, Kurfürstendamm 225, Charlottenburg, M/U Kurfürstendamm, tel. +49 30 884 39 90, www.alt-berliner-biersalon.de. A favourite for many foreigners - a huge bar with cozy corners as well as areas where wild sports fans can watch a large screen. The bar serves well-priced German and international food as well as big breakfasts. Groups are welcome - actually you can fit 499 of your buddies plus yourself in here. Open 09:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 21:00 - 04:00.

- **Hefner** C-4, Kantstrasse 146, Charlottenburg, M/U Savignyplatz, tel. +49 30 31 01 75 20, www.hefner-berlin.de. The most happening spot on Savignyplatz is this cool cocktail bar on the corner with Kantstrasse. Though the lengthy cocktail menu includes all the favourites, Hefner prides itself on having the best selection of Martinis cocktails in Berlin. Open 16:00 - 03:00, Sat 13:00 - 03:00, €€.

- **Zwiebelfisch** C-4, Savignyplatz 7-8, Charlottenburg, M/S Savignyplatz, tel. +49 30 312 73 63, www.zwiebelfisch-berlin.de. The name Zwiebelfisch is, among other things, the term used by printers to label a single letter that rebels and appears in a font unlike the letters around it. Aging, but still-kicking liberals come here to rest the weight of their youthful ideals and trade wisecracks with long-time owner Hartmut Wolmerhaus. Jazz or classic music is piped in, and a selection of papers and magazines helps stretch out the beer or coffee. Hot meals, like goulash and Swabian Maultaschen are served up until 03:00. The tall tables abutting the bar are a brilliantly social arrangement. Open 12:00 - 06:00, €€.

**Gay nightlife**

- **Connection** D-4, Fuggerstrasse 33, Schöneberg, M/U Wittenbergplatz, tel. +49 30 218 14 32, www.connection-berlin.de. Bumpin’ and grindin’ in the corridors and the ‘cruising labyrinth’ moves in time to house and techno beats on weekends. Every third Friday of the month is mixed boys and girls night. Open Fri, Sat 23:00-06:00. Admission €5.

- **Hafen** D-4, Motzstrasse 19, Schöneberg, M/U Nollendorfplatz, tel. +49 30 211 41 18, www.hafen-berlin.de. Both gays and lesbians are welcome to call at this harbour. There’s no darkroom in which to size each other up, so patrons measure each other’s thinking organ instead at the Quiz-o-Rama (in English on the first Monday of the month). There’s DJs at weekends and German Schlager nights every second Friday. Don’t be shy to pop in, they say, ‘drop dead gorgeous looking tourists’ are welcome. Open 20:00 - 04:00.

- **Prinzknecht** D-4, Fuggerstrasse 33, Schöneberg, M/U Wittenbergplatz, tel. +49 30 23 62 74 44, www.prinzknecht.de. The exposed brick walls, square bar, and billiard table gives this respectable bar and cruising joint a Cheers-like feel unusual in Berlin. Picnic tables are out on the sidewalk, and leather banquettes line the walls. Women are welcome everywhere except the cellar, and the back of Prinzknecht’s ‘business card’ is helpfully labeled ‘name, address and telephone’ for scribbling down the details of your new friends. Open 15:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 15:00 - 03:00.

- **Tom’s Bar** D-4, Motzstrasse 19, Schöneberg, M/U Nollendorfplatz, tel. +49 30 213 45 70, www.tombar.de. Monday night is two-for-one happy hour. No women allowed here either - wouldn’t it be horrible if your coytail bumped into soft mammary glands in the darkroom. Open 22:00 - 06:00.

**Jazz Clubs**

- **A-Trane** Bleibtreustraße 1, Charlottenburg, M/U Ernst-Reuter-Platz, tel. +49 30 313 25 50, info@a-trane.de, www.a-trane.de, Concerts at 22:00. Open 21:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 21:00 - 04:00.

- **Quasimodo** C-4, Kantstrasse 12a, Charlottenburg, M/U Zoologischer Garten, tel. +49 30 31 80 45 60, info@quasimodo.de, www.quasimodo.de. Blues, jazz, funk, or soul in a casual cellar. To find the place, go up to the terrace next to Theater des Westens and follow the stairwell to the left of the café. Concerts start at 22:00. Open 21:00 - 02:00.

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**Bars**

- **Grenander Morning Glory** D-4, Wittenbergplatz 3a, Schöneberg, M/U Wittenbergplatz, tel. +49 30 76 52 77 21, www.grenander.de. Pastries, muffins, croissants and rolls lie in waiting at the counter of this modern, earthy and atmospheric bar. Open 08:00 - 22:00.

- **Prinzknecht** D-4, Fuggerstraße 33, Schöneberg, M/U Wittenbergplatz, tel. +49 30 211 41 18, www.hafen-berlin.de. Both gays and lesbians are welcome to call at this harbour. There’s no darkroom in which to size each other up, so patrons measure each other’s thinking organ instead at the Quiz-o-Rama (in English on the first Monday of the month). There’s DJs at weekends and German Schlager nights every second Friday. Don’t be shy to pop in, they say, ‘drop dead gorgeous looking tourists’ are welcome. Open 20:00 - 04:00.

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Pubs

Irish Harp B-4, Giesebruchstraße 15, Charlottenburg, tel. +49 30 22 32 87 35, mail@harp-pub.de, www.harp-pub.de. A well-established Irish pub serving all the usual pub grub and the seemingly floating new roof whose translucent skin offers a good example of bombastic fascist architecture, its size never to overshadow the modern chapel and bell tower beside it were completed in 1961, and are worth a visit on sunny days for the amazing blue stained glass windows. The main church ruin will be in scaffolding until autumn 2013. Concerts take place every week, many of them free. > Open 09:00-18:00.

Union Jack C-4, Schütterstraße 15, Charlottenburg, MS Savignyplatz, tel. +49 30 312 55 57, www.unionjack-berlin.de. A corner of “Scottish highland” in the heart of Berlin, this whisky pub is one of Berlin’s first true pubs and continues to draw the punters in with a collection of 401 whiskies (from the best Scottish and Irish brands to Canadian and Japanese bourbon) and various English and Irish beers. Solid food is available too - home made snacks and and Walkers crisps. > Open from 19:00. Sun closed.

Sightseeing

Landmarks

Olympic Stadium Olympischer Platz 3, Charlottenburg, M/ U Olympicstadion, tel. +49 30 25 00 23 22, tour@olympiasstellung-berlin.de, www.olympiasstellung-berlin.de. The Olympic Stadium was originally built under the direction of architect Werner March to host the 1936 Olympic Games. A good example of bombastic fascist architecture, its size never fails to impress. The most striking changes are the blue track and the seemingly floating new roof whose translucent skin offers shelter for almost all of the 75,000 seats. On non-event days you can visit the stadium using an multi-language audio guide, or on an hour-long guided tour. > Open 09:00 - 19:00. June-mid-Sep open until 20:00, Nov-mid-Mar 10:00-16:00. Admission €7.5.

Schloss Charlottenburg (Charlottenburg Palace) A-3, Spandauer Damm 20-24, Charlottenburg, MU Richard-Wagner-Platz, tel. +49 30 32 09 14 40, www.spgp.de. The largest royal residence in Berlin, named for Prussia’s first queen. Though it began as a modest summer palace in 1695, today’s version, distinguished by its 505-meter facade and central tower, took its final form in 1780. You can take a guided tour or a tour of the luxurious and largely Rococo and Baroque apartments where an eye-glazing number of royal Friedrichs and Wilhelms resided. Also here is the largest collection of 18th century French painting outside France, plus a beautiful Baroque garden,acht, and Belvedere teahouse with a porcelain exhibition. Take bus M45 from Wagner-Platz or Zoologischer Bahnhof. > Open 10:00-17:00. Mon closed. New Wing 10:00-18:00, Tues closed. Admission €12/8, New Wing €6/5. Photo permit €3.

Churches

Gedächtniskirche D-4, Breitscheidplatz, Charlottenburg, MU Kurfürstendamm, tel. +49 30 218 50 23, www.gedaechtniskirche-berlin.de. The ruined Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, a stark remembrance of wartime destruction, is West Berlin’s landmark attraction. Kept as an open wound, the severe acknowledgement of Germany’s culpability is declared on a plaque: ‘The tower of the old church serves as a remembrance of God’s judgment, which befell our people during the war years.’ The church was once a symbol of national pride; even synagogues contributed to its funding. Inside is a gilded mosaic of the Hohenzollern dynasty. The modern chapel and bell tower beside it were completed in 1961, and are worth a visit on sunny days for the amazing blue stained glass windows. The main church ruin will be in scaffolding until autumn 2013. Concerts take place every week, many of them free. > Open 09:00-18:00.

Museums


Bröhan Museum B-3, Schloßstraße 1a, Charlottenburg, MU Sophie-Charlotte-Platz, tel. +49 30 32 69 06 00, www.broehan-museum.de. A stellar collection of art deco, art nouveau, and art and craft design awakens post-modern sensibilities, blunted by so much IKEA and minimalism, to craftsmanship, whimsy and indulgent beauty. In addition to the permanent collection (spanning 1899-1939) of porcelain, lamps, vases, and furnishing, are paintings, including those by Peter Behrens and Bruno Paul, as well as special exhibitions. > Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission €6/4.

Museum für Asiatische Kunst 40, Zehlendorf, MU Dahlems-Dorf, tel. +49 30 26 64 42 42, www.smb.museum. Alongside special exhibitions dealing with everything from Qing-dynasty painting to architecture, the Asian Art museum has an impressive permanent collection of Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean art and archaeology. Each tradition has its own gallery, and on an hour-long guided tour. > Open 09:00 - 19:00. June-mid-Sep open until 20:00, Nov-mid-Mar 10:00-16:00. Admission €7.5.

Department Stores

Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe) D-4, Taunienstraße 21-24, Charlottenburg, MU Wittenbergplatz, tel. +49 30 212 10, www.kadewe.de. Europe’s largest department store, Berlin’s answer to Harrod’s has 64 escalators linking seven huge floors, with two floors devoted completely to gourmet food. Have oysters at the champagne bar to take the sting out of your shopping spree. > Open the 20:00, Fri 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:30 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Fashion & Shoes

Adidas Performance D-4, Taunienstraße 15, Charlottenburg, MU Kurfürstendamm, tel. +49 30 23 63 19 44. A huge store selling the well-known Performance athlete’s range, including some items not on offer elsewhere, as well as Originals products and other leisure wear. Design your own colourful shoes with the hands-on mi-adidas touch screens, or test some trainers while doing computer sports games. > Open 10:00 - 20:00, Fri 10:00 - 21:00, Closed Sun.


Markets

Berliner Tödelmarkt C-3, Straße des 17. Juni, Charlottenburg, MS Tiergarten, www.berliner-todemarkt.de. A busy upmarket open-air flea market with quality antiques and handcrafts (with prices to match), fashion, pictures, books, LPs, and a wide range of interesting junk. Right next to the S-Bahn station. > Open Sat, Sun 10:00-17:00.

Parks and Gardens

Tiergarten C/D/E3/4. This 255 hectare park full of paths, pavilions, and waterways is the most genteel of Berlin’s parks, but it’s still a fine place for jogging, football, a picnic barbecue, or nude sunbathing (weather permitting). > The Siegessäule (Victory Column) that stood in front of the Reichstag from 1873 until 1938 now serves as aroundabout and lookout point in the middle of the park. The park’s café and beer garden, Café am Neuensee, is at the southwestern end.

Shopping

Books

Books in Berlin C4, Goethestraße 69, Charlottenburg, MU Ernst-Reuter-Platz, tel. +49 30 312 13 33, www.booksinberlin.de. A lovely nook devotedly entirely to English-language books. > Open 12:00 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

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On a low hill northeast of Mitte, Prenzlberg is an old working-class district in the former East Berlin that came through the war relatively unscathed. After 1989 the cool brigade pounced on the area, and houses that were once home to East German punks were renovated in zodes to pastel. The number of wine shops and young parents pushing pricey prams indicates the level of gentrification here. The best places to soak up the atmosphere are Kulturbrauerei, Helmholtzplatz and along Kastanienallee. One of Prenzlberg’s best attractions is the Kulturkraftkreuz culture centre, set in a 19th-century brewery complex. This chapter also covers places in multicultural Wedding, just to the west.

Getting there
The U2 from Alexanderplatz leads crowds Sennendeplatz and Eberswalder Straße, close to most attractions of the district. From Museuminsel and Friedrichstraße you can use tram M1 to Eberswalder Straße as well. U-Bahn station Bernauer Straße and S-Bahn station Nordbahnhof are most convenient for a stroll along the Wall Memorial to Mauerpark.

Pocket Walk
Start walking uphill along Kollwitzstraße from Sennendeplatz U-Bahn station. From leafy Kollwitzplatz turn into beautiful Usedomer Straße, which was already restored in GDR times, and left into Sredzkistrasse where you’ll spot the Kulturkraftkreuz complex ahead; enter beside the tall chimney and wander through its courtyards to the northern exit. Cross Dansiger Straße and angle down Lichenstrasse to pretty, café-lined Helmholtzplatz. Follow Rümkerstrasse west, turn left down Pappelallee and cross underneath the U-Bahn station to Eberswalder Straße; you’ll soon reach the popular Mauerpark and the top end of Bernauer Straße with its excellent Wall memorial.

Symbol key
- Child friendly
- Facilities for the disabled
- Home delivery
- Live music
- No credit cards
- Nearest S/U-Bahn station
- Outside seating
- Non-smoking room
- Take away
- Internet
- Wi-Fi

Dinner price guide
The dinner price guide in our restaurant, café and nightlife reviews indicates the approximate price level based on a main course with a glass of wine.

Expensive: more than €30 per person.
Not cheap: €20-30 per person.
Middling: from €10-20 per person.
Cheap: less than €10 per person.

Restaurants & Cafés

Dark Dining
Noct Vagn G-2, Saarbrücker Straße 34-36, Prenzlauer Berg, MU Sennedeplatz Platz, tel. +49 30 74 49 91 23, www.restaurant-die-schule.de. Modern and light German food on Berlin’s prime catwalk. Kastanienallee, also known as casting alley, is a perfect place to watch Berlin street style. Die Schule has a terrace facing the street and the airy interiors belie that these rooms used to be classrooms (hence the name). You can have all the German food classics, and even better; you can have them all at once; try German Kleingiffen, small samples of everything the local cuisine is famous for. Open 11:00 - 24:00.

Fast Food
Konopke’s Imbi G-1, Schönhauser Allee 44b, Prenzlauer Berg, MU Eberswalder Straße, tel. +49 30 442 77 65, www.konopkes-imbi.de. The Zerovigelfamily started selling their famous Wurst in October 4, 1930 (a day that has unluckily come to coincide with International Animal Day). This simple shack is a convenient stop for those spilling out of the Eberswalder Straße U-Bahn; the Imbi is just south, beneath the tracks. To eat your Currywurst like a true native, order it ohne dani (without the intestine wrapping, please). Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sat 12:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

German
Die Schule G-2, Kastanienallee 82, Prenzlauer Berg, MU Eberswalder Straße, tel. +49 30 780 08 95 50, www.restaurant-die-schule.de. Modern and light German food on Berlin’s prime catwalk. Kastanienallee, also known as casting alley, is a perfect place to watch Berlin street style. Die Schule has a terrace facing the street and the airy interiors belie that these rooms used to be classrooms (hence the name). You can have all the German food classics, and even better; you can have them all at once; try German Kleingiffen, small samples of everything the local cuisine is famous for. Open 11:00 - 24:00.

Restauration 1900 H-2, Husmannstraße 1, Prenzlauer Berg, MU Eberswalder Straße, tel. +49 30 442 24 94, www.restaurant-1900.de. Our Kollwitzplatz favourite, 1900 exhibits some fascinating photographs of the neighbourhood before (Trabiant) and after (Smart) 1989. It serves excellent Berlin and German food, as well as some pasta and vegetarian options. Come on Saturday morning to watch locals shopping at the weekly market, and on Sundays to fill up at the all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet. Open 10:00 - 23:00. €-€€.

Zander G-2, Kollwitzstraße 50, Prenzlauerger Berg, MU Sennedeplatz Platz, tel. +49 30 44 05 76 78, www.zander-restaurant.de. This award-winning restaurant is a fine blend of tradition, innovation, and casual professionalism. Using mainly regional products, Zander serves mouth-watering German and international cuisine and excellent wines in a stylish and intimate setting. Though zander (pike perch) is a house specialty, the perfectly-composed set menus are highly recommended. Open 18:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon.

International
Fleischlust H-1, Pappelallee 36, Prenzlauer Berg, MU 5/U Schönhauser Allee, tel. +49 30 44 67 54 14, kontakt@fleischlust-berlin.de, www.fleischlust-berlin.de. A spot for those with healthy lust for flesh can grill n chill. Staff in 1930s outfits serve excellent steaks, cooked anything from blue (extremely rare) to well done. For the undecided, there’s a mixed grill, while the thirsty can dive into the wine and cocktail menu. Open 16:00 - 02:00.

Gugelhof H-2, Knaackstraße 37, Prenzlauer Berg, MU Eberswalder Straße, tel. +49 30 442 92 29, www.gugelhof.de. During the early bloom of Kollwitzplatz’s gentrification, the success of little Gugelhof was sealed by heads of state: Schröder, Fischer, Albright and even Bill Clinton made surprise visits, German, French, and Swiss dishes share the menu; this is where to try flammekuchen, a thin-crust Alsatian pizza. The atmosphere is lively and service is friendly. Open 18:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. €-€€.

Modern and light German food on Berlin’s catwalk no.1

KASTANIALLEE 82 | 10435 BERLIN
FON: (030) 7800 89 5-50
info@restaurant-die-schule.de
www.restaurant-die-schule.de
Shopping in Berlin

You could ruin a good set of heels window-shopping in Berlin. Stroll Charlottenburg’s Kurfürstendamm, particularly between Uhlandstraße and Adenauerallee, for top brands. With the exception of Berlin’s proudest department store, Kaufhaus des Westens, Tauentzienstraße is lined with mass market retail stores.

Mitte’s credit card trail is Friedrichstraße, between Unter den Linden and Stralauer. Tasteful boutiques and countless stores of French perfume now define the street where Soviets and Americans faced off in the Cold War. The Friedrichstadtpassagen and Galeries Lafayette are the main emporiums. The maze of streets around Weinmeisterstraße is where to find what’s driving the under-thirty crowd into debt. Kreuzberg has two main shopping streets; between the bars and eateries on Oranienstraße are bookstores, wool specialists, ethnic grocers and internet cafes; Bergmannstraße is less scrubby but still full of funny gift and household supply stores, as well as a few clothing stores. Full of people under thirty, Prenzlauer Berg and Friedrichshain are where to watch the trends; you’re likely to find an interesting window display wherever you walk.

Italian


Japanese


Nightlife

Bars

August Fengler G-1, Lychner Straße 11, Prenzlauer Berg, www.augustfengler.de. A neighbourhood bar if there ever was one, there aren’t just football tables downstairs, but a Kegelbahn (bowling alley) too. The team behind the big wooden bar is friendly, and the seating area is an undulating mass of coats and groups of friends talking up a storm. DLs play classics, soul, disco and funk in the small back dance room.  Open 19:00 - 05:00.

Weinheimer H-2, Wöhrder Straße 36, Prenzlauer Berg, www.weinheimer-berlin.de. This wine bar is not very chic, the service is rather cheeky, and the whole place has the feel of an overcrowded courtyard. There’s an eat-all-you-can dinner on Wednesday and brunch at weekends.  Open 16:00 - 03:00.

Weinlager H-1, Liptenstraße 33, Prenzlauer Berg, www.weinlager-berlin.de. This wine bar has a huge selection of wines, and the lively, convivial atmosphere of its Due Forni is the perfect primer for a night out on the town.  Open 12:00 - 24:00.

Latin-American

Frida Kahlo H-1, Lychner Straße 37, Prenzlauer Berg, www.lychnerstrasse12.de. A gastronomic homage to the legendary Mexican painter, the tastefully decorated Frida Kahlo is one of the most established eateries in Prenzlauer Berg. Try the deliciously authentic Mexican dishes, the special brunch snacks or some hard-hitting cocktails.  Open 09:00 - 22:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 03:00.

Cafés

Anna Blume H-2, Kolлизistraße 83, Prenzlauer Berg, www.anna-blume.de. A little coffee gallery with a classy little flower girl on the way, this is an excellent, relaxed café. Serving up coffee, cakes, crepes, meals and the usual Berlin breakfasts, it’s one of the better spots for people-watching or just reading. Intriguingly, it also sells flowers (blumen) from the connected shop next door - and the smell of coffee and fresh flowers combines very well.

Schall und Rauch G-1, Gleimstraße 23, Prenzlauer Berg, www.schall-und-rauch.de. Noise and Smoke’ in trendy Prenzlauer Berg is a great place to enjoy a breakfast buffet on lazy weekend mornings, or to down specialty cocktails al bar at night together with a variety of artists, students and young in-crowd. But it’s more than just a café - the adjacent eponymous hotel has modern and affordable double rooms.  Open 08:00 - 02:00.

Sightseeing

Landmarks

Kulturbrauerei G-2, Schönhauser Allee 36-39, Prenzlauer Berg, www.kulturbrauerei.de. Follow the yellow brick wall of this 19th-century brewery and you’ve eventually find an entryway into a nightlife Mecca that resembles an Old Town setting. A cobblestone pedestrian way courses through the center of the complex, whose 25,000 square meters is filled with bars, restaurants, clubs, galleries and a cinema. The reliably crowded event you can’t find is freshly brewed beer; Schütte is shut down production here in 1967. Soda Club is a both a restaurant and popular nightclub, and Kesselhaus and Alte Kantine host anything from readings to TV shows to live bands. A hub of nightlife for the hipsters of Prenzlauer Berg.

Mediterranean

Flamenco Bar H-1, Schönhauser Allee 12, Prenzlauer Berg, www.flamencobar.de. This flamenco bar offers a variety of artists, students and young in-crowd. But it’s more than just a café - the adjacent eponymous hotel has modern and affordable double rooms.  Open 08:00 - 02:00.
Get off the S- or U-Bahn at Warschauer Straße; enjoy the sights east of Friedrichshain.

Restaurant & Cafés

Schneeweß Simplonstraße 16, Friedrichshain, M5/U Warschauer Straße, tel. +49 30 29 04 97 04, www.schneeweiss-berlin.de. Schneeweß is extremely stylish, very popular, and very, very white. The delicious Alpine and New German cuisine on the menu here is easily a match for the chic interior, which has won accolades for its fantastic design. This is the place to go if you’re looking for a full-on dining experience, not just food.

Open 18:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 01:00. €€€€

Bars

Crack Bellmer I-4, Revaler Straße 99, Friedrichshain, M5/U Warschauer Straße, www.crackbellmer.de. A barn of a bar amidst all the clubs in the former industrial RAW compound. Crack Bellmer is not just a place for drinking; there’s film screenings, and a good-sized space for dancing. DJs play at 80s or swing nights. Find the entrance at the southern end of Simón-Dach-Straße.

Open 19:00 - 05:00.

Habariskeyer J-4, Gärtenstraße 8, Friedrichshain, M5 Ostkreuz, tel. +49 30 29 77 18 87, www.habariskeyer.de. Like many Berlin bars, Habariskeyer recycles the 1970s with light fixtures and furnishings but it also creates its own unusual wall designs. A popular table football and flip-grill bar; there’s also a DJ providing music from the loud and very varied DJ music, though there’s no space to dance, but there’s free salty snacks to console you.

Open from 19:00 - open end.

Clubs

Berghain I-3/4, Am Wriezener Bahnhof, Friedrichshain, M5 Ostbahnhof, tel. +49 30 29 36 02 10, www.berghain.de. A legendary techno club. Pretty much anything goes on the main dance floor, in the Panorama Bar and in the dark rooms of this huge old power plant. The doorman picks from the queue of hopefuls to create the right mix, so parties are always varied and exciting. Arrive early Sunday morning for the best atmosphere. There are concerts and events on weekdays too, and in summer an outdoor Diskogarten.

Open Fri 24:00 - Sat 12:00, Sat 24:00 - Mon 09:00.

Matrix I-4, Warschauer Platz 18, Friedrichshain, M5/U Warschauer Straße, tel. +49 30 29 36 99 90, www.matrix-berlin.de. Directly underneath the Warschauer U-Bahn station DJs lay down tracks of R&B, straight house, soul, disco and pop on seven dance floors within the vaults that date back to 1901. There’s always a party here, 365 nights a year. Thursday’s student night, Friday has party classics with free champagne before midnight for ladies, Saturday is Funky Night, with juicy cocktails.

Open 22:00 - 06:00. Admission €3-6.

Museums

Computerspielemuseum (Computer Game Museum) I-3, Karl-Marx-Allee 93a, Friedrichshain, M5/U Weiberswalde, tel. +49 30 60 98 85 77, www.computerspielemuseum.de. Stroll through decades of computer game history, from the 1951 Nimrod calculating robot and 1980s gaming machines to 3D simulators. You can try out about 24 classic games yourself, and have a go at Atari’s huge Space Invaders joystick.

Open 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Tue. Admission €8/5.

Museumstrasse WBS 70 (GDR Apartment Museum) Hellersdorfer Straße 179, Hellersdorf, M5/6 Cottbusser Platz, tel. +49 151 16 11 44 40. Travel back to 1986 and visit a GDR worker’s dream property; this mundane but much-coveted prefab Plattenbau museum home is the last of 42,000 such apartments with all its original fittings (drab wallpapered ceilings, appliances, yoghurt machine, Albanian chairs) and decorations (bird floral patterns). The rent was 109 Marks, about 10% of the average wage, but the colour cost 4.5 Marks. From the station exit left and follow the street around the block. No English spoken or captions; bring a local.

Open Sun 14:00 - 16:00, other days by appointment. Admission free.

Stasi Museum (Forschungs- und Gedenkstätte Normannenstraße) Ruschestraße 103, Haus 1, Friedrichshain, M5/6 Magdalenenstraße, tel. +49 30 553 68 54, www.stasimuseum.de. East Germany’s State Security Service (Stasi) was responsible for intelligence gathering both at home and abroad. It spied on its own citizens, sometimes employing the friends, colleagues, and family of those they wished to keep an eye on. Today, this humble museum shows the office of Eich Mieke, the feared Stasi minister for 32 years, in its original dull state. There’s a video of Mieke testifying before a panel in 1989, symbols of Communist past such as the East German flag, plus Monday to Friday 10 or more can get an English-language tour at no extra cost, when requested in advance. Also see the Stasi Exhibition in Mitte.

Open 11:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 14:00 - 18:00. Admission €5/4.

Shopping

Fashion & Shoes
tausche Taschen Krossener Straße 19, Friedrichshain, M5/U Warschauer Straße, tel. +49 30 34 71 15 50. Bags and exchangeable flaps in over 100 different designs. Two flaps are included and various insets equip the bag to suit any occasion.

Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Markets

Flohmarkt am Boxhagener Platz J4, Boxhagener Platz, Friedrichshain, M5/U Frankfurter Tor, tel. +49 162 292 30 66. The flea market on the Box will be the turriest place to trawl through junk. There’s everything from 1970s tape recorders to Polish art posters and second-hand clothing.

Open Sun 10:00 - 18:00. 

Nightlife

Bars

Crack Bellmer I-4, Revaler Straße 99, Friedrichshain, M5/U Warschauer Straße, www.crackbellmer.de. A barn of a bar amidst all the clubs in the former industrial RAW compound. Crack Bellmer is not just a place for drinking; there’s film screenings, and a good-sized space for dancing. DJs play at 80s or swing nights. Find the entrance at the southern end of Simón-Dach-Straße.

Open 19:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon.

Habariskeyer J-4, Gärtenstraße 8, Friedrichshain, M5 Ostkreuz, tel. +49 30 29 77 18 87, www.habariskeyer.de. Like many Berlin bars, Habariskeyer recycles the 1970s with light fixtures and furnishings but it also creates its own unusual wall designs. A popular table football and flip-grill bar; there’s also a DJ providing music from the loud and very varied DJ music, though there’s no space to dance, but there’s free salty snacks to console you.

Open from 19:00 - open end.

Friedrichshain is a lively old workers’ district that has completely been taken over by rad nightlife venues, graffiti and leftist students moaning about Tour’s encroaching on their favourite watering holes. Tree-lined Simón-Dach-Straße is full of cafés and bars, while Bokshagener Platz hosts a popular flea market. In the former border zone along the river, the Mediaspree development plan for offices, apartments and skyscrapers is passionately opposed by many vocal locals who fear they’ll lose the river. This chapter also includes sights east of Friedrichshain.

Getting there

From Mitte, hop on a train to S/U-Bahn station Warschauer Straße or U-Bahn station Frankfurter Tor. From Nordbahnhof or Prenzlauer Berg catch the M14 tram.

Pocket Walk

Get off the S- or U-Bahn at Warschauer Straße; enjoy the wide city panorama from the bridge and glance back at the tatty red brick Oberbaumbrücke bridge before heading north into the district. Turn right on Revaler Straße and left on Simón-Dach-Straße for Friedrichshain’s most touristy stretch of bars and cafés. A right on Krossener Straße leads you to Bokshagener Platz; enjoyable Sunday flea market. Walk north along Gärtenstraße and Mainzer Straße to reach the grand Stalinalt-style Frankfurter Alle. Follow this west (it becomes Karl-Marx-Allee) and turn right onto Friedenstraße for a stroll and a beer in Volkspark Friedrichshain.

Restaurants & Cafés

Schneeweß Simplonstraße 16, Friedrichshain, M5/U Warschauer Straße, tel. +49 30 29 04 97 04, www.schneeweiss-berlin.de. Schneeweß is extremely stylish, very popular, and very, very white. The delicious Alpine and New German cuisine on the menu here is easily a match for the chic interior, which has won accolades for its fantastic design. This is the place to go if you’re looking for a full-on dining experience, not just food.

Open 18:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 01:00. €€€€
Thanks to a large Turkish community and more hippies, anarchists and alternative folks than you can shake a digsiedoh at, Kreuzberg feels neither east nor west. It was the black sheep of West Berlin, literally parked in a dead-end corner by the Wall and left alone to play loud music and drive through. By now, the protesting students of 1968 have grown grey alongside Turkish immigrants. Every year since 1987, Kreuzberg relives its 15 minutes of fame during the May Day traditional political demonstrations, which invariably turn into a long night of stone-throwing and burning cars. Otherwise, Kreuzberg is all backgammon at the men’s clubs, café-sitting on the Landwehrkanal, and ambulating down the popular Oranienstraße and Bergmannstraße drags. This chapter also covers areas southwest of Kreuzberg: Tempelhofer Feld, west along the river Spree, the Tempelhofer park—turned-park which attracts thousands of visitors in summer, and the upcoming Neukölln district. Here, the Kreuzkölin area around Reuterstraße is increasingly attracting hipsters, artists, art collectors and nightlife spots.

Pocket Walk

Kreuzberg is best explored into two parts: From Platz der Luftbrücke station walk west to Viktoriapark and climb the Kreuzberg for views north over the city. Descend eastwards and walk along gentry Bergmannstraße, perhaps having a coffee or the market hall, before walking south to Columbusdamm for access to the former Tempelhof airport, now a wonderful park.

Start a tour of the fascinating eastern end of Kreuzberg at Kottbusser Tor U-Bahn station; wander north through "little Istanbul" to Oranienplatz and follow the park to the Engelbecken pond where you can follow the Wall along Bethanienpark to Marianenplatz, a centre of Berlin subculture. Stroll down Waldemarstraße to cafè-lined Lausitzerplatz and cross under the U-Bahn line to lively Görtzpark. From here, go north into Falckensteinstraße to discover more of Kreuzberg’s street art, or head south along Ohlauer Straße and across Landwehrkanal into the trendy Kreuzkölin district for cupcakes and cocktails.

Symbol key

- Child friendly
- Facilities for the disabled
- Home delivery
- Live music
- No credit cards
- Nearest S/U-Bahn station
- Outside seating
- Non-smoking room
- Take away
- Internet
- Wi-Fi

Dinner price guide

The number of euro symbols in our restaurant, café and nightlife reviews indicates the approximate price level based on a main course with a glass of wine.

- Expensive; more than €30 per person.
- €€€ Not cheap; €20-30 per person.
- €€ Middling; from €10-20 per person.
- € Cheap; less than €10 per person.

Restaurants & Cafés

Asian

Kimchi Princess H-4, Skalitzer Straße 36, Kreuzberg, Mü Görtzpark Bahnhof, tel. +49 163 458 02 03, www.kimchiprincess.com. Though this is not Berlin’s first Korean restaurant, Kimchi Princess is being hailed by the capital’s gourmets as the first one to serve authentic dishes - that is, not drown them in anar- chistic sugar and fruit jam. Breakfast is served until 17:00, so take a drop of searing hot chilli sauce from the bottles on the ‘board of pain’. Open 18:00 - 24:00. €

Pagode F-5, Bergmannstraße 35, Kreuzberg, Mü Mehringdamm, tel. +49 30 691 26 40, www.pagode-thaifood.de. Simply one of the best Thai restaurants in town, and awarded by the Thai embassy in Berlin as one of the best in Germany. It feels crowded, steamy and noisy, but that’s just part of the authentic self-service atmosphere; wait till you sink your teeth in the fantastic food. All the Thai classics are present, as are some other Asian dishes. If you like it hot, just ask and they’ll make it hot. Open 1200 - 24:00. €€

Sarod’s Friesenstraße 22, Kreuzberg, Mü Gneisenaustraße, tel. +49 30 69 50 73 33, www.sarods.de. Kreuzberg’s best friend Thai restaurant. The food is excellent, healthy, fresh and gluten-free, with some unusual options on the extensive menu such as the ‘Lob’ (mixed meat with roast rice, coriander and spice). There’s a good selection of wines too. Open 1200 - 24:00, Sun 14:00 - 24:00. €€€

Austrian

Austria F-5, Bergmannstraße 30, Kreuzberg, Mü Gneisenaustraße, tel. +49 30 394 44 40, www.austria-berlin.de. Have your Wiener Schnitzel and Salzburger Fritattatorte where they do it right, here in Austria. This corner restaurant is known for its huge portions, so indulge in the full experience or go for the half portion. The setting is appropriately alpine with heavy wooden furnishings and antlers on the wall. Open 18:00 - 24:00. €€

Jolesch H-4, Muskauer Straße 1, Kreuzberg, Mü Görtzpark Bahnhof, tel. +49 30 612 35 81, www.jolesch.de. Excellent Austrian cuisine and wines in a quirky corner of Kreuzberg. Jolesch, a classy yet good-value restaurant, is named after ‘Tante Jolesch’, a Viennese auntie who loved to cook. It serves a great Wiener Schnitzel as well as dishes like goulash and Kaiserschmarm, chopped-up pancakes with sugar and fruit jam. Breakfast is served until 17:00, so take your time for brunch. Reservations recommended. Open 11:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 09:30 - 24:00. €€

Bergmann Curry

Bergmann Curry Bergmannstraße 88, tel. +49 50 56 51 54, www.bergmann- curry.com. A friendly fast food joint with quality organic currywurst, burgers, meat balls and more. The menu include the upmarket ‘Rockefella’ dish (served on porcelain, with a glass of champagne), and there’s vegan wurst and burgers, and sweet potato chips too. If you want to ask for a drop of searing hot chilli sauce from the bottles on the ‘board of pain’, Open 1200 - 24:00, Sun 1200 - 21:00.

Fast food

Curry 36 F-5, Mehringdamm 36, Kreuzberg, Mü Mehringdamm, tel. +49 30 73 13 68, www.curry36.de. If you want to eat Currywurst the proper Berlin way, you order yours here boiled and raised. It looks a little pale in comparison to the ones with their pink skins on, but you might earn an unoted respect from the hard-boiled Frauen who work the stand. Other proletarian Berlin specials you can take to the stand-up outdoor tables are the fried burgers, Boulette. Open 09:00 - 03:00. €€

Gück To Go F-5, Friesenstraße 26, Kreuzberg, tel. +49 30 623 10 04, www.guetk-to-go.de. This unusual fast food restaurant was inspired by a trip to India’s Gujarat province and serves happiness to gic: delicious protein-rich vegetarian/vegan burgers, fries with ayurvedic spices, and healthy juice concoctions; all home-made with organic and regionally sourced ingredients. You won’t miss the meat patty at all in the delicious Orient Express burger, with beetroot, spices and special date chutney; and there’s three other burgers to choose from, Finish off with a sweet, low-fat Shrikhand yoghurt. Set menus from 69-8.50. Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 1200 - 20:00. €€

Thai restaurant

Sarod’s Friesenstraße 22, tel. 69 50 73 33 www.sarods.de

Traditional healthy Thai cuisine

fresh and dainty
Italian

**Gorgonzola Club**  H-4, Dresdener Straße 121, Kreuzberg, [M] Kottbusser Tor, tel. +49 30 615 64 73, www.gorgonzolaclub.de. *An In Your Pocket favourite,* serving the best and biggest carpaccio we’ve had, and with lovely seating in the green outdoor courtyard. The prices for the fresh pastas, pizzas and other dishes are by all means reasonable, and there are additional changing dinner options too. For after-dinner cocktails simply go next door to the Würgeengel bar.  Open 18:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 02:00. €

**Osteria N°1**  F-5, Kreuzbergstraße 71, Kreuzberg, [M] Mehringdamm, tel. +49 30 786 91 62, www.osteriauno.de.  Next to Viktoriapark, this neighbourhood fixture has a fantastic *Biergarten* bordered by lemon, cherry and olive trees. Classic regional cuisine is prepared by cooks from different parts of Italy, and everything is made fresh to order. Order a pasta with Tuscan hare ragout or salmon in orange sauce. Perhaps the most child-friendly place in town, too. Choose from six different lunch menus from €7.  Open 12:00 - 01:00. €€.

**Vicolo Bergmann**  F-5, Bergmannstraße 88, Kreuzberg, [M] Mehringdamm, tel. +49 30 69 00 44 88, info@vicolo-bergmann.de, www.vicolo-bergmann.de. Tasty Sicilian food is served at Vicolo: quality meat and seafood with fresh vegetables and herbs. The small uncluttered space, with randomly exposed bricks, is decorated with newspaper cuttings and even has basil growing on the counter. Don’t miss the sinfully sweet Sicilian desserts.  Open 12:00 - 24:00. €€.

**Pagode Thai Kitchen**  Bergmannstr. 88, 10961 Berlin
030 691 26 40
www.pagode-thaifood.de
mo-so: 12:00 - 24:00 Uhr

Cafés

**Café Rix**  Karl-Marx-Straße 141, Neukölln, [M] Karl-Marx-Straße, tel. +49 30 686 90 20, www.cafe-rix.de. A fabulous café that’s completely worth the trek out to Berlin’s shabbiest and most multicultural neighbourhood. Many entertainment halls were built in this part of town, attracting thousands of Berliners at weekends. Rix is one of the last remaining entertainment halls in the area, dating from 1880 and all gold twirls, high ceilings and big mirrors. It’s just perfect for sipping coffee and munching on cake, or for a well-prepared meal. Combine it with a concert at the adjacent Heimathafen or a visit to Rixdorf’s old square and lush Körnerpark.  Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri 09:00 - 01:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. €€

**Weltrestaurant Markthalle**  H-4, Pücklerstraße 34, Kreuzberg, [M] Görlitzer Bahnhof, tel. +49 30 617 55 02, www.weltrestaurant-markthalle.de. Within a historic market hall building, the rustic Markthalle restaurant is long and tall, with wainscoting, simple wooden furniture and a bar that locals belly up to. It’s a restaurant that doesn’t let its looks carry it: the kitchen takes pride in its nouvelle takes on German and Austrian standards. The menu changes weekly, but count on Spätzle, Schweinebraten (braised pork), and apple strudel. Breakfasts run from Russian to American-style, and as late as 16:00. After dinner, check if anything is going down in the club in the cellar.  Open 10:00 - 24:00. €€.

**Café am Engelbecken** H-4, Michaelkirchplatz, Mitte, [M] Heinrich-Heine-Straße, tel. +49 157 88 94 70 91, www.cafe-am-engelbecken.de. Opposite the impressive, partially-restored redbrick St. Michael’s church is a little pond, sunk into a depressed parkway that was once a canal. Hidden away at the reedy edge of the pond is a sunny terrace café. View of the water and the rustling tall green reeds makes this a peaceful respite from all things city while still being near the heart of Kreuzberg (and can you believe this very area was once filled with rubble, and part of the Wall’s deathstrip?). Pizza and snacks are being served and they offer a choice of cocktails. In Winter ice-skating on the pond is a popular activity.  Open 10:00 - 24:00. €

**Cafés**

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Bars

Galander F-4, Grossbeerenstraße 54, Kreuzberg, 26 97, www.galander-berlin.de. A wonderfully classic bar, furnished with 1920s-style fauteuils and woodwork. Apart from beer, Galander has an excellent selection of wine and can mix some quite unusual cocktails for you. Occasionally the piano is played too. Recommended for a quality night out.  Open 18:00 - 02:00. Closed Mon.

Milchbar H-4, Manteuffelstraße 41, Kreuzberg, 26 97, www.milchbar-berlin.de. It is the foam of beer that lines the upper lip of patrons of Milchbar, home to punks, students, and aging alternative types still loyal to the sounds of punk, ska, thrash, and hard rock. The crowd is not so anarchic as to not want to cheer on their teams when football games are screened. The murals and dark décor can heighten your wooziness if you’ve had one round too many.  Open 17:00 - 04:00.

Würgeengel H-4, Dresdener Straße 122, Kreuzberg, 26 97, www.wuergeengel.de. Pronounced woor-ge-en-gel and named after Buñuel’s film El Ángel Exterminador, this dark brown bar is a great place for a drink and a snack. The tapas list has a dozen tasty options, while the cocktail menu has over 50 reasons to delay your departure. To round it all off, there are Cuban and other cigars to enjoy.  Open from 19:00.

Nightlife

Gay nightlife

Möbel Olfe H-4, Reichenberger Straße 177, Kreuzberg, 26 97, www.moebel-olfe.de. Through plate glass windows, pink neon tubes and the swirl of a disco ball signal there is life yet within this moribund former furniture outlet. It’s the Oranienstraße neighbourhood hangout for gays, lesbians, and anyone else looking for a relaxed, good time.  Open 18:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon.

Sightseeing

Landmarks

Tempelhof Airport Terminal (Zentralflughafen) Platz der Luftbrücke, 26 97, www.tempelhoferfreiheit.de. The Tempelhof Airport terminal, now used for events, was constructed in the 1930s, but the interior of the massive 1300-metre-long complex was never finished. The history is impressive: the Prussian army paraded here, in 1909 Orville Wright broke records by flying higher and longer than ever before, and in 1948 the first round of the Cold War was won when the Allied airlift beat the Soviet blockade. Two-hour English-language tours take you from the apron and the main hall, down into the air raid bunkers and onto the roof.  Guided tours in English on Sat at 15:00, Sun at 10:30. Tickets €12/9, children €6.

Pagode

A much-loved self-service restaurant with inexpensive, mouthwateringly delicious and award-winning Thai cuisine.
Museums

**Berlinische Galerie** G-4, Alte Jakobstraβe 124-128, Kreuzberg, M U Hallesches Tor, tel. +49 30 78 90 28 00, www.berlinische-galerie.de. This museum for modern art, photography, architecture, and artist-archived collections concentrates 120 years worth of creativity forged in Berlin. Artists represented range from Expressionists and Dada, New Objectivity movements, and those representing the divided Berlin. Giants of German art include Heinrich Zille, Otto Dix, Georg Grosz, Hannah Hoch and Wolf Vostell. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Tue. Admission €5/2,50, special exhibitions €4/2, combined ticket €7/3,50.

**Martin-Gropius-Bau** F-4, Niederer Kirchenstraβe 7, Kreuzberg, M U Potsdamer Platz, tel. +49 30 25 48 60, www.gropiusbau.de. Dusty pink brick, gilded mosaics, stained glass window set within grounds of Grünspitz, not Walter Bauhaus’s Gropius. Completed in 1881, the beauty once held an arts and crafts museum, and nothing on the touristic block can hold a candle to it. Today the Martin-Gropius-Bau hosts excellent touring exhibitions. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Tue.

**Topographie des Terrors** (Topography of Terror) F-4, Niederer Kirchenstraβe 8, Kreuzberg, M U Kochstraβe, tel. +49 30 25 45 09 50, www.topographie.de. Beside the North Berlin wall, on a stretch of wall that is all that remain of the palace housing the Reich Security (SS) Office. The fascinating exhibit in the trench and the adjacent pavement and park uses models, texts and photos to highlight the topography of the Third Reich police, military and security groups that were headquartered in this area, and discusses their organisation and the terror they cast across Europe. The most important lesson to take home is perhaps that these organisations only managed to thrive thanks to the continuous cooperation of many institutes and citizens. Set aside 2-3 hours to do it justice. Open 10:00 - 20:00. Admission free.

**Markets**

**Handmade Supermarket** H-4, Eisenbahnstraβe 42 (Markthal IX), Kreuzberg, M U Götteritz Bahnhof, www.handmade-supermarket.de. A wonderful crafts market inside the historical Markthalle IX, where 60 local designers and artists sell handmade and fair trade products: T-shirts, jewellery, buttons, bags, art, ceramics and more. The souvenir touch is kept to a minimum. Every second Sunday of the month, open 11:00-18:00. Admission free.

**Markthalle XI** H-4, Eisenbahnstraβe 42, Kreuzberg, M U Götteritz Bahnhof, tel. +49 30 577 09 46 61, www.markthalle9.de. Everything you need for a picnic in Götteritz Park. The historical ‘number 9’ market hall from 1891 has recently been revived with a weekly market, selling organic fruit and vegetables, cheese, bread, meat and smoke fish. There’s also a snack stand with picnic tables, a children’s corner and a thriving trade in smokable flora. On a balcony anytime, there’s no better place to be in Kreuzberg.

**Souvenirs & Gifts**

**Herrlich** F-5, Bergmannstraβe 2, Kreuzberg, M U Mehringdamm, tel. +49 30 784 53 95, www.herrlich-online.de. Set the ladies loose in the mall; men will find what they really need at Herrlich, a quirky men’s gift shop selling stock clothing products, clothing accessories, barbecue gear and essential gadgets. Open 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

There’s a story on every corner in Berlin, though you’ll need to sift through the names, signs, logos and ubiquitous tramscape to find them. If you’re here for a limited amount of time, we highly recommend you join one of the walking or cycling tours to get your bearings and see the main sights.

**Driving Tours**

It’s unrivalled, but Berlin’s cheapest bus tour is on the double-decker N°100 and 200 buses. These run between Alexanderplatz and Zoologischer Bahnhof, with N°100 passing through Tiergarten and past the Reichstag, and N°200 taking a more southern route via the embassy district and Potsdamer Platz, before both lines converge on Unter den Linden.

**City Circle Buses**, tel. +49 30 88 56 80 30, www.beb.de. Operate hop-on hop-off double-decker bus City Circle tours lasting 2.5 hours. Buses run every 10 minutes, with narration in a dozen languages. Kurtfürstendamm 70.

**Walking & Cycling Tours**

Several companies offer affordable or free city centre highlight tours, lasting 3-4 hours and led by enthusiastic English-speaking ex-pats, hoping you’ll sign up for their more specialised tours. Booking is usually not required, just show up at the meeting points (usually at Hackescher Markt, and 30 minutes beforehand at Zoo Bahnhof). We’ve also included several fun specialised tours. Don’t forget to tip the guide.

**Berlin Locals**, tel. +49 177 238 00 02, info@berlinlocals.com, www.berlinlocals.com. Tailor made private tours, full or half day, led by local German historians who can often relate historical events to their family’s personal experience. Tour themes range from The 1920s, Cold War and Wall, to street art, railways and architecture. The guides are also licenced for Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Tours are in English or German. Tours €40 per hour, €250 per day.

**Society for the Exploration and Documentation of Subterranean Architecture**

**MS Schiffskontor**

**Cold War and WWII bunker tours**

Different tours every day • see: www.berliner-unterwellen.de

Subway: Gesundbrunnen (UB), southern entrance-hall • Brunnенstraße 105

**Berlin in Your Pocket**

berlin.inyourpocket.com

February - March 2013

Breuer's Berlin Tours F-3, M5/U Friedrichstrasse, tel. +49 177 388 15 37, www.breuersberlintours.com. The 6-hour Best of Berlin(10:30, €15/12), the 3-Hour Express (13:00, tip only tours are great introductions to the city. Potsdam tours take place on Wed and Sat (09:20, €15/12). The meeting point for all tours is the Bandy Brooks ice cream shop near Friedrichstrasse station. Bookings are required.

Finding Berlin Tours I-4, Revaler Straße 99, Friedrichshain, tel. +49 176 99 33 39 13, info@findingberlintours.com, www.findingberlintours.com. Remarkable 3-4 hour tours on foot or using stylish classic bicycles. Themes include avant-garde and street art scenes, and unique tours of Turkish and Vietnamese Berlin whereby locals tell you about their lives and neighbourhoods. The daily 3,5-hour tours can be arranged for groups of minimum 20 people usually not accessible to the public. With prior notification, tours Sat at 11:00, and on demand. Book ahead. Tickets €10-16.

New Berlin Tours F-3, Pariser Platz, Mitte, M5/U Brandenburger Tor. New Berlin pioneered the free 3.5-hour city centre tours that are popular with young visitors who are as interested in each other as in the sights along the route (daily 11:00 and 13:00 from the Brandenburger Tor Starbucks). They additionally offer various themed tours and pub crawls (€12).

Original Berlin Walks, tel. +49 30 30 30 91 94, www.originalberlinwalks.de. The daily 3.5-hour Discover Berlin tour starts at the Weltenstephaner restaurant on Hackescher Markt at 10:30 and 14:00. Check online for themed tours like Third Reich, Cold War, Queer Berlin, Jewish Berlin and Potsdam. Tickets €12/10.

Berlin Underworlds The Berlin Underworlds Association allows you to experience Berlin’s history from an unusual perspective, through its underground installations dating back to the Cold War, World War II, or earlier. Though predominantly in the spaces below Berlin’s Gesundbrunnen station, tours are also offered in several other complexes that are usually not accessible to the public. With prior notification, tours can be arranged for groups of minimum 20 people at other times.

The following tours are held in English; they also take place in German and Spanish at other times, and various tours are held in Dutch, French, Italian and Danish.

Tour 1: Dark Worlds – A bunker from the Nazi era. Mar-Nov Mon 11:00 and 13:00, Wed-Sun 11:00; Dec-Feb Mon 11:00 and 13:00, Thu-Sun 11:00.

Tour 2: From Flak Towers to Mountains of Debris. Enter a devastated albeit fascinating underground world. Apr 1, Oct 31, Thu-Sun 16:00.

Tour 3: Subway, Bunkers, Cold War – a political history of Berlin from an unusual perspective. Mar-Nov Tues 11:00 and 13:00, Wed-Sun 13:00; Dec-Feb Thu-Sun 13:00.


For further information see www.berliner-unterwelten.de. Tickets €10/8. Tour M €13/10 (no reservation required); the meeting point is at the southern entrance of the Gesundbrunnen U-Bahn station at Brunnenstraße 105, tel. +49 30 49 91 05 17.

Insider Tours G-3, M5 Hackescher Markt, tel. +49 30 692 31 49, www.imdowntowntour.com. Insider’s enthusiastic guides go a long way to make you feel like an insider on the daily 4-hour tours; it starts from AMT Coffee at Hackescher Markt (10:30 and 15:00, €12/10). Other tours are the Wall, Third Reich, Sachsenhausen, Potsdam, Jewish Berlin and a pub crawl.

Isherwood’s Neighbourhood Tour D-4/5, M U Nollendorfplatz, tel. +49 151 25 22 03 42, brendan@10777tours.com, www.cabaret-berlin.com. In the 1920s Berlin was a veritable ‘Sodom on the Spree’ with 85,000 lesbians, open prostitution and an outrageous club and revue theatre scene. The young British writer Christopher Isherwood (from 1929 to 1933) was drawn to the gay scene of Berlin and its nightlife. Emil Nolli andexpats Anto Berke and Marian Delay direct. Tours Sat at 11:00, and on demand. Book ahead. Tickets €10.

New Berlin Tours F-3, Pariser Platz, Mitte, M5/U Brandenburger Tor. New Berlin pioneered the free 3.5-hour city centre tours that are popular with young visitors who are as interested in each other as in the sights along the route (daily 11:00 and 13:00 from the Brandenburger Tor Starbucks). They additionally offer various themed tours and pub crawls (€12).

Original Berlin Walks, tel. +49 30 30 31 91 94, www.originalberlinwalks.de. The daily 3.5-hour Discover Berlin tour starts at the Weltenstephaner restaurant on Hackescher Markt at 10:30 and 14:00. Check online for themed tours like Third Reich, Cold War, Queer Berlin, Jewish Berlin and Potsdam. Tickets €12/10.

Art galleries in Berlin The low cost of living draws thousands of artists to Berlin, but low rent is also how their galleries survive, as there are fewer buyers in Berlin. Important galleries remain out west in Charlottenburg, such as on Mommenseestraße, though a new node of modern art galleries is currently developing along Potsdamer Straße. In Mitte, contemporary galleries are peppered throughout the Scheunenviertel area, particularly along Auguststraße and Gipsstraße.

Business connections American Chamber of Commerce Charlottenburg, Mitte, M5/U Friedrichstrasse, tel. +49 30 28 87 89 21, info@amcham.de.

Deutsche Industrie-und Handelskammer (Chamber of Commerce) Breite Straße 29, Mitte,/www.dihk.de.


Doctors Dr. Alexander Heise Kurfürstendamm 139, Charlottenburg, M6/U Friedrichstrasse, tel. +49 30 89 54 07 50.


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