

NO 1

BERLIN

CONTENTS

<u>'Willkommen' To Berlin</u>	1
<u>Berlin's Top Landmarks</u>	4
<u>Seasonal Highlights</u>	19
<u>Berlin Welcome Card</u>	24
<u>Berlin Public Transport</u>	26
<u>Museums & Galleries</u>	31
<u>Top Free Things To See & Do!</u>	41
<u>Intro To Food In Berlin</u>	54
<u>Entertainment</u>	62
<u>Where To Stay</u>	73
<u>Useful Contacts</u>	81



1

'WILLKOMMEN' TO BERLIN

'Willkommen' to Berlin

A couple of useful tips before you visit...

Climate

Money

Smoking in public

Language barrier

Transport

Vegetarianism

Nightlife

Public nudity



Willkommen to Berlin

Few western nations can boast the unique bohemian cultural blend that is so typical to Berlin.

From electro clubs to symphony orchestras and from classical museums to the **East Side Gallery**, Berlin's unforgettable cultural landscape is one of a kind.

Catalysed by the vast changes in the city's social, political and architectural trends, over the past century Berlin has undergone a long and painful evolution. Today, the capital stands out as a centre for diversity and freedom of expression, though the scars of oppression and war can still be seen in the plastered bullet holes on its baroque architecture, and the many monuments to the victims of fascism.

After the second world war, up to 80% of the city centre was destroyed or badly damaged. Reconstruction work took place gradually over the decades that followed, though it wasn't until German reunification that this picked up pace. The task of

rebuilding continues to this day, with the formerly demolished **City Palace** being rebuilt from the original designs with a colossal budget of €590 million.

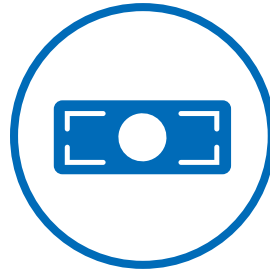
Today, visitors are able to explore the many historical museums, art galleries and monuments to trace the journey of this remarkable city through the decades. With countless opportunities available, it can be difficult to know where to start. This guide aims to provide you with all the need-to-know information that you will require, as well as offering you some insight into the best sights and sounds within the city. Covering everything from museums and galleries to restaurants and transport, we hope this guide will help you to plan what to do, where to eat and how to get around while visiting Berlin on a city break.

A COUPLE OF USEFUL TIPS BEFORE YOU VISIT...



CLIMATE

Berlin winters can get pretty cold, so if you visit the city between December and February, make sure you've packed your winter woollens!



MONEY

Most shops, bars and restaurants don't take credit cards — cash is king. Make sure you're carrying enough before dining out.



SMOKING IN PUBLIC

Smoke alert! Unlike the UK, Berlin has so far escaped the smoking ban. While most restaurants are smoke-free, the majority of bars and clubs allow smoking indoors.



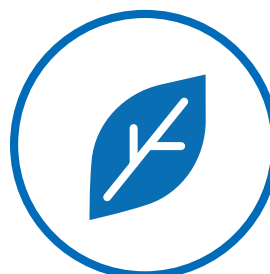
LANGUAGE BARRIER

While it's always useful to learn a little of the native tongue before visiting a country, rest assured that most people in the service industry speak English very well.



TRANSPORT

The public transport links are sufficient in Berlin to get you pretty much anywhere. By purchasing a Berlin Welcome Card, you'll get free transport for the duration of the card and discounts on over 200 attractions.



VEGETARIANISM

Berlin has a huge vegetarian and vegan population, with a large focus on organic produce. So if you're a vegetarian, it's always easy to find great dining options.



NIGHTLIFE

72 hours of relentless partying. Berlin's nightlife caters to hardcore party-goers, with many nightclubs remaining open throughout the entire weekend, without a break.



PUBLIC NUDITY

Pack those sunglasses - white bits on show! Nudism is particularly popular within Germany, and many of Berlin's parks have designated nudist areas.



2

BERLIN'S TOP LANDMARKS

1. **Brandenburger Tor**
(Brandenburg Gate)
2. **Berliner Fernsehturm**
(TV Tower)
3. **Reichstag Building**
(Bundestag Building)
4. **Tiergarten Park —
Victory Column**
5. **Museumsinsel**
(Museum Island)
6. **Potsdamer Platz**
(Potsdamer Square)
7. **Checkpoint Charlie**
8. **East Side Gallery**
9. **Berliner Dom**
(Berlin Cathedral)
10. **Schloss Charlottenburg**
(Charlottenburg Palace)
11. **Potsdam & Sanssouci**

Berlin has a seemingly infinite range of attractions to explore and enjoy, making it difficult to know where to start.

Here is a shortlist of some of Berlin's top landmarks to visit during your stay. While the list is by no means exhaustive, it will hopefully offer some insight into the history, culture and need-to-know information for some of the city's main attractions.

WEST

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Brandenburger Tor
(Brandenburg Gate) | 7 | Checkpoint Charlie |
| 3 | Reichstag Building
(Bundestag Building) | 10 | Schloss Charlottenburg
(Charlottenburg Palace) |
| 4 | Tiergarten Park —
Victory Column | 11 | Potsdam & Sanssouci |
| 6 | Potsdamer Platz
(Potsdamer Square) | | |

10
(4.4 KM)

(34 KM)
11



EAST

2

Berliner Fernsehturm
(TV Tower)

5

Museumsinsel
(Museum Island)

8

East Side Gallery

9

Berliner Dom
(Berlin Cathedral)





1

BRANDENBURGER TOR (Brandenburg Gate)

The **Brandenburg Gate** is perhaps one of the most iconic images of modern day Berlin. Built in 1791 upon the site of a customs gate, it was one of the city's first Neo-classical structures. Representing peace within the Prussian Empire, it was originally given the name **Friedenstor (Peace Gate)**.

The monument is formed by 12 columns, laid out to create 5 passageways. Permission to pass through each archway was traditionally determined by rank – only royals and senior nobles could pass through the central arch.

Atop the Gate is the impressive Quadriga – a chariot pulled by 4 horses. The original Quadriga featured the

Goddess Eirene, symbolic of peace. However, after the Prussian defeat in 1806, Napoleon stole the Quadriga and took it to Paris. When it was later returned following Napoleon's defeat in 1814, it was redesigned to represent the Goddess Victoria – symbolic of triumph and power.

This imposing structure has been a focal point for many of the city's festivals and demonstrations throughout history, and remains an integral symbol and functional part of Berlin culture. Recently, the Brandenburg Gate was where football fans gathered to watch the **World Cup**, and was also where the **Berlin Wall 25 Year Anniversary Concert** took place.



ADDRESS:
Pariser Platz, 10117 Berlin



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U6 (Friedrichstraße)
S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Brandenburger Tor)
Bus: 100, M85 (Reichstag), 200 (Brandenburger Tor)

2 BERLINER FERNSEHTURM

(TV Tower)

Built by the East-German GDR government in the 1960s, the construction of the **TV Tower** had both a political and a functional purpose. The strategic positioning of the building combined with its grand scale meant that it would be visible from all areas within the city - serving as a symbol of the efficiency and power of the socialist party system.

In the years that followed, the image of the TV Tower became as iconic as the **Brandenburg Gate**. Every year 1.2 million tourists decide to take the lift to the top of the tower and enjoy the panoramic view over the city from the observation deck or the revolving restaurant.

Tickets for the TV Tower can be purchased online or on the door, and there are several options available.

With the regular entry ticket, you'll need to wait. Luckily though, you'll be allocated a time at the ticket desk. The 'Fast View' ticket allows you the privilege of jumping the queue. To dine in the tower's revolving restaurant, you either need to reserve a table online and then pay for admission separately or buy the 'VIP' ticket, which offers fast-track entrance to the tower and the next available table in the restaurant.

If you haven't reserved a table and you don't have a 'VIP' ticket, you'll be pleased to know that there is a snack bar in the observation deck. Although the observation deck doesn't revolve, it does contain information plaques explaining the history of what you can see as you walk round to enjoy the 360 degree view.



OPENING TIMES:

Mar—Oct: 9am—midnight
Nov—Feb: 10am—midnight



ADMISSION

Regular €13, Child (4-16y) €8.50
VIP Adult €23.00, Child (4-16y) €15.00
Fast view Adult €19.50, Child (4-16y) €12.00
Early Bird (9.00am): Adult €13.00,
Child (4-16y) €8.50
Late Night (9.30-11pm): Adult €13.00
Child (4-16y) €8.50



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Panoramastraße 1A, 10178 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U2, U5, U8 (Alexanderplatz)
S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Alexanderplatz)
Tram: M4, M5, M6 (Alexanderplatz)
Bus: TXL, M48, 100, 200, 248, N5, N8
(Alexanderplatz)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.tv-turm.de/en/>

TABLE RESERVATION:

<http://tv-turm-reservierung.de/index/login/lang/en>



3 REICHSTAG (Bundestag Building)

After the **Reichstag Building** was completed in 1894 it was destined to be the main seat of the German parliament. This was until the 'Reichstag fire' of 1933 which destroyed large segments of the building. The destruction of the parliament building caused the 'state of emergency' that allowed the Nazi party to lay down the necessary legislation for dictatorial rule.

From this point onwards, the Reichstag building was largely unused. A redesign and renovation project in 1964 removed most of the heraldic symbols, to create a comparatively plain building for conferences. After German reunification in 1990, an architectural competition took place to find an architect to redesign the Reichstag Building to reinstate it as the seat of central government. The winning design came from **Norman Foster**, whose design removed many of the modern

additions while attempting to maintain the historic aspects of the building.

Foster's glass dome addition references the original dome, but with an added symbolism. The structure enables visitors to view the bundestag chamber from above. This represents the transparency of modern politics and the idea that the people are above the government, in contrast to the oppressive nature of government in previous years.

Visitors receive a 20-minute audioguide, which outlines important facts about the Reichstag, the German Parliament and the visible sights as visitors ascend the spiral pathway to the top of the dome. Guided tours in English are also available, but should be booked online well in advance to ensure a place.



OPENING TIMES:

Daily: 8am—midnight (last admission: 11pm)



GETTING THERE:

U-BAHN: U55 (Bundestag)

S-BAHN: S1, S2, S25 (Brandenburger Tor)

BUS: 100, M85 (Reichstag)



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin



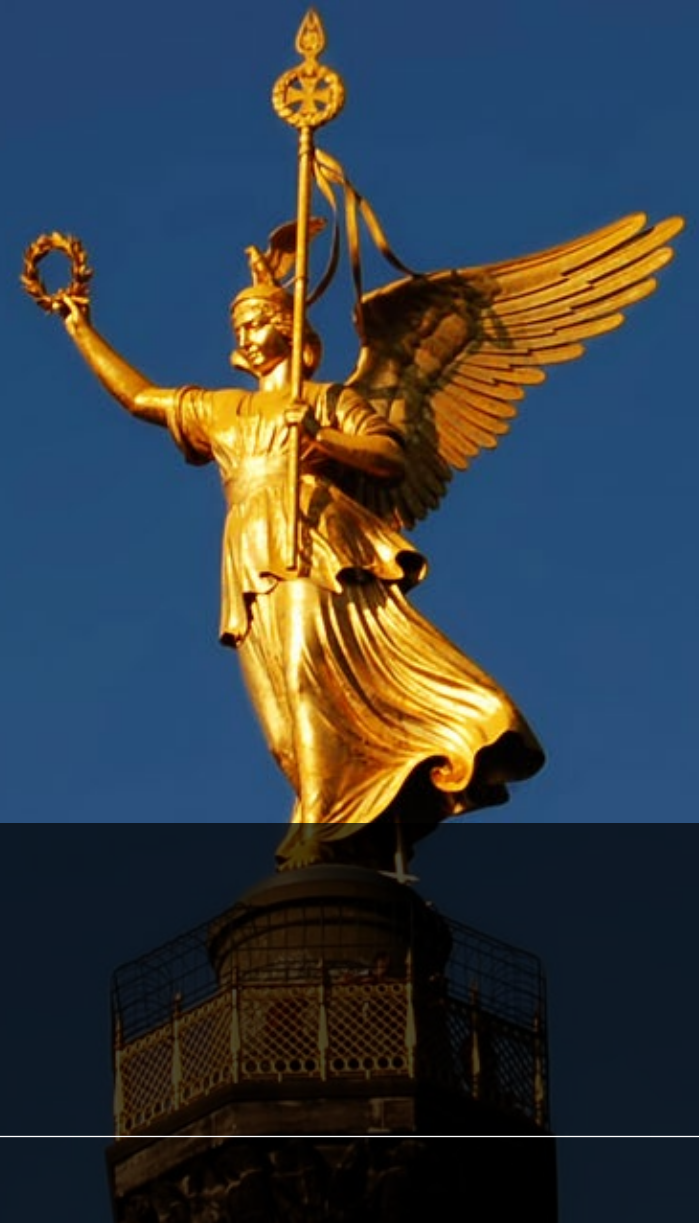
OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/visits

ONLINE REGISTRATION:

<https://visite.bundestag.de/BAPWeb/pages/create-BookingRequest.jsf?lang=en>

4 TIERGARTEN PARK — VICTORY COLUMN



As the second largest urban park in Germany, the **Großer Tiergarten** is unsurprisingly impressive. The total size comes to a whopping 520 acres, and the park offers sculpted gardens, art installations, water features and a number of historically significant monuments. Due to its proximity to numerous attractions, such as the **Reichstag Building**, the **Brandenburg Gate**, **Berlin Zoo** and countless museums and galleries, the Tiergarten is the perfect place to enjoy a picnic or a quiet walk after sightseeing in the local area.

Within the park, visitors will find several 19th-century statues, including the Beethoven-Haydn-Mozart Memorial.

More recent monuments include the Soviet War Memorial, the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma victims of National Socialism, and the Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted Under Nazism.

The **Victory Column** (Siegessäule) is undoubtedly the masterpiece of the Tiergarten park. Originally located opposite the Reichstag building, the column was moved in 1939, and re-designed to add another 7.5 metres to its height. Entrance to the column is accessible via an underground passage through the Großer Stern intersection. Visitors are able to climb to the top of the column, which offers panoramic views over the city.

TIERGARTEN PARK



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U55 (Bundestag)
S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Tiergarten)
Bus: 100, 106, 187 (Großer Stern)
 187 (Schloss Bellevue)



ADMISSION

Regular €2.20 Concessions €1.50



OPENING TIMES:

Apr—Oct: Mon—Fri: 9:30am—6:30pm
 Sat—Sun: 9:30am—7pm
Nov—Mar: Mon—Fri: 10am—5pm
 Sat—Sun: 10am—5:30pm



GETTING THERE:

Bus: 100, 106, 187 (Großer Stern)



5

MUSEUMSINSEL (Museum Island)

Located in the centre of Berlin, this small island was once the 13th-century citadel of Cölln and was the sister town of Old Berlin (Altberlin). Today, the island is home to some of the greatest treasures and works of art in the whole of Europe. The island was awarded **UNESCO World Heritage** status in 1999, and boasts 5 of Berlin's most famous museums - the Pergamon Museum, the Bode-Museum, the Alte Nationalgalerie, the Altes Museum and the Neues Museum.

The Pergamon Museum is perhaps the best known museum on the island, and amongst its most famous artefacts visitors will find the **'Pergamon Altar'**, the **'Ishtar Gate'**, the **'Market Gate of Miletus'** and the **'Meissner fragment'** of the **'Epic of Gilgamesh'**.

In the Neues Museum, visitors will find the Egyptian Collection, which houses the **'Bust of Nefertiti'** and one of the few female sphinxes - the **'Sphinx of Shepenupet II'**.

Museum Island is also the home of Berlin Cathedral, and the location of Berlin's 15th-century City Palace (Stadtschloss). Demolished after the Second World War, the City Palace is now being rebuilt in line with original designs, and construction work is expected to be complete by 2019.

For more information on the treasures of Museum Island as well as transport information and opening-times check out our [Museums and Galleries chapter](#).



6 POTSDAMER PLATZ (Potsdamer Square)

Potsdamer Platz is one of the oldest squares in Berlin, and with the exception of the Cold War years it has always been a centre for commerce and trade. Despite having its roots in the 17th-century, virtually nothing remains of the historic buildings that once lined its surrounding streets.

Allied bombing raids led to the near-total destruction of its infrastructure and architecture during the Second World War. However, within weeks of the war's end, citizens and businessmen patched up the remaining floors of bombed-out buildings so that trade could once again commence - in spite of the wreckage and loss.

Potsdamer Platz has seen a complete overhaul in its appearance in recent years, combining art, entertainment

and shopping opportunities to follow in its history as a centre of commerce, but with a unique modern flair. The square attracts up to 100,000 visitors per day, and has something for everyone - from art and history, to fine dining, shopping and evening entertainment. The famous **Cinemaxx** cinema boasts a total of 19 screens, and has been the main location of the **Berlinale Film Festival** since the year 2000.

The square is best appreciated in the evening, when the lights of the Sony Center lend a futuristic beauty. The [Sony Center](#) is also a great place to go if you feel like watching a movie, as it shows films in their original language.



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U2 (Potsdamer Platz)

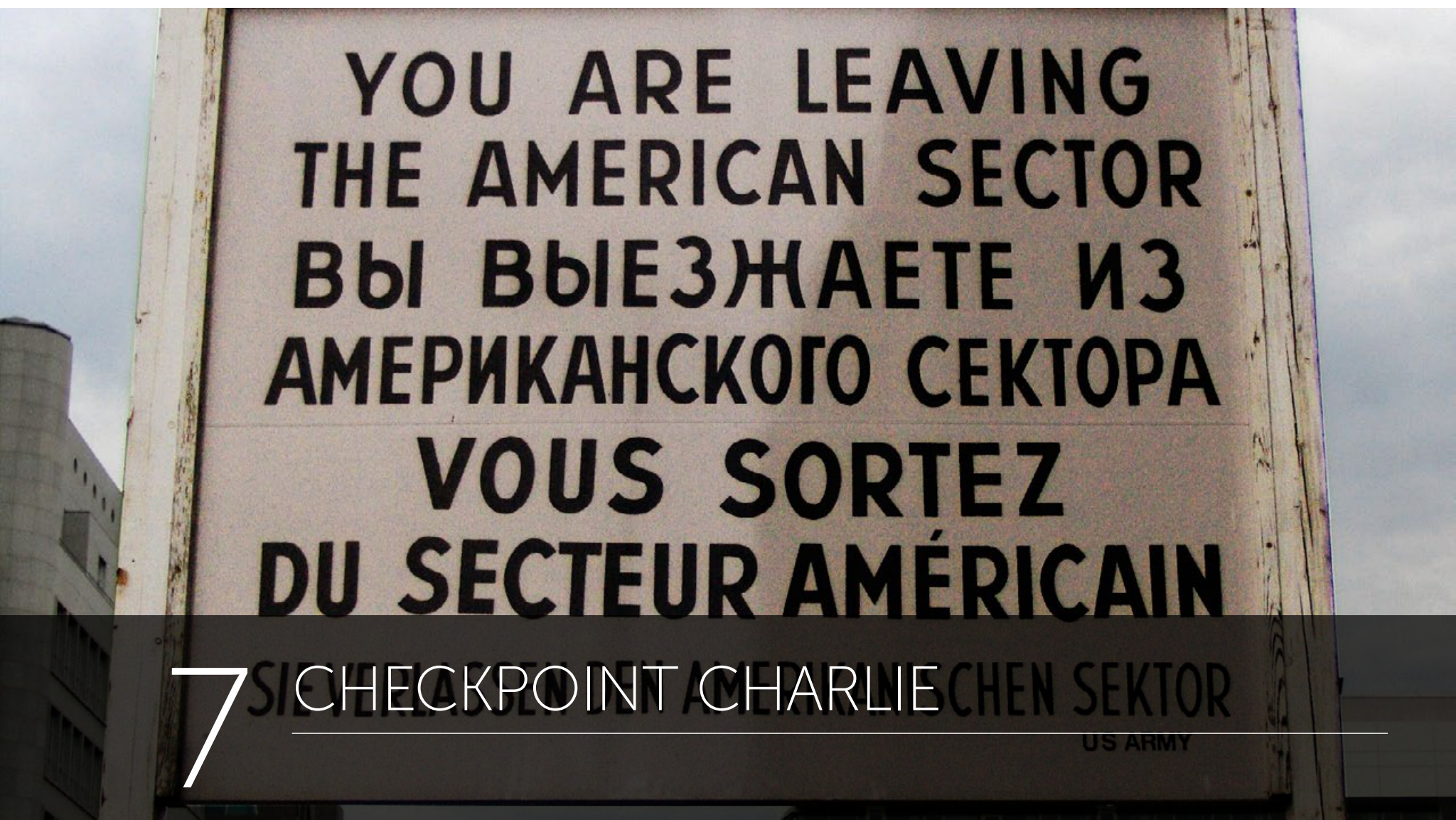
S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Potsdamer Platz)

BUS: 200, M48, M85, N2 (Potsdamer Platz)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://potsdamerplatz.de/en/home/>



7 CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

A visit to Berlin is not complete without a trip to Checkpoint Charlie. Attracting over one-million visitors each year, the now-symbolic border crossing is one of Berlin's most famous monuments. After the Berlin Wall was constructed, several checkpoints were set up as border crossings. For foreigners and allied troops there were 2 main checkpoints that could be used - Checkpoint Charlie and Checkpoint Bravo.

During the time of separation, Checkpoint Charlie garnered the most media attention - initially due to the famous tank stand-off between Soviet and U.S. troops in 1961. A year later, the station received media attention once again following the tragic death of 18-year old Peter Fechter as he attempted to escape to freedom in

the West. Fechter almost made it across to the Western side when he was shot by Soviet troops. Neither side intervened to provide medical assistance, which caused uproar amongst the population. A memorial to Peter Fechter is now located on Zimmerstraße, near Checkpoint Charlie.

The original Checkpoint Charlie station has now been moved to the [Allied Museum](#) in Berlin-Zehlendorf, though a symbolic station has been placed on the original site, along with a sign marking the border of the American and Russian sectors. For a small fee, visitors can have their pictures taken with the actors in military uniform. The Allied Museum offers free admission and is open Tuesday- Friday from 10am until 6pm.

CHECKPOINT CHARLIE



PHOTO FEE €5



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Kochstraße)

Bus: M29 (Kochstraße)

ALLIED MUSEUM



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Clayallee 135, 14195 Berlin



OPENING TIMES:

Tues—Sun: 10am—6pm



GETTING THERE:

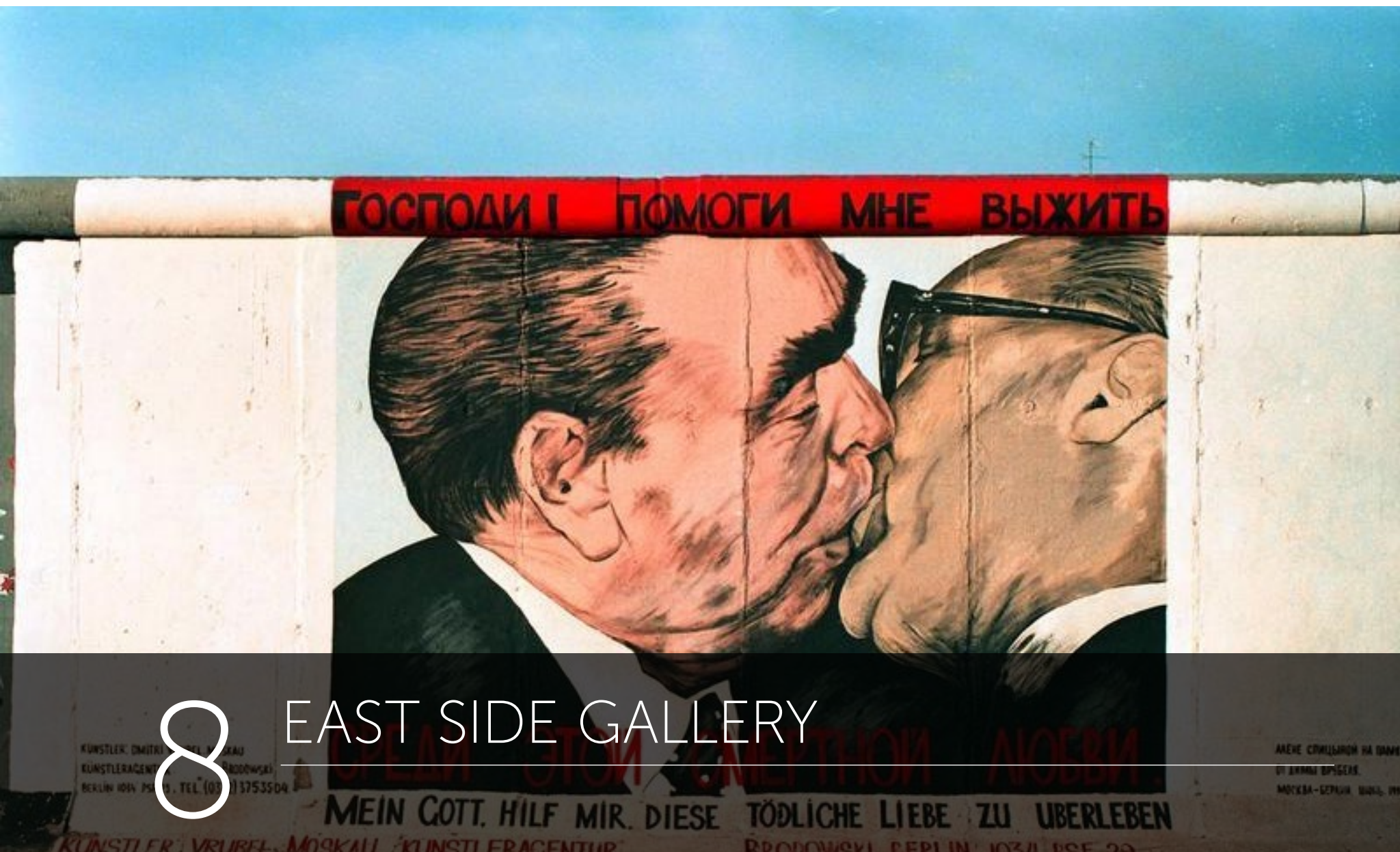
U-Bahn: U3 (Oskar-Helene-Heim)

Bus: 115, X83 (AlliertenMuseum)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.alliertenmuseum.de/en/home.html>



8 EAST SIDE GALLERY

Spanning 1.3 kilometres, the East Side Gallery is undisputedly the largest art gallery in Berlin. This enormous stretch of **Berlin Wall** was painted in 1990 by 102 artists, who came together to create an international memorial for freedom. Each of the 105 paintings individually represents the many forms of freedom, and the ability to overcome oppression. Prior to reunification, the east side of the wall had been untouchable.

When the gallery was created, some paintings garnered more media attention than others. One of the most famous works is 'My God, Help Me to Survive This Deadly Love' by Dmitri Vrubel - a depiction of the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and GDR Chairman Erich Honecker kissing. The image came from an actual photograph that

was taken while Brezhnev visited East Germany to sign a mutual trade agreement and celebrate the anniversary of East Germany becoming a Communist nation.

The condition of the wall has deteriorated gradually over time due to erosion, graffiti and vandalism, leading to restoration efforts in 2000. The decision to restore the paintings was intended for both the preservation of art history and the maintenance of a culturally-significant monument. It is estimated that the gallery attracts around 3 million visitors per year. A great way to see the monument is to start out from Ostbahnhof Station, and follow the wall along to Warschauer Straße. This way you can enjoy the gallery, and then check out some hipster shops in the Friedrichshain district.



LOCATION:

Mühlenstraße, Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg,
10243 Berlin



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.eastsidegallery-berlin.de/data/eng/index-eng.htm>



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U1 (Warschauer Straße)

S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Warschauer Straße)

Tram: M10 (Warschauer Straße)

Bus: 140, 142, 147, 240, 248, 347

(Ostbahnhof) 347 (Warschauer Straße)



9

BERLINER DOM

(Berlin Cathedral)

Berlin Cathedral is located on [Museum Island](#) in the central (Mitte) district of Berlin. Built in 1905 upon a historic site of Christian worship, the extravagant building was originally regarded as a Protestant equivalent to Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. Although the building is called a cathedral, the name is not truly accurate as it has never been the seat of a bishop.

At the time of completion, the cathedral was larger than it is today — like much of Berlin's prized architecture, damage was sustained during the war.

Although renovation work commenced in the decades that followed, this resulted in simplification of the original design and the removal of the northern wing.

Due to the slow process of reconstruction, the building was not suitable for use until 1980, and wasn't fully reopened to the public until 1993. Further restoration work has been proposed to return the main dome and the smaller domes (cupolas) to their original state, though this has not been realised due to lack of funds. Guided tours of the cathedral are available on request.

**ADMISSION**

Regular €7, Concessions €4, Audio guide €3.00

**OPENING TIMES:**

Mon—Sat: 9am—8pm,
Sun & Holidays: noon—8pm,

**ADDRESS:**

Berliner Dom, Am Lustgarten, 10178 Berlin

**GETTING THERE:**

U-Bahn: U2, U5, U8 (Alexanderplatz)

S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Hackescher Markt)

Tram: M4, M5, M6 (Spandauer Straße)

Bus: 100, 200 (Am Lustgarten)

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.berlinerdom.de/index.php?lang=en>

10 SCHLOSS CHARLOTTENBURG

(Charlottenburg Palace)

As the largest palace in Berlin, Schloss Charlottenburg's imposing architecture is unsurprisingly embossed with the former pomp and grandeur of the Prussian monarchy. Dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, the palace is also the oldest former royal residence still standing in Berlin. Built in the 17th-century in baroque style, the building was gradually extended in the following years, with the Palace of Versailles serving as a prominent architectural inspiration.

Palace highlights include the Porcelain Cabinet (a large room filled with thousands of porcelain items),

the rococo-styled State Apartments of Frederick the Great and the **Prussian Crown Jewels**. The palace also contains the largest collection of 18th-century French paintings outside of France.

Another impressive feature is the sculpted garden, which was originally inspired by the gardens at Versailles. The grounds were later redesigned in English landscape style and new buildings were added, including the Mausoleum, the Tea House (Belvedere) and the Neue Pavilion. The gardens are open to the public free of charge, though visiting the buildings carries a fee.



ADMISSION

Regular €12, Concessions €8

Charlottenburg+ (valid for all 4 houses in the palace grounds in one day)

Regular €15, Concessions €11

Photo Permission Ticket: €3



OPENING TIMES:

Nov—Mar: Tues—Sun: 10am—5pm, Mon: Closed
Apr—Oct: Tues—Sun: 10am—6pm, Mon: Closed



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Spandauer Damm 10-22, 14059 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U7 (Richard-Wagner-Platz)

S-Bahn: S41, S42, S45, S46 (Westend)

Bus: 309, M45 (Schloss Charlottenburg)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.spsg.de/schloesser-gaerten/objekt/schloss-charlottenburg-altes-schloss/>



11

POTSDAM & SANSSOUCI

Sanssouci is undoubtedly one of the most elaborate and extravagant palaces that Berlin has to offer. With excellently sculpted terraces and ornate heraldic features, this breathtaking architectural feat is bound to impress all who visit. Unbelievably, the building work took only 2 years to complete, and the palace interiors and furnishings have been kept as close as possible to their original state.

In the years that followed the construction of Sanssouci Palace, numerous other buildings and architectural follies were created in the palace grounds. Amongst these, visitors will find the **Chinese House** – an opulent pavilion built in rococo style, with oriental architectural elements.

The interior of the Chinese House is even more elaborate than its grand exterior, with ceiling paintings and silk wall-coverings.

Another addition to the grounds was the small neo-classical **Charlottenhof Palace**, which was built in the early 19th-century on the foundations of a former farmhouse. The interior design of this small but intriguing palace has remained largely intact, including the tent room which was inspired by a Roman Caesar's tent.

The Berlin WelcomeCard entitles visitors to discounts on the Premium Day Ticket, which covers entry to many of the palaces within both Potsdam and Berlin.



ADMISSION: SANSSOUCI

Valid for all palaces in one day

Regular €19, Concessions €14

Family ticket: €49 (2 adults, 2 children)

Photo Permission Ticket: €3



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Maulbeerallee, 14469 Potsdam



GETTING THERE:

Bus: 612, 614, 650, 695, X15 (Schloss Sanssouci)



OPENING TIMES:

Nov–Mar: Thurs–Tues: 10am–5pm, Wed: Closed

Apr–Oct: Thurs–Tues: 10am–6pm, Wed: Closed



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

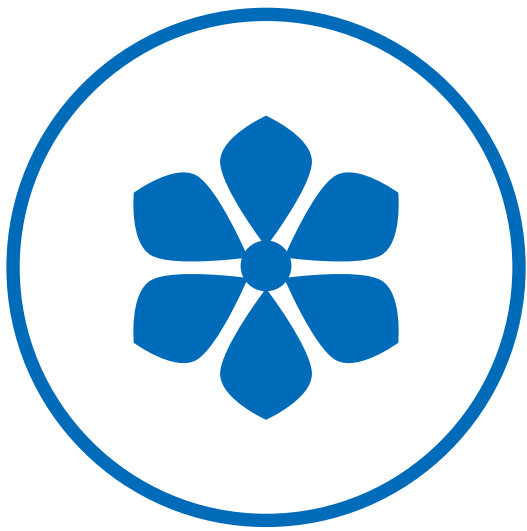
<http://www.spsg.de/schloesser-gaerten/objekt/schloss-sanssouci/>



3

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. SPRING:
Berlinale — International Film Festival
2. SUMMER:
Carnival of Cultures
3. AUTUMN:
Pyronale Fireworks Championship
4. WINTER:
Christmas Markets



SPRING

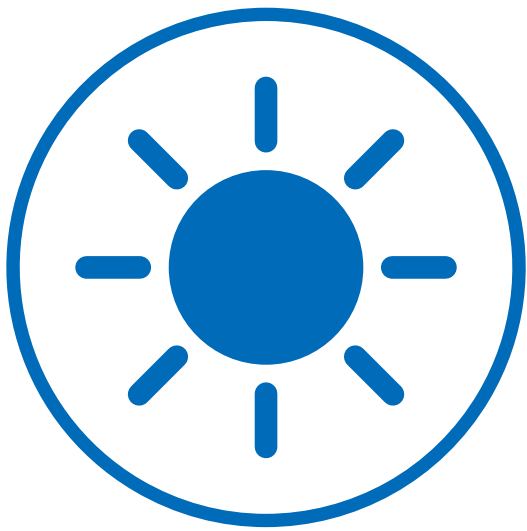
Berlinale – International Film Festival

The Berlinale International Film Festival was founded in West Berlin, and has been an annual event since 1978. The event has been described as the largest publicly attended film festival in the world - with around 300,000 tickets sold each year, and half a million admissions. Amongst those who attend, there are almost 20,000 professional visitors — including film industry executives, actors, actresses and 3,700 journalists.

Every year, approximately 400 films are shown at the festival — typically international or European premières. Unsurprisingly, there is a heavy focus on the European film industry, with the event also serving as a meeting point for the European Film Market, where over 8,000 professionals from 95 countries are able to network and build contacts.

More information on the Berlinale International Film Festival can be found [here](#).





SUMMER

Carnival of Cultures (May)

Perhaps Berlin's most vibrant and exotic festival, the Carnival of Cultures takes place every year on Whitsun weekend in May. The cobbled streets of **Kreuzberg** flood with spectators, performers and party-goers - all congregating to celebrate the rich tapestry of international cultures that make Berlin such an enchanting place. The combination of the loud music, colourful characters and jubilant crowds creates an electrical atmosphere.

Blücherplatz Square is where the main partying takes place. On numerous stages, a range of artists from Berlin's **World Music scene** play to the crowds. Also dotted around the streets, visitors will notice around 300 market stalls with international cuisines, arts and crafts.

The festival always ends with a grand finale - the eye-opening parade. This involves over 4,000 actors from all corners of the earth in an unbelievable variety of elaborate costumes. The Carnival routinely attracts between 600,000 and one-million visitors per year, and is a four-day event. Please note that it is uncertain whether the Carnival of Cultures will take place in 2015. Further information on the dates, times and plans for the Carnival can be found [here](#).





AUTUMN

Pyronale Fireworks Championship (4th & 5th September)

The Pyronale Fireworks Championship brings some of the most skilled operators in pyrotechnics to Berlin for an annual showdown. This monumental fireworks display will undoubtedly take your breath away - the creativity and ingenuity employed by these international artists is world-class.

With the extravagant displays reaching olympic proportions, the event fittingly takes place in Berlin's Olympiastadion (Olympic Stadium). Each team represents their home nation, and the stadium provides spectators with a ringside seat to admire the action. Tickets need to be purchased online in advance, and are available on [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

Alternatively, spectators can purchase tickets straight from the event organisers and receive a 15% discount, by registering as a regular customer [here](#). This does not involve any additional financial obligations.





WINTER

Christmas Market

Every year as Christmas approaches, Berlin evolves from a bohemian capital to a winter wonderland. The numerous Christmas markets throughout the city add an undeniable feeling of festivity. The warm, golden glow of the twinkling fairy lights, the jolly music and, of course, the sweet-spiced aroma of mulled wine (Glühwein) entice you in to browse and sample the treasures on offer.

For those who love the sights, sounds and smells of Christmas, Berlin is the perfect place to visit at this time of year. With not one, but **SIXTY Christmas markets**, there is always something on offer for even the pickiest of customers. The Christmas Market season generally begins in the last week of November and tapers off at the end of December, with the markets coming to a complete close by New Year. A detailed list of the markets and their timetables can be found [here](#).



4

BERLIN WELCOME CARD

1. [Berlin WelcomeCard](#)
2. [Berlin WelcomeCard
Museum Island](#)
3. [Museum Pass](#)

BERLIN

Introducing the Berlin WelcomeCard

If you want to make the most of a short visit, and would like to save money while doing so, we recommend that you buy the **Berlin WelcomeCard**. This card offers amazing deals and discounts at 200 different restaurants and shops within the city, and also includes a free city map.

The card offers free entry to many of the city's hottest attractions, as well as free

public transport for the duration of the card's validity.

There are a number of different options that you can choose from when purchasing your WelcomeCard, depending on how long you want to stay or what you want to see. There are three main variations:

1 BERLIN WelcomeCard

The regular card comes with a validity of either 2, 3 or 5 days, with a choice between the inner city (AB) or extended transport zone

card (ABC). The ABC zone card will cover you for attractions in the Potsdam area, as well as travel to and from Schönefeld Airport.

2 BERLIN WelcomeCard Museum Island

The Museum Island variant of the WelcomeCard is valid for a fixed period of 72 hours (3 days). This includes all of the features of the

regular Berlin WelcomeCard, as well as free entry to the Museum Island museums (with the exception of special exhibitions).

3 MUSEUM PASS

The Museum Pass option excludes the public transport feature, but offers visitors free admission to 50 museums and exhibitions over a fixed period of 72 hours. This includes entry to the Museum Island museums.

A reduced rate version of this card is available for students, unemployed people and disabled individuals with a reduced income. Proof of status must be provided.

5

BERLIN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

1. Types of Transport

- a. S-Bahn
- b. U-Bahn
- c. Trams
- d. Buses
- e. Call a bike - DB

2. Travel Cards

- a. Zones
- b. How to use your ticket
- c. Berlin WelcomeCard
- d. Daily tickets
- e. Weekly ticket
- f. Daily Group ticket
- g. Bike Ticket
- h. Single Ticket
- i. Short Trip Ticket
(Kurzstreckentarif)

3. Major Stations

- a. Friedrichstraße
- b. Alexanderplatz
- c. Hauptbahnhof
- d. Ostbahnhof

4. Airports

- a. Schönefeld Airport
(Flughafen Schönefeld)
- b. Tegel Airport
- c. Brandenburg Airport

Berlin public transport

For many of us, navigating the public transport system in a new city can be a daunting operation. Getting a cab, in spite of being an easy option, can be uncomfortably expensive, and the complex and unfamiliar transport maps can be difficult to decipher. In this respect, forward planning is a MUST. Before coming to Berlin,

make sure that you download the Berlin public transport map to your tablet or smartphone. This can be done for free via Google play store, [here](#). If you don't own a smartphone or a tablet, you'll be pleased to know that it is also possible to download the map in a printable pdf format, which can be found [here](#).

1 TYPES OF TRANSPORT

Ⓐ S-BAHN

The S-Bahn is Berlin's rapid-transit rail network in and around the city. Berlin's S-Bahn developed from the 1870s onwards, with commuter trains passing through the city's circular railway lines. Today, the Berlin S-Bahn system consists of 15 lines that run through 166 stations. The weekday operating hours of the S-Bahn are 4am - 1am, though at weekends a 24-hour service is in place.

Ⓑ U-BAHN

The U-Bahn refers to Berlin's underground rail networks. Opened in 1902, it is one of the oldest underground railway systems in the world. Today, the U-Bahn serves 170 stations spread across 10 different lines. Trains run every 2-5 minutes during peak times, every 5 minutes the rest of the day and every 10 minutes in the evenings. Like the S-Bahn, the U-Bahn operating hours are from 4am-1am on weekdays and 24 hours at weekends.

Ⓒ TRAM

The tram system today exists almost exclusively in what was East Berlin, as it was replaced by bus networks in the West part of the city during the allied occupation. Nevertheless, it is the third-largest tram network in the world, and is also one of the oldest tram networks - having first emerged in 1865. There are 2 different types of trams in Berlin - regular trams, and Metrotrams. The main need-to-know difference is that Metrotrams run more frequently, they run throughout the night and they're denoted by the letter M in front of their number.

Ⓓ BUSES

Berlin has 2 major bus stations - the Central Bus Station (ZOB) in Berlin's Westend district, and Ostbahnhof in Friedrichshain. The Central Bus Station is the main transport terminal for buses travelling to and from areas outside of Berlin.

e CALL A BIKE - DB

Another transport option while you're here is bicycle rental. Berlin is truly a bike-friendly city, with 500,000 cyclists pedalling through the streets every day. A great way to get to know the city while also enjoying a little exercise, cycling can be an enjoyable and affordable. Deutsche Bahn's "Call a bike"

system allows you to pick up any one of the bikes at their stands throughout the city, provided that you have pre-registered with them online. When you're done with the bike, you simply leave it at the nearest DB bike stand for someone else to use.



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<https://www.callabike-interaktiv.de/index.php?id=898&f=500>

2 TRAVEL CARDS

a ZONES

The Berlin travel system is separated into 3 zones - A, B and C. In light of this, transport tickets can be bought that cover either the ABC, AB or BC zones. Children aged under 6 years can travel for free on all forms of public transport. Most tourists will only need the AB ticket to see main attractions, unless coming from Schönefeld Airport & visiting Potsdam (zone ABC). Reduced rate tickets are available to university students and children aged 6 to 14.

c BERLIN WelcomeCard

If you purchase the [Berlin WelcomeCard](#), you can still select which zones you want your travel card to cover. This comes in durations of 48 hours, 72 hours and 5 days, and offers unbeatable value.

d DAILY TICKET (tageskarte)

AB PRICE: REGULAR €6.90, REDUCED €4.70

If you'll be staying in Berlin for 4 days or less, and will regularly be using the public transport, then day tickets are likely to be the best value option for you. They offer unlimited travel for the day of purchase, until 3am the following day.

b HOW TO USE YOUR TICKET

You need to stamp your ticket at the station you leave from for it to be validated. Although Berlin has no ticket barriers, and there is no fixed system for checking tickets on every train, random ticket checks do take place by plain-clothed officers and officers in uniform. If you cannot present a valid ticket, you will be issued with a fine of €40 that has to be paid via bank transfer or at an official transport office within 2 weeks.

All single-trip tickets remain valid on all forms of transport, even if you have to change transport during your journey. The only single-trip ticket that does not allow for this is the short trip ticket (Kurzstreckentarif).

e WEEKLY TICKET (7-Tage-Karte)

AB PRICE: REGULAR €29.50, REDUCED N/A

If you'll be sticking around for between 5 and 7 days, then a weekly ticket is a better option.

f DAILY GROUP TICKET (Tageskarte)

AB PRICE: €16.90

This ticket is similar to the daily ticket, but it applies to groups of up to 5 people – which could mean great savings.

g BIKE TICKET (Fahrradmitnahme)

AB PRICE: €1.70

If you're travelling with a bicycle on Berlin transport, you need to buy a special bike ticket in addition to your regular transport ticket. Bicycles can be taken on the U-Bahn, S-Bahn, trams and on night buses. Bikes are not allowed on normal buses, during the day.

h SINGLE TICKET (Einzelfahrausweis)

AB PRICE: €2.70, REDUCED: €1.70

A single ticket is valid for one consecutive journey for up to 2 hours from the moment you validate it. You can change from one form of public transport to another, as long as you are travelling in the same direction. This cannot, however, be used for return journeys. You also can buy the single tickets in bundles of 4 to get a small overall discount.

i SHORT TRIP TICKET (Kurzstreckentarif)

AB PRICE: €1.60

The short trip ticket is valid for journeys of up to 3 stations on the U-Bahn or S-Bahn, or 6 stops on the tram or bus. These can also be bought in bundles of 4, for a small overall discount. Please note that short-trip tickets are the only type of ticket that cannot be used on the regional trains, even within the transport zone that they are valid for.

3 MAJOR STATIONS

a FRIEDRICHSTRASSE

Located in the heart of the city, Friedrichstraße S + U-Bahn is one of Berlin's busiest stations, and is within walking distance of many of the city's major monuments. The station provides access to numerous S-Bahn, bus, tram, U-Bahn and regional train lines.

b ALEXANDERPLATZ

As the former central square of East Berlin, it's hardly surprising that Alexanderplatz is one of Berlin's largest transport hubs. The station provides access to S-Bahn, U-Bahn, tram and bus services.

c HAUPTBAHNHOF

Hauptbahnhof is Berlin's central train station, and is located close to the heart of the city. The station serves both the S-Bahn network and regional trains.

d OSTBAHNHOF

Ostbahnhof serves not only as the main internal bus station of Berlin, it also provides access to S-Bahn lines and regional trains.

4 AIRPORTS

Ⓐ SCHÖNEFELD AIRPORT (Flughafen Schönefeld)

**ABC PRICE: €3.30,
TAXI TO ALEXANDERPLATZ: €30-40**

Schönefeld Airport is located in the south of Berlin, and is mainly used by budget airlines, such as Ryanair and easyJet. Transport to and from the airport can be quick and carefree, with numerous S-Bahn, buses and regional trains travelling through the airport station.

Airport Express trains (RE7 and RB14) run through Alexanderplatz between 4.30am and 11pm at 30 minute intervals. The journey takes approximately 20 minutes.

Ⓑ TEGEL AIRPORT (Flughafen Tegel)

**AB PRICE: €2.70, REDUCED: €1.70
TAXI TO ALEXANDERPLATZ: €25**

Tegel Airport is located in the north west of Berlin, and is often used by larger airlines such as Lufthansa, British Airways and KLM. Unlike Schönefeld, Tegel has no direct access to Berlin's rail network. The fastest way to reach the heart of the city from this airport is with the TXL Express Bus or the Express Bus X9. Dependent on the time of day, Alexanderplatz can be reached along these routes within 30 - 40 minutes.

Ⓒ BRANDENBURG AIRPORT

Berlin's 21st-century mega-airport was due to open in 2010, though construction is still a long way from completion. Estimates have suggested that the airport may be up and running by 2018, though in the meantime visitors to Berlin are able to enjoy tours of the unfinished airport.

The airport is located adjacent to Schönefeld airport, and its intended purpose is to consolidate Berlin's air traffic to one site. For this reason, Tegel Airport will close when the Brandenburg Airport is complete.

6

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

1. Museumsinsel

- a. Altes Museum
- b. Neues Museum
- d. Bode Museum
- c. Alte Nationalgalerie
- e. Pergamon Museum

2. Berliner Unterwelten (Berlin Underworld Museum)

3. Hohenschönhausen Memorial – The Stasi Prison

4. KW Institute for Contemporary Art

5. The Jüdisches Museum (The Jewish Museum)

6. C|O Berlin

7. The DDR Museum (German Democratic Republic Museum)

Berlin has one of the most diverse and intricate cultures in the world,

and boasts over 170 museums and over 700 art galleries. Knowing where to go and what to see can be a daunting task in the face of such variety. Here is a short breakdown of some of the top museums and galleries, and what they have to offer.



Gesundbrunnen



2

(8)

(1

2

9

25

41

42

45

46)

Brunnenstraße



(6) Oranienburger Tor

4

Auguststraße



(1, 2, 25) Oranienburger Str.



(5, 7, 75) Hackescher Markt

c

e

b

d

a

7



(6) Kochstraße

5

Lindenstraße



(6) Hallesches Tor



6

(6 KM)

a

Altes Museum

b

Neues Museum

c

Bode Museum

d

Alte Nationalgalerie

e

Pergamon Museum

2

Berliner Unterwelten

3

Hohenschönhausen Memorial

4

KW Institute for Contemporary Art

5

Jüdisches Museum

6

C|O Berlin

7

The DDR Museum

3



(8 KM)



1

MUSEUMSINSEL (Museum Island)

As one of Berlin's most popular attractions, Museum Island boasts impressive collections of ancient and classical artefacts. The island comprises five museums, and the complex is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Located in the central "Mitte" district of Berlin, the island is easy to reach and is a must-see during your visit to Berlin. Thankfully, entrance to these is covered by a variation of the [Berlin Welcome Card](#), so you don't have to break the bank!

Alternatively, a Museum Island Area Ticket can be purchased from any of the museum ticket desks, which enables the holder to visit all 5 museums on the same day.

Visitors can also purchase the ticket for a reduced rate online here: https://secure.smb.museum/smb/tickets/ticket_check.php?tarif_id=3



a ALTES MUSEUM (The Old Museum)

Construction of the Altes Museum finished in 1830, marking the beginning of what was to become the famous Museumsinsel of Berlin. Originally called the Royal Museum ("Königliches Museum"), the museum was initially intended to house the art collection of the Prussian Royal Family. This later changed, with the decision to install the Collection of Classical Antiques in 1904.

Today visitors can see the **Greek Antiquity Collection**, the **Treasury of the Prussian Royal Family** and Roman artwork, which includes portraits of Caesar and Cleopatra.



ADMISSION:

Regular €10, Concessions €5



OPENING TIMES:

Mon: closed. Tue—Wed: 10am—6pm,
Thur: 10am—8pm, Fri—Sun: 10am—6pm



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Am Lustgarten, 10178 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Friedrichstraße)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Friedrichstraße);
S5, S7, S75 (Hackescher Markt)

Tram: M1, 12 (Am Kupfergraben);
M4, M5, M6 (Hackescher Markt)

Bus: TXL (Staatsoper); 100, 200 (Lustgarten);
147 (Friedrichstraße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.smb.museum/en/museums-and-institutions/altres-museum/home.html>

b NEUES MUSEUM (The New Museum)

The Neues Museum was originally built in the mid-nineteenth century as an extension to the Altes Museum, but was closed in 1939 and subsequently suffered substantial damage during World War II. As a result the museum remained largely disused until 1997, when proposals were drawn-up for reconstruction work in adherence with the original building design. Today, the museum is home to a vast number of priceless artefacts, such as the famous **'Bust of Nefertiti'** and the **'Sphinx of Shepsenupet II'** within the Egyptian collection. As well as Egyptian exhibits, the museum also houses items from ancient Greece and the Roman era.



ADMISSION:

Regular €12, Concessions €6



OPENING TIMES:

Fri—Wed: 10am—6pm, Thur: 10am—8pm



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Bodestraße 1-3, 10178 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Friedrichstraße)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Friedrichstraße);
S5, S7, S75 (Hackescher Markt)

Tram: M1, 12 (Am Kupfergraben);
M4, M5, M6 (Hackescher Markt)

Bus: TXL (Staatsoper); 100, 200 (Lustgarten);
147 (Friedrichstraße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.smb.museum/en/museums-and-institutions/neues-museum/home.html>

C BODE-MUSEUM

Originally proposed by the Princess Victoria of Prussia in 1883, the Bode-Museum was intended to devote its attention to the Renaissance. Construction on the museum began in 1897 under the instruction of curator Wilhelm von Bode, and once the building was complete it was named after Victoria's deceased husband - Kaiser Friedrich.

Like with the other buildings on Museumsinsel, renovation and reconstruction attempts were made in the aftermath of the Second World War. It was also during the post-war period that the museum was assigned a new name – the **Bode-Museum**.

The museum's **Sculpture Collection** has been lauded by experts as being 'the most comprehensive display of European sculpture anywhere', making it a must-see for historians and art-lovers. Pieces are laid out in geographical and chronological order, making it easy for visitors to follow the progression and development of three-dimensional artwork through the centuries.



ADMISSION

Regular €10, Concessions €5



OPENING TIMES:

Mon: closed. Tue–Wed: 10am–6pm,
Thur: 10am–8pm, Fri–Sun: 10am–6pm



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Am Kupfergraben, 10117 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Friedrichstraße)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Friedrichstraße);

S5, S7, S75 (Hackescher Markt)

Tram: M1, 12 (Am Kupfergraben);

M4, M5, M6 (Hackescher Markt)

Bus: TXL (Staatsoper); 100, 200 (Lustgarten);
147 (Friedrichstraße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.smb.museum/museen-und-einrichtungen/bode-museum/home.html>

d ALTE NATIONALGALERIE (The Old National Gallery)

The **Old National Gallery** was founded in 1861, although building work did not reach completion until 1876. The institution formed after Johann Heinrich Wagner donated 262 paintings to support proposals for the gallery to be built. Fifteen years and many building designs later, the gallery was complete.

Sadly, the gallery was one of many buildings to suffer substantial damage during the bombing of Berlin. Reconstruction efforts began soon after the war, and the gallery was partially reopened in 1949. In recent history, the gallery has benefited from extensive refurbishment as part of the renovation efforts of Museumsinsel.

The gallery is home to a large collection of works from the Neoclassical and Romantic movements, as well as pieces from Impressionist painters such as Claude Monet. Among the gallery's most prized exhibits, visitors will find '**The Monk by the Sea**' by the German painter Caspar David Friedrich and the '**Prinzessinnengruppe**' double statue by sculptor Johann Gottfried Schadow.



ADMISSION — LEVEL 1 & 2:

Regular €8, Concessions €4



OPENING TIMES:

Mon: closed. Tue–Wed: 10am–6pm,
Thur: 10am–8pm, Fri–Sun: 10am–6pm



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Bodestraße 1-3, 10178 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Friedrichstraße)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Friedrichstraße);

S5, S7, S75 (Hackescher Markt)

Tram: M1, 12 (Am Kupfergraben);

M4, M5, M6 (Hackescher Markt)

Bus: TXL (Staatsoper); 100, 200 (Lustgarten);
147 (Friedrichstraße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.smb.museum/en/museums-and-institutions/alte-nationalgalerie/home.html>

e THE PERGAMON MUSEUM

The jewel in the crown of Museumsinsel is without doubt the Pergamon Museum. Within its walls, visitors will find Roman and Greek Antiquities, Islamic artwork from the 8th to the 19th-century and colossal ancient artefacts from the Middle East. The museum attracted 1.3 million visitors in 2013 - more than any other museum in Germany.

Amongst the most sought-out attractions, visitors will encounter the enormous '**Pergamon Altar**' — a monumental construction from the 2nd century BC, originally built as part of the acropolis of the ancient city of Pergamon. Other attractions include the '**Market Gate of Miletus**', the breathtaking '**Ishtar Gate**' and the '**Meissner fragment**' from the '**Epic of Gilgamesh**'.

Due to the popularity of this museum, it is strongly advised to book a time-slot ticket for fast-track entry. If you already have a valid entry ticket, don't worry - booking a time-slot will not cost you extra! **Please note the partial closure of the Pergamon Museum.** The Central and Northern Halls will be closed from public access due to renovations that will take place until 2019.



ADMISSION

Regular €12, Concessions €6



OPENING TIMES:

Fri—Wed: 10am—6pm, Thurs: 10am—8pm



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Bodestraße 1-3, 10178 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Friedrichstraße)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Friedrichstraße);
S5, S7, S75 (Hackescher Markt)

Tram: M1, 12 (Am Kupfergraben);
M4, M5, M6 (Hackescher Markt)

Bus: TXL (Staatsoper); 100, 200 (Lustgarten);
147 (Friedrichstraße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.smb.museum/en/museums-and-institutions/pergamonmuseum/home.html>

2 BERLINER UNTERWELTEN (Berlin Underworld Museum)

Explore the hidden depths of this remarkable city, and discover the buried wonders concealed below ground. **The Berlin Underworld Museum** provides access to underground bunkers, disused subway stations and the ruins of a giant fortress. See how ordinary civilians survived the bombing of Berlin, or how daredevils tunneled to escape the Soviet dictatorship during the Cold War.

Visitors have the opportunity to descend into bygone eras to view a part of Berlin's history that until recently remained largely unchanged, quietly forgotten as it lay beneath the surface. Entrance to the museum comes in the form of a series of guided tours. For information on prices, tour timetables and restrictions check out the [Berliner Unterwelten online flyer](#).



ADMISSION:

Regular €9, Concessions €7



ADDRESS:

Brunnenstraße 105, 13355 Berlin



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://berliner-unterwelten.de/home.1.1.html>



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U8 (Gesundbrunnen)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25, S41, S42,
ICE (Gesundbrunnen Station)

Tram: M1, 12 (Am Kupfergraben);
M4, M5, M6 (Hackescher Markt)

Bus: 247 (Gesundbrunnen)

3 HOHENSCHÖNHAUSEN MEMORIAL — (The Stasi Prison)

Walk through the gates of this imposing complex and witness the unsettling extent of Soviet oppression during the Cold War period. The Stasi Prison remains an unnerving relic of the enforced censorship of the former Communist Ministry of State Security. Located in Berlin's north-eastern district of Lichtenberg, this fascinating memorial site is a little out-of-the-way, but nonetheless worth a visit.

One of the main political prisons, it housed convicts from 1945 until its closure in 1990. The sub-standard living conditions were cramped, cold and damp. Inmates were routinely subjected to physical and psychological intimidation and torture. Deaths from

malnutrition and pneumonia were commonplace. All records from the prison were hastily destroyed when the Berlin Wall fell, with guards and senior officials desperate to conceal the human rights violations committed there.

Entrance to the former prison is now only possible in the form of the guided tour. One of the most enticing aspects of the memorial is the fact that many of the tour guides are former inmates, and are therefore well-placed to provide unique insight into the political persecution within the GDR (**German Democratic Republic**). English speaking tours take place daily at 2.30 pm.



ADMISSION

Regular €5, Concessions €2.50, Children €1



ADDRESS:

Genslerstraße 66, 13055 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

Tram: M5 (Freienwalder Straße);

Bus: 256 (Freienwalder Straße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://en.stiftung-hsh.de/index.php>

4 KW INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

The KW Institute offers an interactive experience of the world of contemporary art. While there is no fixed art collection, visitors can enjoy the many thought-provoking installations, short-term exhibitions and onsite art studios.

A crucial player in the world of contemporary art, the KW Institute helped cement Berlin's reputation as a contemporary-art capital by hosting the first Berlin Biennale exhibition in 1998.

The institute also serves as a venue for a variety of events, such as book launches, film screenings and live performances. Spread over five floors of versatile space, there is a lot to see and do - and visitors can even take time to relax in the glass-walled coffee shop after enjoying everything the institute has to offer.



ADMISSION

Regular €6, Concessions €4,
Thursday Evening (7pm–9pm) €4



OPENING TIMES:

Wed–Mon: 12pm–7pm, Thurs: 12pm–9pm



ADDRESS:

Auguststraße 69, 10117 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Oranienburger Straße Station)

U-Bahn: U6 (Oranienburger Tor Station),

U8 (Rosenthaler Platz Station)

Tram: 12, M1 (Oranienburger Tor), 12, M1,

M8 (Rosenthaler Platz)

Bus: 142 (Rosenthaler Platz)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.kw-berlin.de/en/>

5 JÜDISCHES MUSEUM

(The Jewish Museum)

This famous museum is one of the largest Jewish Museums in Europe. The novel and ambitious design of its interlinked buildings is a major architectural feat that is both hard-hitting and thought-provoking.

The museum is solely accessible through the entrance of the Collegienhaus Building, which is used primarily for the museum's temporary exhibitions and events. The New Building offers a comprehensive study of the place of Judaism in German history, mapping how members of the Jewish community have influenced the development of the modern world.



ADMISSION

Regular €8, Concessions €3,
Children up to the age of 6 years free
Family ticket (2 adults, up to 4 children) €14
Audio guide €3 (plus ID as deposit)



OPENING TIMES:

Mon: 10am–10pm, Thurs–Sun: 10pm–8pm



ADDRESS:

Lindenstraße 9-14, 10969 Berlin

Unsurprisingly, the most poignant aspects of the museum are the three axes, which explore the pathways of persecution and forced emigration of German Jewish civilians. The Axis of the Holocaust is a disturbing reminder of the mass genocide committed under the Nazi regime. Following this axis, visitors are directed to the dead end of the '**Holocaust Tower**' – a grey and imposing concrete block.

The Axis of Emigration leads to '**The Garden of Exile**' – a geometrically disorienting outdoor space that gives visitors a small taste of the instability and confusion experienced by those who fled for their lives. The third and final axis, the Axis of Continuity, represents the continuation of Berlin history.



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U1, U6 (Hallesches Tor Station),
U6 (Kochstraße Station)
Bus: M29, M41, 248



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.jmberlin.de/main/EN/homepage-EN.php>



6 C|O BERLIN

Founded in the year 2000, the **C/O Berlin Gallery** has racked up a visitor count of almost one-million since its creation. The private non-profit foundation is at the cutting edge of contemporary photographic art, and aims to be a unique centre for cultural exchange through its educational programs and close collaboration with international institutions.

The organisation was formerly located in Berlin's grand **Postfuhramt** (Old Post Office), but moved to

Amerika Haus in 2012. In its new setting, the foundation boasts 2,300 square metres of exhibition space, and is just a 2-minute walk away from the **Museum Für Fotografie** (Museum of Photography).

The gallery presents up to 15 exhibitions per year, which have included works by internationally recognised names, such as Karl Lagerfeld, Annie Leibovitz, Leonard Freed and Peter Lindbergh.



ADMISSION

Regular €10, Concessions €5,
Children up to the age of 18 years free
Groups of 10 People €8 regular / €4 reduced
12-Month-Ticket €40



OPENING TIMES:

Daily: 11am—8pm



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.co-berlin.org/en>



ADDRESS:

Amerika Haus
Hardenbergstr. 22-24 10623 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U1, U2, U9 (Zoologischer Garten),
S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Zoologischer Garten),
Bus: 100, 109, 110, 200, 204, 245, 249, EV, M19,
M29, M45, M46, M49 (Zoologischer Garten)

7 DDR MUSEUM (German Democratic Republic Museum)

The DDR Museum offers visitors a comprehensive and interactive view of life in East Germany, under the 40 years of the communist GDR government. This encapsulates everything from the **Berlin Wall** and **Stasi Prison** to the prefabricated architecture, fashion and the everyday reality of state surveillance. The museum professes to offer an objective and unbiased platform for learning about cultural history in the first and only communist German State.

The exhibitions break through the stereotypes and go beyond the clichés to give a rounded perspective from various aspects of everyday life within the GDR. The interactive element of the museum allows visitors to immerse themselves in the history

– to look behind the doors and handle the exhibits. The unique focus on visitor participation has led to it being regarded as one of the most interactive museums in the world – a factor which undoubtedly contributed to it being awarded the European Museum of the Year Award in 2008.

Highlights include taking a virtual drive through a Berlin housing estate in a Trabi car, exploring the inside of an authentic fully-furnished GDR apartment, and getting the chance to experience a recorded Stasi interrogation from the victim's perspective.

Time-slot tickets are available online at reduced rates, enabling visitors to avoid queuing times and save money.



ADMISSION

Regular €7, Concessions €4



OPENING TIMES:

Sun—Fri: 10am—8pm, Sat: 10pm—10pm



ADDRESS:

Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 1, 10178 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

S-BAHN: S5, S7, S75 (Hackescher Markt)
TRAM: 12, M1, M4, M6 (Hackescher Markt)
BUS: 100, 200, M48, M5 (Spandauer Str./
Marienkirche)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.ddr-museum.de/en>



TOP FREE THINGS TO SEE & DO!

1. [View Berlin From the Reichstag Dome](#)
2. [Walk through the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe](#)
3. [Take a photo in front of the real Checkpoint Charlie at the Allied Museum](#)
4. [Learn about Nazi oppression and eugenics in the Topography of Terror](#)
5. [Visit the Berlin Wall Memorial, and trace the length of the border](#)
6. [Browse the Mauerpark Flea Market or Take Part in Bearpit Karaoke](#)
7. [Look around for Berlin Iconography](#)
 - a. [Ampelmännchen](#)
 - b. [Berlin Buddy Bear](#)
 - c. [Memorial Plaques \(Stolpersteine\)](#)
 - d. [Berlin Wall Boundary Line](#)
 - e. [Communist Architecture of Karl Marx Allee](#)
8. [Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church](#)
9. [Visit the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial and Museum](#)
10. [Join a Free Walking Tour](#)

If you want to make the most of your visit but you're strapped for cash—don't worry!

Berlin has a lot to offer, and there are plenty of interesting things to see and do that won't cost you a penny. You can learn about Berlin's tumultuous history, visit iconic monuments, get great views and participate in exciting activities, all for free!

Here's the low-down of some of the top freebies on offer:

WEST



9

(38 KM)

8

Kaiser Wilhelm
Memorial church

9

Sachsenhausen
Concentration Camp
memorial

8



(1, 9) Kurfurstendamm

Taentzienstraße

EAST

- 1 Reichstag Building
(Bundestag Building)
- 2 Memorial to the Murdered
Jews of Europe
- 3 Checkpoint Charlie
- 4 Topography of Terror
- 5 Berlin Wall Memorial
- 6 Mauerpark



1



(1, 2, 25)
Brandenburger
Tor

2



(1, 2, 25) Potsdamer Platz



(2) Potsdamer Platz

4

3



(6) Kochstraße

Brunnenstraße



(8) Bernauer Str.

Bernauer Str.

5

Torstraße

6



(2)

Eberswalder Str.

Schönhauser Allee

Friedrichstraße

Lindenstraße



1 VIEW BERLIN FROM THE REICHSTAG DOME

Arguably one of the best attractions in Berlin, a trip up to the futuristic dome of the Reichstag is completely free and offers amazing views over the city. The accompanying audio guide (available in various languages) progresses as visitors make their way up and around the dome. The narrative outlines many of the most important facts about the building and its surroundings.

**OPENING TIMES:**

Daily: 8am—midnight (last admission: 11pm)

**VISITOR ENTRANCE:**

Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin

**GETTING THERE:**

U-Bahn: U55 (Bundestag)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Brandenburger Tor)

Bus: 100, M85 (Reichstag)

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/visits

ONLINE RESERVATION:

<https://visite.bundestag.de/BAPWeb/pages/create-BookingRequest.jsf?lang=en>

Since 2010 entry has been more strictly regulated, and now pre-booking is a necessity. Visitors can register online, for a specific time slot. For more information about the Reichstag Building, check out our [Top Landmarks chapter](#).

2 WALK THROUGH THE MEMORIAL TO THE MURDERED JEWS OF EUROPE

Known colloquially as the Holocaust Memorial, this imposing outdoor installation was designed in 1997 by Peter Eisenman. Building commenced in April 2003, and the memorial officially opened on 10th May 2005 – exactly 60 years after the end of the Second World War. Composed of 2,711 large concrete slabs (stelae) laid over a sloping field, the memorial produces a growing feeling of insecurity as you descend into the depths of this symbolic graveyard of looming grey columns. The intention of the structure is to represent a system that on the surface appears ordered, but on a deeper level has lost touch with all sense of reason.

The memorial also provides an information centre beneath its eastern edge, with a timeline that contextualises the Holocaust, beginning with the rise of the Nazi Party in 1933. The information centre leads visitors through history to the Final Solution, and contains four main rooms that offer personal insights into the tragedy. The **Room of Dimensions** addresses the suffering of European Jewish victims, and displays extracts from memoirs and letters that were left behind. The **Room of Families** goes into more detail, using fifteen families as

examples, tracing lives along different social, cultural and economic status to further highlight the contrast of life before, during and after the years of persecution. In the **Room of Names**, the exhibition attempts to go beyond the incomprehensible death-toll of six-million murdered Jews, bringing greater significance to the human loss.

The exhibit involves an audio script with names and short biographies of the victims. This has been described as the most poignant and climactic exhibition within the museum, and the intention to include the name of every victim is the driving force behind this ongoing project. The Room of Sites details 200 locations of Jewish persecution throughout Europe, documenting death marches, mass shootings, ghettos and more.

Visitors are advised to remember that the memorial must be respected, and climbing on the stelae is not permitted.

Just a short walk from the monument stand the **Memorial to the Sinti and Roma victims of National Socialism** and the **Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted Under Nazism** within Tiergarten Park.



OPENING TIMES:

Oct–Mar: Tues–Sun 10am–7pm
Apr–Sept: Tues–Sun 10am–8pm



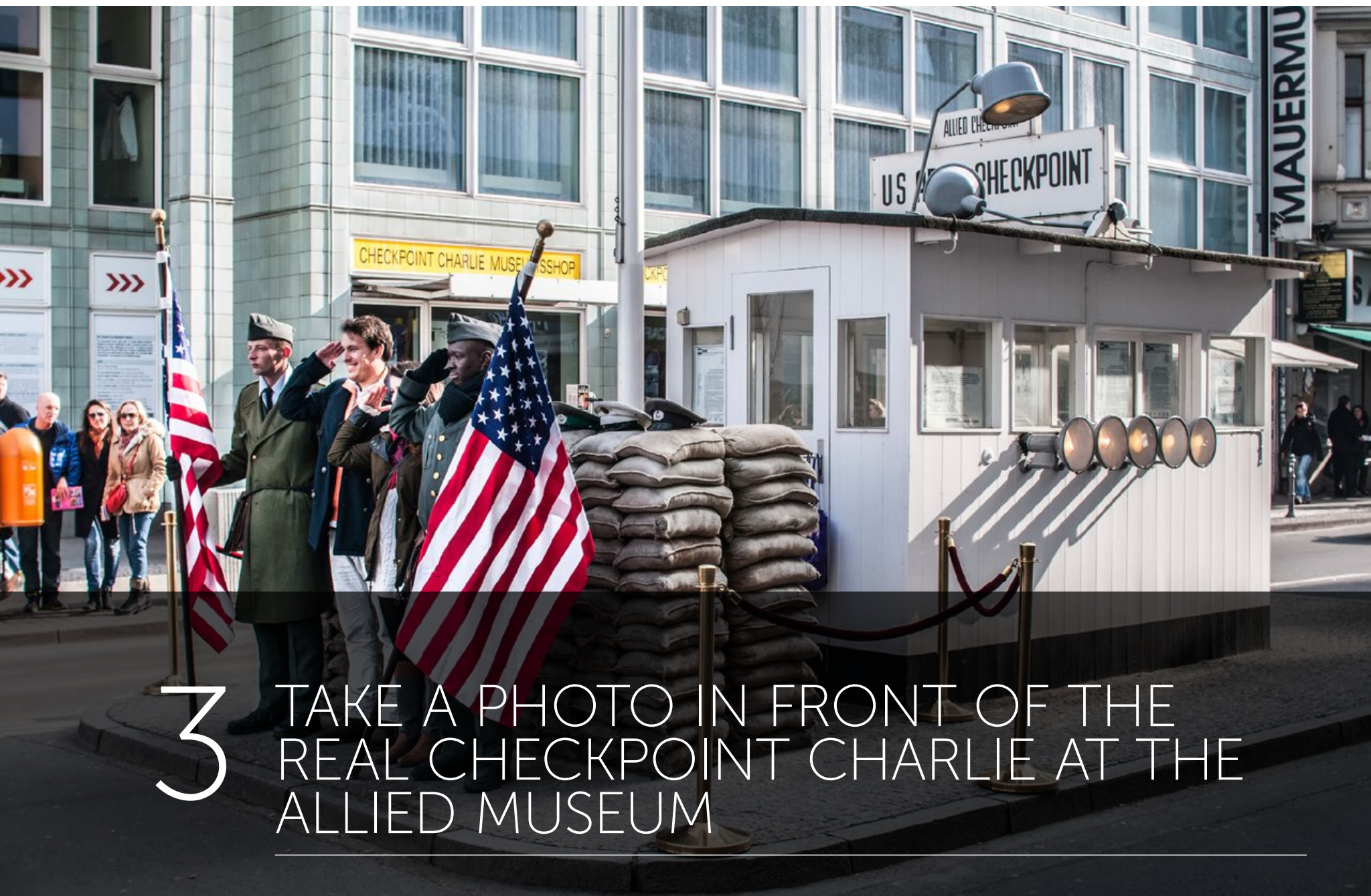
INFORMATION CENTRE UNDER THE FIELD OF STELAE:

Cora-Berliner-Straße 1, 10117 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U2 (Mohrenstr.)
S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Brandenburger Tor)
Bus: M85 (Ebertstr.) 200 (Wilhelmstr.)



3 TAKE A PHOTO IN FRONT OF THE REAL CHECKPOINT CHARLIE AT THE ALLIED MUSEUM

Drawing in over a million visitors per year, **Checkpoint Charlie** is without doubt one of Berlin's most popular attractions. In 1990 the real Checkpoint Charlie Station was removed, and has since been replaced with a symbolic station. As the most famous Berlin Wall crossing point from the Cold-War era, Checkpoint Charlie remains today as a symbol of freedom. For a fee of €5, visitors can go to the crossing point to have their picture taken with an actor in military uniform, and have their passport stamped.

For those on a tight budget, this expense is unappealing for obvious reasons. However, the original Checkpoint Charlie station currently resides in the **Allied Museum**, which is open to the public free of charge. If you want to have your picture taken in front of the real Checkpoint, this is a great cost-cutting way to do it - with the added benefit of authenticity.

CHECKPOINT CHARLIE



PHOTO FEE €5



ADDRESS:
Friedrichstraße 43-45, 10117 Berlin



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U6 (Kochstraße)
Bus: M29 (Kochstraße)

ALLIED MUSEUM



ADDRESS:
Clayallee 135, 14195 Berlin



OPENING TIMES:
Tues—Sun: 10am—6pm



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U3 (Oskar-Helene-Heim)
Bus: 115, X83 (AlliertenMuseum)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://www.alliertenmuseum.de/en/home.html>



4 LEARN ABOUT NAZI OPPRESSION AND EUGENICS IN THE TOPOGRAPHY OF TERROR

The **Topography of Terror** is just a 5-minute walk away from **Checkpoint Charlie**, and offers insight into the mechanisms of terror used against persecuted minorities under the National Socialist movement. Constructed upon the grounds of the former headquarters of the Gestapo and SS, the museum serves as a poignant reminder of the crimes committed by these brutal organisations.

The outdoor section of the museum features the excavated cellar of the headquarters, the cellar rooms of a

former SS mess hut and the remains of a prison yard wall. The foundations of the Gestapo's onsite prison are marked by gravel as a surface monument.

Guided Tours are available on request for a fee, and the museum offers visitors a wealth of information and a firm insight into the workings of the German Propaganda Machine during the darkest period in the German history.



ADDRESS:

Niederkirchnerstraße 8, 10963 Berlin



OPENING TIMES:

Daily: 10am—8pm



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.topographie.de/en/>



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Kochstraße)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Anhalter Bahnhof)

Bus: M29 (Kochstraße) M41 (Anhalter Bahnhof)



5 VISIT THE BERLIN WALL MEMORIAL

The construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961 led to hardship and fear for many of Berlin's citizens. As the wall went up, families were separated, people were cut off from their jobs and escape attempts were either futile or deadly.

The Berlin Wall Memorial features the last remaining segment of the wall with the border strip still in place. The memorial extends over 1.4 kilometres, and offers visitors a real insight into how the border would have appeared during the time of separation. The memorial is divided into four sectors, which explore the different experiences that

people had during the time of separation. This covers **'The Wall and the Death Strip', 'The Destruction of the City', 'Building the Wall' and 'Everyday life at the Wall'.**

For smartphone and tablet users, a free online tour guide is accessible and offers insight into some of the memorial's most important features. Guided tours are available to the public for a small fee of €3 per adult, and seminars are available for €5 per adult. Children are able to join the tours and seminars for free.



ADDRESS:

Bernauer Straße 111, 13355 Berlin



VISITOR CENTRE OPENING TIMES:

Mon—Sun: 10am—6pm

OPEN-AIR EXHIBITION AND MEMORIAL GROUNDS:

Mon—Sun: 8am—10pm



GETTING THERE:

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25 (Nordbahnhof)

Bus: 245, 247 (Nordbahnhof)

Tram: 12, M8 (Nordbahnhof)

M10 (Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer)



BERLIN WALL MOBILE TOUR:

<http://berliner-mauer.mobi/startseite.html?&L=1>

OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de/en/>



6 BROWSE THE MAUERPARK FLEA MARKET OR TAKE PART IN BEARPIT KARAOKE

Berlin boasts a number of great weekly flea markets, which offer a wonderful array of interesting trinkets and bric-à-brac. A great way to immerse yourself in Berlin culture is to explore and spend time sifting through the jumble in search of hidden treasures. The **Mauerpark Flea Market** is one of the best in the city, and here visitors will find a huge range of items on offer - from vintage clothing and household fittings to New Age jewelry and some typical Berlin fast-food.

MAUERPARK FLEA MARKET



ADDRESS:

Bernauer Straße 63, 10435 Berlin



OPENING TIMES:

Sun: 7am—5pm



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U2 (Eberswalder Str.) U8 (Bernauer Str.)

Tram: M10 (Wolliner Str.) 12,

M2 (Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark)

Bus: 247 (Wolliner Str.)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.flohmarktimmerpark.de/>

Weather permitting, the **Bearpit Karaoke** takes place in the stone amphitheatre opposite the market. Whether you love to perform in front of a crowd, or even if you just enjoy listening to live music, this weekly event is well-worth a visit. Attendance is free of charge, though donations are appreciated.

BEARPIT KARAOKE



OPENING TIMES:

Sun: 3pm—8pm (Closed in winter)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.bearpitkaraoke.com/>



7 LOOK AROUND FOR BERLIN ICONOGRAPHY

(a) AMPELMÄNNCHEN

One way to identify whether you're in East or West Berlin is by looking at the pedestrian crossing lights. Like many things during the time of the GDR government, the East German crossing lights were different to those in the West. After the fall of the Berlin wall, the jolly East-German Ampelmännchen achieved cult status as a popular symbol within Germany. Despite the initial intentions to standardise pedestrian crossing lights throughout Germany, protests and campaign work led to a reversal of this decision. Today, visitors will find numerous stores selling novelty Ampelmännchen merchandise.

(b) BERLIN BUDDY BEAR

Another iconic symbol of Berlin is without doubt the Berlin Buddy Bear, which originates from the official Berlin Coat of Arms. Berlin Buddy Bear statues can be seen all around the city. In 2001, artists painted 350 bears - many of which were sold at auctions to raise money for child relief organisations.

(d) COMMUNIST ARCHITECTURE OF KARL MARX ALLEE

Communist architecture isn't exactly renowned for its beauty or artistic appeal, but along Karl Marx Allee it is possible to see many truly impressive Soviet buildings. Named Stalinallee between 1949 and 1961, this street was one of East Germany's flagship areas for post-war reconstruction. Particularly worth mentioning are the twin towers of Frankfurter Tor.

(c) MEMORIAL PLAQUES (Stolpersteine)

These cobblestone-sized brass plaques are the creation of Gunter Demnig, and can be found set into the pavements of Berlin's streets. Each one serves as an individual memorial to a victim of the Holocaust, and includes the victim's name, date of birth and date of death. These are usually laid outside the properties where the victim once lived, and are a poignant reminder of the individual lives lost in the Holocaust.

(e) BERLIN WALL BOUNDARY LINE

Through parts of the city centre, the former boundary of the Berlin Wall is marked by a double row of cobblestones. This cobblestone boundary line can be spotted near monuments such as Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate and The Holocaust Memorial.



8

KAISER WILHELM MEMORIAL CHURCH

The broken ruin of the imperial Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church is a tragic symbol of the losses of war. During the allied bombing raids much of the church was irreparably damaged, though most of the entrance hall and spire survived. The decision was taken to preserve the remnants of the church, and the ground floor was converted to a memorial hall. The interior of the church is surprisingly well-maintained and features a floor mosaic

of the Archangel Michael, relief sculptures representing biblical scenes, and ceiling mosaics of prominent monarchs and leaders of the Reformation.

Guided tours are provided free of charge, though donations are appreciated. Group tours in English can be arranged on request for a fee of €4.00 per person (€3.00 concessions).

MEMORIAL HALL

**ADDRESS:**

Breitscheidplatz, 10789 Berlin

**OPENING TIMES:**

Mon—Fri: 9am—6pm, Sat: 10am—5.30pm,
Sun: 12pm—5.30pm

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.gedaechtniskirche-berlin.de/KWG/dateien/englisch/index.php>

**GETTING THERE:**

U-Bahn: U1 (Kurfürstendamm)

U2, U9 (Zoologischer Garten)

S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Zoologischer Garten)

Bus: 100, 109, 110, 200, 204, 245, 249
(Zoologischer Garten)

9 VISIT THE SACHSENHAUSEN CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

Located a little outside of Berlin, this chilling memorial is perhaps one of the most poignant reminders of the Holocaust. The camp memorial and museums have been laid out carefully to give the highest degree of accuracy in representing both the conditions and the suffering within the camp. Snippets of testimonies from the Nuremberg trials have been placed on the walls of the exhibitions, highlighting the brutality and pure horror that prisoners were subjected to.

Entrance to the Memorial is free, though guided tours take place daily for a fee. No prior reservation is necessary. Travel to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial and Museum is covered with the ABC transport ticket.



VISITOR ENTRANCE:

Straße der Nationen 22, 16515 Oranienburg



OPENING TIMES:

Mar 15th—Oct 14th: daily 8.30am—6pm,
Oct 15th—Mar 14th: daily 8.30am—4.30pm



GETTING THERE:

S-Bahn: S1, RE5, RB12 (Oranienburg)

Bus: 804, 821 (Gedenkstätte)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.stiftung-bg.de/gums/en/>

OPTIONAL GUIDED TOUR

PRICES: Regular €14, Concessions €12

MEETING POINT:

Potsdamer Platz at the historic traffic light tower

START TIMES: 10:20am, **DURATION:** 4 hours

ALTERNATIVE MEETING POINT:

Sachsenhausen Memorial, Visitors' Information Center

START TIMES: 11:45am, **DURATION:** 2.5 hours

10 JOIN A FREE WALKING TOUR

If you want to see as much of the city as possible but don't have a lot of time then a walking tour is probably a good way to make a start. While many of the best tours involve a fee, both **Sandeman's New Europe** and **Brewer's Berlin Tours** offer a free tour covering many of

the major sites. The tours operate on a tip-based concept - there is no obligation for you to make a donation, though if you feel like you've had a great time you're welcome to offer a tip. No reservation is required.

BREWER'S BERLIN TOURS



MEETING POINT:

Friedrichstraße Station



STARTING TIME: Daily at 1pm

DURATION: 3.5 hours



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.brewersberlintours.com/free-tour/>

SANDEMAN'S NEW BERLIN TOURS



MEETING POINT:

Brandenburg Gate (in front of Starbucks)



STARTING TIME: Daily at 11am & 2pm

DURATION: 2.5 hours



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.newberlintours.com/daily-tours/free-tour.html>



8

INTRO TO FOOD IN BERLIN

1. Berlin Bites

- a. Bockwurst: Bier's Kudamm 195
- b. Boulette: Zur Gerichtslaube
- c. Currywurst: Curry 36
- d. Eisbein: Nante Eck
- e. Pfannkuchen (aka 'the Berliner'):
Five Elephant Coffee and Cake
- f. Döner kebab: Mustafa's Gemüse Kebap

2. German Cuisine

- a. Dicke Wirtin
- b. Käse König
- c. Hofbräu
- d. Van Loon Restaurant

3. International Food

- a. Honça
- b. Bejte Ethiopia Restaurant
- c. Taleh Thai
- d. Burgeramt

WEST

- 1a

Bier's Kudamm 195
- 1c

Bieberbau
- 1d

Marjellchen
- 1f

Mustafa's Gemüse Kebap
- 2a

Dicke Wirtin
- 3a

Honça
- 3b

Bejte Ethiopia Restaurant





1b Zur Gerichtslaube

1e Five Elephant
Coffee and Cake

2b Käse König

2c Hofbräu

2d Van Loon
Restaurant

3c Taleh Thai

3d Burgeramt

U (2) Rosa-Luxemburg Platz

U (2, 5, 8) Alexanderplatz
S (5, 7, 75) Alexanderplatz

S (5, 7, 75) Warschauer Str
U (1) Warschauer Str

U (8) Schönleinstraße

1 BERLIN BITES

The city of Berlin has a rich culinary history that dates back to the 16th-century. Like other German cuisines, Berlin's traditional recipes often involve salted pork, sausage, cabbage and potatoes.

Although pork has a heavy presence, most restaurants offer a variety of vegetarian options.

Here is a selection of iconic Berlin specialities to try out during your stay:

① BOCKWURST

Germany is truly the champion of the sausage, with more than 1500 different varieties attributed to this meat-loving nation. Berlin's 'Bockwurst' was created in the 19th-century by a butcher in Friedrichstraße, and is a lightly smoked sausage containing ground veal and pork. The name comes from the fact that it was traditionally served by bar owners with a glass of bock beer. For a tasty bockwurst with a bock beer, head to Bier's Kudamm 195.

BIER'S KUDAMM 195



PRICE RANGE: €2–€10



OPENING TIMES: Daily: 11am–5am



ADDRESS:
Kurfurstendamm 195, 10707 Berlin



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U1 (Uhlandstr.) U7 (Adenauerplatz)
Bus: 109, 110, M19, M29, N10 (Bleibtreustr.)

b BOULETTE

Resembling squashed meatballs, these delicious patties of porky goodness consist of mince, breadcrumbs and herbs, and are typically fried and served with potatoes. Bouletten can be found at many of Berlin's traditional restaurants, though if you want authentic Berlin cuisine within a beautiful setting, pay a visit to **Zur Gerichtslaube**. This charming restaurant is located within a former court house, which dates back to the 13th-century.

ZUR GERICHTSLAUBE



PRICE RANGE: €10–€17



OPENING TIMES: Daily from 11:30am



ADDRESS: Poststr. 28, 10178 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 24 156 97

EMAIL: info@gerichtslaube.de



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U2 (Klosterstraße) U5, U8 (Alexanderplatz)

S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Alexanderplatz)

Bus: 248, M48, N8, N40, N42, N65 (Berliner Rathaus)

Tram: M4, M5, M6 (Alexanderplatz)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://en.gerichtslaube.de/>

c CURRYWURST

The humble currywurst first emerged in West Berlin in 1949, when Herta Heuwer traded with British soldiers to obtain ketchup and curry powder. These were then mixed with other spices and poured over grilled sausage to create the high-calorie low-cost 'currywurst'. For typical Berlin fast food, a great place to visit is **Curry 36**. Renowned for being one of the best currywurst restaurants in Berlin, Curry 36 has a range of traditional Berlin snacks including currywurst, boulette and bockwurst.

CURRY 36



PRICE RANGE: €2–€7



OPENING TIMES: Mon–Sun 9am–5am



ADDRESS: Mehringdamm 36, 10961 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6, U7 (Mehringdamm)

Bus: 140, M19, N6, N7, N42 (Mehringdamm)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.curry36.de/>

d EISBEIN

Popular throughout Germany, this mouth-watering main course includes salted pork knuckle that is roasted or boiled. The Berlin variation of this national dish is served with mashed peas and sauerkraut. For a taste of this popular plate, pay a visit to **Nante Eck**. This cosy restaurant dedicates a large part of its focus to Berlin-based cuisine.

NANTE ECK



PRICE RANGE: €4–€15



OPENING TIMES: Daily 9am–midnight



ADDRESS: Unter den Linden 35, 10117 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 22 487 257

EMAIL: info@nante-eck.de



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Friedrichstraße)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S5, S7, S25, S75 (Friedrichstraße)

Bus: 100, 147, 200, N2, N6 (Unter den Linden/
Friedrichstraße)

Tram: 12, M1 (Friedrichstraße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.nante-eck.de/>

e PFANNKUCHEN (aka 'the Berliner')

Simply referred to in the UK as doughnuts, these popular deep-fried dough balls are known throughout Germany as 'Berliner Pfannkuchen'. A well-known German anecdote gives reason to this name - it is alleged that the jam doughnut originated from a Berlin-born cook in the Prussian military service. As there were no ovens to bake bread, the dough was deep-fried - and hence the creation of the Berliner doughnut. These can be purchased from almost every bakery in the capital, but for quality baked goods and some of the best coffee in Berlin head over to **Five Elephant Coffee and Cake** in Neukölln.

FIVE ELEPHANT COFFEE AND CAKE



OPENING TIMES: Mon–Fri 8:30am–7pm,
Sat–Sun 10am–7pm



ADDRESS: Reichenberger Straße 101,
10999 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U1 (Görlitzer Bahnhof)

Bus: M29 (Glogauer Str.)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.fiveelephant.com/>

f DÖNER KEBAB

The perfect way to end a night on the town, but also a great treat while sightseeing, Berlin's version of the Döner kebab is one of the best-known variations of this delicious dish. Owing to Germany's large Turkish community, the döner in pitta bread first emerged in Berlin in the 1970s, and has since become one of the most popular fast-food snacks throughout the nation. Annual sales in Germany come to a whopping €2.5 billion! While staying in Berlin, you really 'mustafa' döner at **Mustafa's Gemüse Kebab** shack. Regarded as the best döner place in Berlin, the food tastes great and you're sure to have service with a smile.

MUSTAFA'S GEMÜSE KEBAP



PRICE RANGE: €1–€3.90



OPENING TIMES: Daily from 10:30am



ADDRESS: Mehringdamm 32, 10961 Berlin



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6, U7 (Mehringdamm)

Bus: 140, M19, N6, N7, N42 (Mehringdamm)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.mustafas.de/>



2 GERMAN CUISINE

Berlin's scene of German cuisine is vast and varied, representing the often overlooked but undeniably sophisticated food culture of this great nation. Many of the best known and most popular German dishes come from the south – owing to a historical availability of foreign vegetables, spices and culinary inspiration. Worth particular mention is the **Bavarian cuisine**, which boasts some incredible pasta dishes such as '**Maultaschen**' (similar to ravioli, but larger) and '**Spätzle**'. For Bavarian cuisine, checkout **Hofbräu** in Mitte.

The **Van Loon Restaurant** boat in **Kreuzberg** offers diners a range of typical German and fusion dishes within an elegant setting. The restaurant also offers a great selection of fish, vegetarian and vegan meals.

For fine dining with large portions and a variety of German cuisines on offer head to **Dicke Wirtin**, or for budget options check out **Käse König** in **Mitte**.

a HOFBRÄU



PRICE RANGE: €5–20



OPENING TIMES: Fri–Sat 10am–2am,
Sun–Thur 10am–1am



ADDRESS:
Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 30, 10178 Berlin
PHONE: +49 30 67 966 5520



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U2, U5, U8 (Alexanderplatz)
S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Alexanderplatz)
Tram: M4, M5 M6 (Alexanderplatz)
Bus: 100, 200, M48, N5 (Alexanderplatz)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://www.hofbraeuhaus-berlin.de/>

b VAN LOON RESTAURANT



PRICE RANGE: €10–€20



OPENING TIMES: Daily 9am–1am



ADDRESS:
Carl-Herz-Ufer 5, 10961 Berlin
PHONE: +49 30 692 6293



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U1 (Prinzenstr)
Bus: 140 (Wilmsstr) M41 (Geibelstr)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://www.vanloon.de/>

c DICKE WIRTIN



PRICE RANGE: €7–€25



OPENING TIMES: Daily from 11am until late



ADDRESS:
Carmerstr. 9, 10623 Berlin
PHONE: +49 30 312 4952



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U1, U2, U9 (Zoologischer Garten)
S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Zoologischer Garten)
Bus: 100, 109, 110, 200, 204, 245, 249, M45, M46, M49, N1, N2, N9, N10 (Zoologischer Garten)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://www.dicke-wirtin.de/>

d KÄSE KÖNIG



PRICE RANGE: €5–€10



OPENING TIMES: Daily from 9am until late



ADDRESS:
Panoramastr. 1, 10178 Berlin
PHONE: +49 30 85 615 220



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U2, U5, U8 (Alexanderplatz)
S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Alexanderplatz)
Tram: M4, M5 M6 (Alexanderplatz)
Bus: 100, 200, M48, N5 (Alexanderplatz)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://www.kaesekoenig.de/>

3 INTERNATIONAL FOOD

Globally recognised as a world capital for culture and creativity, it's hardly surprising that Berlin has a fantastic range of international cuisine on offer. From authentic foreign delicacies to fusion dishes tailored to the European palate, there are a wealth of opportunities to explore and enjoy during your stay in the city.

Unsurprisingly, Berlin's notable Turkish population has led to numerous Turkish restaurants, supermarkets and fast-food outlets springing up around the city. For authentic Turkish cuisine, check out the exquisite **Honça** restaurant in Wilmersdorf.

If you feel like sampling delights from Berlin's African communities, why not pay a visit to the **Bejte Ethiopia Restaurant**. Asian cuisine is also heavily represented, with a large selection of Vietnamese, Thai and Japanese restaurants to choose from, which also offer great vegetarian options. For some low-cost, mouth-watering Thai food, check out **Taleh Thai** in Friedrichshain.

Berlin also features a large number of hipster burger joints that serve both as music venues and as restaurants. If you find yourself in the mood for a gourmet burger, head over to **Burgeramt** in the lively Boxhagener Platz.

a HONÇA



PRICE RANGE: €7–€25



OPENING TIMES: Mon: Closed. Tue–Fri: 5pm–11pm, Sat–Sun: 1pm–11pm



ADDRESS:

Address: Ludwigkirchplatz 12, 10719 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 955 99434



GETTING THERE:

U-BAHN: U2, U3, U9 (Spichernstr)

BUS: 204, N3, N9 (Spichernstr) 249 (Pariser Str)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.honca.de/en/>

b BEJTE ETHIOPIA RESTAURANT



PRICE RANGE: €8–€20



OPENING TIMES: Mon–Fri: 4pm–2am



ADDRESS:

Zietenstrasse 8, 10783 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 262 5933



GETTING THERE:

U-BAHN: U1, U2, U3, U4 (Nollendorfplatz)

BUS: 106, 187, M19, N1, N2, N26 (Nollendorfplatz)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.bejte-ethiopia.de/>

c TALEH THAI



PRICE RANGE: €8–€12



OPENING TIMES: Daily 5pm–11pm



ADDRESS:

Käthe-Niederkirchner-Straße 14, 10407, Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 4285 1030



GETTING THERE:

BUS: 200 (Bötzowstr)

TRAM: M4 (Hufelandstr.)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.talehthai.de/>

d BURGERAMT



PRICE RANGE: €8–€20



OPENING TIMES: Mon–Thurs: 11am–1am,
Fri–Sat: 11.30am – 4am, Sun: 11am–1am



ADDRESS:

Krossener Straße 21–22, 10245 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 667 63453



GETTING THERE:

U-BAHN: U1 (Warschauer Str)

S-BAHN: S5, S7, S75 (Warschauer Str)

BUS: 240, N40 (Boxhagener Platz) 248, 347, N2 (Warschauer Str)

TRAM: 21 (Wismarplatz), M13 (Simplonstr.) M10 (Warschauer Str)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.burgeramt.com/>



9

ENTERTAINMENT

1. Shopping in Berlin

- a. Kurfürstendamm
- b. Potsdamer Platz
- c. Friedrichstrasse
- d. Alexanderplatz

2. Berlin's Electronic Scene

- a. Berghain
- b. Tresor
- c. Watergate

3. Live Music in Berlin

- a. Yorckschlösschen
- b. SO36
- c. Hard Rock Cafe

4. Gay Culture in Berlin

- a. SchwuZ
- b. Heile Welt

5. Theatres

- a. Staatsoper (Schiller Theatre)
- b. Deutsche Oper
- c. Komische Oper
- d. Friedrichstadt Palast
- e. Admiralspalast
- f. Konzerthaus Berlin
- g. Cinestar

WEST

- 1a

Kurfürstendamm
- 3c

Heile Welt
- 4b

Heile Welt
- 5a

Staatsoper
(Schiller Theatre)
- 5b

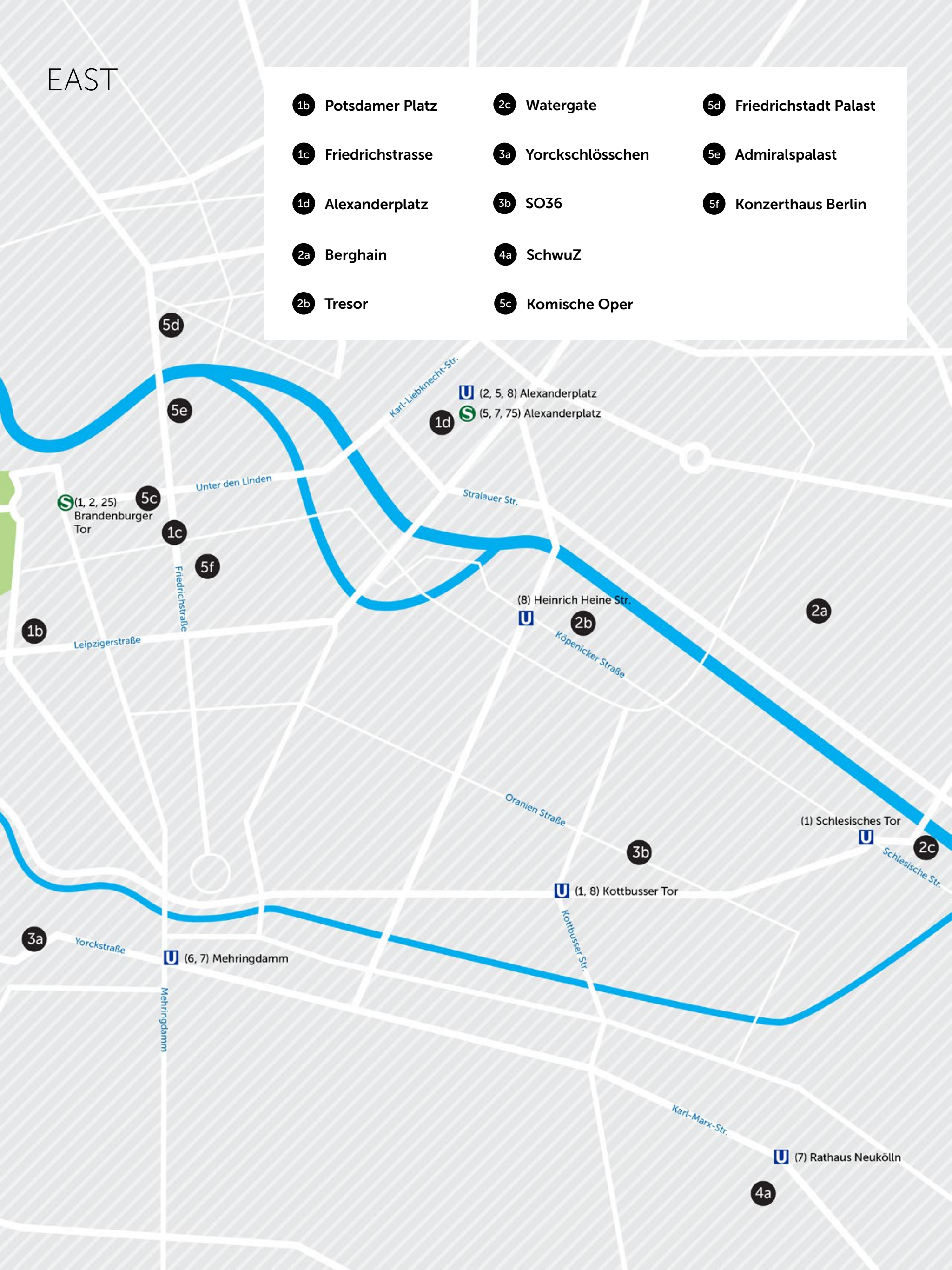
Deutsche Oper
- 5g

Cinestar



EAST

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1b Potsdamer Platz | 2c Watergate | 5d Friedrichstadt Palast |
| 1c Friedrichstrasse | 3a Yorckschlösschen | 5e Admiralspalast |
| 1d Alexanderplatz | 3b SO36 | 5f Konzerthaus Berlin |
| 2a Berghain | 4a SchwuZ | |
| 2b Tresor | 5c Komische Oper | |



Berlin's unique and varied culture has been shaped by the vast political and social changes that have taken place throughout the past half-century.

Inarguably, much of Berlin's current nightlife culture stems from the rebellious anti-establishment attitudes that many young people and artists felt and expressed in the West through the 60s, 70s and 80s. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, East German artists were finally able to engage in a level of self expression that until this point had been denied them. This lead to a surge in the capital's creativity, which has had an indisputable impact upon the city that we see today.

The multicultural migrant influx to Berlin since reunification in the 1990s has continued to contribute to the entertainment

diversity to this day, and the past decade has seen gentrification send waves through the social landscape.

Artistic, bohemian-style venues have become commonplace, and Berlin's electro scene has become legendary. Visitors will note that many venues throughout the city have a deliberately 'rough and ready' look. Eclectic furnishings, distressed decor and vintage decorations can be found in many of the city's countless small venues. The shabby-chic movement is a hallmark that can be seen printed throughout the city.



1 SHOPPING IN BERLIN

Like all major cities, Berlin boasts its own unique shopping landscape that attracts visitors from around the globe, all year around. Since the fall of the Berlin wall in 1990, many of the city's shopping

districts have seen a major structural overhaul, creating contemporary centres that hold their own in the current age of commerce.

a KURFÜRSTENDAMM

Without doubt, Berlin's most famous shopping street is Kurfürstendamm in Charlottenburg. Known locally as Ku'damm, the boulevard is often considered to be Berlin's equivalent of the Champs-Élysées. Along this 3.5-kilometre shopping avenue, you will find prestigious fashion boutiques such as Hugo Boss, Yves Saint Laurent, and Chanel, as well as car show rooms and countless restaurants.

KaDeWe, the largest department store in Continental Europe, is also located on this shopping strip. The store has over 60,000 square metres of shopping space, and also has one of the largest food halls in the world. The KaDeWe food hall alone attracts up to 50,000 visitors per day, who flock to sample the enormous range of items on offer.



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U1, U9 (Kurfürstendamm)

S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Zoologischer Garten)

Bus: 109, 110, 204, 249, M19, M29, M46, N1, N2, N3, N9, N10, N26, X10 (Kurfürstendamm)

b POTSDAMER PLATZ

This historic commercial centre lay quiet in the Cold War years, as the Berlin Wall prevented its use. Following reunification, the square underwent extensive reconstruction - the result of which was a gleaming new district, worthy of a capital city. The area now has everything from upscale nightclubs to world-class cinemas, day spas, art galleries and restaurants. The square's main shopping centre is Arkaden, which boasts a total of 130 clothing stores, restaurants and boutiques.



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U2 (Potsdamer Platz)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S25, RB19, RE2, RE3, RE4, RE5 (Potsdamer Platz)

Bus: 200, M41, M48, M85, N2

c FRIEDRICHSTRASSE

Like many of Berlin's sleek and modern shopping districts, Friedrichstrasse underwent extensive renovation work after the wall fell. The street is now lined with department stores boasting top designer labels, restaurants and theatres. While in the area, visitors should check out the stylish Quartier 206 shopping mall. This unique building features a grand art-deco passage, and offers brand names such as Louis Vuitton and Gucci.



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6 (Französische Straße)

S-Bahn: S1, S2, S5, S7, S25, S75 (Friedrichstraße)

Tram: 12, M1

Bus: 147, EV, N6

d ALEXANDERPLATZ

Formerly the central square of East Berlin, Alexanderplatz remains to this day a commercial hotspot. The square includes the GALERIA department store, the Saturn electronics warehouse and the enormous Alexa shopping mall. Featuring 180 shops and restaurants, Alexa is one of Berlin's largest shopping centres.



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U2, U5, U8 (Alexanderplatz)

S-Bahn: S5, S7, S75 (Alexanderplatz)

Tram: M2, M4, M5, M6

Bus: 100, 200, M48, N2, N5, N42, TXL

2 BERLIN'S ELECTRONIC SCENE

Since the 1990s, Berlin's buzzing electronic music scene has caught the world's imagination. With groundbreaking venues, such as **Berghain**, **Tresor** and **Watergate**, the city has made its name in electronic music history.

Opened in 2004, Berghain is a reinvention of the city's previous Techno champion, Ostgut. Much of its reputation stems from its status as one of the most exclusive venues in Europe - the Berghain is notoriously one of the most difficult clubs to get into. Regarded as World Capital of Techno, Berghain has made its home in a former GDR power station.

Watergate, like Berghain, has garnered further publicity due to its selective door policy. Be warned: the dress code is casual. If you want to stand a chance of getting in, you should wear trainers and a t-shirt. Watergate does not admit people under the age of 21, and visitors should memorise the line-up of that night in case asked on the door.

If you're put off by the uncertainty of admission, you should head to Tresor, which does not have a selective door policy. Founded in 1991, the club was originally located in a former department store, but moved venues to a disused power station on Köpenicker Straße in 2007.

a BERGHAIN



OPENING TIMES: Club nights Fri, Sat 12am–Mon 10am Wed + Thurs special events



ADDRESS:
Rüdersdorfer Straße 70, 10243 Berlin
PHONE: +49 30 2936 0210



GETTING THERE:
S-BAHN: S5, S7, S75 (Ostbahnhof)
BUS: 240, 347, N40 (Wedekindstraße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://berghain.de/>

b TRESOR



OPENING TIMES: Mon 12am–10am, Tue Closed, Wed 12am–12pm, Thurs 12am–10am, 11pm–12am, Fri–Sat 12am–12pm



ADDRESS:
Köpenicker Straße 70, 10179 Berlin
PHONE: +49 30 6953 7731



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U8 (Heinrich-Heine-Straße)
Bus: 165, 265, N8, N65 (Heinrich-Heine-Straße)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://tresorberlin.com/>

c WATERGATE



OPENING TIMES:
Wed–Sun: 10pm–5am



ADDRESS:
Falckensteinstraße 49, 10997 Berlin
PHONE: +49 30 6128 0394



GETTING THERE:
U-Bahn: U1, U3 (Schlesisches Tor)
Bus: 165, 265, N1, N65 (Schlesisches Tor)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://www.water-gate.de/>

3 LIVE MUSIC IN BERLIN

As well being the capital of world-famous electro clubs, Berlin is also home a very prominent live-music scene - especially within the Kreuzberg district. With countless venues, there is something to meet everyone's musical tastes. If you're interested in seeing live blues or jazz music, you should definitely check out the **Yorckschlösschen** bar. This 100-year old venue features great line-ups, affordable drinks and a warm atmosphere.

Another major player in the live-music scene is **SO36**. The historic club was once the beating heart of Berlin's anarchist squat scene. Popular

in the 1970s with artists such as David Bowie and Iggy Pop, SO36 found its roots in the punk rock movement. Today the club has diversified its musical outlook, and now puts on a range of events covering numerous musical genres.

The **Lido** nightclub is one of Kreuzberg's oldest and most popular alternative music venues. Dating back to 1950s, the club started out as a cinema, and to this day retains many of its original features. The line-up usually boasts a selection of indie and rock bands.

(a) YORCKSCHLÖSSCHEN



OPENING TIMES:

Mon–Sat: 5pm–3am, Sun: 10am–3am



ADDRESS:

Yorckstraße 15, 10965 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 215 8070



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U6, U7 (Mehringdamm)

Bus: 140, M19, N6, N7, N42 (Mehringdamm)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.yorckschloessen.de/>

(b) SO36



ADDRESS:

Oranienstraße 190, 10999 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 6140 1306



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U1, U3, U8 (Kottbusser Tor)

Bus: 140, N1, N8 (Kottbusser Tor)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://so36.de/concerts/>

(c) HARD ROCK CAFE



ADDRESS:

Kurfürstendamm 224, 10719 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 884 620



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U1, U9 (Kurfürstendamm)

Bus: 109, 110, 204, 249, M19, M29, M46 (Kurfürstendamm)



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.hardrock.com/cafes/berlin/>

4

GAY CULTURE IN BERLIN

Whereas most cities have a particular gay district, Berlin's gay nightlife scene is spread throughout the capital and has in places merged with the mainstream. Further to this, some of the city's most iconic clubs started out as gay venues. The **Berghain** is one such example, and the club still draws a fairly even mix of gay and straight patrons.

The **Siegessäule** is Berlin's free monthly LGBT magazine, and can be picked up from almost any gay bar in the city. Many bars and clubs in Berlin have regular nights for the LGBT community, and Siegessäule lists all the major upcoming events.

Amongst the top gay nightlife venues is **Schwuz**. This historic venue was founded in 1977 and for 18 years shared its premises with Berlin's **Schwules Museum** (Gay Museum) and the **AHA** (General Gay Working Association). Today the club remains an active player in Berlin's gay culture, and offers a wide range of events covering a variety of musical genres.

If you're looking for a chilled-out, cosy venue to enjoy your evening in then check out **Heile Welt**. Located in Berlin's Schöneberg district, this relaxed bar attracts a very mixed crowd and offers a great atmosphere.

a SCHWUZ

**OPENING TIMES:**

Wed: 10.30pm-6am, Thu-Fri: 11pm-7am,
Sat: 11pm-8am

**ADDRESS:**

Rollbergstraße 26, 12053 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 5770 2270

**GETTING THERE:**

U-Bahn: U7 (Rathaus Neukölln)

Bus: 104, 166, 167, N7, N94 (Rathaus Neukölln)

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.schwuz.de/en/home.html>

b HEILE WELT

**ADDRESS:**

Motzstraße 5, 10777 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 2191 7507

**GETTING THERE:**

U-Bahn: U1, U2, U3, U4 (Nollendorfplatz)

Bus: 106, 187, M19, N1, N2, N26 (Nollendorfplatz)

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.heile-welt.biz/>



5 THEATRES

In fitting with its Bohemian image, Berlin features a huge number of theatres, cinemas and performance venues of all sizes. Berlin is also the only city in the world with three active opera houses - the **Staatsoper** (the State Opera), the **Deutsche Oper** (the German Opera) and the **Komische Oper** (the Comedy Opera).

Undoubtedly, Berlin's most famous theatre is the 150 year old **Friedrichstadt Palast**. Throughout its history, this theatre has undergone numerous management and architectural changes, and today it is the largest show palace in Europe. The venue has a varied programme, which includes childrens shows, festival galas and glamorous, Vegas-style extravaganzas.

The **Admiralspalast** is located just 300 metres away from the Friedrichstadt Palast, and is one of the few remaining pre-war variety venues. The show palace offers a wide range of entertainment, from rock and pop concerts to musicals, theatre productions and comedy shows.

Berlin's famous **Konzerthaus** in Gendarmenmarkt Square is also a major attraction, with a history spanning almost 200 years. Acoustically, the Konzerthaus Berlin is considered to be one of the top five concert halls for musical performances.

If you feel like watching a movie during your stay, check out the **CineStar** cinema in the **Sony Center**. CineStar shows films only in their original language, and always has a great selection of new releases on offer.

Ⓐ STAATSOPER (SCHILLER THEATRE)



ADDRESS:

Bismarckstraße 110, 10625 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 2035 4555



OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.staatsoper-berlin.de/>



GETTING THERE:

U-Bahn: U2 (Ernst-Reuter-Platz)

Bus: 101 (Bismarckstr./Leibnizstr.) 245, M45, N2, X9 (Ernst-Reuter-Platz)

b DEUTSCHE OPER

**ADDRESS:**

Bismarckstraße 35, 10627 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 3438 4343**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**http://www.deutscheoperberlin.de/en_EN**GETTING THERE:****U-Bahn:** U7 (Bismarckstr.) U2 (Deutsche Oper)**Bus:** 101 (Bismarckstr./Leibnizstr.) N2, N7 (Bismarckstr.)

c KOMISCHE OPER

**ADDRESS:**

Behrenstraße 55-57, 10117 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 4799 7400**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<http://www.komische-oper-berlin.de/>**GETTING THERE:****U-Bahn:** U6 (Französische Str.)**S-Bahn:** S1, S2, S25 (Brandenburger Tor) S1, S2, S5, S7, S25, S75 (Friedrichstraße)**Bus:** 199, 147, 200, N2, N6, TXL (Unter den Linden/Friedrichstraße)**TRAM:** 12, M1 (Friedrichstraße)

d FRIEDRICHSTADT PALAST

**ADDRESS:**

Friedrichstraße 107, 10117 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 2326 2326**GETTING THERE:****U-Bahn:** U6 (Oranienburger Tor)**S-Bahn:** S1, S2, S5, S7, S25, S75 (Friedrichstraße)**Bus:** 147 (Friedrichstraße/Reinhardtstraße)**Tram:** 12, M1, M5 (Oranienburger Tor)**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<http://www.palast-berlin.eu/en/>

e ADMIRALSPALAST

**ADDRESS:**

Friedrichstraße 101, 10117 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 4799 7499**GETTING THERE:****U-Bahn:** U6 (Friedrichstraße)**S-Bahn:** S1, S2, S5, S7, S25, S75 (Friedrichstraße)**Bus:** 147, EV, N6 (Friedrichstraße)**Tram:** 12, M1 (Friedrichstraße)**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<http://www.mehr.de/en/venues/admiralspalast-berlin/admiralspalast-berlin/>

f KONZERTHAUS BERLIN

**ADDRESS:**

Gendarmenmarkt, 10117 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 2030 92333**GETTING THERE:****U-Bahn:** U2 (Hausvogteiplatz)

U6 (Französische Straße)

Bus: 147 (Französische Straße)**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<http://en.konzerthaus.de/>

g CINESTAR

**OPENING TIMES:** Daily 24 hours**ADDRESS:**

Potsdamer Platz, 10785 Berlin

PHONE: +49 30 2575 1604**GETTING THERE:****U-Bahn:** U2 (Potsdamer Platz)**S-Bahn:** S1, S2 (Potsdamer Platz)**Bus:** 200, M41, M48, M85, N2 (Varian-Fry-Straße)**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<http://www.cinestar.de/de/kino/cinestar-imax-im-sony-center/>



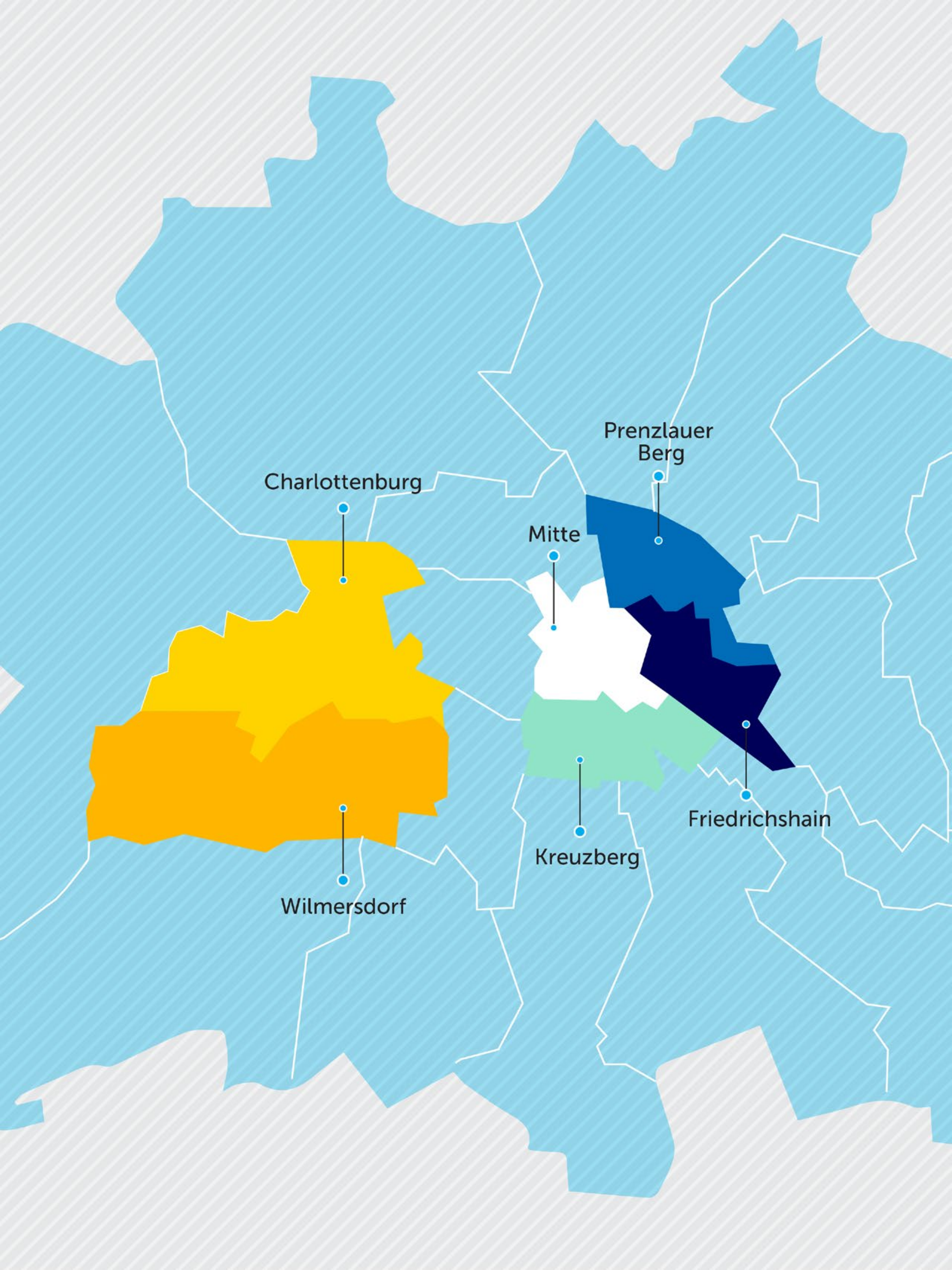
10

WHERE TO STAY

1. Mitte
2. Prenzlauer Berg
3. Kreuzberg
4. Friedrichshain
5. Charlottenburg –
Wilmerdorf

It's not always easy knowing where to stay when visiting a city like Berlin.

The cultural variety and vast differences in the city districts can make it difficult to decide which area is best suited to you. To help make this easier, here is a breakdown of some of Berlin's top districts and what they offer.



Charlottenburg

Prenzlauer
Berg

Mitte

Friedrichshain

Kreuzberg

Wilmersdorf



As the central neighbourhood of Berlin, [Mitte](#) has become one of the most prosperous areas of the city since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Extensive renovation work has taken place to preserve historic monuments, while also reinvigorating the centre through private commercial investment.

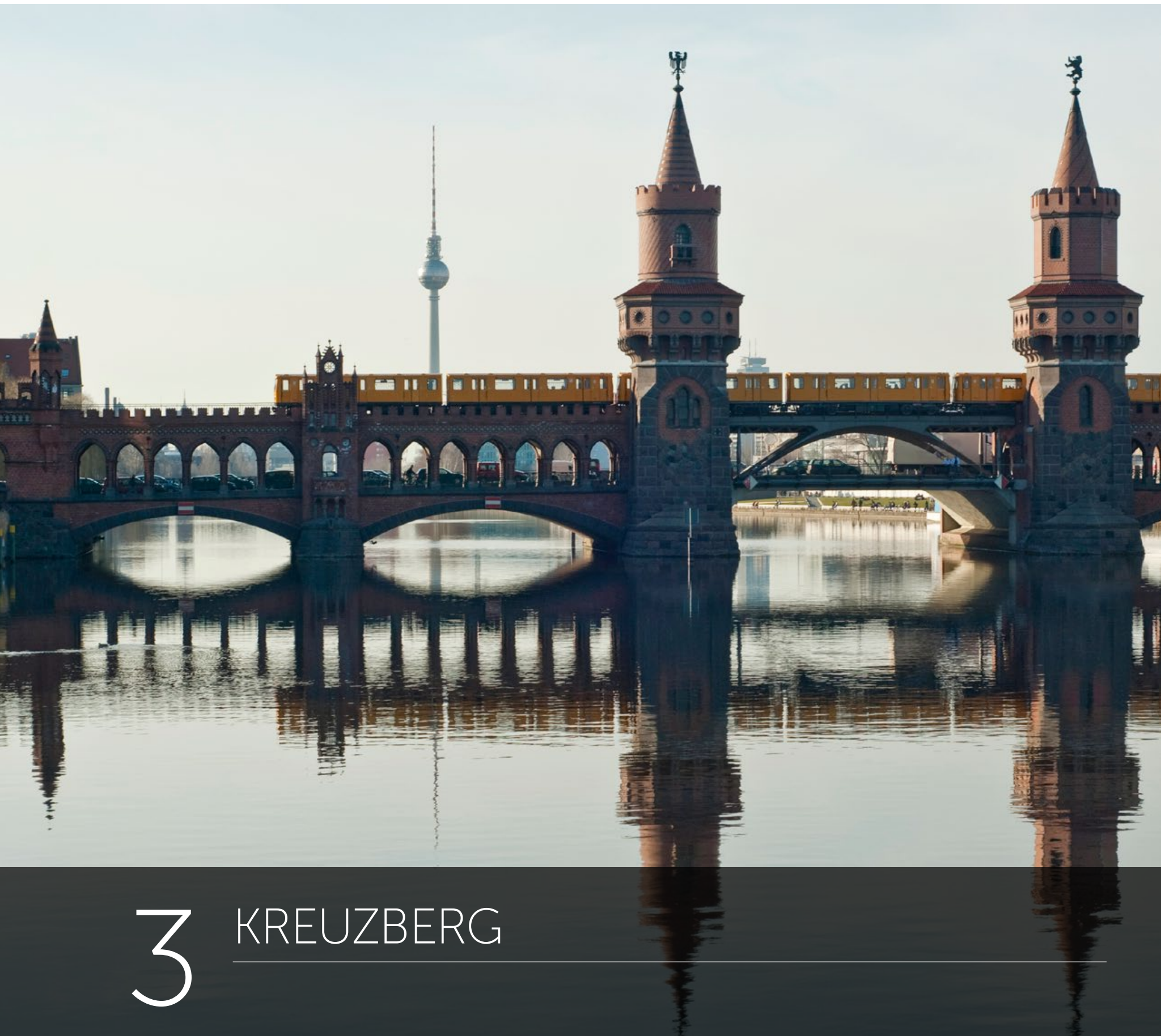
Mitte is undoubtedly a great place to stay if you want to be within walking distance of many of the city's best known attractions. Within this district, visitors will find iconic sites such as the Brandenburg Gate, Museum Island and Checkpoint Charlie.



2 PRENZLAUER BERG

Once a haven for impoverished artists and poor musicians, [Prenzlauer Berg](#) has experienced a significant degree of gentrification in recent years to become Berlin's most family-oriented district. While no longer as lively as it once was, the district still hosts a large number of fashionable boutiques, hipster bars and some fantastic organic restaurants.

Prenzlauer Berg is a great place to stay if you want to be conveniently close to the centre, while still being able to come home to peace and quiet. If you choose to book an apartment in the Prenzlauer Berg district, you should definitely check out the vibrant Mauerpark Sunday Flea Market and Mauerpark's Bearpit Karaoke.



3 KREUZBERG

The trendy [Kreuzberg](#) district is home to a large part of Berlin's Turkish community, and here you'll find some great markets and a huge number of creative nightlife venues. The district also boasts many indie bars and is a hotspot for several of the

city's major celebrations, such as Mai Fest and the Berlin Gay Pride Festival. If you enjoy dining out, Kreuzberg is a great option, with its numerous bars and restaurants offering great cuisine for affordable prices.



4 FRIEDRICHSHAIN

Yet another hipster hotspot, [Friedrichshain](#) is a great place for young people, artists and musicians to hang out and be creative. The rebellious nature of this district has undoubtedly grown since the Berlin Wall fell, with graffiti artists turning the streets into their outdoor gallery. Highlights include

Friedrichshain Park (Volkspark Friedrichshain), the East Side Gallery and the Boxhagener Platz Sunday Flea Market. Friedrichshain is also the beating heart of Berlin's electro scene. If you want a ringside seat to Berlin's alternative music and arts then Friedrichshain may be the district for you.



5 CHARLOTTENBURG – WILMERSDORF

Like many of Berlin's ancient boroughs, [Charlottenburg](#) and Wilmersdorf were paired to form a single district in 2001. Surrounded by greenery, this is the perfect area to enjoy peace and relaxation after a busy day of sightseeing. Highlights include Charlott-

tenburg Palace, the Olympiastadion and Kurfürstendamm Boulevard. These twin districts also boast an abundance of shopping opportunities and some of Berlin's best restaurants.



USEFUL CONTACTS

1. Embassies

- a. British Embassy
- b. Embassy of the United States
(American citizen services)
- c. Australian Embassy
- d. Embassy of Canada
- e. Embassy of Ireland

2. Emergency Numbers

a BRITISH EMBASSY

**OPENING TIMES:**

Mon–Fri: 9:00am–5:30pm

**GETTING THERE:****S-Bahn:** S1, S2, S25 (Brandenburger Tor)**Bus:** 147, 200 (Brandenburger Tor) M85 (Ebertstr.) 100 (Reichstag)**ADDRESS:**

Wilhelmstraße 70 - 71, 10117 Berlin

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-berlin>**PHONE:** +49 30 204 570

b EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

(American citizen services)

**OPENING TIMES:**Mon–Fri: 8.30am–12pm,
by appointment only**GETTING THERE:****S-Bahn:** U2 (Oskar-Helene-Heim)**Bus:** 110, 115, 285, 623 (Oskar-Helene-Heim)**ADDRESS:**

Clayallee 170, 14195 Berlin

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/berlinacs/>**PHONE:** +49 30 8305 1215

c AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

**OPENING TIMES:**Mon, Wed, Fri: 9:00–11:00am
Tues and Thurs: closed**GETTING THERE:****S-Bahn:** U2 (Märkisches Museum) U8 (Heinrich-Heine-Str.)**Bus:** 147, 165, 265 (Märkisches Museum)**ADDRESS:**

Wallstrasse 76-79, 10179 Berlin

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<http://www.germany.embassy.gov.au/beln/home.html>**PHONE:** +49 30 8800 880

d EMBASSY OF CANADA

**OPENING TIMES:**Mon–Fri: 9:00am – 12:00pm
Mon–Fri: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
(emergencies, by appointment only)**GETTING THERE:****S-Bahn:** S1, S2, S25, SEV (Potsdamer Platz)**U-Bahn:** U2 (Potsdamer Platz)**Bus:** 200, M48, M85 (Potsdamer Platz)**ADDRESS:**

Leipziger Platz 17, 10117 Berlin

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/germany-allemagne/index.aspx?lang=eng>**PHONE:** +49 30 2031 2470

e EMBASSY OF IRELAND

**OPENING TIMES:**Mon–Fri: 9:30–12:30,
by appointment only**GETTING THERE:****S-Bahn:** U2 (Hausvogteiplatz) U6 (Französische Str.)**Bus:** 147 (Französische Str.)**Tram:** 12, M1 (Am Kupfergraben)**ADDRESS:**

Jägerstraße 51, 10117 Berlin

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/germany/>**PHONE:** +49 30 220 720

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police	110
Emergency services (Fire, Ambulance)	112
Call-a-doc (Help with finding English speaking doctors in the Berlin area):	+49 1805 321303
Dental emergency service:	+49 30 8900 4333
Poison emergency service:	+49 30 192 40
Police Advice and Information:	+49 30 4664 4664
Samaritans (connected to the British army in Germany)	+49 800 181 0771 +49 800 181 0772
BVG (public transport) customer services	+49 30 19449
BVG lost property office: Platz der Luftbrücke 6, 12101 Berlin	+49 30 902 77 31 01

ABOUT WIMDU

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PHOTO CREDITS

Reichstag Dome, page 9; Museum Interior, page 30, by [Claire Williams](#)

Pyronale, page 18, by [Till Krech](#)

*Please note that all prices listed within this city guide are correct as of January 2015, but may be subject to change.

