

The page features a decorative border of hand-drawn sketches of Berlin landmarks, including the Brandenburg Gate and various classical buildings. The sketches are rendered in two colors: orange and green. They are arranged in a repeating pattern around the central text.

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WILLKOMMEN IN BERLIN!

Welcome to one of the most exciting, unique cities in the world. From world-class nightlife to Prussian palaces and an open-minded culture, you're sure to leave Berlin with colourful memories.

This guide will take you through the best spots in the City; give you some ideas of where to spend your time; and most importantly how to navigate your way around. We've done all the legwork and sussed out the places worth spending your time, whether you have 24hrs or one month in the capital of Germany. You may leave poor, but you will be sexy.

Liebe Grüsse,

City Travel Review Team
June 2011

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Berlin is a young city with a whole lot of history. Based on archaeological evidence, the area that is now called Berlin has been inhabited for about 60,000 years. Germanic peoples lived in this area in the 5th and 6th centuries and left during the great migrations after which the area was occupied by Slavs. A Germanic line only began in the 12th and 13th century, when the Slavs were ousted by the feudal Magnates of the Mark of Brandenburg. Public contracts were approved for two riverside towns called Berlin and Cölln, which later combined to form Berlin City. As Berlin and Cölln were on a key trade route to the east, they began to thrive as cities. The name Berlin is noted in Latin language documents as "Berolina". Although the origin of the name is unsure, many believe it to be related to the old Polabian Slavic word birl, meaning swamp. There is also conjecture that the name Berlin comes from the first Margrave of Brandenburg, Albert the Bear. Frederick I became elector of the Margraviate of Brandenburg in 1415, which subsequently led to Berlin having to give up its Hanseatic League free city title. Martin Luther's protestant reformation gained popularity in Berlin and by 1539 the city formally became

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Lutheran. The Thirty Years' War left Berlin in devastation, where a 3rd of the houses were marred and half the population killed. Following the war, Frederick William I, also known as the "Great Elector," became Elector of Brandenburg and set out initiating a series of policies encouraging immigration and religious acceptance. He also began expanding the city with the creation of new suburbs and modernization through the establishment of Unter den Linden, which would connect the Tiergarten and the royal palace. Along with his construction projects and modern social policies, Frederick William I successfully established an active army. After 13 years of rule, Elector Frederick III decided to crown himself Frederick I King of Prussia. A dim man, his interests lay mainly in material goods to boost his pride and ego. However, he planned the construction of the Charlottenburg castle and united the cities of Berlin, Cölln, Friedrichswerder, Dorotheenstadt and Friedrichstadt, declaring them the "Royal Capital and Residence of Berlin". Contrary to Frederick I, his son Frederick William I was a thrifty man, who solidified the importance of Prussia as a formidable military power.

FREDERICK THE GREAT

Succeeding Frederick William I was Frederick II or "Frederick the Great". Most commonly called "Der alte Fritz" or "Old Fritz" Frederick II was an erudite monarch who called Voltaire a close friend. Old Fritz left his mark on Berlin by commissioning many architectural feats, such as the Berlin State Opera, St. Hedwig's Cathedral and the building that is now the prestigious Humboldt University. He did not reside in Berlin however, but in Potsdam in a palace called Sansoucci. This "summer home" is considered one of the more humble palaces in Potsdam and the grounds reflect Fredericks enlightened personality. The gorgeous equilibrium between man and nature that is displayed on the Sansoucci grounds and in the architecture of the palace personifies Frederick to such an extent that the style was christened "Frederi-

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cian Rococo". Frederick the Great's rule marked important shifts in policies, such as the eradication of torture and corporal punishment. His liberal attitude made him one of the most celebrated men in Berlin History.

A CHANGING EMPIRE

In 1861, Wilhelm I ascended the throne. During his reign, the Industrial Revolution changed Berlin dramatically and it became the economic centre and main place of transportation in all of Germany. Additional suburbs were added to the city and the population grew steadily. The defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 led to the unification of Germany, and Berlin became the capital of the new German Empire in 1871. Prussia undoubtedly became the biggest and most powerful state within the new German Empire. At this time, the industrial city of Berlin had a population of 800,000 people. City infrastructure was improved with the building of the U-Bahn subway system, which was completed in 1902.

World War I greatly devastated Berlin, resulting in great food shortages and leaving much of its population starving. Once the war was over and Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated, Berlin was left in political disarray. There was speak of a socialist republic similar to that of Russia, but rumors were put to rest with the advent of the Weimar Republic.

WEIMAR REPUBLIC

The end of WWI marked a power struggle between the numerous political factions that were arising. In January 1919 the lengthy fight for power ended in the Spartacist Revolt, where government soldiers engaged in gruesome combat with the German Communist Party (KPD). The revolt was crushed in due course and the founding members of the KPD, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were executed. Today, Rosa Luxemburg has

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a train station that is named after her in the city center on the U2 line.

The democrats won popular support in the elections to the National Assembly on January 19th, 1919 with the Social Democratic Republic (SPD) coming out on top. The national assembly came together in Weimar on February 6th to create a constitution. The assembly was comprised of a coalition of left and center parties with SPD members Frederich Ebert and then later Paul von Hindenburg as President. The Chancellor was given the right to rule by decree, elementary human rights were established, and women were given the right to vote.

The passing of the Greater Berlin Act in 1920 integrated many suburbs from the Province of Brandenburg into the city. This was a huge change for the Berlin, as its population went from two to almost four million overnight. Although some decisions made under the Weimar administration were very beneficial for Berlin, the republic was not well liked. Tribulation began in March 1920 with the 'Kapp Putsch,' where right-winged revolutionaries under the management of Wolfgang Kapp took over the government quarter by force. Government officials fled to Dresden and only returned once the Putsch collapsed as a result of general strikes.

Germany suffered drastically in terms of economic after WWI. The large amount of money they had to pay in reparations due to the Treaty of Versailles crippled the country, and they responded by printing more money leading to mass inflation. Unemployment rose dramatically, contributing to the rising number of hungry and diseased. Daily events included widespread demonstrations, strikes, and riots. At one point, one dollar was equal to 4.2 trillion marks.

With a positive change in monetary policies and help from the allied forces, Germany gradually began to improve its conditions. Better circumstances in the rest of Germany helped Berlin to become one of the biggest industrial cities in Europe. Sometimes dubbed "the Golden Twenties," Berlin thrived at this time not only

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economically but culturally as well, making it a major cultural center in Europe. Unfortunately, Berlin would not get to enjoy its prosperity for very long.

The 1929 stock market crash led to a global depression, hitting Berlin hard. Millions of Berliners became unemployed, poverty spread, and unrest plagued the streets yet again.

THE NAZI ERA

A feeling of hopelessness overwhelmed Germany and paved the way for the popularity of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) or Nazi Party. The fear of communism was a huge factor in the rise of Nazism and many wealthy people supported the party financially for this reason. Adolf Hitler was a charismatic man who won recognition by his energetic speeches that disparaged the Weimar republic and pledged to bring back German honour.

The Nazis were seen by many as an answer to Germany's tribulations. By the 1932 elections, the Nazi party had won 37% of the national vote. Hindenburg worried about the growing popularity of the Nazi party and felt it best they be kept close so that they could be controlled. By trying to keep his enemies closer, Hindenburg allowed one of the most dangerous men in history to rise to power when he appointed Hitler Chancellor on January 30th 1933.

On February 27th the great Reichstag fire broke out and by blaming the Communists, Hitler effectively squashed some of his biggest opposition. Hitler used the fire to manipulate Hindenburg into granting him an emergency decree that allowed him special power to "protect the people and the state". With the signing of the Enabling Law, Hitler was permitted to pass laws without Reichstag approval. These new powers enabled Hitler to embark on a dictatorial path of leadership.

As the Nazi regime flourished, Berlin was becoming a one-party state that oppressed all divergent parties as well as unions. Censorship and freedom of press