

Berlin Laid Bare

Willkommen in Berlin!

This comprehensive guide should provide you with everything you need to enjoy the German capital in all its glory and we're not just talking about pointing you in the direction of the typical tourist hot spots. Some, such as the Berlin Wall and Holocaust Memorial, are of course must-sees, but it's the sexy, colourful, vibrant side of this cultural city that is the real delight and that's what this guide will introduce you to. Including the quirkiest shopping boutiques, the yummiest ice-cream treats and of course the number one places to dance the night away; Berliner's generally keep the party rocking til 6am. Best of all, the budget of a young traveller has been kept in mind throughout the guide, with lots of affordable fun to choose from and clear indications of prices with all reviews.

The guide is sorted by the city's main districts, making it easier for you to divide your time between each of the über-cool areas, all of which have their own distinctive character. An introduction to the district at the start of every chapter explains what makes each part of the city extra special.

Along with helpful reviews of recommendation, this guide also acts as your very own Berlin survival kit-complete with transport information, useful phrases and top tips from the team, who have come to know the eclectic city like the back of their hand; making for the only guide you will need to have a fantastic time in Berlin.

Viel Spass!



Tips From The Team

Erica Bettiol

Fashion Stylist - Writer, Photographer & Layout

"If you're heading to the markets learn prices or at least basic numbers in German. The ability to barter is sure to score you a bargain!"



Grace Cartledge

History Student - Writer & Editor

"Berlin consistently retains its reputation of being a green city, which means no littering on the streets. Remember to return your bottles back to shops and bars so you can be refunded by a handy €0.08 - €0.30."

Victoria Jeal

Art Student - Writer & Photographer

"One of the biggest thrills in Berlin would be hocking a loogie off the terrace at Weekend club. You should always cover your nose walking past the Alexanderplatz McDonalds as the repulsive smell could only be fried shize."



Jelena Jovicic

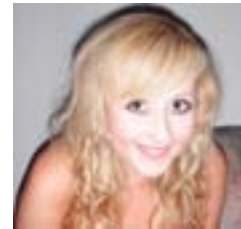
Psychology Student - Writer

"walk, walk and walk. Open your eyes and liberate your mind. Berlin hides its treasure in the most unusual niches!"

Brendan Monroe

Writer - Writer & Editor

"It may be useful to note that when going cafe hopping, if you chase an Eis Schokolade with a slice of Schokolade Sahne and top it off with a Heiss Schokolade, diabetic complications may ensue... or merely digestive ones."



Catriona McGale

Journalism Student - Writer

"Leave plenty of room in your suitcase for bargains from the fleamarket."

Lisa van Heerden

Fashion Designer - Writer, Photographer & Illustrator

"Take that afternoon nap, on Berlin time most nightspots only start humming around 11pm"



Daisy Watkins

Musician - Writer

"If you're getting a taxi for under 5 mins or 3km state, say: 'kurz strecken' and they will take you that distance for no more than €4."

Chloe Hay

Language Student - Writer & Editor

"Expect to experience all four seasons in one day in this unpredictable urban-metropolis. Never leave home without an umbrella and a bottle of sun-cream."



April Farrant

English Student - Writer

"Have a slice of cake, or a scoop of ice-cream daily."

Contents



Then...



...& Now



Prenzlauer Berg



Friedrichshain



Kreuzberg & Neukölln



Charlottenburg



Mitte & Tiergarten



Potsdam



Talk the Talk



Index



Then...

In 800 years, Berlin has grown from a small fishing town settled along the River Spree to one of the most vibrant capital cities in the world. It has experienced large-scale expansion, endured the horror of major world wars and has struggled through political turmoil - but this fascinating history has undoubtedly shaped what Berlin is today, and what it will become in the future.

BERLIN'S ESTABLISHMENT AS A CITY

Although the Brandenburg electors began residing in Berlin as early as 1415, it was not until the reign of Elector Frederick William I (1640 -1688) that major changes began to take place in the city. His desire for religious toleration and immigration meant that around 44,000 French Huguenots settled in Germany, and by the turn of the 18th century, much of Berlin's population were French-speaking. Frederick's encouragement to develop the city also led to the establishment of Dorotheenstadt, and later, Friedrichstadt. This expansion continued under Frederick I of Prussia (1701 - 1713), who made Berlin the official 'Royal Capital' and united it with its neighbor, Cölln.

REVOLUTION IN BERLIN

The reign of Frederick II (1740 - 1786) saw Berlin become a city very much in tune with the Enlightenment movement that was spreading across Europe. As a known member of the Freemasonry, and a monarch who advocated change, he provided a stepping-stone for the transformation that was to come to Berlin in the nineteenth century.

After the defeat of Napoleon, who had briefly occupied Berlin, followed both the establishment of the city's first university, Humboldt University and of the first elections for Berlin's parliamentary members. In 1871, Berlin became the capital of the newly established German Empire, leading to the construction of the Reichstag in 1884. Following this, the Industrial Revolution boosted both Berlin's economy and its population, and in 1896 the development of the U-bahn began.

WORLD WAR I

The future for Berlin looked promising - yet within 50 years of rapid progress, war impoverished the people. Starvation and strikes spread across the streets, worsened dramatically by the reparations demanded by the Treaty of Versailles. The situation became so atrocious that Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated, leading to the formation of the Weimar Republic in 1918. For years, the Socialist party and the Communist party were at loggerheads with one another: the Spartacist revolt, a crisis in which the Communist party attempted to seize power, exemplified the political unrest within Berlin. However, matters brightened in 1924, when financial agreements were made with the Allied Forces so that the city could grow into a cultural capital once again.

THE RISE OF HITLER AND THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS

1929 saw the National Socialist party gain its first seats in parliament and in 1933, Hitler

became Chancellor of Germany. The Third Reich was established and the Nazi regime set about instituting its will: the persecution of Jews began. Laws were written that intentionally isolated the Jewish population, and events such as the *Kristallnacht* saw a legalized attack on their synagogues, businesses and homes. Many Jews chose to flee from the country, whereas others were hunted down and shipped off to concentration camps such as Auschwitz, in Poland.

Soon after Hitler's political rise, bombs once again hit the city's buildings and houses. The Second World War led to the collapse of the Nazi rule and in 1945 Hitler committed suicide, leaving Berlin to be divided up between the US, the UK, the Soviet Union and France. The US, French and UK took states in the West of Berlin, while Soviet control of the East was brutal: the Soviets wrecked all industry within Berlin as reparations for the damage of the war. Yet the powers themselves became divided, especially with the duration of the Cold War. Soon enough, relations between the East and the West began to wither.

THE BERLIN WALL

In 1961 the communist government of the East began to build the wall that separated East Berlin from West Berlin. While it was possible for some citizens from the West to leave Germany, the East Berliners, due to the strict restrictions of the Soviet Union, could no longer travel. For almost 30 years, the two sides of Berlin were split up without communications to one another, so families and friends were divided and trade shut off. Yet, after many years, something unthinkable happened: the access to the other side of the wall was opened. Due to a mistake in press interviews, Günter Schabowski, in 1989, made an accidental statement that allowed people to leave East Berlin. Within hours, crowds pushed their way to the control points of the wall, fighting to get to the front. Schabowski's error was a political mistake that changed the lives of many people for the good; Berliners from both East and West rejoiced at the news. In 1990, Berlin was reunited with Germany so that it became the official capital once more.

BERLIN TODAY

After the deceit of politics for years, the Reichstag has been redesigned: in 1999 it was converted into a glass dome, a metaphor for the fact that the people will never be lied to again. It has become a large-scale tourist attraction and has its own restaurant. Over the years, Berlin has grown into a city that, although is at the forefront of cultural and artistic developments in Europe, will never forget its history. **G.C.**





...And Now

If we lived in a backwards world, the streets of Berlin would be empty, devoid of cars, cyclists and pedestrians with none of the excitement or creative energy that the city currently possesses. No leaders of men would have come and uttered great lines about reunification and ending conflicts. No wars would have begun, no walls erected, no families or lovers separated. This is not the Berlin we see today. To provide detail and context into this city of 3.45 million inhabitants you would ideally need an encyclopedia. For this more humble attempt, it is perhaps more useful to talk about what this city isn't. This however, would be too short an article so we'll bypass this more original method and start forwards once again, briefly underscoring what Berlin was and delving into what it is today.

What it was is a place that reflected, perhaps better than any other city in the entire world, exactly what was happening in the 20th century. Nowhere are the struggles and triumphs of humanity fleshed out in greater detail than here, in Berlin. This has not changed.

Today Berlin is regarded as one of the hippest, most happening places in the entire world. From its famous historic landmarks to its notoriously rapturous nightlife, Berlin has become a mecca for tourists of all stripes in all seasons. A place where the party never stops and the Pilsner never stops flowing, Berlin is also at the heart of the Euro zone and at the forefront of all that comes to pass in the whole of Europe politically as well. The city itself is massive. Four times the size of Paris, Berlin is separated into twelve districts, each offering the usual array of shops, eateries, bars and nightclubs. Each district takes on a life and personality of its own. Prenzlauer Berg is known for its relaxed, alternative culture whereas Mitte is known somewhat as the city's cultural and historical center. Kreuzberg is seen as a trendy, fashionable melting pot while Charlottenburg is famous primarily for its posh palaces and Friedrichshain for its working class neighborhoods and world-class nightclubs.

While the city may appear rather ordinary from the tour bus, a closer look will reveal the breathtaking collage of life and colour that the city has pulsating beneath its muted exterior. You don't have to go into one of Berlin's colossal cathedrals to be reborn here. You'll find Berlin not in the glass obelisk of the Reichstag, nor in the foundations of the Brandenburg Gate, nor in one of its many fascinating and historic museums. These places are all useful in dissecting its storied struggles, its bitter regrets and its limitless potential; but to find Berlin presently, you have to meet its people. It is only then, over a pint or an Eis Schokolade, that we can truly come to grips with what Berlin is now and how, in this time, we can experience what it is to become a Berliner once again. **BM**

Prenzlauer Berg



"You're in Prenzlauer Berg, the most beautiful district in Berlin. This is the Paris of Berlin." So says the owner of Zula- Hummus in Berlin. Looking around the stunning, tree-lined district of Prenzlauer Berg, it is hard to disagree with the Hummus man's first assertion. For nowhere in Berlin are you as likely to feel so blissfully European as here, in Kollwitzplatz, the heart of Prenzlauer Berg. The weekend market that takes place here bears this out absolutely. From venders selling homemade jams and juices to craftsmen and women offering homemade jewelry and leather goods, this is the place that embodies all that Europe is and represents.

As for whether or not Prenzlauer Berg is typically Parisian, one would be more inclined to call it Notting Hill-esque, as in the posh London borough. But strolling Kollwitzstrasse at midnight, the idea of Paris doesn't seem so far away at all. The lights of Café Anna Blume are still aglow at this time, the occasional patron stepping up to the flower shop-cum-café's cake display and pointing through the glass to the slice of godliness they wish to purchase. Other than streetlights, most of the surrounding area seems quiet, only the soft wistful sound of a few scattered patrons munching on cake or sipping on hot chocolate coming to the ears. Here they while the time away, waiting for the lights of dawn to bring the sleepy district to life once again.

When the morning comes you'll find, further down off Oderberger Strasse, a queue out front of Bonanza Coffee Heroes. This is where you'll find the best lattes and cappuccinos that Berlin has to offer, with enough unique and interesting varieties to see you coming back through your stay. On the same street, just a little ways down, you'll find Kauf Dich Glücklich. This little toy store/waffle and ice cream gallery offers the best waffles to be found in the whole of the city and a bright, decadent interior in which to enjoy them.

If you continue north up Oderberger Strasse, you'll come to Mauer Park where each and every Sunday venders unveil Berlin's biggest market. Come together with throngs of sweaty locals to peruse the countless stands where you will find everything from bicycles to vintage clothing to rare and out of date records. After you grow tired of poring over every type of item known to man, settle down to listen to the brave, or perhaps merely foolish, individuals try their hand at singing before the assembled masses.

For dinner, head east, to Schönhauser Allee where at I Due Forni you can savor the most scrumptiously orgasmic pizzas you are likely ever to find, all served to you by a rag tag gang of Italian punks.

When the sun drops from the sky and it is once again midnight in Prenzlauer Berg, the district seemingly untouched by the heavy hand of time, you will know that you are not in Paris or some posh London borough, but are in Berlin. And really, why would you want to be anywhere else? **BM**