



BERLIN AND OUT

• A TRAVEL REVIEW GUIDE •

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INTRODUCTION

You are crazy, my child. You must go to Berlin

Much has been written about Berlin's blend of history, outstanding culture and infamous nightlife. Proclaimed the capital of cool, Berlin is where you can "go to all-night parties, attend a screening of an arthouse film and an anti-Trump demonstration within 24 hours", as The Times noted. Some talk about Berlin's fall from grace, wondering if the city's growing popularity diminished its authenticity and turned the city into a growingly expensive tourist trap. From Marlene Dietrich, who sang "I still keep a suitcase in Berlin" with a piercing longing to the rebellious singer Iggy Pop, who called Berlin his home, many artists have voiced their love for Berlin.

"Berlin, the greatest cultural extravaganza that one could imagine" (David Bowie)

Affordable, buzzing, wild and carefree, Berlin is a symbol for tolerance and open-mindedness. Unlike other main cities in Europe, it's a place where you can relax. Berliners do not rush. They take their time, basking in the sun with their low-cut T-shirts and heavily tattooed arms, flicking back their occasionally bright-coloured hair. Nights in Berlin are freaky, intense and fiery. The club culture is exhilarating; anything goes. Berlin is a techno capital: notorious DJs, outrageous raves and 36-hour long parties. There are plenty of clubs to choose from, perhaps the most infamous being Berghain, which pays the same taxes as theatres and concert halls, as it is considered to produce work of cultural significance.

It's magical to lose yourself in Berlin's night scene, in the hazy beat of electronic music and in the half-clothed masses. There is a strong sense of acceptance. You are free to be yourself. You won't be judged.

Berlin is a home to artists and a paradise to emerging creators, who come here to pursue their dreams. There are around 20,000 artists living and working in the city, lured by cheap rents, the city's libertine energy and the massive studio spaces. The street art mirrors the city's fantastic art scene. Berlin is bursting with culture and history. It has 175 museums, even more than New York. It's an open museum too: from the Berlin Wall to Checkpoint Charlie and to the Nazi book burning site at Babelplatz, Berlin's unique history can be seen by foot.

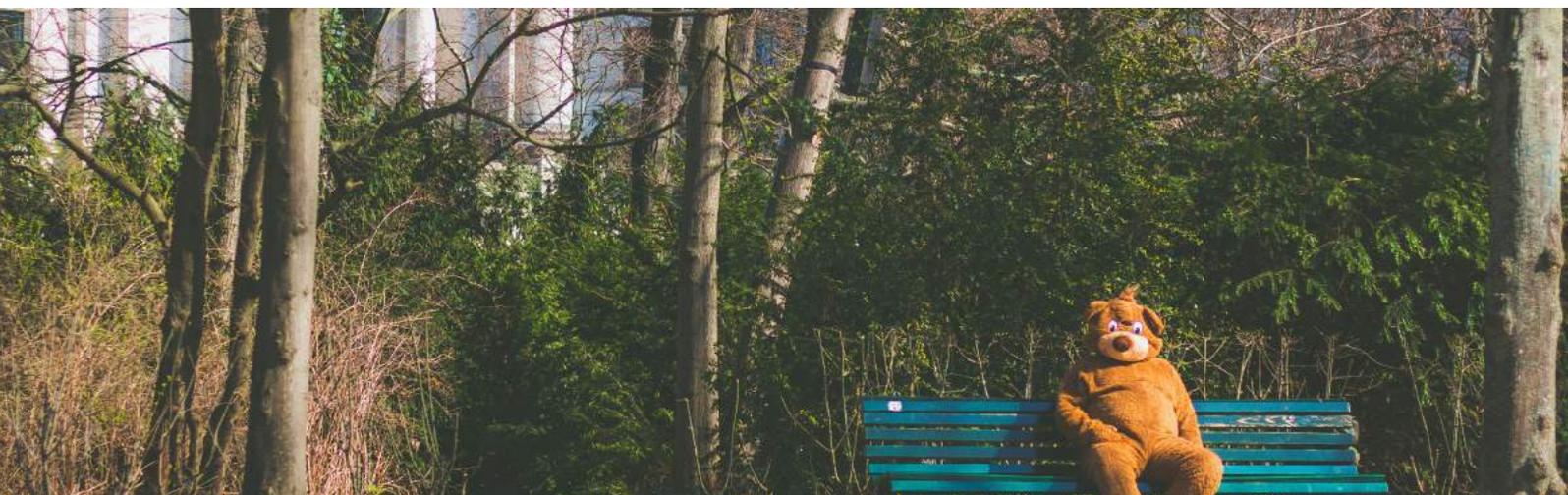
"Berlin is cheap, but sexy"
(Klaus Wowereit)

Paris is always Paris and
Berlin is never Berlin! (Jack
Lang)

Berlin is the cheapest capital city in Western Europe. While it is getting expensive, perhaps because of its touristy appeal, it is the perfect place for backpackers, artists and adventurers for now. You can get a cup of coffee for €2, a lunch for less than €10, a pint of beer for €2-4, a day travel pass for €6,50 and a decent double room in a hotel for €50 per night. What is more, some of the attractions of Berlin are free, such as East Side Gallery, Raw Tempel and Yaam Beach.

Nonetheless, Berlin is constantly changing, you never know what to expect.
You need to experience it yourself.

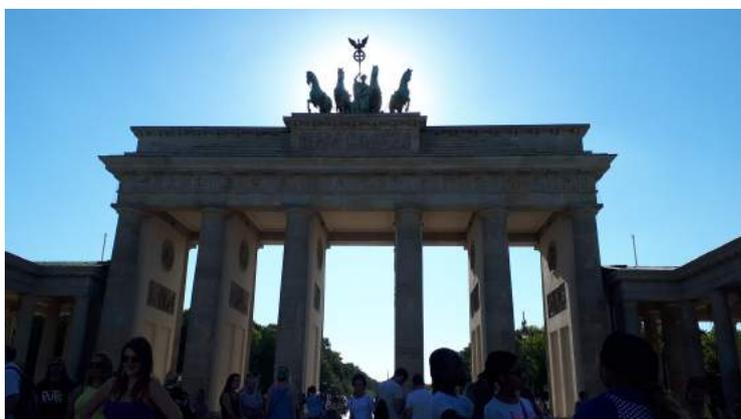
By Tea Nicolae



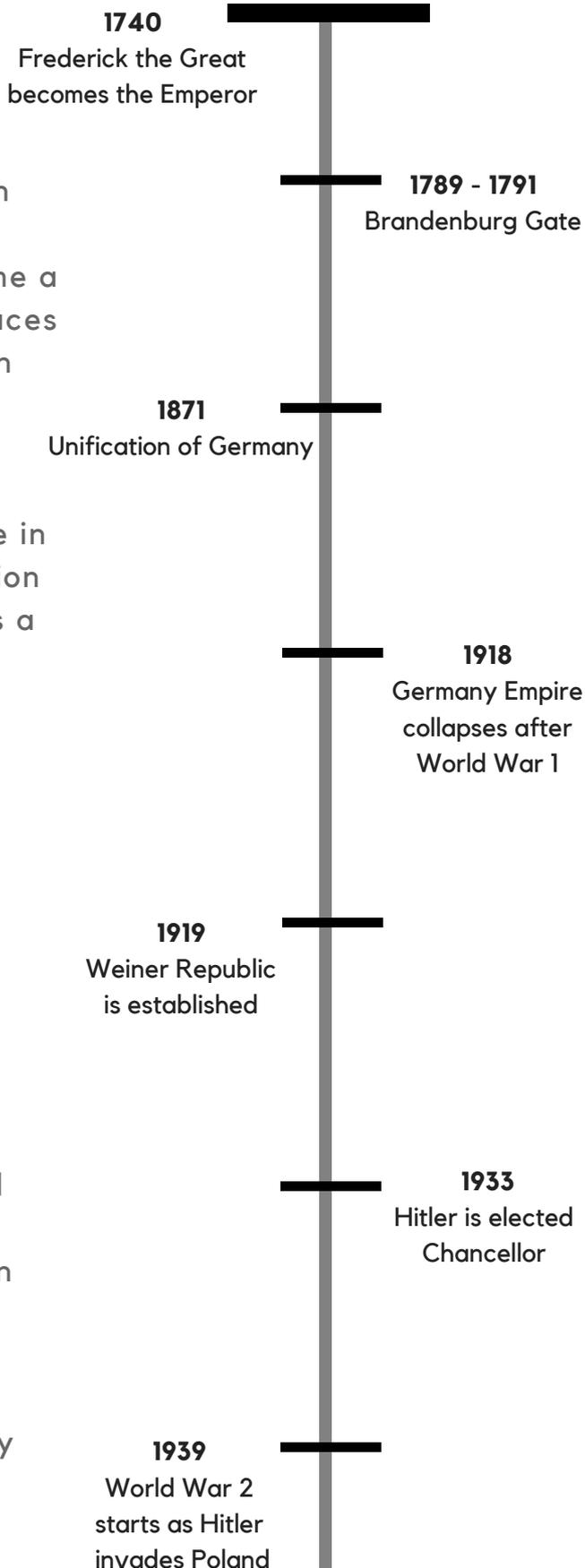


A SHORT HISTORY

Berlin first came to prominence in 1740 when Prussian King Frederick the Great came to power. Thanks to his influence, Berlin became a centre of the Enlightenment, with many palaces and grand buildings built, some of which can still be seen today. Flash forward to the Industrial Revolution and Berlin became the economic centre of Germany, becoming the capital of the newly founded German Empire in 1871. After the First World War, the population almost doubled and by the 1920s, Berlin was a centre of arts and a major world capital.



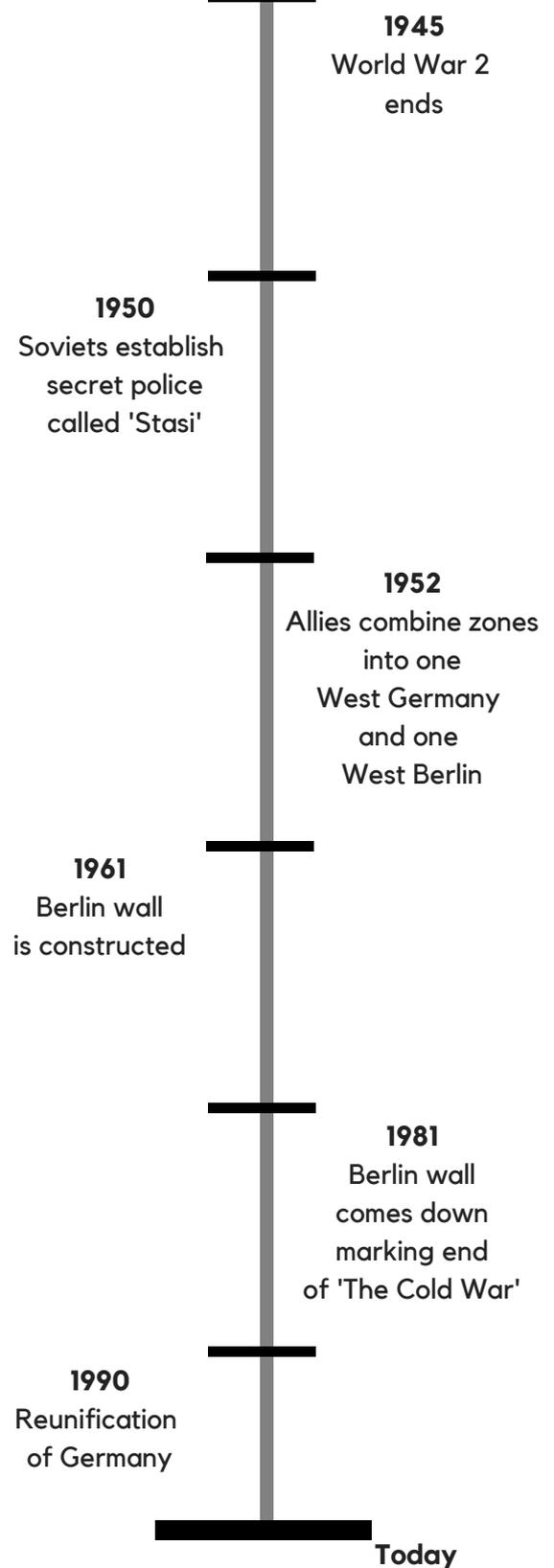
In 1933, Adolf Hitler became Chancellor and halved the Jewish population in Berlin by forced emigration, imprisoning them firstly in the nearby Sachsenhausen concentration camp, and later in Auschwitz. The Second World War almost completely destroyed Berlin; to this day it remains the most heavily bombed city in history.



After the war, Berlin was divided between the Allies and the Soviets into the West Side and East Side respectively. The West ran under an American capitalist system, whereas the East had a socialist system. East Berlin's was a suppressive dictatorship, governed by fear of government spies. Because many easterners simply defected westwards, the Berlin Wall was built in 1961 to prevent free movement. To the easterners, it was known as the Anti-Fascist Protection Rampart, designed to protect their socialist lifestyles. However, after revolutions occurred in Poland and Hungary in 1989, the reaction in Germany led to the East German government allowing the wall to come down, with the country becoming reunified in 1990. Nowadays the East and West are almost indistinguishable from one another, although salaries are still notably higher in West Berlin. As this history was so recent, older generations will still ask each other whether they originally came from the East or West.



Nowadays, Berlin is a hub of culture and the arts, with a thriving night scene and high standard of living. Although the modern bustle of trams and tourists makes it easy to forget, history is still everywhere you go, from the painted chunks of the Berlin Wall to the Enlightenment-era buildings soaring above. While you're here, it's definitely worth visiting the various memorials and museums mentioned in this guide to get a true reflection of Berlin's cultural identity and how far it has come.



By Laura Davies



NEIGHBOURHOODS



MITTE

One of the most central districts, Mitte has a lot of historical and political attractions. The Reichstag, government quarter, Museum Island, Brandenburg Gate, to name a few.

NEUKÖLLN

An up and coming neighbourhood with a big Arabic and Turkish community. Rents are still low and student numbers are high. Rooftop bar Klunkerkranich, food markets and indie shops make this one of the hippest neighbourhoods.

KREUZBERG

Hipster paradise, Kreuzberg is packed with third wave coffee shops, veggie and vegan food places and street art. A strong part of punk rock history, the bars and clubs here have an authentic counterculture.

CHARLOTTENBURG

Home of the exclusive shopping street Kurfürstendamm and Charlottenburg palace. Teuflesburg and its mass of street art is also worth a trip.

FRIEDRICHSHAIN

A part of the former East Berlin, Friedrichshain is close to everything and has the highest density of clubs in the city, including the world famous Berghain. Diverse culture, experimental and diverse nightlife.

SCHÖNEBERG

An eclectic centre of architectural contrasts, outdoor markets and second-hand shops. The Winterfeldplatz square area is renowned for its vibrantly diverse nightlife, and for being the heart of Berlin's gay and lesbian scene.

PRENZLAUER BERG

The most populous borough, creative and cosmopolitan, with the most vegan and organic shops. It is family oriented and safe. The high density of cafes makes this a great place to sit and work. If you want to head outdoors, the beautiful Mauer Park and Weißer See are on the doorstep.

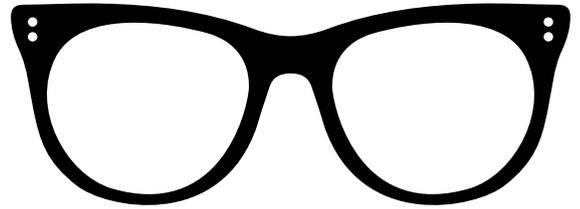
TEMPELHOF

Tempelhof Feld is an old airport park with a former runway, now a huge green urban space, comparable in size to New York's Central Park. Perfect for BBQ's, walks and skating.

By Hazel McKenna



HOW NOT TO LOOK LIKE A TOURIST



Hallo! Hello!
Guten Morgen/ Tag / Abend! Good Morning/ Day / Evening!
Tschüß Bye!
Darf ich mit Kreditkarte bezahlen? May I pay with credit card?
Die Rechnung, bitte. The bill, please.
Wo ist die U-Bahn? Where is the U-Bahn station?
Sprechen Sie Englisch? Do you speak English?
Damen/Herren Women/Men

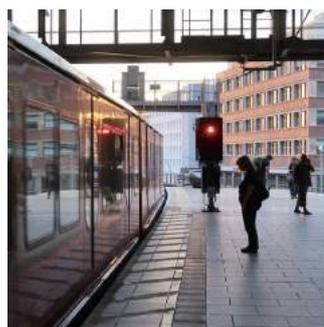
EMS and fire brigade: 112
 Police: 110
 Berlin Police Hotline: +49 (0)30 46 64 46 64
 British Embassy: +49 (0)30 204570

By Hazel McKenna



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Although you might initially be daunted by the size of Berlin, there are a number of transport routes that make it easy to get around. The most extensive networks are the urban rail system, called the S-bahn, and the underground, or U-bahn. The city is also covered by a large tram system, bus routes and even a regional rail service. Both airports are very accessible, with Schönefeld connected by rail and Tegel by bus.



The transport systems are straightforward, and all information and maps can be found on the BVG website. Printed maps and information desks can also be found at large stations like Alexanderplatz, Friedrichstraße and Hauptbahnhof. BVG even offer a free app called 'FahrInfo Plus' for androids and iOS phones, which allows you to buy e-tickets and search travel routes.

Tickets are available from the machines at all stations, as well as any designated BVG sales points. Day tickets can also be bought on the buses and trams themselves. One ticket is valid on all types of transport, and children under six and one dog can travel with the ticket holder. Bikes are permitted on trains, subways and trams, but a valid bicycle ticket is required, and if there are marked bike carriages you must use those.