

HALLO TO BERLIN

COORDINATED
BY:
A BUNCH OF
MISFITS

AN IMPRACTICAL GUIDE
TO NAVIGATING EUROPE'S
COOLEST CITY



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**"Berlin, the greatest cultural extravaganza
that one could imagine." - DAVID BOWIE**

A GUIDE TO THE GUIDE

**Look out for
these symbols:**



AUDIO GUIDE AVAILABLE



WI-FI ACCESS



FREE ACTIVITY



HISTORICAL SITE



DISABLED ACCESS



Willkommen to Berlin

Hello all and welcome to this travel guide.

Put together by a team of enthusiastic young writers, this review aims to offer an insight into the best things to visit and do in the magical city of Berlin. We've tried to include the best tips, tricks and reviews so as to make your stay as comfortable and interesting as possible.

Whether you're coming to Berlin to experience its world-renowned nightlife, fascinating history, diverse cuisine or simply its quirky vibe, this guide has the info to point you in the right direction. With short, easy-to-digest articles reviewing everything from the main tourist attractions to off-the-beaten-track spots which you may never have heard of, we believe everyone can use this guide to find something for them.

We've made sure to include reviews on places all across Berlin, so if you're planning to stick to a handful of areas while you're

here or if you'd rather experience as much of the city as possible, this guide will fit your needs.

Berlin is one of the most vibrant and happening cities on the planet, but we know that it can be confusing trying to make sense of it all. That's why we've included a useful 'survival guide' section with little gems of wisdom to help you maximise your enjoyment and point out some of the essential dos and don'ts.

There's also a guide to Berlin's public transport network to help you get around and figure out what's where, and even a section on Berlin's history to get you in the mood to explore the city for yourself.

You can find out a little about the team of writers who worked on this guide later on in the book, but for now our names are Izzi, Jen, Lindsey, Nadia, Robyn, Simi and Navin. It's been a pleasure putting this guide together, and we hope you find it useful while you're here. Gute Fahrt!

A BRIEF HISTORY



Walking round the thriving metropolis of Berlin today, it is almost hard to believe that only thirty years ago Berlin was a city completely divided. In the twentieth century alone Berlin endured two world wars, two oppressive dictatorships, and was ripped apart and then reunited.

But this is just the recent history, the story of Berlin began back in the 13th century when the two settlements residing on either side of the river Spree, Colln and Berlin, united to form Berlin-Colln. The area that is now is Berlin came under German rule in the 12th century as part of the Margraviate of Brandenburg, founded by Albert the Bear. Unsurprisingly, it was Albert the Bear who bequeathed the emblem of the bear to Berlin city, who has used it as its symbol ever since.

From 1415 to 1918 Berlin was ruled by the Hohenzollern family, first as electors of Brandenburg, then as kings of Prussia, and finally as German emperors. During these years, Berlin, like any major city, experienced ups and downs; through bouts of plague, devastating city fires, and the destruction of the thirty years war (which cut the city's population in half) Berlin still managed to emerge into the 20th century as a major world city.

However, as Germany's power grew, so did its problems. In 1914, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand sparked the beginning of one of Europe's most traumatic wars. Initially very optimistic, within a few weeks of World War I, the people of Germany's faith began to crumble. The end of the war brought the inglorious end of the 500 year reign of the Hohenzollern family, with Kaiser Wilhelm abdicating on November 9th 1918.

After initial instability, the twenties saw Berlin flourishing into a hedonistic, creative hub that rivalled even Paris's cultural community. Progressive, accepting, energetic and alternative, the Golden Twenties in Berlin attracted major figures in architecture, fine art and literature such as Bertolt Brecht and Martin Wagner.

The fun abruptly ended with the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the next years saw the infamous rise of Adolf Hitler into his position as the Chancellor of Germany in 1933. It took only a month of power before Hitler began to demonstrate his alarming intentions. Blaming the still unsolved Reichstag fire on the German communists, Hitler insisted on acquiring 'emergency powers' in order to protect the country.

A BRIEF HISTORY



On the 24th of March, less than a month after the Reichstag fire, the 'enabling laws' were passed allowing Hitler dictatorial powers and thus beginning the Nazis reign of terror. The effects of this dictatorship were immediate: freedom of the press was removed, all left-wing parties were banned or imprisoned and Jews began to be immediately persecuted. In 1933, one third of German Jews resided in Berlin (around 160,000) but by the end of the war only some 1200 Jews had survived by hiding, the rest having fled or been exterminated in death camps.

While most of the severe damage suffered by Berlin during the war has since been repaired, evidence of the Nazi rule can still be seen throughout Berlin. From the intimidating propaganda ministry to the abandoned Tempelhof airport and the striking Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the impact of the Nazi regime is not ignored by the city. Unfortunately, Berlin's problems didn't finish with the end of Hitler's regime. After the war, Germany was divided between the victorious allies and Berlin was segregated into the Federal Republic of Germany (West Berlin) and the German democratic republic (East Berlin).

In 1961 the construction of the Berlin wall began, surrounding West Berlin and cutting out the East. Nearly 4 million people had already fled for the West which led East Germany to an almost economic and political collapse. The wall was referred to by the East as an "anti-fascist protection barrier" and was 155km long. In reality the wall stood as a symbol of oppression with hundreds of people dying due to the aggressive border controls. By contrast, the West was an island of democracy in a bed of socialism.

By 1990 most of the Berlin wall was broken down reunifying Berlin. The beaten wall that had once divided Berlin had brought cultures and communities together; in 2001 Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg were formed as the anti-capitalist sides to Berlin. Here marked issues of gentrification within Berlin.

Today only 2km of the wall remains, 1.3km of this is the stretch of the Berlin wall across East Side Gallery. Berlin has merged so perfectly the East and West are hard to notice. Remnants of the wall can be found all over Berlin. One of the most renowned being the strip in Mauerpark where people use the wall as their own personal canvas.

GETTING AROUND BERLIN



Berlin is the second biggest city in Europe, just behind London.

So, it may be overwhelming at first when you arrive not knowing how on earth you're going to manage to get yourself from A to B. Thankfully, the stereotypical German efficiency comes into play here. With a system made up of Trams, Buses, U-Bahn and S-Bahn to get you around around the clock, you'll be okay.

The transport system is open with no ticket barriers so it may be a little more than tempting to try and get around with out paying. Although, if you get caught by a ticket inspector you'll be hit with a fine of €60- and in some cases they'll walk you to the nearest ATM to get the cash out on the spot.

To avoid the fine and to obey the laws, you can buy at ticket at Deutsche Bahn machines in most U-Bahn and S-bahn stops as well as on board the trams.

A single trip within the two central zones costs €2.80, but it is normally more cost effective to get a travel card.

A ticket for one day is €7.00, you can also pick up a seven day ticket for €30.00 or a four week one for €81.00. Just remember to validate you're ticket for single trip, at the start of the day for a day ticket, and at the start of the first day for your seven day.

Without validating your ticket, some ticket inspectors may still fine you.

If you're able to use your mobile data whilst in Europe then navigating your way through Berlin is super easy. Just use google maps as you normally do back home and you'll be given a detailed description on how to get to your destination. It'll also show you any delays or issues with your route/service. There is also the BVG app which is the Berlin specific transport app, however the interface can be confusing to some. The perks of the BVG app is that you can also buy tickets and keep the tickets on your phone rather than getting them at a machine or kiosk.

For those who are after to test out some of Berlins infamous nightlife you'll be thankful to know you won't need to spend some of your precious pennies on a taxi. As on the weekends Berlin's public transport runs all night on it's usual timetable. For the weekday partiers all transport is still running but is cut down to running once every half hour after midnight.

If you're having an extended stay in Berlin and want to pop off elsewhere for a couple days or if you're going to another city/country after your stay then you'll be needing to take a regional train or coach. The regional trains can be rather unreliable as delays are common. So, if you're going somewhere maybe slightly closer to Berlin you may want to take a coach. Flixbus run great services throughout Europe. A lot of the times more cost friendly than a train they provide charging points, wifi and sometimes reclining chairs which makes a coach just as - or more - comfortable as a train.

SURVIVAL GUIDE



Emergencies & Health

For Emergencies, dial 112 for Police (Polizei) and Fire brigade (Feuerwehr).

Police (General): 030 23 88 35 78.

If you need to see a doctor or visit a hospital, be sure to bring your European Health card (if applicable) and remember that treatment will need to be paid for there and then. If you have travel insurance, this is something you are able to claim back later so hold on to any payment receipts.

Medication is only sold solely through pharmacies (look out for 'Apotheke') and is a little on the pricey side. Therefore, it is advisable to bring anything you require with you for your trip, including a backup pack of paracetamol or two.



Supermarkets

Aldi, Netto, Penny, Lidl, Edeka, Rewe, all are reasonably priced. Take note that most places, including supermarkets, are shut on Sunday.

Most supermarkets have the facility to recycle any glass or plastic bottles and in return for doing so, you are gifted anything from 8 to 25 cents for your good deed. You will often find that the homeless partake in this as a means to an end, so if you're not going to recycle yourself, it is always worth leaving empties placed next to bins so these can easily be picked up.



Tips n' tricks for your stay in Berlin

1. Many places, such as small bars and food stalls, will not accept card so be sure to carry cash with you!
2. A lot of Berlin clubs are 21 and over so be sure to check where to go out if you're planning on partying.
3. If you use the public transport, always carry and validate your train/tram tickets. If you're caught without, you will be charged on the spot with a hefty fine.
4. If applicable, bring your student card with you, to ensure you get the best prices for Berlin's attractions, including up to half price entry and various museums.
5. Most of the time, you are able to differentiate between whether you are in East or West Berlin based on the Ampel man on traffic signs who appears primarily in the East. That being said, when any lights are replaced in the West, these will usually be with Ampel man ones – making the distinction a little more tricky!

SURVIVAL GUIDE



German Phrases

Although the majority of Germans speak English, it is always worth knowing a little of the language.

Basic basics:

Hallo = Hello

Tschüss = Bye

Ja = Yes

Nein = No

Danke/Dankeschön = Thanks/Thank you very much

Bitte/Bitteschön = Please/You're welcome

Entschuldigung = Excuse me/Sorry

Eins, zwei, drei, vier, fünf, sechs, sieben, acht, neun, zehn = 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

Social:

Mein name ist... = My name is...

Ich komme aus... = I'm from...

Ich bin ... jahre alt = I'm ... years old.

Und ihnen? = And you?

Prost! = Cheers!

Out and about:

Wieviel kostet das? = How much does that cost?

Wo sind die Toiletten? = Where are the toilets?

Ich möchte ein Bier/einen Kaffee/eine Tee (mit/ohne Milch) = I would like a beer/coffee/tea (with/without milk)

Die Rechnung, bitte = The bill, please

Listen out for: Getrennt oder zusammen? = Are you paying separately or together?

Den Bong? = Do you want the receipt?

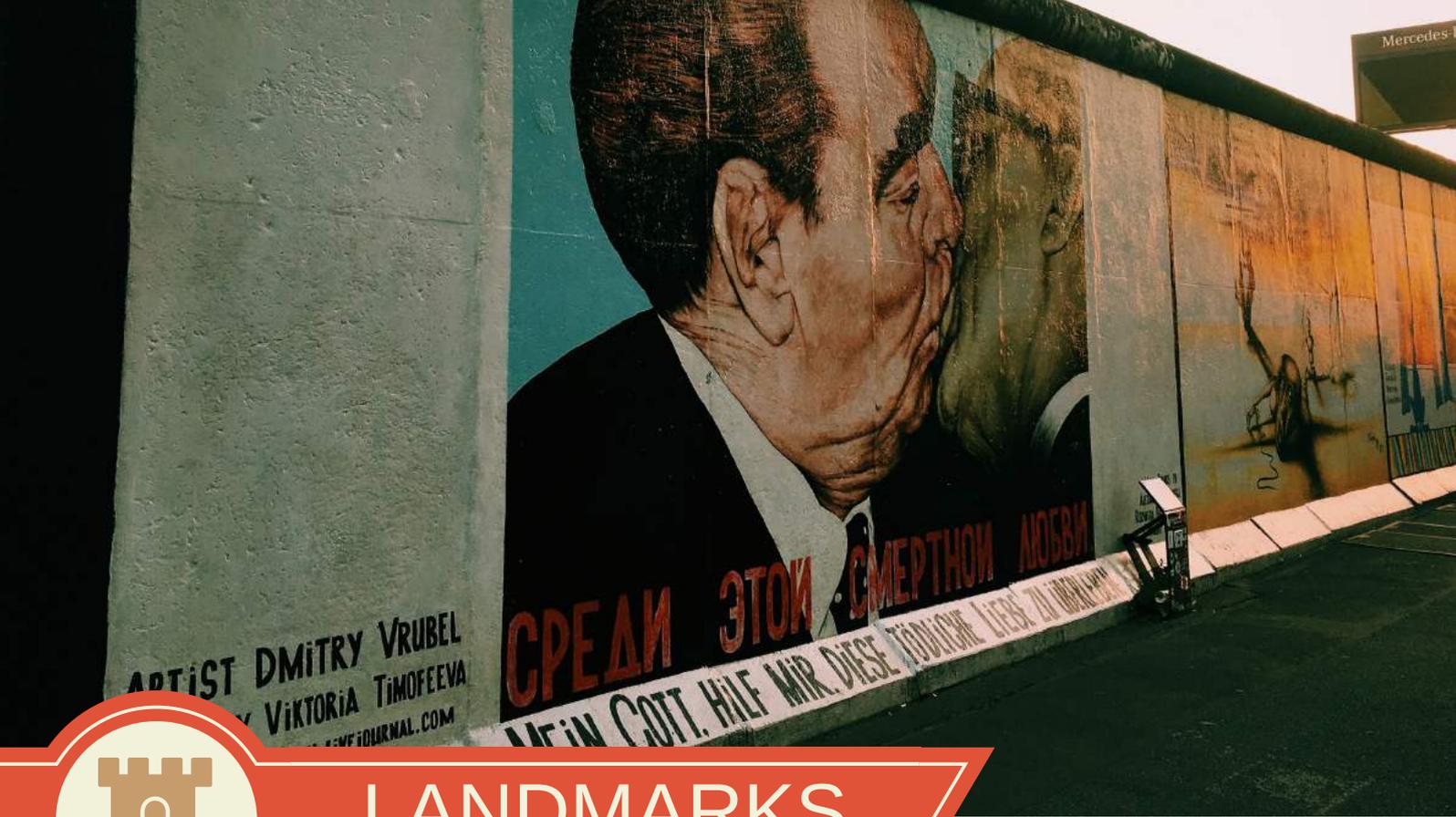
Travel:

Welcher Zug geht nach...? = Which train goes to..?

Wann fährt der nächste bus? = What time is the next bus?

Eine fahrkarte nach... = A ticket to...

Listen out for: Der nächste halt ist... = The next stop is...



LANDMARKS

East Side Gallery

Once a symbol of divided Germany, Berlin's East Side Gallery is now a mural to freedom and one of the city's prime attractions. Located in trendy Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, this glorious open art gallery boasts creations from over 100 artists, ranging from Dmitri Vrubel's striking 'Fraternal Kiss' all the way through to an unknown Bart Simpson tribute piece. At 1316m long, this landmark is the largest piece of the Berlin Wall remaining intact.

It is difficult to believe that this colourful shrine to globalism stood as a grim divider of humanity not even 30 years ago. Today, alongside the banks of the river Spree, locals walk to work with this powerful statement resting next to them.

And while the art depicted is powerful, it is the human spirit surrounding the wall that makes this a must-see. Performers and painters litter the walkway, each adding their own story to this continuous journey into Berlin's future. Be aware that several graffiti pieces are very popular for pictures no matter the time of day, but walking tours are a useful way to gather information and collect photographs.

There are several travel options to reach the gallery, the easiest being to travel by train and depart at Berlin Ostbahnhof and Warschauer StraBe stations. RAW-Gelände cultural centre also offers a variety of fun eateries and can be found within a 5-minute walk of the gallery if you're feeling peckish afterwards.



Mühlenstraße 3-100, 10243 Berlin
Opening hours: always accessible
Tours are available to book by visitingeastsidegallery-berlin.de