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PLACES | SPACES | FACES
A TRAVEL GUIDE TO BERLIN
FOR ALL THE DIFFERENT SIDES
OF YOU

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PLACES | SPACES | FACES in Berlin

So, you want to go to Berlin?

Hey, don't we all! What's not to love about a city that specializes in being a mixture of cool, crazy, calm, intellectually savvy, delicious and just plain exciting? Yeah, that's right; Berlin is for everyone - no matter how you would like to classify yourself. Actually, this brings us to the main point of this excerpt you happen to be reading right now. Berlin has a knack for captivating people from all walks of life, and this book has a knack for showing you where to go.

Would you rather walk around a museum all day than sit in a pub with a cold one? When you visit a city, do you aspire to know its story and how it came to be? If this sounds like you, you are in luck! Berlin has a past worth knowing, and the city is nothing short of an historic treasure cove devoted to educating the masses. From museums to cathedrals to monuments and memorials, this travel guide has it all and should be your new best friend.

If that didn't sound like you, maybe this will: how much do you love spending time in nature? No, I don't mean walking along the street. I mean nature - lakes and parks and stuff. If you would rather swim in a lake, go for a hike, stroll through a park or relax underneath a giant tree, this is your book. No, really - Berlin loves its parks and lakes, and you can bet that we do too! So, just flip through the pages, and let this book be your guide. I'm telling you, you won't be sorry.

Maybe, you fancy the nightlife. Does your definition of a good evening include some time at the bars, pubs or clubs? If so, well, you're reading the right stuff too. Berlin is notorious for its nightlife. Seriously, it is not unheard of to find crowds of people leaving the clubs at 10AM. So, if this sparks your fancy, we've got a little something for you.



What about street fairs; do you like those? Or maybe you like music, vintage shops and bookstores. Are you a vegetarian? If any of these sound remotely like you, then it's a good thing you're reading this book. Berlin is as outlandish as it is historically beautiful, and from the Turkish markets to the vintage markets to the music festivals, there is so much to do!

Now, let's talk about foodie stuff because we all need to eat, right? YES. This city has so much to offer in the way of food that it's hard to keep up sometimes. You have this book, though, so you're good. Honestly, we love talking about food. We also love coffee, so if you want to go to a restaurant or café, take us with you!

Do you enjoy dressing up, shopping and spending money? I mean, is it your thing? Walk around Berlin awhile, and you will see that it's their thing too. They love shopping, and we love telling you the best places to go to shop. Seriously, that's our thing!

If none of these sounded like you, then do not fear, my friend. Berlin is the holy grail of all melting pots, and I would be lying if I said that there was not something for each and every traveler. The mission of this book is to highlight the many facets of the city, and take you on a scavenger hunt of the best of the best. So, pack this book in your bag, and be ready for the time of your life!

Look out for these symbols beside the names of reviews as a guideline to whether it might be your thing and you should not miss it in Berlin!



Insta-fan: you're a social butterfly without a budget, you know how to stay connected via social media and you don't want to miss something beautiful or a photo opportunity to share with the world!



Jet-setter: you've got the travel bug and you've got it bad; now it's landed you in Berlin. You want to get the vibe of the city, meet like-minded travelers and open your mind!



Loud mouth: you're always ready for another beer and on the hunt for something cool and alternative to do. The life of the party, you want to be captivated by the best of Berlin's nightlie and social culture.



History Buff: you've got a list and you've checked it twice, you are ready to be where history has been and don't want to miss a single thing in Berlin!

Prices:

€€€€€ Out of budget

€€€€ Getting pricey

€€€ Not too bad

€€ Cheap

€ Dirt cheap

HIST

A BRIEF HISTORY

Berlin is believed to have been founded in 1237. It became the capital of the Kingdom of Prussia in 1701. The city's economy, industry and population continued to grow after it was named the capital of the newly formed German Empire in 1871.

Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party came to power in 1933. Nazi rule destroyed Berlin's Jewish community forcing them to emigrate and escape the Nazis. From 1938 many thousands were deported to concentration camps. The Second World War had a devastating effect on the city. Between 1940 and 1945 Berlin was heavily bombed and large parts of the city were left in ruins.

By the end of the war nearly half its population had fled. Hitler committed suicide in his bunker as Soviet troops reached the city in April 1945. After Germany surrendered the country was divided into four sectors, one occupied by each of the Allied powers: France, Great Britain, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Berlin was also divided in four, despite it being within Soviet controlled territory.

In May 1948 two separate German states were founded. The Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic (GDR), known as East Germany, with East Berlin as its capital. The western Allied zones became the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), known as West Germany. Bonn was named the capital, since West Berlin was geographically an island within the GDR. The founding of the two states increased Cold War tensions.



ORY

OF BERLIN

The following month, to protest the introduction of the Deutsche mark in West Berlin, Soviet forces imposed a blockade on all access routes to West Berlin. For nearly a year the Western Allied forces supplied the citizens with food and fuel by plane, known as the Berlin Airlift.

On 17th June 1953, a protest by East German workers is crushed by Soviet military forces and several hundreds of people are killed. In the years following, hundreds of thousands of East Germans flee to the West.



On 13th August 1961, in a response to the huge number of East Germans leaving for the West, the GDR government closed the border between the East and West Germany. Soldiers start to build a wall around West Berlin. Travel restrictions on GDR citizens remained in place.

The late 1980s saw the easing of Cold War tensions and in 1989 Hungary opened its border with Austria, meaning thousands of East Germans were able to travel to the West. In November 1989, the GDR government resigned, following a pro-democracy demonstration in Alexanderplatz attended by a million people. A few days later on the 9th November the border was opened. Hundreds of thousands of GDR citizens crossed over into West Berlin and people began to pull down the Wall in celebration.

Almost one year later on 3rd October 1990, East and West Germany were formally reunited, a day which is now celebrated every year as German Unity Day. Berlin became the capital once again, although the government didn't officially complete its move back from Bonn until 2001

KEY GERMAN PHRASES

Sprechen Sie Englisch?

Do you speak English?

Wie bitte?

Can you repeat what you said?

Wo ist....?

Where is...?

Ich verstehe nicht

I do not understand

....**die Toilette** (the bathroom)

....**die Straße** (the street)

....**der Bahnhof** (the train station)

Bitte- Please

Hallo/Auf Wiedersehen/Tschüss- Hello/

Goodbye

Danke- Thank you

Langsam, bitte- Slowly please

Wie geht's- How are you?

Entschuldigung- Excuse me

Es tut mir leid- I'm sorry

Kann ich dein Telefonnummer haben?-

Can I have your phone number?

please

Auf geht's!- Let's go!

Der Fahrt endet hier- This route ends here

(important to know)

Fahrscheine, bitte!- Tickets please!

Ausgang/Eingang- Exit/Entrance

Ausstieg links/rechts- Exit left/right

Alles aussteigen bitte- Everyone exit

Zurück bleiben bitte- Stay back please

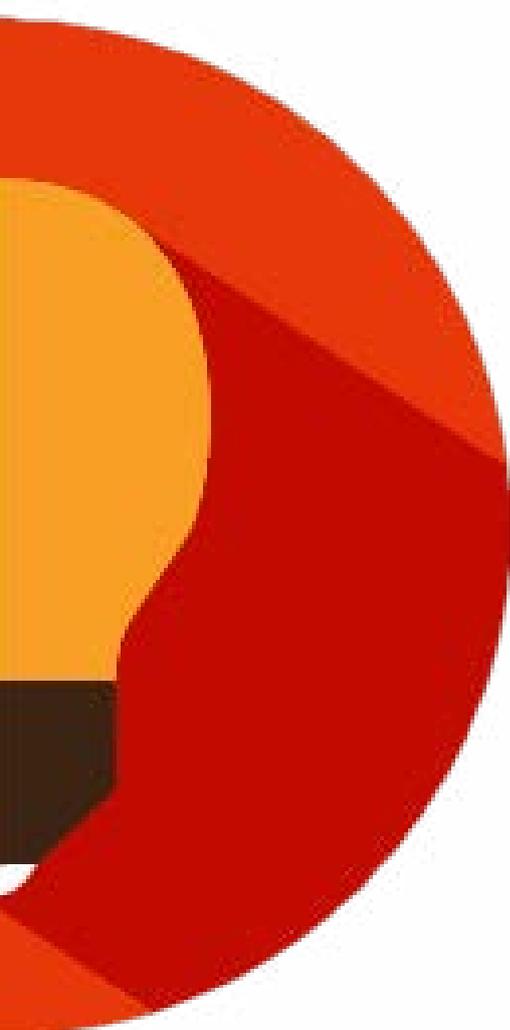
SURVIVAL



BIKES

A hugely popular form of transport in Berlin is cycling. It's just too easy to use a bike for all your sightseeing needs especially with a ton of rentals around the city. Stick to the cycle paths, and most importantly watch out for pedestrians! Note to pedestrians: there are marked cycle paths on the road and/or pavement so just keep an eye where you're walking. However the expert cyclist often won't slow down for you, so listen out for that bell.

GUIDE...



ON SUNDAYS...

Everything is closed. Seriously there is not much open on Sundays. Some Spätkaufs (late night shops) and food stands will be open but do not expect to do any Sunday afternoon shopping. Sundays are for rest and relaxation, so go to a park, go for a bike ride or walk around the beautiful Tiergarten. Germans take this very seriously and there are even rules about being loud on Sunday mornings.

BAHN ETIQUETTE

This shouldn't be a section but unfortunately it has to be. If you are on the tram, U-Bahn, S-Bahn or bus it is no different from back home. There is no need to be loud or obnoxious and if there is a little old lady who gets on the tram, you best be giving up your spot. You can basically do whatever you want when you are riding the public transportation in Berlin, just have your ticket if they ask for it.

THE AMPELMANN EFFECT

Ampelmann is the famous little green or red man who tells you when to cross the street. Pedestrians be wary as if you dare cross when Amplemann is red you run the risk of possibly being killed by the crazy motorists in Berlin. You will also be looked on with shame by other locals. Also, do not cross when it is red when little kids are around as you are setting a bad example for them and their mothers will not be impressed with you as they 'tsk' away. Germans are very orderly, so follow the damn rules.

DO's & DONT's

Whether you're fluent in German or don't speak a word, follow these do's and dont's while you're out and about to blend in with the Berliners!

DO remember any bottles marked with 'Pfandflasche' can be returned to the supermarket for money back!

DO have your ticket on you at all times! They will make you get off at the next stop otherwise.

DO try Currywurst, a Berlin classic!

DO watch out for pickpockets, especially in Kreuzberg *shifty eyes emoji*

DO remember to check the weather—Berlin experiences all four seasons

DONT forget you need to book in advance to visit the Reichstag

If you love techno **DONT** be disheartened if/when you don't get into Berghain – there are many incredible clubs in Berlin

DONT assume Alexanderplatz is the only shopping area – most districts have their fair share of quirky vintage shops!

DONT go out before 12am; it's probably not worth it and you may as well have TOURIST stamped on your forehead

Berliners take cycling seriously so **DONT** walk in the bicycle lanes!

WIFI

Wifi certainly isn't something Berlin has much of. If you're here for a while you should look into getting a wifi stick; but use it sparingly because it can only be renewed once a month! If you're not in Berlin for long, you're probably good as most hostels provide free wifi. Desperate times call for internet cafes: we recommend St Oberholz at Rosenthaler Platz.

