

BE



IN



BERLIN

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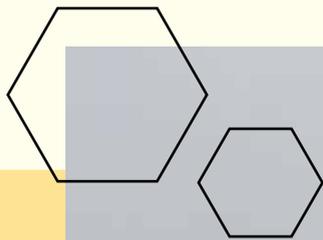
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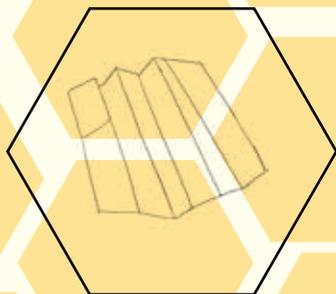
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AN INTRODUCTION



By Abigail LISTER

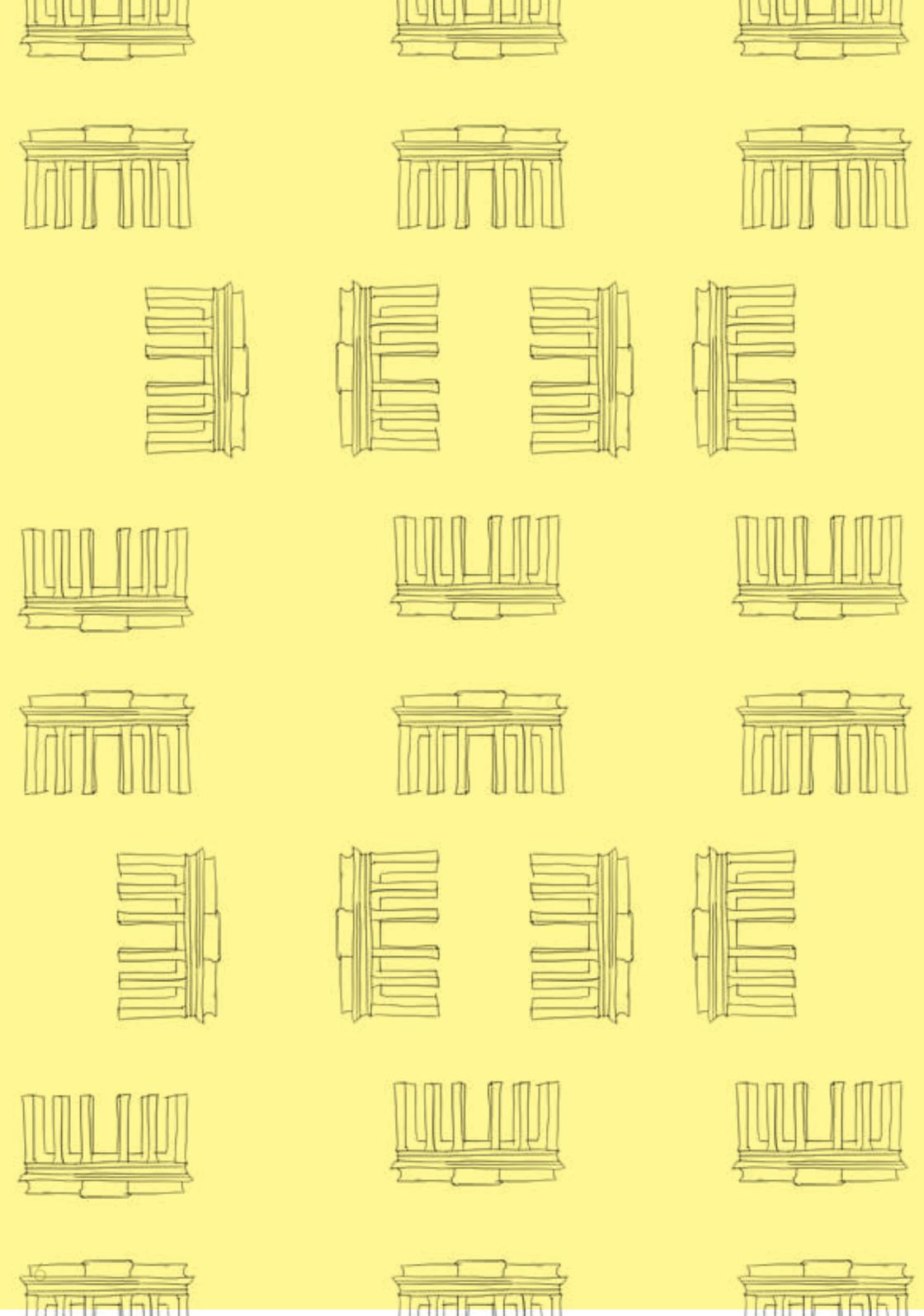
Berlin is a city with buzz. A day here will see you experiencing ultra-contemporary creative cafés, vibrant flea markets, and world-renowned museums.

Along the way you'll meet Berlin's culturally diverse population - a truly memorable mix of people. Street vendors in Turkish markets; independent café owners keen to share an anecdote or two; playful street musicians who soundtrack a riverside beer break - Berlin has it all. Accompanying this eclectic variety of sights, the city has a rich and climactic history that adds an intriguing, and oftentimes humbling, facet to everything

you experience here. In this guide we hope to lead you to the best places in the city, while remaining under your carefully planned budget.

Our team has spent a month exploring Berlin's diverse streets from East to West; compiling, researching, and discovering the places we think you should (or shouldn't) make time for while staying here. We've covered everything from parks to partying, monuments to mouth-watering meals, so you can experience the city's unique buzz for yourself.

**So go on
BE in Berlin.**



BE IN THE **CITY**



A SHORT HISTORY OF
BERLIN

A SHORT HISTORY OF BERLIN

Turn on the spot by the Brandenburg Gate. In front of you are symbols of Napoleon's wars, Prussian might, Nazi atrocities, a divided Cold War city and modern cultural vitality. Berlin's landscape is the product of its history; its landmarks the venue of defining world events.

A royal city since late medieval times, Berlin rose to global significance on the back of a modernising Prussian state, the cornerstone of a unified German Empire from 1871. A thriving cultural centre in the 1920s, Berlin grew rapidly. But then everything changed. A fire at the Reichstag, conveniently started by a Dutch Communist, gave Hitler - appointed Chancellor in 1933 - an excuse to seize sweeping powers. The arrival of war in 1939 postponed his monumental plans for Berlin, including a domed palace and vast public boulevards. Ransacked Jewish houses and a nearby concentration camp were more accurate monuments to Nazi dictatorship, however. Trapped between the advancing western Allies and a vindictive Soviet army, Berlin fell to ruins in 1945. The women of Berlin, of whom perhaps a hundred thousand were rape victims, made heroic efforts to clear the rubble. Unable to agree on Germany's fate, the

Allies broke it up. That left West Berlin, tethered to life during a Soviet blockade by an Anglo-American airlift, in a curious position. Lying deep within Communist East Germany (from 1949 the German Democratic Republic, or GDR), West Berlin belonged nonetheless to capitalist West Germany (the Federal Republic). Stagnant living standards in the GDR, allied to envy of the West and its 'economic miracle', prompted an uprising in East Berlin in 1953. Thwarted by Soviet tanks, many East Germans found emigration via West Berlin more rewarding. By 1961, millions of skilled workers, essential to the GDR's planned economy, had abandoned the East.

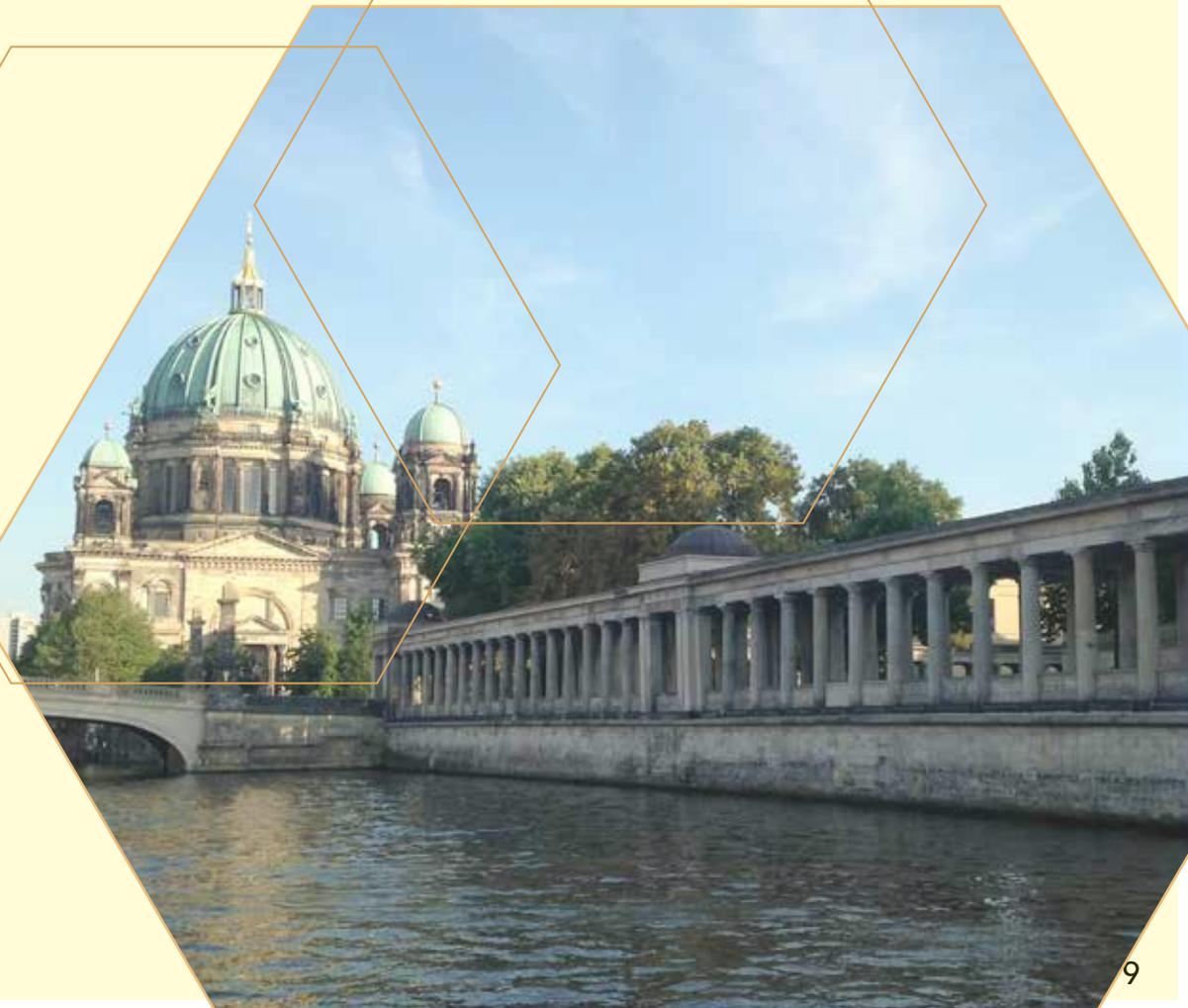
So the GDR closed the border and built a wall around West Berlin. As US tanks faced Soviet counterparts at Checkpoint Charlie, Berliners prepared for oblivion, but both sides pulled back. Over 28 years, more than a hundred East Germans were killed as they tried to flee for West Berlin, cast by John F. Kennedy as a beacon of freedom. West. One of them, 32-year-old Winfried Freudenberg, died in March 1989, when his improvised hot-air balloon fell to earth. The Wall was opened just eight months later, a poignant reminder that the end of the Cold War was by no

means expected. Indeed, even as revolution tore Communism to shreds in Eastern Europe, the Wall's demise came almost by accident, the result of a surge of East Berliners and a blundering GDR hierarchy.

population. Spaces left derelict by the Cold War, most obviously Potsdamer Platz, have been transformed into cultural landmarks. Though wearing the scars of the twentieth century, Berlin now belongs to the twenty-first.

By Tim STICKINGS

A generation later, the debris of the Cold War is everywhere. But many inhabitants of this young, diverse city had little to do with it. Berlin has gained a new reputation, as an affordable and exciting home for Europe's creative



BE PREPARED

GETTING AROUND:

Berlin's transport system is clean, efficient and used by the majority of the population. Trams, underground and overground trains (U- and S-Bahns), and buses are all readily available throughout the city and are the cheapest and easiest way of getting around. Taxis are another, much more expensive, option – but armed with a map of the transport systems (available in most stations) and a general knowledge of where you want

to be, shelling out for private transport can be avoided without much stress. Berlin is also incredibly accessible by bike, and countless Berliners use theirs every day. It's almost a given that you'll have a close encounter with someone whizzing down one of the well-disguised bike lanes at least once. Bikes can be hired from independent stands all around the city for around €10 per day, and are a great way of exploring. Despite its size, walking around in Berlin is also highly recommended – the streets are jam-packed with hidden gems, whether they be shops, restaurants, cafés or sights. It is incredibly easy to wander for hours and never get bored – and to hop on a nearby tram, bus or train to get back to where you started.

Essential
German
Phrases:

Sprechen
Sie
Deutsch?

Please

Bitte

A SURVIVAL GUIDE

BOROUGHES:

Berlin is a huge and bustling metropolis that is divided into twelve distinct boroughs: Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Lichtenberg, Marzahn-Hellersdorf, Mitte, Neukölln, Pankow, Reinickendorf, Spandau, Steglitz-Zehlendorf, Tempelhof-Schöneberg and Treptow-Köpenick. Each borough has its own unique character and every one is worth visiting if time is on your side – especially since, because of its long-term division between west and east, Berlin does not have a typical city centre area. Instead, the east and west

both have their own central locations where action is focused: Alexanderplatz in the east, and Breitscheidplatz in the west. A sprawling inner-city park, Tiergarten, lies between the two.

Hello

Hallo

NECESSITIES

Supermarkets: Berlin has a few supermarkets that will already be familiar to many visitors: namely Lidl, Aldi and Netto. Kaiser's is a similar chain selling a good selection of groceries, and many are open 24 hours.

Medical: To get any form of minor medical necessities, you'll need to head to the nearest Apotheke, identifiable by its logo of a red A upon a white background. You'll probably have to explain to the pharmacist exactly what you need and why, but apart from this the process isn't tricky. Note that even everyday items such as simple painkillers are not available anywhere apart from at Apotheken – however, they are prolific and shouldn't be difficult to locate, no matter where you are.

Toiletries: The biggest range of toiletries are available at both Rossmann and Schleckers stores – these large chain stores also carry a small range of groceries if you're in a pinch.

WiFi: If your accommodation doesn't have good (or any) WiFi, many internet cafés, libraries, cafés and even malls have good sources.

DO'S AND DONT'S

DO look out for bikes! The (many, many) bike lanes in the city don't always stand out from the pavement and cyclists fly by every few seconds.

DON'T risk hopping onto any form of public transport without a ticket. Plain-clothed enforcement officers are much more prevalent than they used to be and the fine for getting caught can be in excess of €60.

DO try out your German. Berliners mostly speak excellent English but any attempt to converse with them in German, even if your language skills are atrocious, will always go down well.

DON'T worry about safety. Berlin is a friendly city and there are no particularly dangerous spots. That being said, it is of course always advisable to take a friend with you if you're exploring somewhere you've never been before.

DO plan out your journeys around the city. Berlin's transport network is highly efficient but also huge. Knowing which station you need to get to and which direction you're heading in is imperative.

By Cat ÖZ

HELPFUL PHRASES

EMERGENCIES:
 POLICE (POLIZEI): TEL 110
 FIRE SERVICE (FEUERWEHR): TEL 112
 AMBULANCE (RETTUNGSWAGEN): TEL 112

How are you? / Wie geht's? / Yes – Ja

That's ridiculous / das ist Bescheuert

Do you speak English? / Sprechen Sie Englisch?

Have you lost your mind? / Du nicht mehr alle Tassen im Schrank?

(Literally: Have you no cups in the cabinet?)

My name is... / Ich heiße...

This lady/gentleman will pay for everything... / Die Dame/Der Herr übernimmt die Rechnung...

Bye! – Tschüss!

I have a hangover / Ich habe einen Kater

No / Nein

I don't understand / Ich verstehe

Where's the toilet? / Wo ist die Toilette?

I'll get the beer / Ich besorge das Bier

Sorry/Excuse Me / Entschuldigung

EMBASSIES

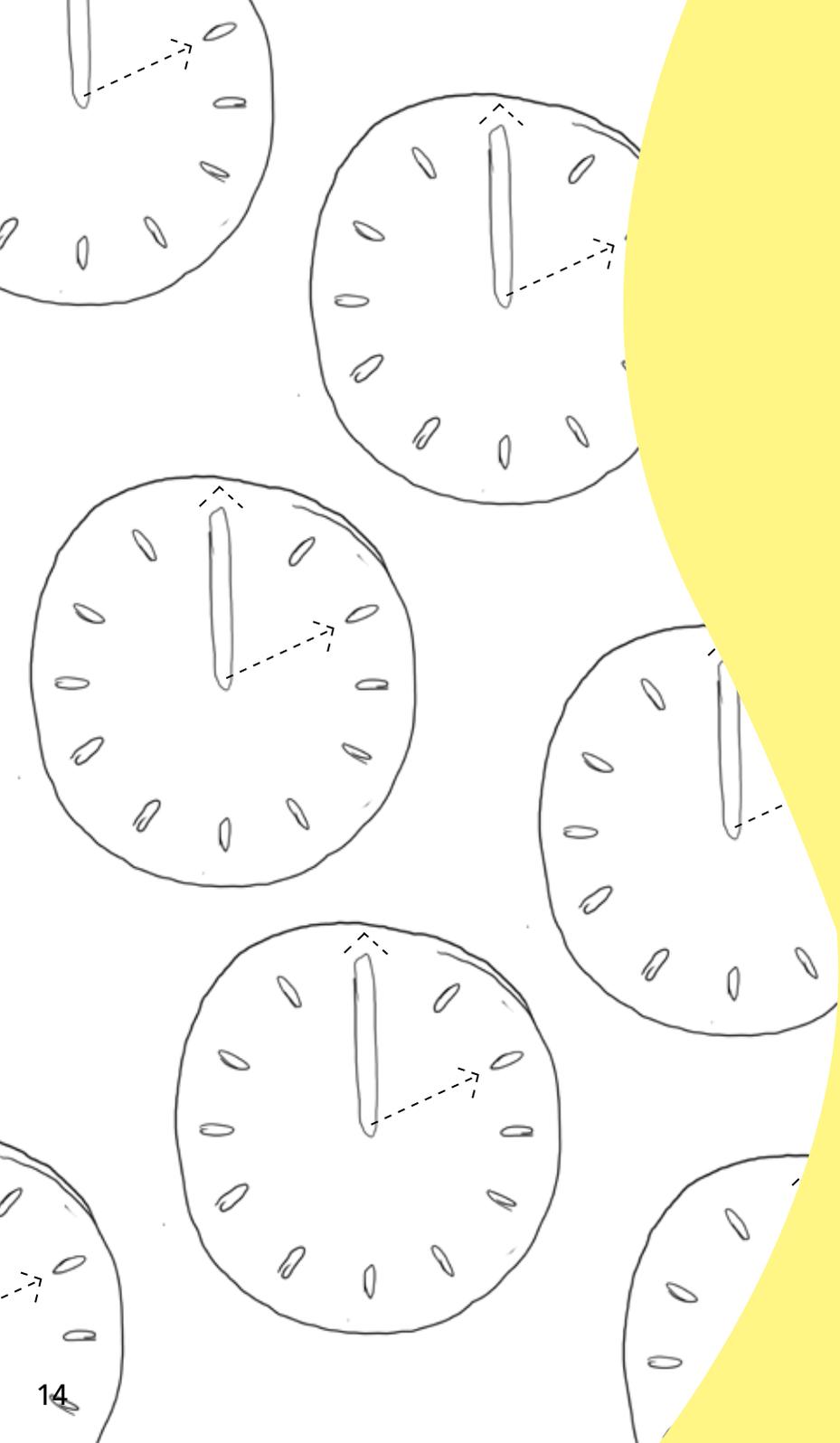
Australian Embassy
 Wallstraße 76-79
 10179 Berlin-Mitte
 Telephone number:
 (030) 880088

British Embassy
 Wilhelmstraße 70-71
 10117 Berlin
 Telephone number:
 (030) 204570

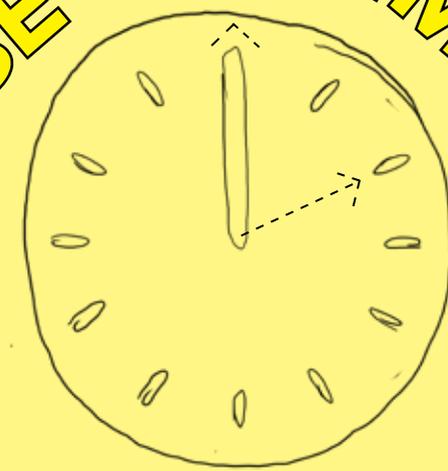
Embassy of Canada
 Leipziger Platz 17
 10117 Berlin
 Telephone number:
 (030) 203120

Embassy of Ireland
 Jägerstraße 51
 10117 Berlin
 Telephone number:
 (030) 220720

U.S. Embassy Berlin:
 Pariser Platz 2
 10117 Berlin
 Telephone number:
 (030) 88050



BE ON TIME



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BE ON TIME

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Berlin, like many other major cities, would be unimaginable without its host of public transport facilities. Used by daily commuters- the elderly, late night clubbers, and of course thousands of tourists- the affordable and timely transport system ensures safe and relaxed travel across Berlin. When travelling during the day, you will rarely find yourself having to wait any longer than ten minutes to board any of the transport systems, ensuring you can make the most of your time spent in this dynamic city.

S-Bahn

With almost 170 stations covering 330 km of network on 15 lines, the S-Bahn is most useful for covering long distances over a short space of time, especially between the outlying suburbs and the inner city. S-Bahn stations can be easily spotted by the green and white 'S' symbol. Running mostly above ground and cutting through the centre of Berlin, views of the urban landscape are provided. At the weekend, S-Bahn trains run 24 hours with 30-minute intervals at night. However, the service only runs from 04:30 - 01:30 on weekdays- at five, ten or 20-minute intervals- depending on the line and time of day. Be sure to look out for the beautiful original brick-

work at stations: Hackescher Markt and Bellevue.

U-Bahn

Known for its yellow trains the U-Bahn (underground) network is 146 km long, and consists of 10 lines and 143 stations. Board the famous U1, as it travels from east to west Berlin, starting its journey from the east on the oldest section of Berlin's U-Bahn. With only a 5 - 10 minute interval, the U-Bahn is one of the quickest options for getting around the inner city. Running from 04:00 - 01:00 on weekdays and 24 hours on weekends.

MetroTram and Tram

The 20 tram lines throughout Berlin offer reasonably fast transport on comfortable, air conditioned carriages, providing a welcome contrast to the hot, and sweaty travel on the U-Bahn and S-Bahn. Especially comprehensive in the Eastern areas of Berlin, such as Prenzlauer Berg or Friedrichshain, MetroTrams, marked with the letter 'M' run 24 hours a day throughout the week. At ten minute intervals during the day, they ensure you won't be waiting long. After 00:30 they run at 30-minute intervals.

Bus

With an extensive number of routes, to truly see the city, travelling by bus is one of the better options. The 100 and 200 bus lines have become well-known to tourists due to their remarkable sight-seeing routes, so save on expensive city tours by boarding one of these instead. With both lines starting at Zoologischer Garten, they pass many landmarks such as the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Potsdamer Platz, and the TV-Tower to name just a few. Night buses, marked with the letter 'N', travel throughout the night, providing an invaluable service to explorers of Berlin's eccentric nightlife.

Insider Tips

Underground, bus and tram operator BVG also offers information (in English) and a journey planner on their website.

Download the BVG app for maps, and a route planner.

Maps of the various networks can also be collected for free from stations.

Tickets must be validated by stamping them at yellow or red boxes on platforms, in buses or trams. A ticket that is not stamped is invalid.

Always carry your ticket with you. Anyone caught on public transport without a valid ticket must pay an instant fine of €60. Ticket inspectors are dressed in plain clothes and randomly operate, making it difficult to spot them.

Even though you will often see locals drinking on public transport, it is in fact illegal to consume alcohol or eat on public transport, so watch out.

BVG Call Centre - 03019449 for more information

Tickets

Tickets can be bought from ticket machines on trams, from bus drivers, or from multilingual ticket machines in S and U-Bahn stations. Tickets are valid for use on any of the four public transport systems.

Single One Way Ticket -

Valid for one person and a 2 hour journey across the city.

Zones AB: €2.70 / Zones ABC: €3.30

Day Ticket -

Allows unlimited travel throughout the day. Valid from the day of its validation until 03:00 the following day.

Zones AB: €6.90 / Zones ABC: €7.40

Seven Day Ticket -

Valid for unlimited travel seven consecutive days from the day of its validation, until the seventh day at midnight.

Zones AB: €29.50/ Zones ABC: €36.50

Month Ticket -

Allows unlimited travel throughout the month. Valid from day of validation until midnight of the final day.

Zones AB: €79.50 / Zones ABC: €98.50

By Alex VAN GOETHEM



SIGHTS AND ATTRACTIONS