

BERLIN!



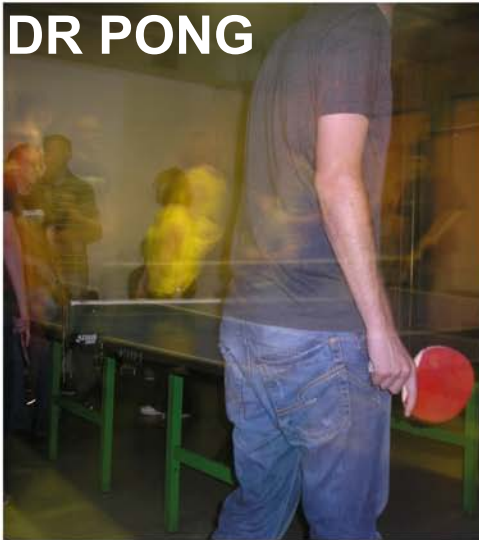
in **BOLD** a* Guide

WARNING!!!

SHOPPING



DR PONG



Dr Pong

Eberswalderstraße

U-Bahn Line U2: Eberswalderstraße

20.00 – late; 7 nights a week.

Ask around for directions to this one – the discovery is half the adventure! If having a laugh and a bit of friendly competition in a non-judgemental, value-for-money environment sounds like your idea of a good time, then this is exactly what you'll get at Dr Pong. Not far from the U-Bahn station, its unassuming shop-front does a great job of disguising the minimalist treasure hidden within.

Inside you'll discover an eclectic group of student types eagerly pacing around a single table-tennis table, all vying for the win that is rewarded with non-forthcoming glory. Each participant takes their shot and moves around the table in a fast-paced yet orderly fashion, until their error sees them out of the game. Depending on the group size, games can take anywhere between five and ten minutes, so you're never waiting long for the next one - just long enough to get a refreshment or to take a 'Pinkle-pause'. If hours of circling the table sounds tiring, then simply chill in the lounge by the bar.

Having been in operation for over six years, and gaining a strong underground following, it is surprising not too see this establishment packed to the rafters - perhaps the limitations of a single table keep the masses at bay. But it does make for the perfect understated, yet entertaining atmosphere: Minimalist. Interactive. Social. Funky.

You'll have to pay a 5€ deposit to obtain a bat from the bar but the DJ comes for free!

Cassiopeia

Revalerstraße 99

Tel (030) 66766837; U-Bahn Line U1:

Warschauerstraße

At Cassiopeia not only can you club your weekend away, but you can enjoy a kind of playground environment during the day. This hidden gem includes a rock-climbing wall and an outdoor cinema in the summertime. They serve a great range of snacks to boost your energy, from smoothies and crepes, to pita and pastas - all at a bargain price.

Another activity on offer at the Cassiopeia playground is a skate park, built inside what was once an old train-repair shop. The park has a café selling cakes, coffee and beer, located at reception, where skate essentials such as knee and elbow pads, wheels, ball bearings and boards are stocked.

Rock-Climbing (www.derkegel.de)

opening times are:

Mondays 14.00 – 22.00;

Tuesday - Friday 12.00 – 23.00;

Weekends 11.00 – 23.00.

Skate Park (www.skatehalle-berlin.de)

opening times are:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 14.00 – 22.00;

Wednesdays & Fridays 14.00 – midnight;

Saturdays 11.30 – midnight;

Sundays 11.30 – 20.00.

Day tickets cost 5€ (over 14), or 4€ (under 14)

The hall can be hired after hours for a negotiated fee. Ask at reception for details if you're interested in having a lock-in.





FKKK

Freikörperkultur (Free Body Culture) has existed in Germany for over 100 years. Essentially naturism in all but name, it was first documented by Heinrich Pudor, a late 19th century sociologist who became known as the 'Father of Nudism'. Since then, the FKK in Germany has had to deal with numerous social and political opponents but appears to have bested them all either through adaptation, appeasement or downright defiance. The movement is based on the principle that the human body is no reason for shame and despite modern attitudes to nakedness, it emphasises that there is no sexuality involved. In the late 1800s many people, both men and women, enjoyed nude bathing in public and in 1898, the first FKK club was set up in Essen in North-West Germany to suit their needs. The trend flourished among younger generations despite claims from conservative circles that it was corrupting the morality of society in general. And it was these claims that the Nazis used upon coming to power to ban the movement. An order was issued by Hermann Göring (Hitler's number two) directing the authorities to use "police methods" to stop the movement. So, during the Nazi regime the FKK was either outlawed or strictly regulated by the Nazi-controlled police the latter denying the members of the movement the freedom of expression they craved. Some 45 years later however, the FKK would again rise against a political opponent. Toward the end of the Cold War, it provided a means of protest against the oppressive Communists. Members of the movement, who were known as FKK'ler, saw nudism as a way to release themselves from the confines of the regime and challenge the iron grip it had on their freedom. Now the FKK has a more passive existence.

Nudist beaches and colonies, whilst along the same lines as the FKK ethos, do not quite follow the original path. The initial principle was that nudism should not have to be segregated and so colonies and beaches reserved for FKK'ler are not quite on task.

Naturism has also become somewhat of a business in Germany. Numerous books and songs have been written about the subject, nudist holiday resorts exist and this year, a German travel agent even mooted the idea of nudist charter flights to these resorts. The latter has yet to take off but it is always a possibility. Whatever your views on naturism, it is a part of Germany's history and it would seem, its future.

EASTSIDE GALLERY

Mühlenstraße

S-Bahn Lines S3/5/7/9/75: Ostbahnhof

This 1.3km stretch of wall is the largest section still remaining, and was turned into an open air gallery in 1990. With over 100 colourful murals, this site is an important fixture for urban artists and appreciators alike. Both local and international artists have used this wall to depict political statements, social attitudes and mind-altered musings. Some sections are less artistic, having been used by tourists to scribe their own ideas, potentially jeopardising the quality of the gallery's art in time. If you do choose to leave your mark, be sensible and respectful of the space, or simply opt to not further tarnish an important site for Berlin street art.



Fotoautomat

Kastanienallee

U-Bahn Line U2: Eberswalderstraße

Remember the days when you and your friends all piled into a photo-booth, made stupid faces and then waited the four minutes outside, with no idea what the pictures would look like? These days are back. And they are back on Kastanienallee - just a little way past Lüks International. For 2€ you can relive the time before that sultry voice told you to “press the green button when you’re ready” and gave you the option for another go. Another go?! This retro booth doesn’t care if you’re ready; four flashes and you’re done, thank you very much. And the photos are black and white. Mmm, arty. With each picture on the strip different, prepare to fight for the snap you want if you’ve got to share. Sort your hair out before you insert your Euros – it’s all over in a flash.



Reichstag

The Reichstag is the home of the German parliament and also one of the historical symbols of Germany. It is situated just two minutes' walk from the Brandenburg Gate. The roof terrace has four towers and a cupola and allows for visitors to experience a 360-degree view of the city. Don't give up when looking at the big queue outside the building, the view from the top is really worth it and the line tends to move quickly anyway. You can still get pleasure from sitting in the Platz der Republik -the park outside of the Parliament Building- from where you can admire the Bell Tower, Siegessäule, The Houses of World Cultures (previously the Congress Hall), Federal Chancellery (Paul Löbe Building). If you are exhausted by waiting a good tip would be to have a light refreshment in the terrace restaurant and enjoy the panorama of Berlin from there.

Opening hours: daily from 8:00 until 00:00; the last admission is at 22:00.

Admission: Free

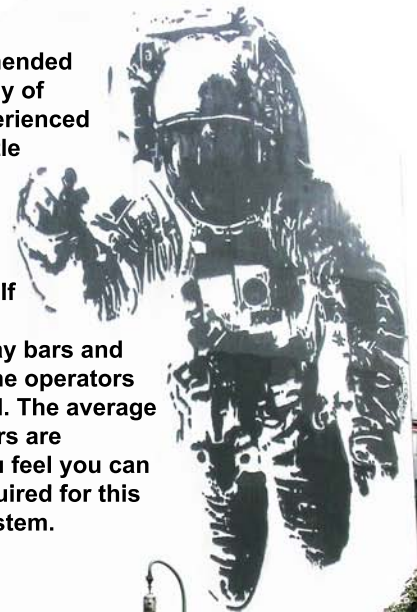
ALTERNATIVE BERLIN Walking Tour


Leaving from underneath the TV Tower at Alexanderplatz, outside Starbucks; daily at 11.00.

Tel 01628198264; www.alternativeberlin.com

If you're not one for the mainstream, it is highly recommended you take the Alternative Berlin Walking Tour. Unlike many of the other walking tours on offer, this motley crew of experienced guides avoids drowning you in historical facts, cares little for architectural feats and pounds the pavements less travelled by the regular tourist. Embracing the city's subculture, the company hopes only to share Berlin's active underground lifestyle whilst the encouraging preservation of unique communities and environments. If you prefer to play by night, the 666 Night Crawl is the perfect introduction to the theme pubs, techno clubs, gay bars and other nightlife in the city. The tours are free to take but the operators do work on a tip basis and are worth their weight in gold. The average tip is around 10€ but there is no minimum. Tour operators are budget-respectful and just ask that you donate what you feel you can or what your experience was worth. The only outlay required for this journey is a Tageskarten (day ticket) for the local rail system.

A pass for zones AB will cost you 6.10€





Built in 1969, the TV Tower is situated in Alexanderplatz and is one of the most popular attractions in Berlin. You cannot miss it as it is the tallest building in Germany with a total height of 368 metres, making it visible from practically anywhere in the city centre. The lift takes you to a viewing platform 203 metres at a nifty six metres per second. From this height you can see the entire city in miniature. You can have a meal or drink in the restaurant and see the whole view in a relaxed dining atmosphere as the restaurant rotates, completing its full revolution in 30 minutes.

Opening hours: daily from 9:00 until 24:00 from March to October daily from 10:00 until 00:00 from November to February. The entrance is €8 for adults and €4 for children under 16.

TV TOWER

THE TEAM

STEPHEN BOTT

JAYDE "RUBY" RUSSELL

TOM ELEFThERIADES

JAKE STANLEY

KAROLINA SELECKA

GEORGIA RIUNGU

DAVI ARAUJO

LOUIS RUTHERFORD

RANVIR SINGH BASSI

GEORGE REYNOLDS

