

LOST BERLIN

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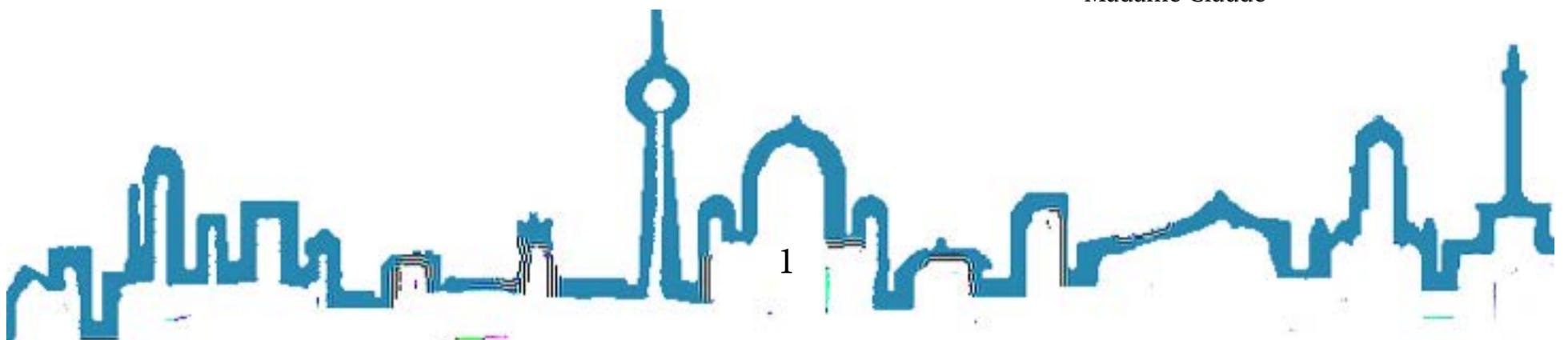
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Introduction

Berlin is many things: the world capital of creativity, the city of hipsters, a paradigm of bike-friendly transportation. But, above all, it is a historic city that has undergone deep identity shifts and still brims with vibrancy. Visiting Berlin will be an unforgettable experience for everyone.

There are many reasons to love the German capital:

Berlin offers history. Visit the Reichstag to better understand the legislative history of Germany, or honour the six million Jewish Holocaust victims at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.

Berlin offers entertainment. Hire a raft and sail around the city canals, or dance until dawn under the basement vaults of an old railway station.

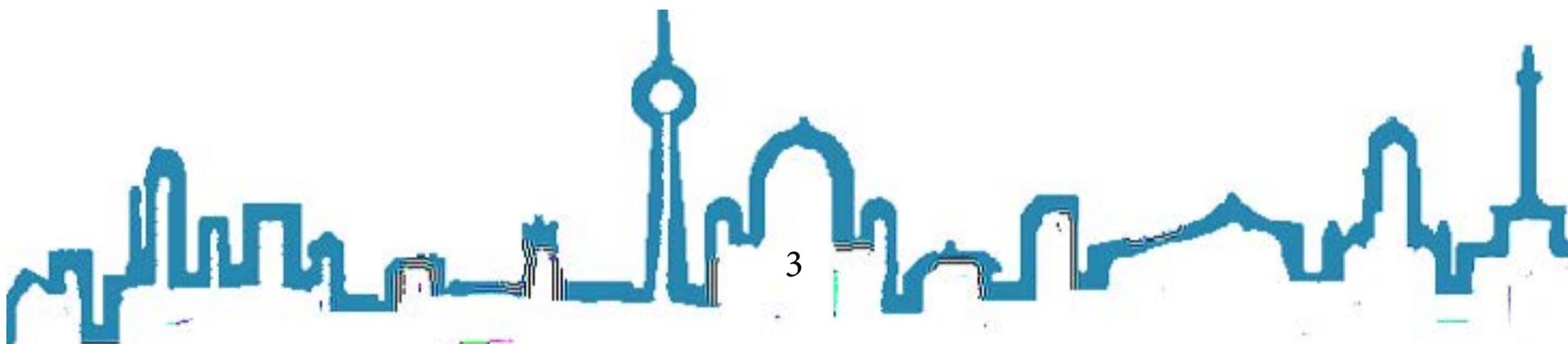
Berlin offers romance. Enjoy a candlelit dinner on a floating restaurant, or let your heart melt with breath-taking sunset views from the Berliner Dom (Berlin's Cathedral).

Berlin offers adventure. Set aside any fear and jump off a rooftop in Alexanderplatz, or soar up into Berlin's sky on an incredible aerial tour of the city and the surrounding region.

Berlin offers the great outdoors. Rent a boat in the central Tiergarten or have a picnic on the tarmacs of Tempelhofer Park, Berlin's airport-turned park.

Whatever it is that your heart desires, you're sure to find it here. Enjoy Berlin!

Paloma González Llorente



A - Z Survival Guide

Apps: Berlin is a huge city with an extensive public transport system, making it easy to get lost. In order to find your bearings, download the BVG app--the city's official public transport app for smartphones. Another useful app is 'Citymapper' which tells you where to change on journeys and guides you to your destination.

Beggars: At some point during your stay, you're likely to be approached by someone asking for money. While there are of course people genuinely in need, often this is a distraction while an accomplice tries to steal your phone or purse, so be wary.

Clubs: Berlin's clubs are famous for their notoriously strict entry policies. Whichever club you attempt to get into, make sure that you do some research first on the dress code and the DJs playing that night as the bouncers may quiz you on this.

Drinking: The legal drinking age here is 18, and the city's attitude on drinking is undoubtedly relaxed. It is common to see Berliners walking down the street with a bottle of beer, and with the numerous Spätis, it's easy to buy alcohol.

Emergency numbers: Hopefully you won't need to use any of these during your stay. However, it's a good idea to make a note of them just in case.

Police: 110, Ambulance: 112, Fire:112

Fines: Ensure that you carry your transport ticket with you whenever you use public transport. If the ticket inspectors catch you without one, you'll be hit with a €40 fine.

German Phrases: Although most people speak English here, knowing a few words of German goes a long way. Even if you're not able to hold a full conversation, Berliners will appreciate you making the effort.

Please: Bitte

Thank you: Danke

Bye: Tschüss (hardly anyone uses auf wiedersehen)

Where is the __?: Wo ist der/die/das __?

History: You'll learn some fascinating and sobering facts about the city's turbulent past almost anywhere you visit. With so many museums and exhibits, just ensure to plan your time to fit in everything that you want to find out about.

ID: Remember to bring suitable ID with you to Berlin (driving licence or passport) as most clubs are strict on this.

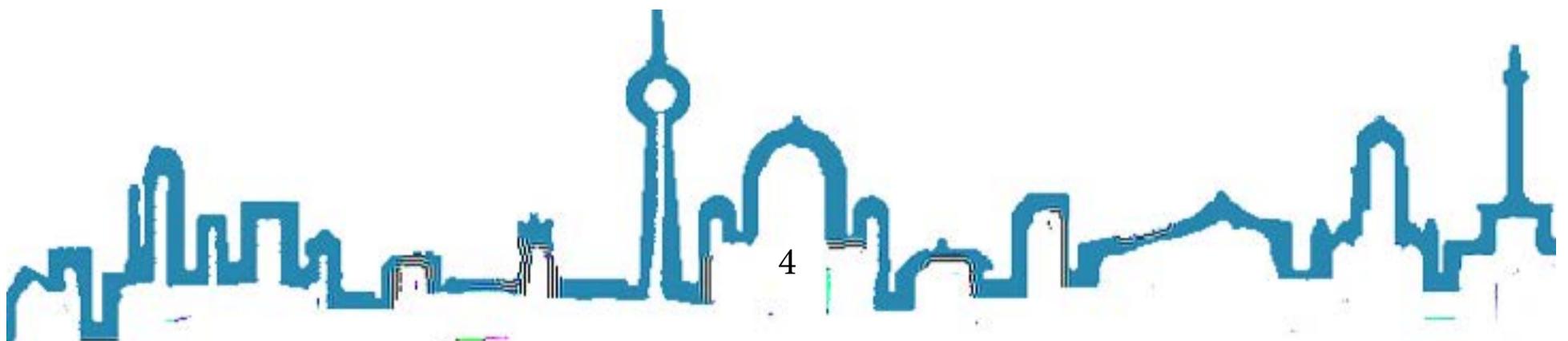
Jaywalking: Unless the Ampelmann (pedestrian crossing light) turns green, do not cross the road as you could be fined €5 for doing so.

Kebabs: Berlin has the largest Turkish population of any city outside Turkey, and as such, kebabs and falafel are just as popular and widely available as any of Berlin's other street food. See the fast food section of the guide for a breakdown.

Lakes: For a city that lacks a coastline, Berlin does boast a number of lakes where boats can be hired. Just ensure to check the weather forecast beforehand if you choose to visit one.

Money: Paying by card is not as common as you may think here, so it's best to have cash just in case cards are not accepted.

Nightlife: Famous for its illustrious clubs and DJs, Berlin is undisputedly one of the best cities in the world for partying. Attempting to get into the bigger clubs involves going at strange hours, queuing for what seems like days, being grilled by intimidating bouncers, researching DJs and resisting speaking English in the queue. It might seem like a lot of work, but it's 100% worth it.



Still Surviving?

Outdoors: With a huge range of outdoor activities, parks and beer gardens, you'll spend a lot of your time in the city outside. The weather here is somewhat temperamental even in the summer, so ensure to pack something with a hood along with your sun-cream.

Photographs: Taking pictures inside clubs is a huge 'no'. Do so and you may have your camera confiscated. When you go to collect it the next day, it may appear to have vanished off the face of the earth.

Queues: From clubs to kebab stands, expect long, winding queues and a degree of pushing; it's fair to say Berliners aren't huge fans of queuing.

Recycling: Germans are big on recycling. The price for most soft drinks will include a 'Pfand', a deposit of usually 25c added onto the price of the drink. Once you're finished with it, bottles can be taken back to a supermarket and you will be reimbursed with the Pfand price. Anything that does not come with Pfand can be recycled in the designated glass, plastic and paper bins. One thing you'll notice about Berlin is that it is an incredibly clean city, so remember to respect their rules on recycling.

Smoking: Smoking is permitted in many bars, so just keep this in mind if you're a non-smoker. Make sure to check the bar's policy first if you do smoke.



Tipping: A 10% tip is the norm when dining out here. However, don't leave the tip on the table; instead, give it to your waiter or waitress when you pay. This means that you must decide how much to tip before paying so that you may tell the server how much to take for themselves. For instance, if you want to leave a €5 tip on a €25 bill, you should tell the server 'make it €30.'

U-Bahn: The U-Bahn is just one form of public transport here connecting all of Berlin's best places. The 'Public Transport' section of the guide will tell you all that you need to know.

Validate your ticket: Before using public transport, ensure that you validate your ticket by using one of the many machines dotted around stations. However, make sure that you only use the machine once for each ticket as more than one stamp will render it invalidated.

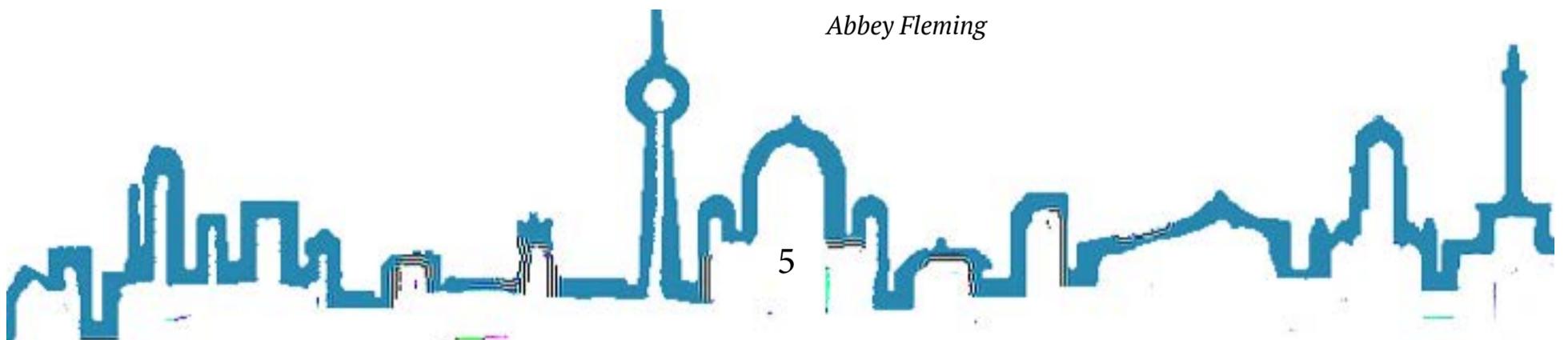
Welcome Card: For those staying a few days in Berlin, a Welcome Card for public transport is a highly recommended purchase. A 5 day ticket costs roughly €35, incredibly good value as it is valid on all of Berlin's public transport. What's more, the Welcome Card usually comes with a book of discounts for many attractions and restaurants.

X-berg: This is the colloquial name for the district of Kreuzberg (Kreuz is German for cross.) This area is a must-go for anyone who wants to truly experience Berlin. Its inhabitants hail from all over the globe, making it one of the city's most diverse areas. With a plethora of restaurants, bars, shops and live music, the atmosphere in Kreuzberg is hard to match elsewhere.

Youth: Berlin is an incredible city, especially for those in their late teens and twenties; who this guide is aimed at. This guide covers everything that this age group will find interesting.

Zzz: With many clubs open all weekend, you may find that you don't sleep much during your visit, so staying at a hostel may be better value than staying at a hotel. Be sure to check the accommodation section of the guide for some of the most popular hostels.

Abbey Fleming



Transport

Getting around Berlin is extremely easy. As a traveller in this great city, you are spoilt for choice with various forms of transportation more than happy to bring you around this sprawling metropolis.

U-bahn

This is undeniably the most important component of the Berlin public transport scene. The fulcrum, the Berghain of Berlin's transport system—minus the dark rooms of course. The U-bahn services the majority of the city, providing efficient and high-speed travel.

The major drawback while travelling on the U-bahn is, naturally, you are several metres underground. Therefore, taking in the sights of this extremely interesting city is impossible on this form of transport. The underground is also not air-conditioned so be warned in summer as it can become stiflingly warm.

Runs until 00:30 weekdays, and all night on weekends.

S-bahn

This is the U-bahn's well-tanned cousin. This lucky train gets to enjoy the freedom of fresh air and display Berlin's fantastic sights. The S-bahn offers a comprehensive aboveground mode of transport. Naturally its rail links are not as densely spread out throughout the city (due to the extra space it takes up) but can be easily found. A tip is to look for a bridge; there is usually a station found on top of it.

Well-connected through major hubs, such as Ostkreuz and Hackescher Markt, the S-bahn serves many routes throughout the city. A ring rail is also available going in opposite directions. The S41 and S42 offer a rapid, direct route to many of the city's hippest boroughs. The ring rail route is an extremely handy option, with trains travelling regularly to important transport links.

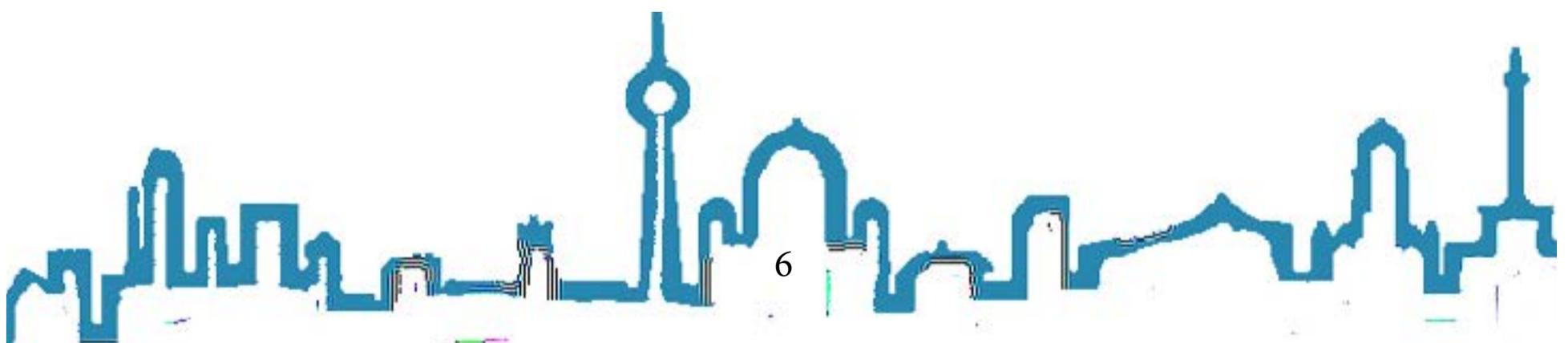
Runs until 00:30 weekdays, and all night at weekends.

Tram

The tram is run by BVG (the main public transport body for Berlin) and has routes throughout Berlin. Trams like the rest of the city's public transport system, is extremely reliable and has electronic boards at each stop to inform you when the next tram is due to arrive. Unlike the other services, which all terminate at 00:30, selective trams run well into the night (e.g. M13 and M9).

Buses

These are the final main option for public transport around the city. Berlin has a well-established bus network. All other modes of transport will usually suffice for the average tourist but if a bus is necessary, there are a huge number of routes



Transport



that travel all over the city. Getting on a bus you must get on at the front and show your ticket to the driver.

Cycling

An alternative to public transport is the humble bike.

Berlin is an extremely good city to cycle around. Cycle lanes can be found around most of the city. It is a rarity that you have to cycle on the road and if that occurs, Berlin's roads tend not to be overly crowded.

Berlin is also a relatively flat city, making it ideal for travelling large distances without consuming too much energy. It is very common here to see large numbers of bikes locked up outside bars and clubs as late night revelers go from nightclub to nightclub on their bikes. But be warned if you happen to stumble into a cycle lane after a cheeky tippie or two; be prepared to face the full wrath of an angry cyclist ringing their bell and cursing your ignorance. To cyclists in Berlin, cycle lanes are no-go areas for pedestrians and they waste no time in expressing this.

Customs/Traditions

In Berlin people are friendly, pleasant and generally quiet. Often this quietness can be misunderstood. Many happen to be part of the older generation of Berliner's and their attitudes are very different to the youth. For years in the old DDR, quietness and being reserved was part of their culture. These are the people who have seen it all, the wars, the Soviets, the wall and finally the hipsters (possibly you).

So when a train/tram is full and you have a seat, get up off your bum and move. Like in your own country, it's a nice gesture to offer your seat to an older member of society.

The younger generations of Berliner's are friendly open and always willing to help. They appear almost overtly friendly, perhaps trying to alter the outside image of Berliners as unfriendly. They are always on hand to help you with any questions.

For you boys and girls who like a drink, you will have to wait to quench your thirst after you get off your mode of transport as alcohol is banned on all forms.

Prices

Prices for travelling on this mode of transport depend largely on distance and length of ticket purchased.

Berlin's travel network is divided into A, B and C zones, with the price of travel naturally increasing the longer you ride.

Tariff AB: €2,60 (Concessions €1,60)

Tariff BC: €2,60 (Concessions €2)

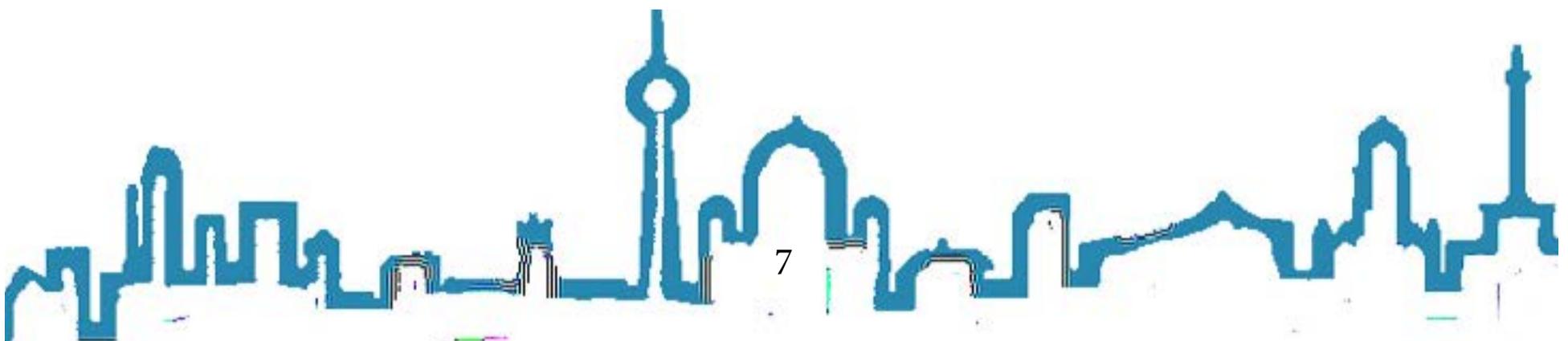
Tariff ABC: €3,20 (Concessions €2,30)

A short distance ticket is available for both S-bahn and U-bahn at €1.50 (concessions €1,20) for three stops or less.

A day ticket will set you back €6,70. A group day ticket (up to five people and valid until 3:00 the next day) costs €16,20 for AB zones.

A seven-day ticket will cost you €28,80. If you are in the city for a long time, a month-long ticket is available covering all modes of transport for €78,60 and is extremely handy.

Rory O'Brien



History

Berlin's foundations lie in Nikolaiviertel, where Slavic tribes originally settled. The probable origin of the city's name is the Slavic root *brl*, which denotes a marsh. Berlin, a small market settlement, along with its sister town, Cölln, which was located on today's Museum Island, were brought into the Holy Roman Empire when Albrecht the Bear founded the Margraviate of Brandenburg in 1157. Both settlements grew, received their first charters in 1237, and eventually merged in 1432 as Berlin-Cölln. The Hohenzollerns, who ruled from 1415 until 1918, made the city their home and constructed Tiergarten Park in 1530 as a royal game preserve. In 1540, Kurfürstendamm (Elector's Causeway) was set up to lead from palace to hunting lodge in Grunewald, and Unter den Linden was laid down in 1647. After devastation during the Thirty Years War, Friedrich Wilhelm built up the city, developed new districts, and invited Huguenots to settle in Germany. This growth led to the official unification of Berlin-Cölln as Berlin in 1709. In 1740, Friedrich the Great, significant for his patronage of the Arts of the Enlightenment, as well as military victories, began his forty-six-year reign. The 19th century brought the Napoleonic Wars, during which Berlin was temporarily occupied by French troops, industrialization, and substantial increases in population that strained the city's infrastructure. In the year 1800, Berlin had approximately 170,000 people; by the time Otto von Bismarck unified Germany in 1871, this number had increased to 930,000. A modern sewage system was installed in the late 1870's, construction of the U-Bahn began in 1896, and tenement houses were built in Kreuzberg, Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain, and Wedding to deal with this influx of people. During World War I, Berlin served as the heart of Germany's war planning and production, and afterwards, it was the epicenter of unrest during the early years of the Weimar Republic. In October 1920, the Greater Berlin Act incorporated Charlottenburg, Köpenick, and Spandau into the municipality. Despite harsh conditions, largely due to hyperinflation, cultural life in the city flourished.

