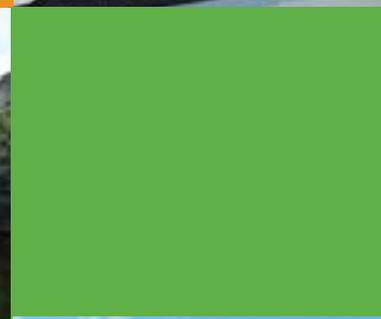
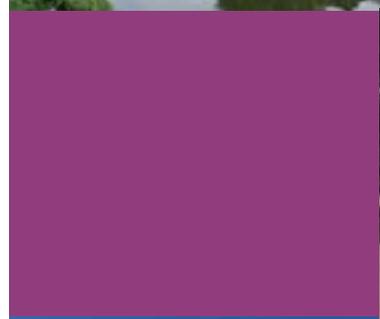
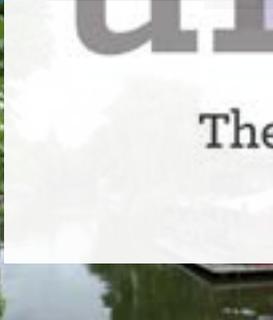
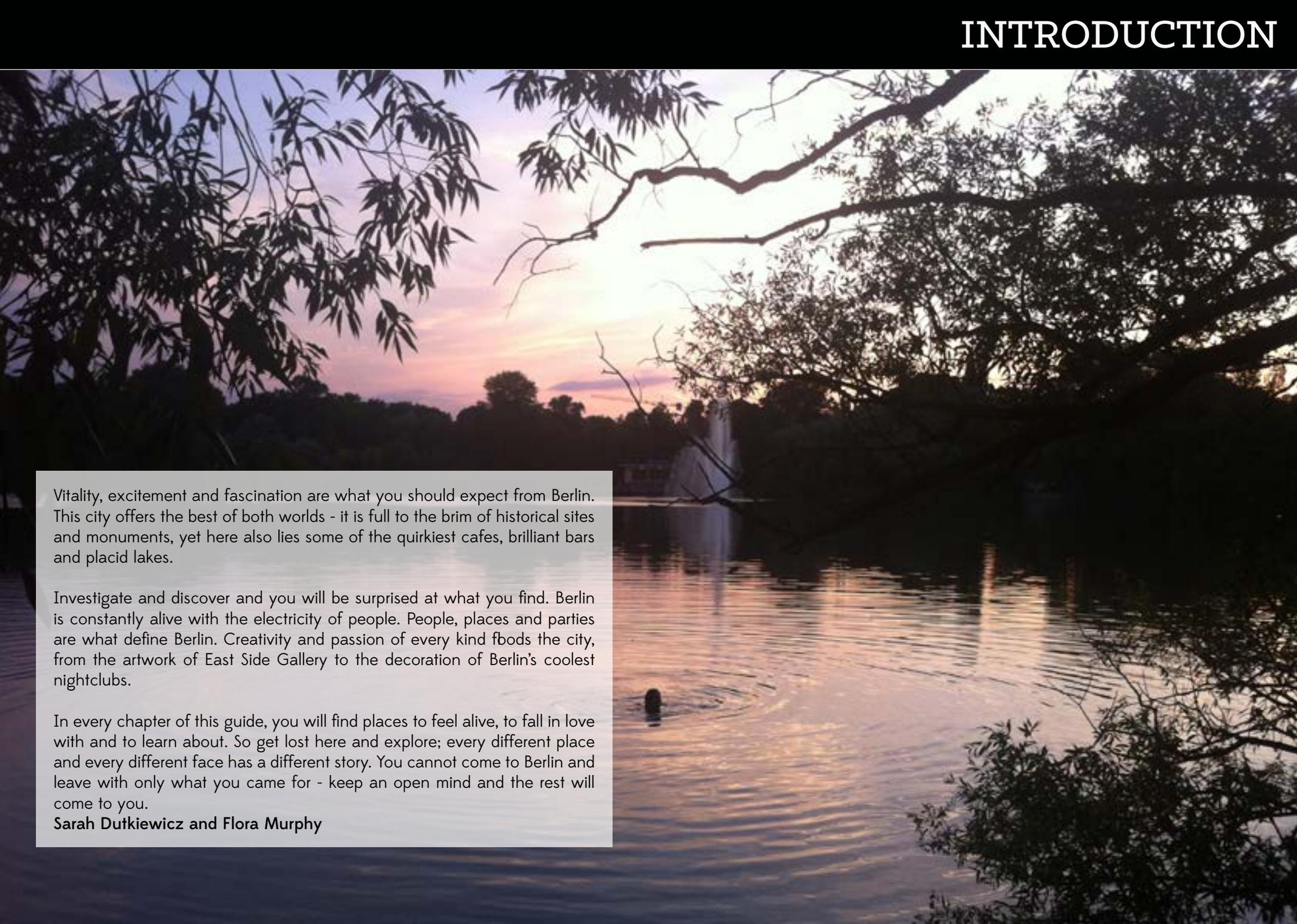




üBerlin

The Essential Guide 2013





Vitality, excitement and fascination are what you should expect from Berlin. This city offers the best of both worlds - it is full to the brim of historical sites and monuments, yet here also lies some of the quirkiest cafes, brilliant bars and placid lakes.

Investigate and discover and you will be surprised at what you find. Berlin is constantly alive with the electricity of people. People, places and parties are what define Berlin. Creativity and passion of every kind floods the city, from the artwork of East Side Gallery to the decoration of Berlin's coolest nightclubs.

In every chapter of this guide, you will find places to feel alive, to fall in love with and to learn about. So get lost here and explore; every different place and every different face has a different story. You cannot come to Berlin and leave with only what you came for - keep an open mind and the rest will come to you.

Sarah Dutkiewicz and Flora Murphy

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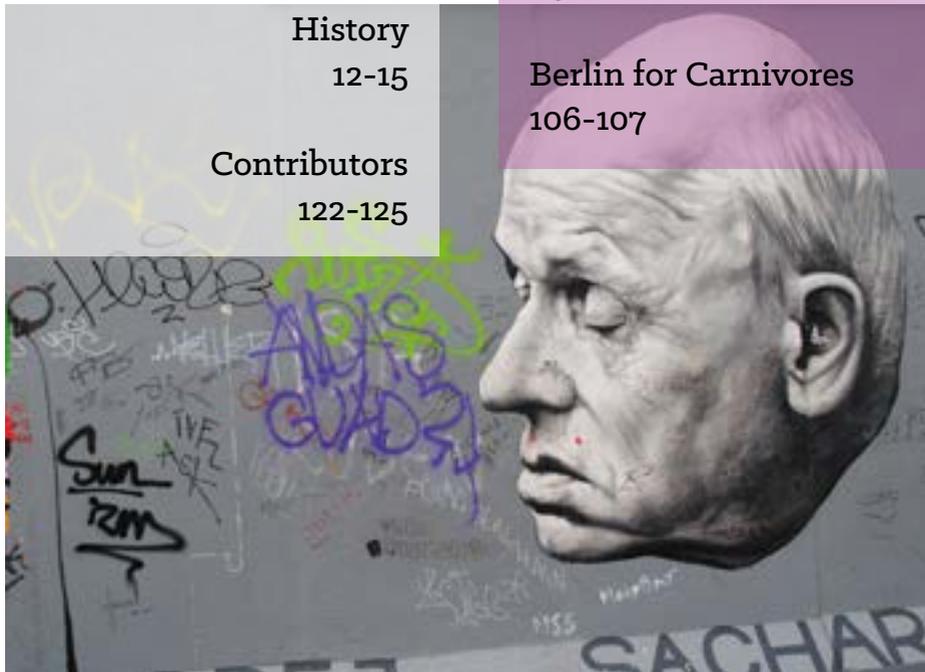
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Baxpax Downtown Hostel

If you're looking for a great hostel, stay at Baxpax Hostel Downtown. This spotless hostel is located just a short walk away from Oranienburger Straße. The friendly reception staff are available 24/7 which proves great for answering any queries you may have. To the left of the reception is an open area, in which internet can be accessed and costs €1 for thirty minutes. Books adorn the shelves; to be borrowed or even swapped if replaced with your own. Take your pick from the thrillers, fiction and non-fiction, and park yourself

down on the strategically placed red velvet chaise longue. Baxpax offers various rooms; an 8 bed mixed dorm costs around €20 per night. If you fancy a bit more privacy, opt for an apartment or suite which costs between €50- €70. Almost all of the rooms look onto the outside area, which is furnished with vast bean bags and several deck chairs that face a paddling pool. Admittedly, Baxpax is not the most inexpensive hostel but the final touches are definitely worth the extra euros. Stay here alone or with friends; it doesn't matter, as in Baxpax you are sure not to feel lonely.

Sarah Dutkiewicz

Ziegelstraße 28, 10117
Oranienburger Tor (U6)
www.baxpax.de/downtown



Heart of Gold Hostel

Heart of Gold is unlike any other hostel you will find in Berlin. For starters, it was inspired by Douglas Adams' off the wall novel 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy', giving the hostel its unusual, often galactic-style décor, but also its motto: 'Don't Panic' - a fitting mantra for travellers.

The reception is part of the large bar area, packed with a mix of chairs, tables and red leather sofas and even a pool table. Free Wi-Fi is available here, drinks at the hostel bar are cheap (€2.50 for a 5cl beer) and this large room even has a stage for regular live music shows.

Outside you'll find a patio with

artificial grass and parasols where the staff cook hotdogs, sausages and burgers on the barbecue most days in the summer for only €2.50. Heart of Gold definitely has a sociable atmosphere; something that can make or break a hostel.

There is a variety of rooms available in the hostel, from single rooms with a shower to a 50 bed 'megadorm'. In general the rooms are spacious, some with huge windows too. Prices vary depending on days of the week, or events in the city, but a room in an 8-bed dorm will cost somewhere between €12 and €20.

Flora Murphy

Johannisstraße 11, 10117
Friedrichstraße (U6, S1, S2, S5, S7,
S25, S75)
www.heartofgold-hostel.de

Getting around Berlin

When you arrive in Berlin, one of the first things you should do is head to one of the larger U-Bahn stations (such as Alexanderplatz) and equip yourself with a map and a ticket for the underground (U-Bahn), overground (S-Bahn), trams and buses, all run by BVG.

Tickets

The most cost-effective way to get around is to purchase a weekly or monthly ticket which you can use on the trains, trams and buses. The network is divided into three ticket price zones, A, B and C. The majority of tourist attractions fall inside zone A and you can buy a ticket extension on zone AB tickets for any excursions in zone C.

2013 prices for zone AB tickets:

Day ticket - €6.50

7 day ticket - €28.80

Month ticket - €78

Buy your ticket on U-Bahn or S-Bahn platforms or station lobbies; only day tickets or single tickets can be bought from the machine on trams or from the driver on buses. Many hotels also sell tickets.

Welcome Card

You may also be interested in the Berlin Welcome Card which includes travel on all BVG transport for either 48 hours, 72 hours or 5 days as well as discounts on certain Berlin attractions including: Museum Island, the zoo and on certain tours, restaurants, theatres and more. Buy online at www.bvg.de.

Trains

The U-Bahn and S-Bahn routes are marked on the same map which can be a little overwhelming at first, but quickly becomes easier to understand when you get the knack of heading down at stations for the U-lines and up for S-lines.

During the week trains run until around 00:30 and start again at 04:30.

At weekends the following S-Bahn routes run all night:

S1, S2, S3, S5, S7, S8, S9, S25, S26, S41, S42, S46, S47 and S75.

The following U-Bahn lines run shortened routes all night on Friday and Saturday:

U1, U2, U5, U6, U7, U8 and U9.

Trams

The tram network mostly covers the East side of the city, but also services busy parts of the city such as Alexanderplatz, Friedrichstraße and Warschauer Straße.

Nine of the tram routes run a 24 hour service; pick up a '24 hour network' map to check.

Buses

The buses are a little more confusing to use, especially if you are not familiar with the city as the stops are not announced. However, if you are travelling late on a weeknight then they may be necessary. Buses with an N in front of the number run during the night.

Useful Tips

- Ticket inspectors are dressed in ordinary clothing and can pop out of nowhere to catch out fare dodgers. The fines are hefty and the inspectors unforgiving so don't be tempted to try your luck on a free ride.
- On the U-Bahn and S-Bahn multiple lines sometimes run from the same platform, so check the electronic boards before boarding to avoid an unexpected detour.
- The trains are spacious and rarely ever packed full of people, unless you happen to be travelling towards Eberswalder Straße on match day, in which case you will be greeted by an affront of Police and football fans.
- "Entschuldigung" is the polite thing to say should you inevitably knock in to someone or lose your balance and fall in their lap, however, it hardly seems mandatory.

Olivia Pinnock

Founding and Expansion

Berlin was founded in 1237 on a swamp, combining the trading settlements of Berlin and Cölln either side of the River Spree. Over the course of the next few centuries, the town profited and expanded as part of a

major medieval trading route. Berlin became the most important trading town in Brandenburg. Recognising this in 1709, Frederick I of Prussia enlarged Berlin to include the nearby towns of Friedrichswerder, Dorotheenstadt, and Friedrichstadt. He had made Berlin his Royal residence and Prussia's capital in 1701.

As Prussia's influence in Europe grew thanks to the military expansion of Frederick the Great, so the international significance of Berlin followed suit.

Frederick the Great (Frederick II)

Under Frederick the Great, Berlin thrived as a centre for art and culture and Frederick's passion for grand architecture manifested itself in the building of Berlin the Staatsoper (State Opera House), Sankt-Hedwigs-Kathedrale, the Humboldt Universität (Humboldt University). Frederick also fully embraced the Enlightenment, introducing legal reforms, encouraging religious tolerance and abolishing the death penalty. Celebrated minds of the day such as the philosopher Moses Mendelsohn, the poet Gotthold Ephraim Lessing and the all-around talent Wilhelm von Humboldt flocked to this new intellectual hotbed in Europe.

Napoleon

In the early 19th century, Prussia suffered the humiliation of defeat to the French commander who marked the beginning of a three-year occupation of Berlin by marching under the Brandenburg gate

on 27 October 1806. Despite bleeding the city dry with war reparations, Napoleon gave Berlin the opportunity to govern itself through elected leaders. The Prussian monarchy returned to power but could not match its former authority over the people as Germany entered the Reformation period.

In the early 19th century, Germany underwent sharp economic growth and Berlin became more and more industrialized. Urbanization along with the introduction of railways attracted workers to the city to work in factories and by 1847 Berlin's population had climbed to above 400,000.

Industrialisation

Unification

In 1871, Minister President Otto Von Bismarck unified most Prussian states under the German Reich. Berlin was made capital of the new German Empire, thus increasing its political status. As the imperial capital under the new regime, Berlin continued to grow rapidly. By 1912, its population eclipsed two million.

Following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Germany joined forces with Austro-Hungary against Russia, France and Britain. Despite initially having faith in a swift victory, despair soon took over across the city as starving, war-weary Berliners went on strike. Defeat in 1918 and the peace treaty of Versailles brought an end to the Imperial regime with the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II. The largest political party in Germany, the SPD, assumed power under the leadership of Friedrich Ebert, giving birth to a socialist republic. Contrary to popular belief, Berlin was not bombed in "The Great War".

WWI

The Weimar Republic (1920-1933)

Under Ebert and the SPD this represented Germany's first experiment with democracy. The socialists ruled right up until the rise of the Nazis but were far from universally popular, especially among monarchists and communists. After the initial post-war gloom, Germany enjoyed a fruitful 20s both economically and culturally. Berlin became a cultural metropolis with the emergence of artists such as George Grosz and Max Beckmann, writers like Bertolt Brecht and W.H. Auden. Berlin began to surpass most other cities in the world in terms of religious and sexual tolerance, and became a notorious playground for hedonists. The great depression of 1929, however, spoiled the party, plunging Berlin into economic crisis and mass unemployment.

Blaming the burning of the Reichstag on 27 February 1933 on communists gave

National Socialism |

Chancellor Adolf Hitler the perfect opportunity to seize power in Germany. On 10 May 1933, the Nazis staged a book burning in Babelplatz, setting fire to anything that did not conform to their nationalistic ideology. The rise of Nazism and Hitler's dictatorship gave rise to the promotion of the "Aryan race", with Jews and other minorities terrifyingly excluded.

WWII

On 1 September 1939, Hitler declared war on Poland, beginning six years of military struggle against the allies of Britain, France, Russia and USA. During this time, six million Jews were murdered by the Nazis

in addition to the untold suffering that propagated across Europe. The war ended with the Battle of Berlin in 1945, Hitler's suicide and victory for the allies. The city was badly bombed.

The end of WWII brought with it a period of intense upheaval in Germany as the allies divided both the country and Berlin up between them. The Americans, Brits and French occupied West

The Wall |



Germany and West Berlin, with the Soviet Union controlling East Germany and East Berlin. On one side the Allies instilled their values of democracy and capitalism on the west, which boomed economically, while the Soviet Union imposed their socialist principles on the east. Fed up with the oppressive nature of the Socialist regime which forbade simple rights such as free speech, thousands fled from East Germany in search of a new life. To put

an end to this, the Soviet Union built The Berlin Wall in August 1961. The Wall prevented East Berliners even travelling to the west and this remained the status quo until the wall's destruction on 9 November 1989.

Reunification

On 3 October 1990 East and West Germany reunited as a democracy with Berlin as its capital. Much money has been invested into modernising

East Germany and East Berlin but there remains to some extent a gap in wealth. Today, however, with Berlin at its epicentre Germany is one of the most powerful economic forces in the world. Moreover very few cities come close to competing with Berlin's diverse and vibrant cultural scene, formed by its staggeringly varied history.

Freddie Marshall





SIGHTS & MONUMENTS

Berlin is a sightseers dream with an endless list of things to visit and countless photo opportunities. Each district is rich with culture and history – you are never far from something worth visiting. Checkpoint Charlie is usually one of the first stops for tourists, as are the Reichstag and Brandenburg Gate. Throughout the city, parts of the Berlin Wall remain and the art covered surfaces are not to be missed. Whether you are here for two days or two months, there is never a shortage of sights to be seen or monuments to visit.

Cara-Caird Hunter

Alexanderplatz

During your stay in Berlin, you will almost definitely visit Alexanderplatz, even if only to pass through it. 'Alex' as Berliners label it; is the most popular square of the city and is always abuzz with tourists and locals alike. Left and right there is something waiting to catch the eye from street entertainers to magicians, food stalls to cocktails bars and so much more. Named after the Russian Emperor

Alexander I in 1805, the square has been a focal point of the city for centuries. Having undergone many redevelopments, the square now contains the TV tower, the 'Fountain of International Friendship' and the World Time Clock - all major tourist attractions themselves. Surrounding the square are more commercial buildings such as the Galeria Kaufhof, a huge department store which covers over 35,000 square metres across its six floors, a cinema and Alexa - a massive shopping centre. Although many stalls and entertainers are seasonal, there is always something going on in this square. Because of its popularity, it is a target for pick-pockets,

so take care here. Alexanderplatz has an exciting atmosphere and it is a transport hub too. Trams, trains and buses are nearby and even run through it, so it's a place you're bound to stumble across.

Alex Gardner

Alexanderplatz, 10178
Alexanderplatz (U2, U5, U8;
S3, S5, S7, S75)



Brandenburger Tor

Brandenburg Gate

The Brandenburg Gate is Berlin's most iconic landmark. The six enormous sandstone columns, crowned with the fierce-looking quadriga statues is a former gate to the city, which marks the Unter den Linden road leading to the Prussian palace. Completed in 1791, it was designed as a peace symbol by Carl Gotthard Langhans for Friedrich Wilhelm II and imitates the Propylaea gate to the Acropolis in Athens.

In 1806, the ornate Eirene, Goddess of Peace, quadriga was captured

by Napoleon in the Battle of Jena-Auerstedt. After Napoleon's defeat in 1814, it was returned, and the oak wreath replaced with a cross, transforming it into Victoria, the Goddess of Victory.

The gate was also used as a Nazi party symbol and was damaged during WWII bombing, but has since been restored.

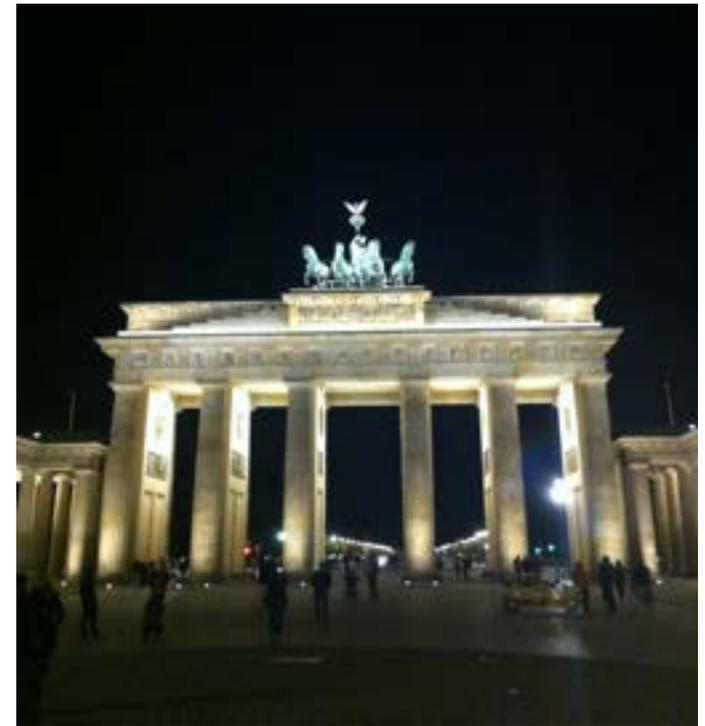
During the partition of East and West Germany, the gate was inaccessible, situated in the 'death strip' of the Berlin Wall. It became a world-renowned symbol for the city's divide. Now it is a symbol for its unity, reopened in 1989 when the West German Chancellor and East German Prime Minister greeted each other underneath it.

The historical importance of this landmark makes it one for your itinerary. It is most spectacular at night when the gate is stunningly illuminated.

Olivia Pinnock

Pariser Platz, 10117
Brandenburger Tor (U55, S1, S2,
S25)

www.visitberlin.de/en



Bebelplatz

"That was only a prelude, there where they burn books, they burn people in the end." These words were written by poet Heinrich Heine over a century before the Nazi regime saw the burning of countless books and the destruction of innumerable human lives. Bebelplatz was the site of the burning of 'subversive' books which were written by brilliant writers of philosophy, literature and science. The square now houses a subtle but thought-provoking memorial to the 1933 book burning. The memorial is an installation which