

BERLIN

TO SEE
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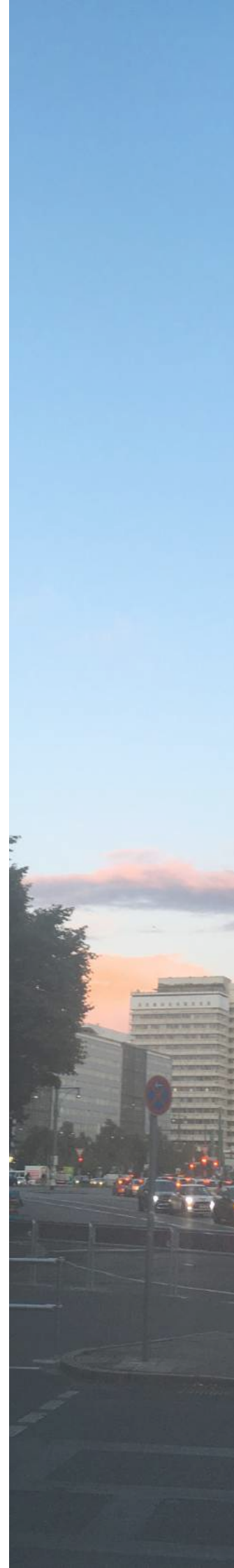
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INTRODUCTION

Split up in to three easy to read chapters, this guide fills you in on how best to explore, experience and dine in Berlin.

One of Europe's most exciting cities, Berlin proudly boasts a dynamic art scene, a fusion of iconic architectural styles and of course, its position as the spiritual homeland of techno.

Encompassing a varied history, Berlin has become a fascinating cul-

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tural hub. Soviet Memorials exist alongside old American Army Checkpoints and Prussian palaces dominate the landscape on the outskirts of a metropolis that later favoured Communist architecture. The ambiv-

alent nature of Berlin is what has made it such a diverse and remarkable city to visit. The wide scope of reviews here aims to provide all the information you need to know when staying in what David Bowie once called, "the greatest cultural extravaganza that one could imagine".

The guide is a useful tool for helping you to discover the city, with the three main chapters providing easy reading



Emmi Harris

on things To See, To Do and To Eat – simply skip to the desired chapter to read reviews on Berlin's most famous, and occasionally lesser known, attractions and eateries. Smaller subsections such as The Survival Guide, History and Transport are there to help you plan your way around the city, understand important historical context or learn some useful phrases and cultural references to help you through your visit.



Featured in this guide are some of Berlin's more quirky haunts, including reviews on Bearpit Karaoke – expect to see some epic singing at this outdoor amphitheater, or Liquidrom – think swimming in the dark salt water pools whilst listening to techno music. Berlin truly is a city that has something for everyone.

Hab eine schöne Reise!



HISTORY

Kieran Gale and Tyler Nevins

Everywhere you look in Berlin you are constantly reminded of its turbulent past. It was in 1415 that the city was first formally recognised, after Frederick the Elector of the Hohenzollern family became the first leader of the unified state.

Fast forward to 1740. Frederick II, known as Frederick the Great, ascended to the throne of the Prussian Empire. Frederick led several successful military campaigns but despite all his prowess his legacy lies in his relationship with the humanities. Berlin became a beacon of Enlightenment thinking and that tradition has been carried through to modern day.

The century following Frederick's rule was one of massive upheaval and change for Berlin. Otto von Bismarck unified the German states and made Berlin the capital. The city flourished under his rule and factories in the industrial district pro-

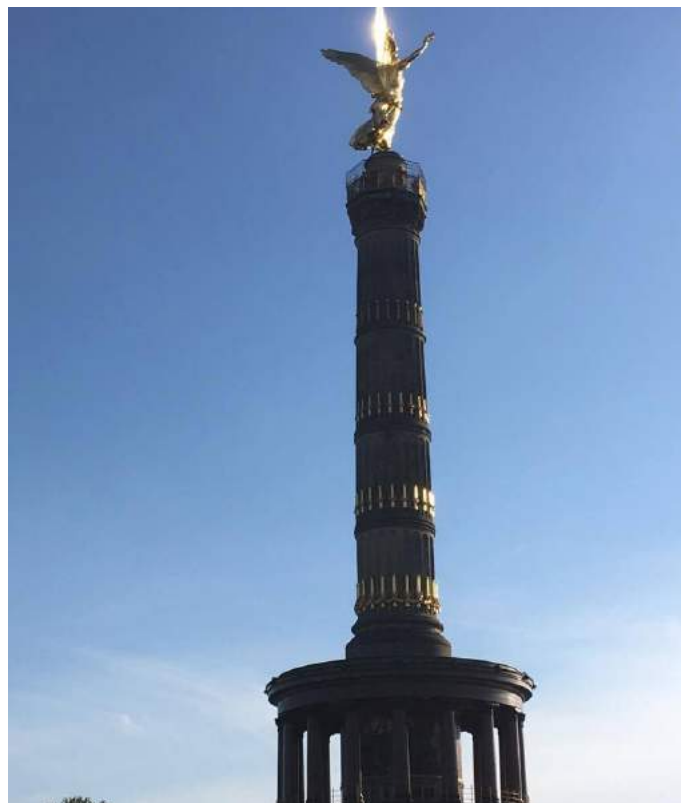
duced equipment for his army. Today, his success is recognized by a large statue which can be found in Tiergarten.

1918 and the Germans had just suffered a crushing defeat in the Great War. German currency inflated to unseen heights as the populous fell into a period of economic misery. The new democratic government was already at risk of collapse due to pressure from radical political movements, however, by utilizing loans from American banks Gustav Stresemann stabilized the economy. 1924-28 became known as the Golden Years and artists, musicians and authors alike thrived in what was now the most liberal city in the world. The impact of the Golden Years can still be seen today as Berlin's cultural scene is unavoidable.

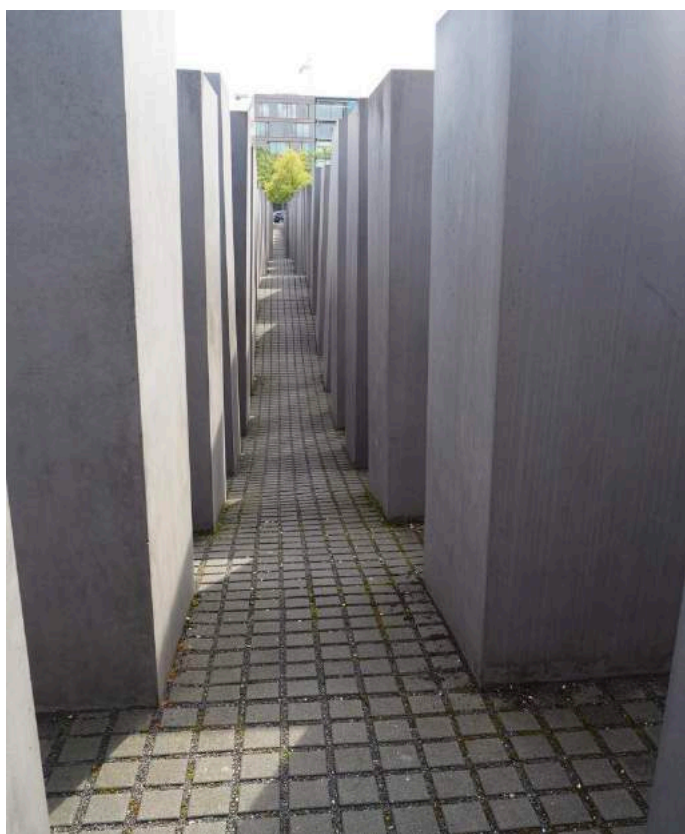
The 1930's saw the rise to power of Adolf Hitler. His Nazi party painted a glorious

utopian vision of a German Empire, united under his rule. In 1939 Hitler plunged the world into chaos by initiating World War Two. Hitler was destined for failure however as the Third Reich could not outlast the sheer strength and numbers of the Allied powers. On 2 May, the Germans issued an unconditional surrender bringing the war in Europe to an end. It was then decided that Berlin was to be split. Post-war jurisdiction of the East was entrusted to the Russians and the West to the Americans, British and French.

For the next 45 years, Berlin remained fractured. The disparity of living conditions between East and West Berlin led to the migration of thousands from the Russian zone to the Allied zone. In 1961 the U.S.S.R decided to clamp down upon the mass migration, and built the Berlin Wall. This wall circled the entirety of west Berlin, separating it from both East Berlin and Eastern



Germany. It wasn't until 1989 that this divide was ended, with the wall slowly removed from Berlin's cityscape. Today, the wall features in several museums and is the centrepiece of the East Side Gallery.



After the removal of the wall, Berlin began an extensive process of repair. This process is ongoing, and the disparity between East and West is still very much tangible today. While the West boasts architecturally appealing streets, the East is still somewhat underdeveloped. But for all the inequality that is still seen decades after the fall of the wall, Berlin's wealth of history and political activism continues to attract creatives from all over the world. Arts, music, architecture, and technology: Berlin has a certain appeal that gives it international magnetism. The winding tale of Berlin is far from finished, and a new chapter has only just begun.

Travelling to Berlin by car

One of the most exciting ways to travel to Berlin is by car along the Autobahn with its lack of speed limits. Just be wary of others driving at manic rapidity. The recommended route into Berlin via car is the Bundesautobahn 10. Officially the longest motorway in Europe, this route encircles the capital. Another important route is the Berliner Stadtring which is the main motorway situated around Berlin's inner-city. It is best that you figure the best route to take into Berlin before travelling to avoid getting lost in the depths of Germany's autobahns.

Renting a car

If you're planning on renting a car in Berlin, then you're in luck. Both within the city and at Berlin's major airports, car rental places are never far away. If you're already in Berlin you can find major hire car companies in many of Berlin's neighbourhoods. If you're travelling by plane into either of Berlin's airports both are also equipped with rental car accessibility within their grounds.

Travelling to Berlin by plane

Berlin can be reached by the majority of international airports. Many other smaller airports fly into Germany's two major airports as well. However, it is worth checking out whether your local airports have direct flights to and from the city. Berlin has two main airports, Berlin Schönefeld (SXF) located in the south-east and Berlin Tegel (TXL), located in the north-west. Both cater for international arrivals however Schönefeld generally caters for low budget airlines such as EasyJet and Ryanair.

Travelling by taxi

Taxis are relatively cheap and are easy to hail down within the city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods. International taxi firms such as Über and myTaxi are also available with prices identical to their fares in other countries. However, if paying by card there will be an extra 1.50 € surcharge on top of your overall bill. Try to avoid getting taxis at rush hour as the city's main roads can get quite busy.

TRANSPORT

Berlin WelcomeCards

Upon your arrival, be sure to check out the Berlin WelcomeCards on offer. Available from all stations, they limit the inconvenience of buying tickets on demand. Ranging in price according to your stay's duration and zone access, there are many different versions available. There are, however, only two zone options of the card available: AB or ABC. As Berlin is comprised of all three of these zones, the latter option is preferable. Whilst central attractions lie largely within Zones A and B, destinations such as Potsdam or Schönefeld Airport extend into Zone C. As a result, the ABC WelcomeCard is a good option for those looking to visit outer areas on a more frequent basis or alternatively, extension tickets can be purchased upon request.

Buses

Much like the tram, buses are a good option for those casually looking to wander the city at their leisure. The next stop is announced prior to your arrival, providing a clear method of tracking your direction for those unfamiliar to their surroundings. The regular buses run between 6.30am to 12.30 am. The night buses span the hours 12.30am to 4.30am for when the U-Bahn slows down. Twelve 'express' buses marked with 'x' numbers also provide a faster means of transport for those in need of a speedy delivery.

S-Bahn

The S-Bahn is predominately used for visiting destinations outside of Zone A. With the majority of the S-Bahn above ground, the trains are a useful way of crossing into the suburbs whilst also providing open views of Berlin on route. Prided on its speed, the S-Bahn is the fastest way of spanning greater distances across and around the city.

Tram and Metro

Tramlines are scattered across Berlin roads, making them of easy access for pedestrians looking for spontaneity in their travel. Trams with an 'M' number are known as 'metro trams'. These run more regularly than regular trams, usually scheduled every ten minutes as opposed to every 20-30 minutes. As metro trams operate 24/7, they are a useful alternative to the S-Bahn during the week when evening service fails to operate as regularly.

U-Bahn

The U-Bahn is geared towards smaller range trips, making it the desired mode of travel for shorter stop adventures. Unlike the S-Bahn, these underground trains run 24 hours from Friday to Sunday, making it an integral part of your journey for weekend nights out. As service is so regular (usually every five-ten minutes), the U-Bahn is preferable for ensuring a prompt mode of transport to areas of a close proximity.



Carrie Hutchinson and Anna Sagar

Survival Guide

Taking you from beginner to Berliner