



Beneath Berlin.

A Beginner's Guide to the German Capital.



Section key.



-Sights and Monuments-



-Art and Museums-



-Outdoors-



-Food and drink-



-Nightlife-



-Shopping-



-Entertainment-



-Accommodation-

Symbol key.



-Editor's Crown-

This symbol indicates that our crack teams of eaters, drinkers, party goers and art critics have chosen the crowned article as truly the best of Berlin.



-Bargain Birdsong-

This symbol indicates when something is best for a budget without compromising on quality - it essentially appears when good things are going cheap.

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Ampelmann: Who is he?



Remember the traffic man you see when you cross the street? Have you ever wondered if it was more than a stop/go sign? Different countries have varied versions of what Berliners call the "Ampelmännchen". If you ever get lost, just look at the traffic lights. Unlike the dull Western traffic lights, East Berlin has its own distinctly peculiar cartoon man. So be careful not to jaywalk, the Ampelmann is watching you!

The Ampelmann is famous for being one of the few remaining symbols of East Germany that survived the Iron Curtain. Translated, Ampelmännchen means 'little traffic light man'. Designed in 1961 by traffic psychologist, Karl Peglau, the idea was to make traffic lights easier for children to understand. Before 1990, East Berlin used Ampelmann as an expression of its individuality. There have been attempts to standardize the traffic man in East Berlin, but it has survived until now becoming a type of new cult and interest for tourists of the city.

There are five Ampelmann merchandise stores in Berlin:



Hackescher Markt, Potsdamer Platz, Karl Liebknecht Straße, Gendarmenmarkt and Unter den Linden. For those with a sweet-tooth, complimentary Ampelmann gummy sweets are available in every store so feel free to help yourself. The shops sell a plethora of Ampelmann products from postcards, T-shirts, hoodies, and posters to desk and wall lamps, clocks, and environmental bags. You can now shop for Ampelmann online as well through its website: www.ampelmannshop.com

If you are feeling thirsty you can sit down in one of the mini Ampelmann cafés and sip on some sensual tea or coffee from an Ampelmann coffee mug. Those hungry for a bite can dine at the Ampelmann restaurant-bar in Hackescher Markt. Ampelmann gastronomy is primarily Mediterranean, placing emphasis on its 'homemade' bread, cakes and deserts. For more details please visit: ampelmann-restaurant.de/index_de.phtml

-Qing Wu-



Café am Neuen See Bier Garten

Lichtensteinallee 2
Mitte

U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm

Prices: 2.60€ - 9€

Hours:

Mon-Fri From 11:00

Sat-Sun From 12:00

www.cafe-am-neuen-see.de

The first thing that you notice when stepping through to Café am Neuen See's beer garden is how picturesque the setting is. Nestled in Tiergarten, it is possible to lose yourself in the serene atmosphere with the jovial locals.

The setting is beautiful on a summer's day. The light glistens on the water with hypnotic frequency, creating a hazy and dreamy atmosphere which is hard to replicate. Groups of people take off on boats and the sound of splashing water weaves itself with the sounds of conversation and laughter.

If you want to escape the bustle of the beer garden then you can take to the water for 5€ per half hour.



All the lakes are connected, which presents a great opportunity to improve your rowing skills.

As if the beer garden needed any more charm, drinks are served in a quaint, open plan, wooden structure. If you do not fancy a beer then try a Spezi, a mix of cola and orange juice. It may sound strange, but it is surprisingly refreshing and fits well with the summery atmosphere.

Overall Café am Neuen See is one of the more unique beer

gardens. The setting and atmosphere alone outweigh the premium that you can pay for drinks.

-Lorcan James-

Burgermeister

Oberbaumstraße 8
Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg
U-Bahn: Schlesisches Tor
Open Daily, 11:00 - 02:00
www.burger-meister.de

Situated beneath a busy railway junction in an old converted toilet, Burgermeister is certainly not the typical burger stall. The setting to some may cause intrigue; while others repulsion, but the truth of this highly popular stall is that its food is simply excellent. Stated as one of Berlin's leading street-food stalls Burgermeister serves a small, yet highly crafted menu. Eight different burgers are available alongside the usual accompaniment of chips and homemade dips. The self-titled Hausmeista burger is arguably their best, and most expensive, coming loaded with a variety of mouth-watering toppings such as champignons, cheese, and jalapenos.

The burgers themselves are presented on a golden toasted sesame seed bun, with a modest yet highly satisfying beef patty cooked to perfection with a fresh, crunchy salad garnish accompaniment. In terms of price point these burgers are incredible value considering their size and remarkable quality.

Despite a constant rush the ticket style ordering system is streamlined to minimise waiting times. Seating is somewhat limited but a small sculpture park opposite has several benches and plenty of space to eat in peace. Alternatively there are also beer crates cleverly turned into chairs with wooden back rests slotted in completing the street-food experience.

-Andrew Jackson-



The Bird

Falkplatz 5

Prenzlauerberg

U-Bahn: Schönhauser Allee

Hours: Mon-Fri 18:00-24:00

Sat-Sun 12:00-24:00

www.thebirdinberlin.com

An all-American New Yorker restaurant, The Bird has an incredible mix of upbeat music, delicious food, and a highly agreeable, easy-going atmosphere. Burgers and steaks are the specialty here and it is in this they exceed, propelling themselves into the higher echelons of Berlin's burger culture.

Going by inventive names such as 'Da Birdhouse' (the house burger), 'The Lousy Hunter' (veggie burger), and



'Ghetto Deluxe' (cheese burger) the establishment invites an overwhelming friendly and relaxed clientele to its doors. The menu kicks off with a pleading phrase, 'PLEASE. At least try eating the damn burger with your hands.' This restaurant/bar then is not the typical establishment but one that revels in tongue-in-cheek one liners and other acumen, whilst serving up well-crafted wholesome dishes.

All burgers and steaks are cooked to order and served with a variety of sauces, including an alarming array of hot sauces: Mega Death possibly being the one to avoid. Freshly cut and golden fried chips garnished in a paprika style spice provide the accompaniment, alongside a crunchy salad mix. The burgers themselves are 250 grams of prime, freshly ground beef sourced locally. Dripping with juices and flavour everything else almost serves as mere accessories to decorate the plate. Only everything else is just as mouth-watering.

-Andrew Jackson-

Nightlife

The clubbing scene in Berlin is famous the world over for its sheer excess. However to say that Berlin even has a Nightlife may be a bit of a misnomer. Home to legendary clubs such as the Berghain that stay open long into the daylight hours and often straight through them, a night out for the average Berliner may not end until mid-afternoon. Although most clubs enforce a strict entry policy and have at least a ten euro cover charge once through the door the world is left outside. Berlin's party scene is renowned for a reason, but due to the no camera policy in most of, especially the larger, clubs you'll have to explore yourself to find out why.

Badehaus

99 Revaler Straße
Friedrichshain

U-Bahn: Warschauer Straße

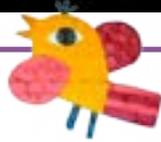
Admission: 3€-10€

Hours: 20:00 weekdays, 23:00 weekends.

<http://www.badehaus-berlin.com>

The Raw Tempel area of Friedrichshain holds some of Berlin's most unique hotspots. Street art covering the walls and first rate decorations are the standard here, and Badehaus is no exception. With

red velvet curtains bordering the stage, complex light visuals



on the walls and an intimate dance floor this small club offers everything you could ask from it.

The venue really shines on Tuesday nights when the house hip-hop band "The Swag" are joined on stage by some of the finest musicians visiting the city and many talented regulars. Expect everything from violinists to Bhangra singers performing to a crowd of Berlin's most receptive rap music enthusiasts.

Don't go expecting any fancy cocktails but the choice of beers is varied and reasonably priced. The entry on the weekdays is cheap and security lax, it's the perfect way to spend an enjoyable and straight up cool evening out.

-Alexander Richards-

Die Berliner Republik

Schiffbauerdamm 8,
Mitte

U-Bahn: Friedrichstraße
Admission: 1.60€ Upwards

Hours: Mon - Sun
10:00 - 6:00

www.die-berliner-republik.de

Offering a range of 18 draught beers, fluctuating prices and a kitchen that is open until 6am, the Berliner Republik offers an interesting alternative to your typical bar.

There aren't many places in Berlin where you can buy a beer for €1.60. Every day after 5 pm, the regular prices are abandoned and instead are dictated by supply and demand. Television screens show the differences in price and eager drinkers clamour to the bar when the stock market crashes. The televisions do not detract from the atmosphere where they would normally be an unwelcome distraction.

It is easy to get carried away, especially when the countdown timer ticks down and you question whether or not to buy a drink. The bar is especially fun with friends; just make sure you are not the one paying 4€ for a drink.



Inside the bar is adorned with satirical images of famous people, including Margaret Thatcher, Karl Marx and Albert Einstein. These add a cheeky spark to the bar, which is adopted by the friendly and helpful staff. If you're patient enough wait for the bells to ring, all drinks will be at their minimum price.

-Lorcan James-

Contributors' Profiles.

Dom Walker is a dancing machine. Hitting every club in the city, every day of the week, no one can rival his determination to disco.



Extremely hard working as a writer, determined to be a German speaker and ideal for a good chat or a great laugh on a night out, Journalism Graduate *Stuart Blythe* is the gay best friend you've always wanted.



Don't underestimate low key *Lorcan James*; while he may question every rule of the German language, he is now a fully converted Berlin night owl with regular appearances at the Berghain.



Appearing reserved and quiet, this Italian girl is secretly intelligent. So secret she might belong in the FBI. Beware of *Giorgia* when you write anything in Italian, French or German she will correct your every error.



Drawn to Berlin for its history, *Andrew Jackson* soon found himself surrounded by Berlin's street food. His writing prowess and researching ability ensured no food establishment was left without a review.



With her cheerful and sunny personality and her extreme good German, you could not ask for a better travel companion to discover Berlin. Directly from Oxford, here you are *Christina!*



Whether it's with her early morning runs, her flair for journalism or her relentless partying, *Phoebe Inglis-Holmes* is an inexhaustible Scottish machine who you definitely want on your team.



With a contagious lust for life, natural creative flair and a remarkable passion for travel, versatile *Rhiannon Edwards* is perfectly suited to travel journalism. Her worldly experience has given her an astute sense of judgement. She's a friend and an inspiration to us all.



Effortlessly cool, *Rachel Nolan* is someone who Katie Griffiths would like to party with, and if that's not a compliment I don't know what is.



Whether *Alicia Ramirez* is dancing in her native desert, or doing Swing and Salsa by the River Spree, this free spirited adventurer, sure knows how to shake it. Dang it!



A vital layout member, *Xander Richards* and his goldie-locks can maintain a consistent tranquil balance between work and play. The amusing English major is a stickler for perfection and expects nothing less than that from his peers.



With a natural creative flair and determination, there's no doubt this talented young girl is going places. Charming and assertive with an edgy alternative style, *Katie Griffiths* suits Berlin to a T.



Happy-go-lucky and hailing from Hong Kong *Qing Wu* has a spring in her step and the right attitude. The world is her oyster and she is a pearl.

