

berlin
there, done
that...

a guide for young travellers





guten tag!

Tom Thrower | Senior Writer

This guide is aimed at you.

Yes, you, the person reading this guide right now.

You want to know about Berlin, the best museums and sights to see?

The best places to get a bite to eat, and sample some of Germany's fine beer?

The places to indulge in a spot of retail therapy, and the get a good nights sleep?

Well you have come to the right place, as 'Berlin There, Done That...' is tailor made to giving you all the best advice. Meaning you can make the most of your stay in Germany's capital city.

how to use this guide

The district each attraction is located in has been indicated using one of the coloured dots listed below:

- Mitte
- Kreuzberg
- Tiergarten
- Charlottenburg
- Lichtenburg
- Schöneberg
- Steglitz-Zehlendorf
- Neukölln
- Prenzlauer Berg
- Friedrichshain
- Wilmerdom
- Out of city-limit

Deciding where to eat out on a budget can be difficult, that's why we've devised a price scale based on an average meal, detailed below:

- € = €0-€2
- €€ = €2-€5
- €€€ = €5-€10
- €€€€ = €10-€15
- €€€€€ = €15+



a brief history of berlin...

Tom Thrower | Senior Writer

Berlin is a city with a deep and intriguing history. Founded jointly with Cölln in 1237, the two were trading posts and were merged into one town in 1307. Berlin's fascination with bears started in 1280 with its town seal. It increased in size and importance over the centuries, in 1400 around 8,500 lived there and in 1500 it was 12,000 – it was prospering. Then came the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), Berlin tried to stay neutral but that plan failed, as both sides pillaged, looted and generally ruined the town. Afterwards Berlin was broke, ruined, starving, swarming with disease and its population had plummeted to 6,000.

as The Great Elector (1640-1688), who turned the town's fortunes around. He replenished the town's population, inviting all the oppressed religious minorities of Europe to live in Berlin – especially the French Huguenots. This, and the town's economic growth, brought the town's population to 22,000. He also fortified the town's defences, built roads, canals and started the development of Unter den Linden. The town's stature really grew when Elector Friedrich III (1688-1701) gave himself a little present and made himself King of Prussia in 1701, making Berlin the royal residence and the capital city.

In came Friedrich Wilhelm, known

Architecturally, Berlin beautification

really started during Friedrich II's reign (1740-1786), known as Frederick the Great. The Staatsoper (State Opera House), St Hedwigs Cathedral and Humboldt Universität (Humboldt University) were all erected in his reign as part of his vision for Unter den Linden –the most famous street in Berlin. As well as architecture, and the inevitable fondness for war that all Prussian rulers shared, he embraced the ideas of the enlightenment. He abolished torture, guaranteed religious freedom, and introduced legal reforms. As well as this he was a major connoisseur of the arts, and a fanatical fan of the flute – Berlin became a capital of culture in this era, a precursor almost to the 1920s. During Friedrich Wilhelm III's reign (1797-1840) Napoleon occupied Berlin for three years – and economic

and political turmoil ensued. Although Napoleon did give Berlin a form of self governance – which was followed up by mere token reforms, eventually culminating in the ultimately doomed, and quite bloody, revolution for democracy in 1848. The early 19th century was the age of the classically inspired architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel. He designed the Neue Wache (New Guard House), the Konzerthaus (Concert Hall) as well as the famous Altes Museum (Old Museum) – playing a big part in shaping modern day Berlin.

Berlin became the capital of a unified Germany in 1871; the Deutsches Reich was born (German Empire). It grew in size dramatically, with a population of 400,000 in 1847, 931,984 in 1871, and 1,900,000 in 1900. Alongside this population

growth, Berlin's international power grew – as it sought to expand its empire and achieve its 'rightful' place in the sun. All the friction, antagonism, conflicting alliances and the nautical arms race with Britain resulted in WWI – which had serious consequences for Berlin and Germany. The democratic Weimar Republic was one, but painful hyper inflation was another – in September 1923 a kilo of rye bread was 3,600,000 million marks! Just to give that figure some perspective, the following month \$1 was worth 4,200,000 marks.

Up until 1929, Berlin was booming – it experienced a cultural and artistic heyday that lasted until the American stock market crash of 1929. The economic disaster saw 664 Berlin businesses go bankrupt and 450,000 thousand people lose their jobs in February alone. Protests, riots and political clashes ensued with the Nazi party rising to power in 1932. They subjugated, oppressed and murdered whole sections of society; anyone with a left wing viewpoint or affiliation, Jews, homosexuals, gypsies – banning trade unions and removing Jewish people from the civil service for example. Hitler undid all of the liberalisation of society that was achieved in the 1920s, and led Germany to a ruinous war.

Post 1945 Berlin was a divided city, France, Britain and America got the West, and the Soviet Union got the east. With the Cold War between



America and the Soviets waging on, Berlin became its frontline – with the Berlin Wall assembled on August 13th 1961. The acrimonious state of affairs remained relatively unchanged till the 1980s, when Russian leader Gorbachev and U.S. president Reagan made real efforts to ending the feud. Resulting in that fateful moment, November 9th 1989, when the wall fell – unfortunately, though, to the tune of the horrendously cheesy 'Looking for Freedom' by David Hasselhoff.

Germany was reunified in 1990, a common currency and economic union came in July and the GDR collapsed in October. In the same month the public voted for Berlin to be the country's capital, and for the Government to be based there. From then on Berlin became the modern, liberal and sprawling metropolis we know today, a metropolis with 3,500,000 million inhabitants and – the fact you've been waiting to hear – 1,700 bridges!





a guide to berlin's public transport

Verónica Terriente

Berlin's local transport will make your experience in the city much easier. With its extended system you will be able to travel safely and cheaply to all the most important places.

The BVG (Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe), Berlin's transport authority, operates bus, underground U-Bahn and tram networks. The S-Bahn (overground railway) is run by its own authority, but services are integrated within the same three-zone tariff system.

tickets + fares

There are three different pay zones. Zone A covers all areas within the S-Bahn and Zone B goes to Berlin's city limits. Zone C covers Berlin's nearby surrounding areas such as Schönefeld Airport or Potsdam. You can get a combined ticket covering zones AB, BC and ABC.

To buy your tickets you can use one of the many BVG and S-Bahn Berlin ticket selling areas or the machines in the stations, which are available in six languages (German, English, French, Spanish, Turkish and Polish). Don't forget to validate your ticket in the small yellow or red box next to the machine, which stamps it with the time and date. Tickets bought on trams or buses are usually already validated.

Single	€1.50
Single AB	€2.60
Single BC	€2.90
Single ABC	€3.20

one-day-ticket

This allows travel throughout the whole day for as many trips as desired. The ticket is valid from the day of its validation until 03:00 the following day and costs €6.70 in tariff zone AB, reduced €4.70.

seven-day-ticket

This counts for seven consecutive days from the day of its validation. The ticket costs €28.80. Its validation ends on the seventh day at midnight.

small-group-day-ticket

This allows up to 5 people to use all public transportation services until 03:00 the following day. The small-group day ticket costs €16.20 in tariff zone AB.

Berlin WelcomeCard

This offers free travel on public transport in Berlin AB zones or ABC zones in Berlin and Potsdam. This includes numerous discounts at many of the cultural and tourist highlights.

info + maps

For both BVG and S-Bahn you will find any information you may need on their website. There is usually someone who speaks English at the 24 hour BVG Call Centre (19449) or visit:

www.bvg.de
www.s-bahn-berlin.de

A map can become your 'best friend' if you are not that good at orientation. They can be picked up for free at ticket offices or from the grey-uniformed Zugabfertiger (Passenger Assistance Personnel) who wander about the larger U-Bahn and S-Bahn stations.

travelling at night

Berlin has an ample night-line network that covers all parts of town with 59 bus and tram routes running every 30 minutes between 00:30 and 4:30. Before and after these times the regular timetable for bus and tram routes applies.

taxis

Berlin has compulsory tariffs for all taxis. Within the city area, passengers must pay the fare according to the meter but in case you travel beyond the city borders you can agree a price with the driver, except for Schönefeld Airport.

Taxi Fares to Schönefeld Airport:

From City West (Station Zoo):

€38 approx.

From City East (Alexanderplatz):

€38 approx.

Taxi Fares to Tegel Airport:

From City West (Station Zoo):

€20 approx.

From City East (Alexanderplatz):

€25 approx.

Some taxi telephone numbers are:

(030) 44 33 22 Taxi Funk Berlin

(030) 26 10 26 Funk Taxi Berlin

(030) 26 30 00 Quality Taxi

(030) 21 01 01 Würfelfunk

(030) 21 02 02 City Funk

getting to + from the airports

Tegel

This airport is connected with the city centre by 4 bus routes:

JetExpressBuss TXL - running every 15 or 20 minutes depending on the hours, for €3 approx.

Express X9 and **Lines 128 + 109** - running every 15 minutes and connecting you with the main underground stations.

Schönefeld

The most comfortable way to get to the city centre is with the **Airport Express** train. The lines RE4 and RE5 will take you to the Central Station every 30 minutes for €3.

Or, take the S-Bahn lines S9 and S45, running every 40 minutes.

The **Shuttle Bus** (€3), or the **Lines 100 + 200**, are the most used by tourists.





survival guide to berlin

Samantha Sullivan + Sally Elliot

do's + don'ts

DON'T expect to pay with a debit or credit card at restaurants or small shops – keep some cash on you.

DON'T vandalise – the city is littered with so much graffiti that people assume it's legal – it's not!

DO bring student ID – you'll get discounts on public transport, activities and at most museums and galleries.

DO bring comfortable shoes – Berlin is a huge city.

DO validate your travel card – even if you have a ticket, fines and public humiliation are both possible if it hasn't been validated.

when to go

Berlin is lively all year round, but particularly busy through the summer months. For a less tourist crammed experience try April, May or September. The weather is not as predictable but it tends to be reasonably warm with averages of 15-19°C.

Christmas is also a fantastic time to visit – winter markets and beautiful lights brighten the city. But don't expect the Caribbean – Berlin is cold at this time of year and snow is possible.

where to go

Mitte

The most central of 12 districts and home to some of the most important historical points of the city (The Brandenburg Gate, The Reichstag, Alexanderplatz and Museum Island).

Charlottenberg

Filled with upmarket shops and restaurants, come here for a more sophisticated occasion.

Kreuzberg

Edgy and lively. The best place for nightlife and vintage shopping, and the hipster hub of the city.

Freidrichshain

Filled with students, this punchy and exciting district is one of the cheapest to eat and drink.

what to eat

This city is full of variety and you'll find delicious fast food vendors and reasonably priced restaurants to choose from all over.

There's something to suit everyone but be sure to try the legendary Currywurst and a Döner Kebab. These dishes are sold all over the city, and they're filling, tasty and cheap!

Vegetarians won't struggle to find a substantial variety either. There's no rush to eat – some fast food joints are open 24/7.

berlin's quiet time

Tuesdays to Saturdays are a bustling frenzy city-wide. Sundays see shortened hours for shopping malls and supermarkets are closed.

While shops are back in business by Monday, museums and galleries are more often open on Sundays and closed on Mondays, so check out Museum Island or nearby parks.

getting around

Public transport here is simple, cheap, reliable and user-friendly. Check out our 'Guide to Berlin's public transport' for advice on Trams, U-bahn, S-bahn, and bus services.

Alternatively, if you're feeling fit, most places within the central circuit can be cycled to within 30 minutes. A push bike can be hired by the minute from 50 'call a bike' locations around the city centre. They cost 8 cents per minute and reach a maximum of €12 per day.

If you're around for a while, head to Mauerpark Flea Market and buy your own for around €50.

money

Compared to many other European cities, Berlin does not put too much of a dent in the back pocket.

Don't rely too heavily on your debit/credit card: many places will only accept cash. Try to use ATMs in the vestibules adjoining banks (Sparkasse, Deutsche Bank and

Berliner Bank etc.) which are usually open 24/7 and much safer than outlying machines.

Average prices

Kebab	€3
Currywurst	€2
Water	€1.20
Club Entry	€5 - €10
Museum Entry	€5 - €10

Single public transport journey (120 minutes)

Adult	€2.60
Student	€1.60

phones + numbers

The international dialling code for Germany is 0049. The area code for Berlin is (0)30.

Dial 0044 for the UK and 001 for USA.

If you're sticking around for more than a week, it may be worth getting a German SIM card for your mobile phone (only if your phone is unlocked), this will tend to let you send cheaper texts and phone calls.

SIM Cards can be purchased at most convenience stores and some supermarkets. One of the cheapest for calls and texts within Germany is blau.de (available at Norma), and for international communication, try Mobi, Lyca or Lebara. Each SIM costs about €10 and comes with €7.50 credit.

Emergency numbers

Fire Brigade	112
Police	110





36 hours in berlin

Eleanor Cobbe

Start your Saturday morning with breakfast at Ana Blume cafe in trendy Prenzlaur Berg before heading to the Brewers Free Walking Tour at 11am to get an initial glimpse of what Berlin has to offer.

Afterwards, duck into the metro at Pariser Platz (Brandenburg Tor) and take the S25 to Yorkstraße, where you can change to the U7 to Mehringdamm. Here, indulge your fast food craving with Berlin's best kebab at the famous Mustafa's – don't be put off by the line, it's worth the wait!

Energy restored, you'll be ready to tackle the East Side Gallery, a short metro ride away at Warshauer Straße. Then, if you're feeling peckish despite the huge lunch time kebab, wind off your sightseeing tour with dinner at Burgermeister a short 10 minute walk from the Wall in gritty Kreuzberg.

Appetite sated, go home to change into your glad rags and head to the Weinrei for a glass of wine or five before hitting Club der Visionaire to dance the night away.

If you wake up feeling not too refreshed, soothe your hangover with a fresh fruit and cream waffle at Kauf Dich Glücklich and recover your senses with a cup of warm Earl Grey.

Blow away the remaining cobwebs with a gentle stroll down the road to the Mauerpark flea market and rummage around the hundreds of stalls for some vintage bargains to round off your weekend in Berlin – just make sure they'll all fit in your suitcase on the way home.

sights + monuments

