

BERLIN



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INTRODUCTION

Berlin has something for everyone: whether you're a hipster or history fan, music lover or art fanatic, fashionista, foodie or techno-loving night owl. Whatever your interests, this guide has been compiled to help make your time in this vibrant city as exciting and worthwhile as possible. We have made it our mission to visit and research the best that Berlin has to offer and along with details of the top attractions, have included a survival and orientation guide to help you get started on your Berlin adventures.



HISTORY OF BERLIN

Hannah Seaton

Founded in the 13th Century, Berlin has had an eventful history. The city began as two Wendish villages: Berlin and Kölln, which merged in 1307. The city's importance grew in 1486 when it became the seat for Brandenburg's electors (later Prussia in 1701). Berlin endured long period of suffering beginning with the Thirty Years War, followed by the Seven Year

War and the Napoleonic Wars. Though, it finally emerged from the dust as a centre for German nationalism. The city expanded rapidly, the population growing tenfold from 201,000 to 2,712,000 in under a century. Berlin fast became one of the world's great urban centres, finally becoming the capital in 1871.



*Asian Palace, Park Sanssouci
Sophie Hume*

Mitte, Jannowitzbrücke

**STERN UND KREISSCHIF-
FAHRT CITY OF BERLIN
BOAT TOUR**

Jennifer Graham

Mon – Sun 0900 – 1620 (hourly departures from Jannowitzbrücke)

U-Bahn Jannowitzbrücke

+49 (0)30 5363600

www.sternundkreis.de

€20

http://www.sternundkreis.de/



*Scenes from the boat tour
Jennifer Graham*

Departing from the dock opposite Jannowitzbrücke station and lasting three and a half hours, this boat tour is a great way to see Berlin from a different perspective. It may seem a bit pricey, but you get to see most of the main sites in one trip.

After leaving Jannowitzbrücke the tour heads through Kreuzberg, where you will see the colourful East Side Gallery, then it passes under the historic Oberbaumbrücke before turning up the Landwehrkanal and passing through the Oberschleuse lock. The tour carries on past the Technical Museum, Postdamer Platz, the neoclassical Ministry of Defence building, the Bauhaus Archives

and the Tiergarten. Next you will cruise under the grand Charlottenburg Bridge, the Lutherbrücke, the white futuristic Offices of the Chancellor and the Reichstag.

The tour docks at Friedrichstraße and carries on past Museum Island and through the Mühlendamm Schleuse lock before returning to Jannowitzbrücke.

Although there are drinks and snacks available on board, it is recommended you take water with you as these can be pricey. A glass of cola costs €2.50 and the Bratwurst with bread is €3.

Make sure you ask for English commentary at the start, as tours are mostly narrated in German.

Mitte, Alexanderplatz

Charlottenburg, Zoologischer Garten

BUSES 100 & 200

Hannah Wilson

Bus number 200 from Alexanderplatz (Mitte), number 100 from Zoologischer Garten (Charlottenburg)

€2.80 per ticket.

If you are looking for an easy way to get around Berlin but do not fancy the rush of the underground, opt for the number 200 and 100 buses. At €2.80 for a ticket to the final stop, the buses provide a more comfortable alternative to the trams and u-bahn, allowing you to take in the views as you travel across Berlin. The bus numbers are clearly labelled on the bus stops, and there are boards above many stops that show when the next bus will arrive. Seating is ample, and provided you do not wish to travel at rush hour, it is unlikely that you will have to stand for your journey. Buses are spacious and clean, enabling you to sit and

enjoy watching the busy streets from your position of comfort. However, if you take your journey on a rainy day, the bus shelters provide very little cover from the bad weather. Hop on a bus from Alexanderplatz or Zoologischer Garten on a sunny day and enjoy the sights of Berlin, such as the beautiful Museum Island, Bellevue Palace, Potsdamer Platz, the extensive Tiergarten, Unter den Linden leading to Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and the Berlin Philharmonic.

Mitte, Friedrichstraße

BREWER'S WALKING TOUR

Hannah Seaton

*Ice cream shop, Friedrichstraße 96,
10117*

*U-Bahn Friedrichstraße
1300 – 1630*

*Pay what you can.
+49 (0) 177 388 1537*

www.brewersberlintours.com

A walking tour gives you a great overview of Berlin, as many of the city's major sites are within easy reach of each other.

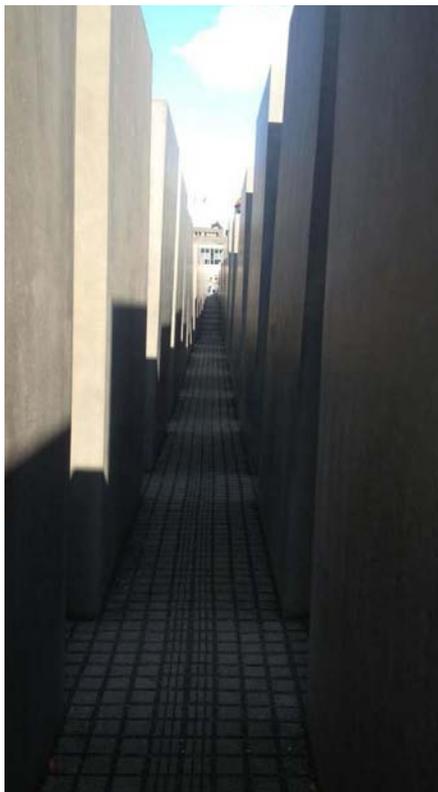
Beginning at Museum Insel (Museum Island), where five of Berlin's major museums surround the beautiful Lustgarten (Pleasure Gardens), then moving onto the Humboldt Universität, with views of some of the oldest and most stunning buildings in Berlin. Do not miss the emotive Book Burning Memorial, which is beneath a glass pane under your feet outside the Humboldt Universität.

You pass Berlin's first and most impressive Catholic Cathedral upon entering Gendarmenmarkt square. Considered the most stunning square in Berlin, it houses the Deutscher and Französischer

Doms (cathedrals) and Shinkel's imposing Konzerthaus (concert house). Around the corner is the delightfully delectable Fassbender and Rausch chocolaterie, with supersized models of famous Berlin sites in its windows.

Afterwards you stroll along Friedrichstraße shopping street to the tourist hotspot Checkpoint Charlie, for your fill of GDR tat. The tour is finished with a thought provoking walk through the Holocaust Memorial, catching a glimpse of the famous Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate).

Walking tours are an ideal way to see Berlin's major sites and learn about its history, leaving time to explore all the quirkiest sites of Berlin.



*Jewish Memorial
Hannah Seaton*

Mitte, Straße des 17. Juni
SIEGESSÄULE
VICTORY COLUMN

James Fosseydyke

Straße des 17. Juni/ Großer Stern, 10557

Berlin

*Apr-Oct Mon-Fri 0930-1830 Sat-Sun
0930-1900*

*Nov-Mar Mon-Fri 1000-1700 Sat-Sun
1000-1730*

U-Bahn Hansaplatz

+49 (0) 30 391 29 61

€3/€2.50



The Victory Column
James Fosseydyke

The Siegessäule, or Victory Column, is Berlin's monument to the Prussian victory over Denmark in 1864. Originally constructed in what is now Platz der Republik, near the Reichstag, the 67-metre column was moved to its current location in 1918. It now stands in the middle of the Großer Stern roundabout, where it is accessible only by underpasses.

Inside, a small museum takes you around bare, whitewashed rooms, decorated only with small trinkets and souvenirs of no apparent relevance - a paperweight resembling Barcelona's

Segrada Familia, for example. To justify the €3 entrance fee, visitors are best off heading straight up the stairs to the very top. The spiral staircase is narrow and steep and there is no lift, so disabled visitors should give the Siegessäule a miss. At the top there is a golden balcony with an iron cage around it. The cage feels rather oppressive, but from this vantage point the view is majestic. Unfortunately, there isn't much in the way of a roof up there, so the tower should be avoided in inclement weather. That said, when the sun comes out the top of the column affords one of the best views of Berlin and it is a great place for photos.

Mitte, Unter den Linden
NEUE WACHE
NEW GUARDHOUSE

Giorgia Masiello

Unter den Linden 4, 10117 Berlin

U-Bahn Friedrichstrasse

Bus 100, 200, TXL: Staatsoper

Mon- Sun 1000 - 1800

Admission: Free

Between the German History Museum and the Humboldt University, rises the Neue Wache. This massive neo-classical building was designed by Prussian architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel and erected in 1818 as a guardhouse for the royal palace troops. Since 1931, it has served as a memorial to all victims of war and tyranny.

After being severely damaged during World War II, the building wasn't restored until 1960, a year later, the mortal remains of an unknown soldier and an unknown concentration camp prisoner were buried there, surrounded by earth

Charlottenburg, Olympischer Platz
OLYMPIASTADION

OLYMPIC STADIUM

James Fosdyke

Olympischer Platz 3, 14053, Berlin

20.03. - 31.05. 0900-1900

01.06. - 15.09. 0900-2000

16.09. - 31.10. 0900-1900

01.11. - 19.03. 1000-1600

S-Bahn Olympiastadion

+49 (0) 302500 2322

www.olympiastadion-berlin.de



Olympia Stadium Interior

James Fosdyke

From Jesse Owens winning gold in 1936, to Zinedine Zidane's headbutt in the 2006 World Cup Final, Germany's national stadium has seen its fair share of both success and controversy.

The Olympiastadion was built for the 1936 Olympics, but now plays host to the national football team, and Berlin's top-flight side, Hertha BSC, as well as the occasional athletics meeting.

Situated in the west of the city, the stadium sits in a large complex of hockey pitches, swimming pools, and football

pitches. Covering an area of almost a square kilometre, the grounds are perfect for a stroll, whether you are interested in the sporting heritage or not.

When you exit the Olympiastadion train station, the stadium looms large on the right, a flat, stone leviathan which looks a little like a UFO crash site.

Inside the ground, you realise how huge it really is. The pitch and running track are well below ground level, and the rows of seats seem endless. The 105m long playing surface seems dwarfed by its surroundings, and, due to the running track, the seats are a long way from the action. Despite that, the place has a certain aura – the sort of *je ne sais quois* that only a sports venue can have.

The architecture, too, is amazing, in that not only does the building still fulfil all the modern safety requirements of a large stadium, but the style also seems not to have aged. Even the fixtures and fittings look modern.

The stadium is, however, as much a monument as a working venue. It would have been all too easy to sweep the past under the carpet, but that is not the done thing here in Berlin. Jesse Owens' name resides atop the roll of honour, the Olympic Rings stand proudly at the front



Olympia Stadium Exterior

James Fosdyke

Mitte

UNTER DEN LINDEN

James Fosssdyke

*Unter Den Linden 10117 Berlin
U-Bahn Brandenburger Tor*



*James Fosssdyke
Unter den Linden*

Unter den Linden is arguably the most famous street in Berlin. This expansive boulevard has seen its fair share of historic events, many of them infamous. The street begins at the iconic Brandenburger Tor (Brandburg Gate), and stretches a mile to the Museum Insel (Museum Island).

The name Unter den Linden means 'Under the Lime Trees' in English, and is derived from the trees that run down the central footpath. The majority of the trees were cut down in the 1930s by the Nazi regime to make way for Nazi flags

and to create a store of firewood. However, the trees were replanted in the 1950s, though due to the level of traffic on this busy main road, the present trees suffer at the hands of air pollution. Unter den Linden is not just a busy main street. The western end, at the Brandenburger Tor, is a beautiful open space with hotels and coffee shops, as well as governmental buildings and embassies. Further east, the street is lined with an eclectic mix of shops, museums, bars and restaurants. From the fun Ampelman shop, celebrating the famous East German traffic signal, to the Daimler restaurant, serving fine food in a car showroom setting, and Hedwig's Cathedral, a 250-year-old church.

Charlottenburg, Hardenbergplatz

BERLIN ZOO

Hannah Wilson

*Hardenbergplatz 8, 10787 Berlin
Summer Opening Times 0900 - 1900,
ticket office closes at 1800
S/U-Bahn Zoologischer Garten
+49 (0)30 254010
www.zoo-berlin.de/zoo.html*

For a chance to see the biggest variety of animal species in Europe, a visit must be paid to Berlin Zoo. Berlin's biggest zoo first opened its gates in 1844, and is recognized today as one of the most visited zoos in the world. Not only can visitors get close to exotic creatures, such as the black-winged red bishop, but for 20 cents you can also hand feed a herd of goats, which have with appetites. One of the zoo's star attractions is Ivo, the silverback gorilla. Although visitors love him, the feeling does not appear to be mutual, as he is known to throw mud and other matter at spectators with impressive force. If you have not been put

sition inside offers a chronological exploration of the building and dome. As you ascend the structure you will experience breathtaking panoramic views of Berlin's diplomatic quarter and beyond: from the Brandenburger Tor to the foresty expanse of the Tiergarten.



Inside the Dome
Sophie Hume

entrance, making your arrival feel a tad like the end of a pilgrimage.

Around the grounds you will find a few shrines, some wind chimes and even a couple of deer living there. It really does feel like you have completely escaped from Berlin's usual urban sprawl.

Inside the building there is a dark, carpeted mediation room full of mats, pillows, icons of the Buddha and that typical temple smell of incense. There is a library of Buddhist literature, which looks like it has been cobbled haphazardly together over the years. The house serves as a residence for a small number of monks and it certainly has a 'lived-in' feel. Indeed, despite it being a serious place of worship it has quite a quaint charm. An absolute must for those interested in Buddhism.

Reinickendorf, Edelhofdamm

BUDDHISTISCHE HAUS

BUDDHIST HOUSE

Stewart Yarlett

Edelhofdamm 54, 13465 Berlin,

+49 (0) 30 401 5580

S-Bnf Berlin-Frohnau

Mon- Sun 0900—1800

www.das-buddhistische-haus.de

Admission: Free

On the picturesque street of Edelhofdamm, nestled among the cobbled streets and pine trees, lies the Buddhistische Haus (Buddhist House). Built in 1924, it is the oldest place of Buddhist worship in all of Europe. Being in such scenic area, it certainly does look the part. The Ceylon-style house is actually situated on top of a small hill, meaning you have to climb a series of steps to the



Buddha Statue
Alex Gardner



FOOD & DRINK

Reinickendorf
TEGELER SEE

LAKE TEGEL

Katie Driscoll

*Greenwichpromenade, 13507 Berlin,
U-Bahn Otisstraße/ Holzhauser Straße
S-Bahn Berlin-Tegel*

Hidden in Reinickendorf, Tegeler See is a relaxing retreat away from the attitude of Berlin city life. At the heart of the park is the enormous, glistening lake flanked by benches and beer gardens and an idyllic way to doze through an afternoon is to admire the sumptuous views. Do as the Germans do and buy a beer from Fisherman's or Pavillon Am See within the park. With the beer in Germany rightfully claimed as the best, you would be foolish not to.

Tegeler See is the perfect place to forget

the misdemeanours of the night before. Any bad feeling melts away as soon as you glimpse the sun setting on the lake, dog walkers going past, runners out for a jog and the sail boats on the horizon. As you sit and admire the secluded scenery, you realise quickly that you are experiencing another side of Berlin, a softer, gentler side. The wind rustles amongst the trees and the low-key serenity envelops you, even with the chatter of geese all around.

However, it's not all calm and tranquillity. Despite the large amount of families that populate the area, party boats can be hired on the lake on Saturdays.



Tegeler See
Katie Driscoll

Charlotte Sykes

Layout/Writer



Known to spontaneously dye her hair and party solo in Berghain, Lottie is a true free spirit, though you'd be wrong if you thought her head wasn't firmly screwed on. A key member of the layout team, she knows what she wants and can be tenacious in seeing that it gets done - a very cool lady.

James Fosdyke

Layout/Writer



Able to convey himself in no less than three different tongues, James from Cheshire is a master of concision and directness. Above all, James will be remembered for his love of checked shirts, big-boys-toys and sport.

Sophie Hume

Layout/Writer



Off to Oxford University in September, this quirky star never fails to make everyone smile and is often caught touring around the vintage shops. A key member of layout, the guide wouldn't be the same without her!

Stewart Yarlett

Editor/Writer



Fancy a bit of intellectual debate or just a simple chinwag? Theologian-cum-restaurant critic Stew is your man. This editor will be remembered for his blond mop of hair, good-natured smile and impressive ability to quote any Simon & Garfunkel song.

Emma Blair

Editor/Writer



Super chic Emma has just graduated from Strathclyde University with degree in business. Besides being a classical music buff and beer enthusiast, Emma's sharp wit and funny insights kept morale up during gruelling editing sessions.

Giorgia Masiello

Writer



Working on her second guide, Giorgia comes from Turin, in Northern Italy, though she can use the English language as well as any and better than most.

Tom Thrower

Editor/Writer



Tom, or 'Tall Tom' as he is otherwise known, is unsurprisingly, distinctively tall. This cheery chap is renowned for his array of philosophical and metal-head themed t-shirts and enjoys chatting away, beer in hand, to anyone and everyone.

Alicia Ramirez

Writer



Native to the warmer climes of Arizona, smiley Alicia, or Lisa as she's otherwise known, studied communications at Grand Canyon University, meaning she's always good for a chat!

Jennifer Graham

Writer



Nursing a broken foot has hardly stopped Jen from doing anything on this guide. Rarely seen without a smile, Jen has brought a wealth of insight and laughter to the group.

Hannah Seaton

Contributor



This blonde sweetheart is often found in one of Berlin's stylish vintage shops or relaxing with a good book. Her infectious smile never fails to brighten up any day!

Hannah Wilson

Writer



Studying Film and English at Keele University, Hannah is a dedicated cinephile and has immersed herself fully in the cultural side of Berlin. She has also impressively managed to sustain being a vegan for all of her 20 years!

Katie Driscoll

Contributor



Recognisable by her long and flowing hair, and seen in many a bar and nightclub, is Katie Driscoll. A member of the editing team and going to Sussex University in September, she now knows Berlin's clubs like the back of her hand.