

Only in Berlin

THE BUDGET
TRAVELER'S GUIDE

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BERLIN CITY TRAVEL
REVIEW EDITION 2012

Brief History

A Brief History of 20th Century Berlin.



THIS IS THE REICHSTAG WHERE PARLIAMENT MEETS

The 20th century saw Germany at the heart of a stream of events which were to change the world. At the turn of the century Berlin was a city on the rise, with a booming population, a thriving cultural scene as well as being the centre of commerce. Tensions between Germany and the other European powers had been mounting due to a complex series of factors, including imperialism and militarism since the Franco - Prussian war of the 1870s. These tensions were compounded by the Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913. Germany believed it was destined to become a European superpower and WWI was fought with this in mind. This made its crushing defeat in 1918 especially hard to swallow. The Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to accept

responsibility for starting the war. The country was forced to pay crippling reparations, which were finally completed in 2010. The bright and glorious future once imagined seemed far out of reach and Germany was totally humiliated. Far from quelling Germany's ambition, this sowed the seeds of resentment and provided fertile ground in which discontent grew. The seat of government was established in Weimar in 1919. Berlin at this time was known as a fast-living, pleasure seeking melting pot of art and sex. As the currency was so weak, foreigners came from all over the world to sample the weird and wonderful delights Berlin had to offer. Edgy art, film and theatre were pouring out of Berlin. The liberty and lasciviousness of which Berlin was at the forefront was whole-heartedly embraced by many, whilst others perceived it as disgusting and sinful. It was into this divided climate that Adolf Hitler was able to step in 1933. The Nazis promised people everything they wanted. Unemployment, the economy and building Germany back into a strong, powerful nation were all on the agenda. After the insecurity of Weimar politics, many Germans saw this incredibly charismatic orator as their saviour. The Nazis wasted no time in intimidating and attacking 'undesirables' and encouraged the nation to participate. Jews, gypsies, communists, homosexuals and the disabled were among the groups who were seen as having no part in the glorious Germanic nation which was to take over the world. They were removed from public sight and systematically murdered. One of Hitler's main aims was to increase Lebensraum (living space) for Germans. He intended to do this by claiming back land taken from the country after WWI as well as pursuing an aggressive expansion policy into the rest of Europe. The invasion of Poland in 1939 provoked WWII, which was responsible for 60 million deaths. The German army was gradually defeated, and Hitler killed himself in his bunker on 30th ■■■



THE EAGLE IS THE SYMBOL OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT





THE GLASS DOME OF THE REICHSTAG BY NORMAN FOSTER

‘Berlin has reassumed the role it has returned to again and again...’

■ ■ ■ April 1945 as the Red Army marched into devastated Berlin. The allies subsequently divided the city, as they had the rest of the country, into four. The USA, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union all took a share. The Western Allies saw democracy and economic growth as the key to rebuilding a society from the wreckage. In contrast, the USSR brought Communism to the East. Throughout the 1950s and 60s the East experienced a brain drain, as the young and educated left in their thousands for the West. This was eventually stopped by building ■ ■ ■



THE MIDDLE COLUMN OF THE DOME ON THE TOP OF THE REICHSTAG

■ ■ ■ a vast wall, a physical iron curtain separating East and West Germany, and later a wall separating East and West Berlin. While many people lived ordinary and happy lives in East Berlin, the lack of intellectual and physical freedom was too oppressive for others. Many fled the country in secret, hiding inside car seats or, in one case, constructing a hot air balloon to pass over the wall. At least 136 people were killed trying to escape. West Germany, meanwhile, had reformed its currency and experienced a Wirtschaftswunder (economic miracle) which led it to become one of the world’s leading economies. As in much of the rest of the world, The 1960s saw a series of protests and demonstrations in West Germany, mainly by a young and educated section of society. They protested about the Vietnam War and civil rights, but an issue particular to Germany was holding the generation of their parents and teachers to account about their role in Nazism. The journey of Vergangenheitsbewältigung (coming to terms with the past) is at the forefront of German culture, and Berlin does not shy away from confronting its history. Communism weakened in Eastern Europe and to the disbelief and delight of many, the Berlin wall fell on 9th November 1989. Although the physical barriers were removed and one reunited country was established, many still spoke of a ‘wall in the head’ (Mauer im Kopf) to express the cultural and ideological differences 44 years of separation had caused. The government was moved back to the Reichstag in 1999, partly showing the high esteem in which Berlin was held, and partly to reconcile the East and the West. Since reunification Berlin has reassumed the role it has returned to again and again throughout history: A liberal, unpretentious magnet to artistic innovators, enriched by the wealth of cultural variety of its inhabitants. **POLLY JENKINSON**

Follow with
Fredrick the Great
on the next page.





FREDRICK THE GREAT ON UNTER DEN LINDEN

Fredrick the Great

One of the most memorable figures of this history and arguably the most celebrated is Prussian king Fredrick the Great (also known as Fredrick II or Alte Fritz). Fredrick held the throne from 1740 to 1786, leading Prussia to become one of the powerhouses of Europe. His military competence and domestic reform reshaped Prussia and laid the foundations for a successful history. Known to be a modest leader, Fredrick tried to distance himself from the idea that he was above the people. He often refused to be painted and when he was it was never in extravagant royal gowns but in his moderate military coat. One of the most recognized military campaigns he undertook was the Seven Year War. This war unified the Prussia kingdom by invading the Austrian province Silesia, and withstanding both French and Russian resistance despite having a substantially smaller army and



FREDRICK LOVED THE MUSICAL ARTS. THIS IS THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BUILDING

resources. Domestically Fredrick was an advocate of the arts and brought about changes that reflected political values greatly ahead of his time. Universal religious tolerance was introduced, as was freedom of press and elementary education. Torture was abolished and the death sentence was only legal under Fredrick's personal sanction. Reform to the legal system saw an increase in the educational requirements of Judges, which gained Prussian courts the reputation as the fairest in Europe. Furthermore, roads were built and agriculture improved to increase Prussia's self-sustainability. As Fredrick's legacy went on to significantly influence later Germany his image was adapted by the prevailing political philosophy and often used as a propaganda tool. The Nazis compared him to Hitler for his military leadership and the Soviets compared him to Marx and Stalin for his notions of equality. Today a monument of Fredrick can be seen on Unter Den Linden boulevard, it reportedly took nearly 70 years, 40 artists and 100 designs until it was accepted as suitable for the great Prussian leader. **BEN FISHEL**

‘Domestically Fredrick was an advocate of the arts and brought about changes that reflected political values greatly ahead of his time.’

Highlights

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Berlin is currently serviced by two major airports - Berlin Schoenefeld SXF and Berlin Tegel TXL. Both are due to merge in early 2013

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Class of Berlin
XVII Vintage

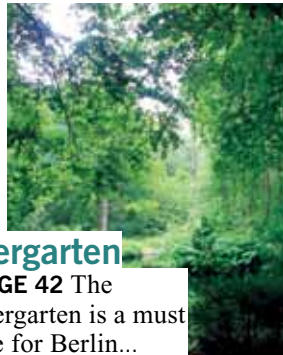
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Herr Nilsson Sweet Shop



The GDR Museum

PAGE 13 Inside, the curious world of the German Democratic Republic awaits you...



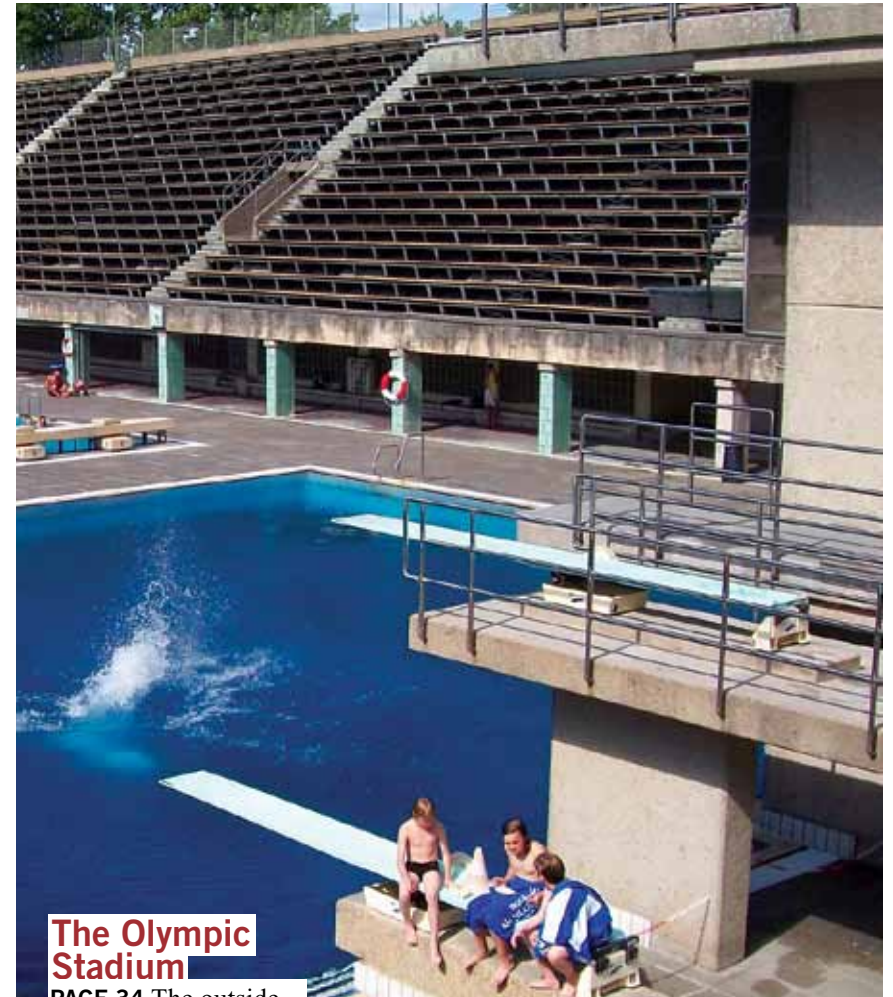
Tiergarten

PAGE 42 The Tiergarten is a must see for Berlin...



Museum of Letters

PAGE 27 Opened in 2008, its collection keeps growing ...



The Olympic Stadium

PAGE 34 The outside reflects the national Socialist past.



Mauer Park Flea Market

PAGE 108 Spend the day shopping and mingling with the crowds of eclectic visitors...

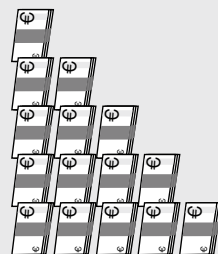


How to read this Guide

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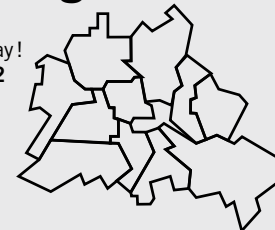
Budget Rate

All reviews are rated with a budget traveler in mind. Use our scale to find what meets your budget. PAGE 4



Getting started


Find your way!
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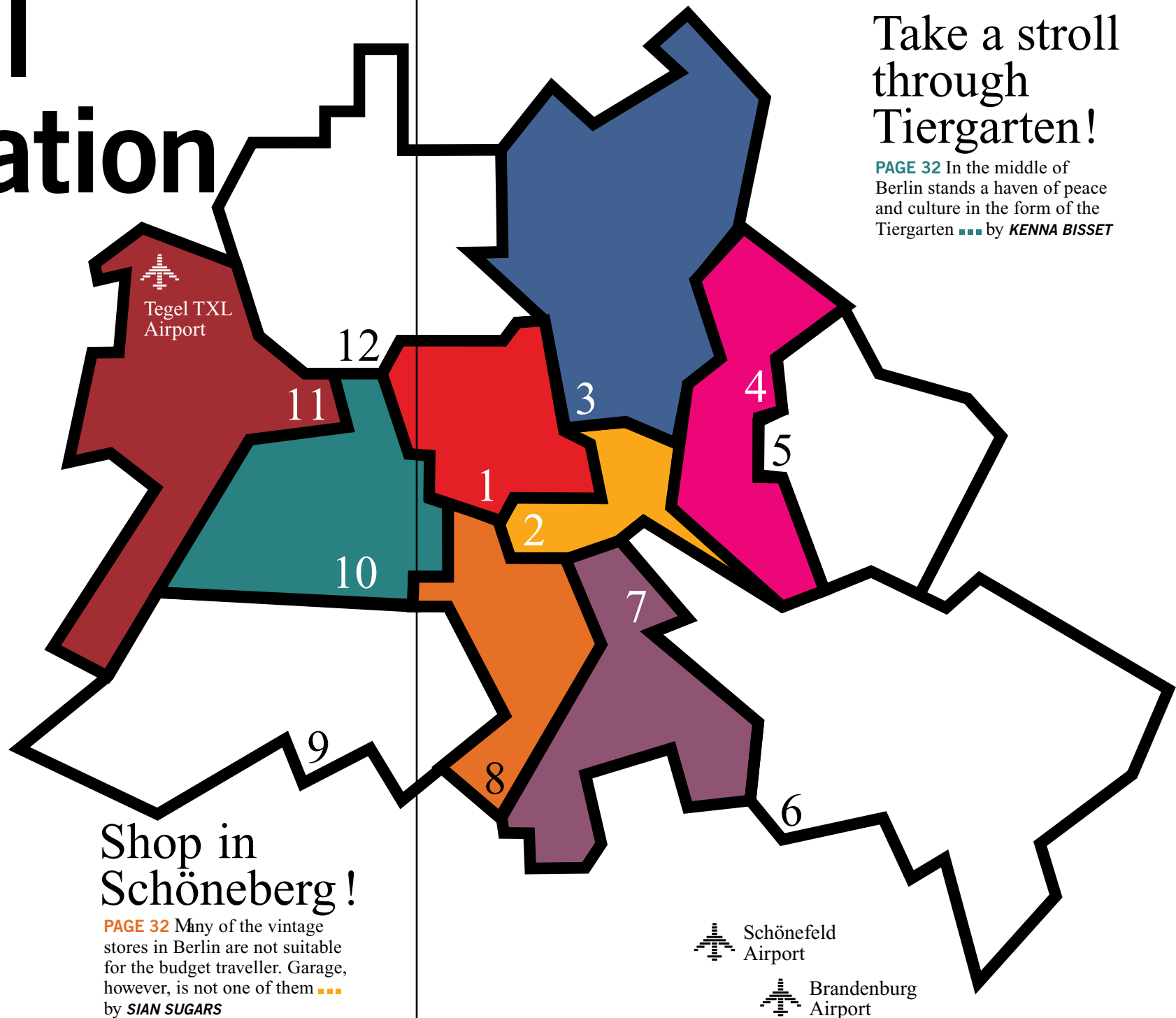
General information

Have lunch in Kreuzberg!

PAGE 32 Dining alfresco on the street allows you to bask in the summer sunshine whilst you feast on hearty, unpretentious Mediterranean food ■■■ by **ANTONIA MICHEL**

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Shop in Schöneberg!

PAGE 32 Many of the vintage stores in Berlin are not suitable for the budget traveller. Garage, however, is not one of them ■■■ by **SIAN SUGARS**

Take a stroll through Tiergarten!

PAGE 32 In the middle of Berlin stands a haven of peace and culture in the form of the Tiergarten ■■■ by **KENNA BISSET**

 Schönefeld Airport

 Brandenburg Airport



OUR BUDGET RATE

..... Very Cheap

.. Expensive

General Information

Safety

Berlin is a fairly safe city provided that the usual cautions are adhered to. Avoid secluded or unlit areas after dark. If you are out after dark, travel in groups where possible. Berlin does not have an extensive problem with pickpocketing but do not advertise your valuables, just to be on the safe side. Finally, if you are buying travel cards, be sure to buy them from vendors at train stations or your hotel. There have been recent reports of counterfeit tickets being sold so make sure you do not waste your money.

CATE HOPKINS

EMERGENCY INFO

For the Police, DIAL 110
For the Fire Brigade or an Ambulance, DIAL 112

How to get there and away

Berlin is currently serviced by two major airports - Berlin Schoenefeld SXF and Berlin Tegel TXL. Both are due to merge in early 2013 to create

Berlin Brandenburg Airport. Berlin operates many of the major passenger airlines from Europe and the Middle East. Travelers from further afield may have to fly into Frankfurt and pick up a connecting flight. Passenger information can be found at www.berlin-airport.de. Both airports are well connected by public transport. Berlin Schoenefeld lies on S-Bahn lines S45 and S9, and is serviced by bus routes X7, 171 and N7. You can also take the RegionalBahn directly to Alexanderplatz. A taxi rank lies directly outside Arrivals. Berlin Tegel is more central in its location and can be accessed via bus routes X9, 109 and 128, although it is not directly serviced by either the U-Bahn or S-Bahn. A taxi rank is also easily available. Travellers arriving in the capital by train are most likely to arrive at the central train station Berlin Hauptbahnhof (Berlin Hbf). This state of the art station is served by the Deutsche Bahn (DB) and connects all of Germany's major cities including Frankfurt, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Munich and Cologne. The Intercity Express trains (ICE) also provide links to Switzerland, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. For further details, visit www.bahn.de. CATE HOPKINS

Laws

Smoking and drinking

Although the smoking ban was introduced in Berlin in 2007, it had not been effectively enforced and smoking inside clubs, pubs and bars is common throughout the city. Smoking is banned on public transport and inside many public buildings. With proof of ID, you can purchase the following: Cigarettes at 18. Wine and beer at 16. Spirits at 18. ANTONIA MICHEL

Internet

Wifi in the city

There are many places in Berlin to grab some free wifi. A wifi cafe culture has sprung up recently all over the city and many cafes now offer some form of free wifi, whether it be unlimited or to a time constraint, in exchange for the purchase of a coffee. There are three main coffee chains in Berlin which can be found virtually on every street corner and offer free wifi. There are: Cara's Gourmet Coffee, Balzac Coffee, Einstein Coffee. As well as these big chains the smaller, one off shops may also offer the service just be sure to ask at the

EMBASSIES

THE BRITISH COUNCIL
Alexanderplatz 1, Mitte,
Metro: Alexanderplatz
+49(0)30 31109910

BRITISH EMBASSY
Wilhelmstraße 70-71, Mitte,
Metro: Brandenburger Tor
+49(0)30 204570

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
Wallstraße 76-9, Mitte.
Metro: Märkisches Museum
+49(0)30 8800880

US EMBASSY
Pariser Platz, Mitte.
Metro: Brandenburger Tor
+49(0)30 83050

counter. A few mentioned in this guide are: Brezelbar Leselounge, Buchkantine, Ramones Museum. Alternatively free wi-fi hotspots are not restricted by this initial purchase but the internet here can sometimes be slow or nonexistent. There is one main popular hotspot where the internet appears to work to a satisfactory standard: The Sony Centre at Potsdamer Platz. KENNA BISSET



GREEN AMPELMAN



LEARN HANDY WORDS AND PHRASES

Help! - Hilfe!
(hill-fer)

Accident - der Unfall (oon-fal)

Police - die Polizei (dee pol-it-sigh)

Fire - das Feuer (das foy-er)

Fire Brigade - die Feuerwehr (dee foy-er-vair)

Ambulance - der Krankenwagen (dare crank-ken-var-gen)

Hospital - das Krankenhaus (das crank-ken-hows)

Doctor - der Arzt (dare arts-t)

Pharmacy - die Apotheke (dee a-poh-taker)

Dentist - der Zahnarzt (dare sarn-arts-t)



Only in Berlin:
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guide 2012

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KATE NEUSWANGER, 23, MINNEAPOLIS

This food-loving American with a degree in nutrition hails from snowy climbs of Minneapolis. Berlin has offered many a dish to this fabulous foodie and she has her standards high and her knife and fork ready. Insider tip: if you want to sweep her off of her feet, a date at the Nordic embassies would not go a miss.



KENNA BISSET, 19, KENT

Kenna hails from the charming county of Kent in picturesque Southern England. She attends St. Andrews University in Scotland where

she studies philosophy. However, Kenna's true passion lies in the fashion world and she has immersed herself in Berlin's vintage stores, markets, and boutiques seeking out the best shopping the city has to offer.



ANTONIA MICHEL, 23, LONDON

Originally from the bustling city of London, this is Antonia's third excursion to Berlin. During her previous two she developed a proclivity for sipping cocktails in Friedrichshain, a past time she has very generously shared with the rest of the team. She loves that Berlin is a vibrant and constantly changing city. As an English and Classical Literature graduate, she has returned to Berlin to indulge herself in two of her passions; writing and the German language.



JAMES STORBECK, 23, SEATTLE

With a nickname like 'The Bear,' it was inevitable that James would one day end up in Berlin. His prowess in the fields of research

and editing, as well as his official status as 'Tech Head' make him an invaluable member of the team. He is also proud to add a range of German beers to his already extensive palate.



CATE HOPKINS, 29, CARDIFF

A trained psychiatric nurse, Cate came to Berlin looking to follow in the footsteps of her idol Lou Reed. With a passion for travel she looks forward to pursuing a new career in the media.



SIAN SUGARS, 22, PERTH
Western Australia. Often seen pedalling through the streets of Kreuzberg, she has a keen eye for fashion and the oh-so-cool bars and hangouts

Berlin is known for. With a degree in Psychology, a semester in America and a year travelling through USA and Europe, Sian is well versed in the wants and needs of the budget traveller.



JENNIFER DUNN, 26, BELFAST

Hailing from Northern Ireland, Jennifer stayed close to home to study Modern Literary Studies at Queens University Belfast. Whilst in the city, Berlin's Bears have pawed at Jennifer's heartstrings. If you treat her to a strong coffee from Bonanza Coffee Heroes or half a litre of beer at Jodelkeller; she's sure to divulge the details of her love for them.



BEN FISHEL, 21, PERTH
Ben is a student of Psychology in Brisbane, Australia. An ideal day in Berlin for him would involve a drink or two ■■■



■■■ while bartering at Mauer Park market, then going to the river to watch the eccentric characters of Berlin go by.



ABBY POULTON, 21, MIDDLESBROUGH

Always cheery and easy to talk to, Abby Poulton has been a welcome addition to our team. Born in Middlesbrough and taking cultural studies

at Manchester, Abby came to Berlin to find herself. If she could take part of Berlin back with her, it'd be the nonstop pace and late night tendencies of the city.

ADAM NASH, 24, SHEFFIELD



Adam had a degree in English literature and creative writing. Adam has an eye for cool T-shirts and ear for cool music and has

found plenty of both in Berlin. He has acted as a writer, editor, and an official jazz aficionado. He loves Berlin, and he is looking forward to finding out where his next stop will be.



POLLY JENKINSON, 23, BRISTOL

Polly's university studies in German and Sociology made her vital to have around when lost in the sprawling maze that is Berlin. Her favourite part of the city seemed to be the live karaoke at Mauerpark—although we never did get to hear her sing. In fact Berlin made such a big impression on her that she is looking to move away from her home town of Bristol and stay here permanently—if she can ever find a flat.



DIANA SZENTGYÖRGYI, 27, BUDAPEST

Diana, our queen bee of design is a Budapest native and spent years studying in Paris. She is a multilingual, multi-talented graduate of

Graphic Design from the prestigious Applied Arts School of Amiens (École supérieure d' art et de design, Amiens). She is a tour de force with her signature stripes.

Series of horizontal dashed lines for note-taking.