

START BERLIN



**A COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET GUIDE TO
BERLIN.**

**'Berlin combines the culture of New York, the
traffic system of Tokyo, the nature of Seattle, and
the historical treasures, of, well, Berlin'**

-Hiroshi Motomura, 2004

Contents



Introduction.... 1
Short History....2- 4
Survival Guide....5-8
Transport....9- 11
Sights & Monuments....12- 22
Museums & Galleries....23-32
Outdoors....33-39
Streets & Tours....40-44
Shopping....46- 52
Eating, Cafes & Beer gardens....53-64
Entertainment & Bars....66-69
Contributor Profiles....70-71

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KEY

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS



VEGAN OPTIONS



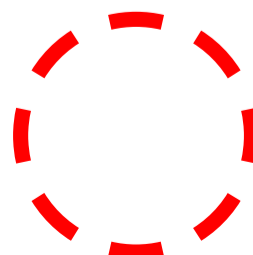
PHOTO HOT SPOT, FOR THAT EXTRA SPECIAL SNAP.



FREE WIFI. THERE ARE ALSO 30 MINUTE HOT SPOTS AROUND THE CITY. CHECK OUT WWW.FREEWIFIBERLIN.COM FOR MORE INFO.



STAMP OF APPROVAL:
KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THE STAMP OF APPROVAL, GIVEN WHEN DEEMED EXTRA SPECIAL, AND EXTRA WORTH THE VISIT.



TIPS, FACTS AND THE ODD HANDY PHRASE.

Facts sourced from visitBerlin.de

The background of the entire page is a grid of 12 identical images. Each image shows a concrete border fence topped with barbed wire. The words "LOOK HOW BEAUTIFUL" are spray-painted in green on the fence. In the background, there are some buildings and utility poles under a grey sky.

Welcome to Berlin!

Berlin is such a huge, diverse city that has so much to see and do you might not know where to start – that's where we come in. Whether you're a foodie, a scattin jazz lover, history buff, art aficionado or just looking for something weird and wonderful, this eclectic city will have something to suit you.

We'll help you discover where to get a real Currywurst, not just a sausage covered in ketchup and curry powder!

And if you want to know which markets to bag the best bargain or where you can get the most stunning views of this amazing city, we've got you covered.

This guide not only recommends the best museums, galleries, cafes and beer gardens, but it also gives you handy tips on how to survive in this buzzing metropolis. Like how to navigate your way around the labyrinth of U Bahn stations or the best times to hit local hotspots. We also give our stamp of approval on our favourite haunts, these places are not to be missed!

A city steeped in history, Berlin has overcome a turbulent past to become the exciting, modern and thriving cosmopolitan it is today. With so much to offer, you'll never be short of something to do in Berlin; and if you are, then this guide will open your eyes. Want to eat a burger from a former public toilet or dance with a techno-loving robot?

Of course you do!

So get up, get out and Start Berlin!

Niomi Harris

HISTORY

**A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN EVENTS,
DATES AND CHANGES, SIGNIFICANT TO
BERLIN'S DEVELOPMENT AND HOW IT
DEFINES ITSELF TODAY.**

13th century– 20th Century

**'Nightlife roared and inhibitions wavered, as
democracy ruled.'**

TIP

**You never know when you will come across the red pavement
bricks which mark where the Berlin Wall once stood. Keep a look
out whilst walking around the city. – *Charlotte McShane***

13th Century

The city has had many drastic and distinct transformations, from its roots in the early 13th century to the present day. Nikolaiviertel, the city's oldest square, is the original location of when Berlin was established as a settlement in the 1230s.

- Find in: Streets & Tours

18th Century

In the 18th century, Friedrich III began a monarchy by crowning himself King of Prussia. This entailed new construction in the city, including the Charlottenburg Palace, Sanssouci Palace, St. Hedwig's and the Brandenburg Gate. In 1709, with a population of 55,000, Berlin is made the capital of Prussia and the city's successful growth continues with regards to the arts and military.

-Find in: Sights & Monuments and Outdoors

19th Century

In 1871, Berlin becomes the capital of the German Reich, improving the city's political and economic status. There are numerous remnants from this century, such as the Siegessäule,

Victory Column, built in 1873 and the Zoologischer Garten, created in 1847 as Germany's first zoo. Additionally, the chocolaterie Fassbender and Rausch opened in 1863.

-Find in: Shopping and Outdoors

20th Century

The KaDeWe department store is launched in 1907.

-Find in: Shopping

The First World War affected the city terribly with debt, specifically due to the 'Treaty of Versailles'. In its aftermath, the people fell into starvation and poverty, due to unemployment and harsh war rations. Nevertheless, with the loss of the monarchy, Berlin perked up in the 1920s with the decadent era of the Weimar Republic. Nightlife roared and inhibitions wavered, as democracy ruled. It is the era of film and music, such as displayed in the Film Museum, and of sexual liberations and creative explorations, a feeling that lingers in many of today's nightclubs.

-Find in: Museums & Galleries and Entertainment & Nightlife

The year 1932 said goodbye to democracy and hello to the National Socialist party as they gained favour in the German government. In the following year, Adolph Hitler was appointed Chancellor. Overwhelmingly charismatic, Hitler took control with sudden and undisputable violence, with the creation of the SS and

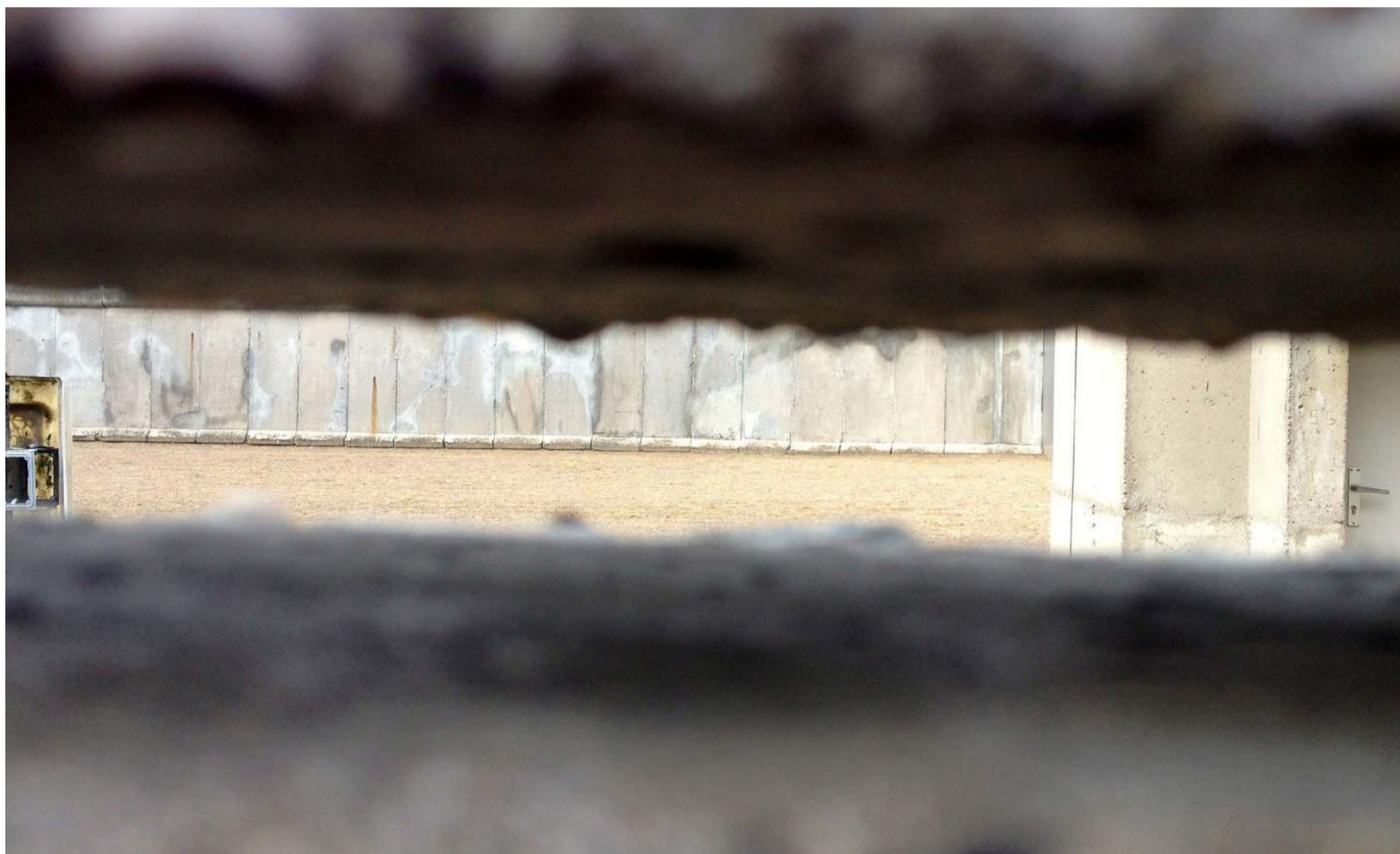
Gestapo in 1925 and 1933, respectively. Hitler had plans to transform the city into a new Berlin, to be renamed Welthauptstadt Germania, translating to World Capital Germania. Fortunately the war terminated these plans. During the conflict, the city was severely bombed. Many sites remember these years, including the Topography of Terror, which hosted the main offices of the Reich's security and the Gestapo in 1933. Further, there is the Olympic stadium, where the 1936 games were held, Teufelsberg, the two man-made mountains constructed from WWII debris, and many memorials, such as the sobering Field of Stelae, commemorating the Holocaust and the 1949 Sowjetisches Ehrenmal, Soviet War Memorial, that remembers the thousands of deaths of Red Army soldiers.

- Find in: Sights & Monuments, Museums & Galleries, Outdoors

The Allies left Berlin divided into four sectors and those controlled by the Soviets was recognised as East Berlin. In 1949, Berlin was stripped of being the capital, the honour provisionally transferred onto Bonn. The German Democratic Republic (GDR) was also established in this year, the atrocities of which can be discovered in their original offices, the Stasi Museum (where files were found on more than 6 million people). In an attempt to further their depleting control, the GDR built a wall splitting the East from the West in 1961, as residents kept escaping (200,000 left in one year alone). The wall finally fell in 1989, entailing the reunification of Berlin and two years later, the city is once again made the capital of Germany.

-Find in: Sights & Monuments

Harriet Weston



The original 'death strip' between East and West Berlin, preserved at the Berlin Wall memorial. Page: 16

SURVIVAL GUIDE

**INFORMATION TO HELP YOU START
BERLIN.**

**DO'S, DON'TS, TIPS, GERMAN PHRAS-
ES AND STREET FOOD.**

**'Explore. This is the best way to dis-
cover Berlin'**

TIP

**Don't just survive. Thrive. These tips will only get you so far. Get
out and explore Berlin yourself.**

DO

Remember that many of Berlin's clubs have a strict door policy, so do not be disheartened if you do not get in. The dress code is usually casual and black, so do not wear bright colours unless you want to be noticed. Try to speak German, and have a backup destination in mind in case you do get turned away.

DO

Consider a free walking tour. Berlin's complex history means some important places of interest are easy to overlook. For example Hitler's bunker is marked only by a simple sign. A tour guide can provide a historical background, interesting knowledge and it can help you learn how to get around the city.

DON'T

Wander into the cycle lane – cycling is very popular in Berlin. To the untrained eye it's easy to miss the lines or distinguishing marks that differentiate the pavement from the cycle lane. Be on your guard for any lines with a narrow section or any changes in the material of the pavement.

DON'T

Be naïve – Berlin is a fairly safe city, but don't tempt fate. Keep cameras, phones, and anything of value hidden when possible. If an opportunity arises in front of the wrong person you could find yourself victim of theft.

DON'T

Jaywalk! Crossing the road whilst the traffic light is red, or not at a designated crossing can result in a €75 fine when caught. You will be charged more each time you receive a fine for this.

DO

Explore – this is the best way to discover Berlin. Have a map handy in case you get lost, or use a landmark to navigate back to a main U or S Bahn station. The Tv Tower is an example, it is located next to the Alexanderplatz station.

DO

Be aware of Sunday licensing laws. All supermarkets are shut on a Sunday except for small corner shops, and off licenses, also known as *Spätkaufs*. Stock up on anything you need in advance as some supermarkets shut early even on a Saturday.

DON'T

Get your passport stamped. This has become popular at tourist hotspots like Checkpoint Charlie. It invalidates the passport and authorities have the right to shred it. It's not worth the risk on your flight back!

DON'T

Go out without cash. Berlin is cash orientated and it's rare to be able to pay by card, even in supermarkets.

DO

Make use of the famous Photoautomats dotted around the city, which produce black and white photo strips. There is a handy map with locations on the website: photoautomat.de

Handy German Phrases

DO

Learn a few words of German - it's a lot easier to find locations, ask for help and overall will give you a better peace of mind wandering around the city if you can speak a little basic German.

Yes - Ja

No - Nein

Please - Bitte

Thank you - Danke

Excuse me - Verzeihung

Hello - Hallo

Goodbye - Auf Wiedersehen *or* Tschus!

Sorry- Entschuldigung

Good day/evening/night - Guten Tag /Abend / Nacht

Where is/are? - Wo ist/sind?

How far is it...? Wie weit ist es...?

Do you speak English? - Sprechen Sie Englisch?

I don't understand - Ich verstehe nicht

I would like to make a telephone call - Ich möchte telefonieren

How much does it cost? - Was kostet das?

Do you have a table for...? - Haben Sie einen Tisch für...?

The bill please - Die Rechnung bitte

DON'T

Assume everyone speaks English. Berlin is a multicultural city (with some places only speaking English). If you can, it is polite to use basic German, and people will always appreciate you giving it a go.



Street Food

An Introduction

SURVIVAL
GUIDE

Berlin has gone through a food revolution in recent years, so detach yourself from images of fast food such as McDonalds and Burger King and tuck into some of the culinary delights the city has to offer.

Among one of the most famous is the Currywurst a sausage covered in curry sauce usually served with chips. It's easy to find somewhere in Berlin that sells this, but Curry 36 is a popular choice, and specialises in this dish.

Not a lot of cities can make use of an old public toilet in the same way Berlin has, turning it into a famous mouthwatering burger stand. A must for any burger lover Burgermeister couldn't be more street- as it's surrounded by them, located on a small traffic Island. Remember this is street food not fast food, and, like many of the renowned street food places, be prepared to wait.

Berlin is host to the largest Turkish settlement outside of Turkey, as a result, döner kebab shops can be found all over the city. The well known Hasir is a good place to start for those wanting a delicious kebab which differs from the standard ones found over Berlin.

The Turkish Market held in Kreuzberg near the U Bahn station Schönleinstrasse is also a great place to experience street food. Here stalls host a range of food from traditional Turkish meals to toffee apples for those with a sweet tooth.

For those not knowing where to start every week on Thursday evenings Markt Halle Neun holds a Street Food Thursday event. With dishes from all over the world it's easy to find something to enjoy. Held under one roof, it's a flurry of cultures and food. A definite stopping point for those seeking to enjoy the best of street food.

For more information on street food options, check out the Eating section.

Jenine Peña