



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Berlin's historical heart

Berlin, 1 Day

Table of contents:

- Guide Description 2
- Itinerary Overview 3
- Daily Itineraries 4
- Berlin Snapshot 8

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: This one day trip will give you an overview of the city's main historical points of interest. You will start off at the Berliner Dom at the top of the central street of Unter den Linden and as you walk down the street towards the Brandenburg Gate, history surrounds you. At the Reichstag(German Parliament) you can visit the roof, designed by Norman Foster, and get a great view over the city. Carry on to the Holocaust Memorial and the famous Friedrichstrasse, to round off your day at the delicious central restaurant of Die Eins, a real flavour of Germany.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Berlin



Palast der Republik

Controversial communist symbol



Berliner Dom

Monumental Cathedral



Neue Wache

Memorial to the victims of war and political violence



Bebelplatz

Classical architecture and burning books



Brandenburger Tor

The Brandenburg Gate: symbol of freedom



Reichstag

Germany's old and new parliament



Paul Löbe Haus & Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Haus (Paul Löbe House & Marie- Elisabeth Lüders House)

Contemporary Architecture



Holocaust Memorial

Memorial for Murdered Jews of Europe



Friedrichstraße

Three Historic Kilometers



Die Eins

Views over the river and Reichstag

Day 1 - Berlin

QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: +49 (0)30 25 0025
(Touristen Information)
fax: +49 (0)30 2500 2424
(Touristen Information)
<http://kultur-netz.de/palast.htm>

location:

Schlossplatz
Berlin 10117

1

Palast der Republik

DESCRIPTION: Everybody in Berlin agreed that this building was an eyesore. Apart from looking awful, it was an asbestos hazard and stood empty until the city council finally decided to demolish it. The process is still going on but the future of the building is uncertain. Some want to rebuild the Berliner Schloß, the magnificent royal palace which was pulled down to make place for the present monstrosity. Others want to preserve it as a memorial to the former "Democratic Republic" of East Germany. Built in 1976 to house the Volkskammer, the East German parliament which did little more than rubber stamp decisions made by the Politburo, the Palast der Republik also contained exclusive restaurants, bars and clubs for party apparatchiks. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: Currently being knocked down but you can still catch a glimpse of the old Eastern Bloc architecture.



wcities

contact:

tel: +49 (0)30 2026 9128
fax: +49 (0)30 2026 9122
<http://www.berliner-dom.de/>

location:

Am Lustgarten 1
Berlin 10178

hours:

M-Sa 9a-7p, Su noon-7p

2

Berliner Dom

DESCRIPTION: At the location of the Berliner Dom (also named Berliner Cathedral) have succeeded several churches over the centuries. The first one was erected in 1465 for the Royal reigning family, the Hohenzollern, and was not more than a chapel at that time. In 1747, it was replaced by a Baroque cathedral designed by Johann Boumann and once again remodeled in 1822 by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The actual Dom was built between 1894 and 1905 under King Wilhelm II's reign. Almost completely destroyed in the Second World War, the Berliner Dom remained a ruin until restoration work finally began in 1973. Among the masterpieces of the Dom, the mosaics covering the cupola, the crypt, the altar and the altar windows are of particular interest. The Dom also houses the graves of over 80 members of the Hohenzollern family. Before leaving, take a look at the huge neo-baroque organ, one of the largest in Germany. **Insider tip:** do absolutely not miss the roof promenade after you've climbed the many steps leading to the coupole. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +49 (0)30 25 0025
(Touristen Information)
fax: +49 (0)30 2500 2424
(Touristen Information)
http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/denkmal/denkmale_in

3

Neue Wache

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1818, the Neue Wache on Unter den Linden is a fittingly simple memorial to the catastrophies of German history. Originally designed by architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel to commemorate the Prussian soldiers who fell in the Napoleonic Wars, the building is now dedicated more generally to the victims of war and political violence. On the outside,



[_berlin/de/unter_den_linden/n_eue_wache.shtml](#)

location:

Unter den Linden 4
Berlin 10117

hours:

Call for details

this is one of the city's most outstanding examples of classical architecture. Yet the inside is bare, bar a lonesome a statue by Käthe Kollwitz of a mother holding her dead son. A moving symbol of the grief and tragedy of war. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: This simple but beautiful memorial to the lost soldiers of war has an open space in the roof above the statue underneath. In winter snow falls peacefully onto the heads of two figures and in summer sun streams through.

contact:

tel: +49 (0)30 25 0025
(Touristen Information)
<http://www.berlin.de/orte/sehenswuerdigkeiten/bebelplatz/index.php>

location:

Bebelplatz
Berlin 10117

hours:

24 hrs

4 Bebelplatz

DESCRIPTION: This historical square is surrounded by the Humboldt university buildings, the State Opera House and the Berliner Dom. Bebelplatz stands just off the grand avenue of Unter den Linden. Bebelplatz is most famous as the place of the Nazi book burning in 1933 when members of the Nazi party burned the books of academics that they felt were unsympathetic to their political movement. This included works by Karl Marx, Alfred Kerr and Kurt Tucholsky. An underground library full of shelves of empty books stands as a memorial of this and can be seen through a glass window in the middle of the square. © NileGuide

MY NOTE: In the centre of the square you will find a memorial to the 10,000 books burnt here by the Nazis.



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contact:

tel: +49 (0)30 25 0025
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fax: +49 (0)30 2500 2424
(Touristen Information)
<http://www.berlin.de/tourismus/sehenswuerdigkeiten/en/28934.html>

location:

Am Pariser Platz
Berlin 10117

hours:

24 hrs

5 Brandenburger Tor

DESCRIPTION: The Brandenburger Tor stands proudly between Berlin's famous boulevard Unter den Linden and the Tiergarten. The last remaining gate left of the old Berlin, the Brandenburger Tor managed to escape severe damage during WWII. Following that, the gate stood as an iconic part of the Cold War marking the divide between East and West Berlin and it was here that US President Ronald Regan addressing a crowd of West Germans in 1987 said "Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall! © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +49 (0)30 2270
fax: +49 (0)30 2273 6878
<http://www.bundestag.de/>

location:

Platz der Republik 1
Berlin 11011

hours:

6 Reichstag

DESCRIPTION: The Reichstag building, completed in 1894, represents the heart of German politics and has been a witness to the country's troubled past. From an attempted communist coup and Nazi empowerment, to the DDR, when the building stood on the edge of the Iron Curtain. The roof of the Reichstag sports a huge glass dome designed by British architect Sir Norman Foster, from which spectacular views out across the



Call for details

ever changing city of Berlin can be seen. Directly opposite the Reichstag is the forest canopy of the Tierpark, divided by the former Siegesallee (Avenue of Victory) which was dismantled after the fall of Hitler. The Tierpark was the former hunting ground of the Prussian princes and of Kaiser Wilhelm II. © NileGuide

MY NOTE: The queue to get up on the rook of the Parliament building will take approximately an hour, but its worth the wait, and you often meet other interesting tourists while you wait!

contact:

tel: +49 30 2270
fax: +49 30 2273 6878
http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/bauen/wanderungen/en/s3_ploebemeluedershaus.shtml

location:

Platz der Republik 1
Berlin 11011

7 Paul Löbe Haus & Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Haus (Paul Löbe House & Marie-Elisabeth Lüders House)

DESCRIPTION: If you have embarked on a walk in the government district, you certainly won't miss these amazing two buildings adjacent to the Reichstag and located on both sides of the Spree river. They are connected by a bridge above the river and were completed at the same time in 2001 under the direction of German architect Stephan Braunsfeld. The Paul-Löbe Haus, named after an influential political figure who remained president of the Reichstag for many years, houses 1000 offices for the members of parliament. The Marie-Elisabeth Lüders Haus is home to the parliamentary library and was named in honor of a leading representative of the women's movement in Germany. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: Also designed by Norman Foster.



wcities

contact:

tel: +49 (0)30 200 7660 / +49 (0)30 2639 4336
fax: +49 (0)30 20 0766 x20 / +49 (0)30 2639 4321

location:

Cora-Berliner-Straße 1
10117

hours:

Oct-Mar Tu-Su 10a-7p, Apr-Sep Tu-Su 10a-8p

8 Holocaust Memorial

DESCRIPTION: Standing in the centre of Berlin, just five minutes walk away from the Reichstag the huge Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe stands as a remembrance of the darkest time of European history. The Holocaust Memorial consists of 2,711 concrete blocks of different heights and sizes, laid along uneven ground and covers 19,000m². An exhibition showing the history of the Holocaust lies underneath the memorial and is open 7 days a week. The memorial was designed by architect Peter Eisenman and built in 1999. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +49 (0)30 25 0025
(Touristen Information)
<http://www.friedrichstrasse.de/>

location:

Von dem nordlichen Teil der Mitte bis Hallesches Tor im Kreuzberg

9 Friedrichstraße

DESCRIPTION: Friedrichstraße is Berlin's answer to the Champs Elysées, Oxford Street or Fifth Avenue, a vibrant melting pot where history, culture, entertainment and fashion meet. Before the fall of the Wall, the southern section of Friedrichstraße was located in the West, and the northern part in the East. Beginning at Mehringplatz in Kreuzberg,



Berlin 10117

hours:
24 hrs

the three kilometer-long street leads through the heart of the city centre, past the former border crossing at Checkpoint Charlie, to Oranienburger Tor, unified Berlin's pulsating nightlife district. Historically, the area around Stadtmitte underground station used to be Berlin's premier shopping district. The crossroads at Leipziger Straße were lined with swanky boutiques before wartime bombs left their deadly mark. The new shopping district is now centred around Französische Straße underground station, and includes the fabulous Galeries Lafayette, the exclusive Quartier 206 and the awe-inspiring Friedrichstadtpassagen shopping mall - three of Berlin's new architectural highlights. The northern section of the street leads into theatre town. A magnet for theatre-goers since the 19th century, visitors still pour into places like the Friedrichstadtpalast, Berliner Ensemble, Deutsches Theater and Kammerspiele. Have fun! © wcities.com

MY NOTE: End your trip on Friedrichstrasse packed full of shops and restaurants. Try La Fayette for some really special food at Berlin's premier mall.

contact:

tel: 49 30 2248 9888
fax: 49 30 2248 9890
<http://www.gastro-lloyd.de/die-eins/>

location:

Wilhelmstraße 67a
Berlin 10117

hours:

Daily 9a-1a

A Die Eins

DESCRIPTION: Located on the banks of the River Spree in the heart of the new government quarter, Die Eins is particularly popular with government officials, as well as with the staff of the ARD television studio (the German public service broadcaster), which is situated in the same building. The terrace offers pleasant views over the river and the imposing Reichstag parliament building. In the morning, guests can choose from a variety of different breakfasts. The daytime menu includes crunchy salads, delicious pastas and other home-made specialties. And in the evening, thirsty visitors can enjoy a refreshing cocktail at the bar. © wcities.com

Berlin Snapshot

Local Info

Berlin has come a long way since the wreckage of World War II-- and since the Berlin Wall came down. Today it's a thriving and open metropolis that's always in the conversation when people talk about Europe's coolest city. It's home to a vibrant arts scene, revitalized old neighborhoods, some of the continent's most innovative new architecture and trendy urban eats.

Sights

If it's your first time in Berlin, you should consider a *StattReisen* historic walking tour or a *City Circle* sightseeing tour via bus. Both will give you a quick feel for the city and take you to major attractions and highlights. With or without a guided tour, your itinerary should at a minimum include the Berliner Dom cathedral, the imposing Charlottenburg Palace and *Museumsinsel* (Museum Island). To get a spectacular aerial view of the city, climb the TV Tower at Alexanderplatz. For fresh air, spend some time at the charming *Tiergarten*, the largest and most popular park in Berlin. It's full of trees, flowers and the restored Berlin Zoo. For culture, you can take in a performance at the renowned *Theater und Komodie am Kurfurstendamm* or a show by the Berliner Ensemble.

Shopping

Travelers who like to shop will find all they can handle here. There's a bewildering array of designer boutiques, malls, flea markets, galleries and more. If you're looking for branded and specialty items, spend some time at *Kurfurstendamm* or *Friedrichstrasse* in the city center. The *Potsdamer Platz Arkaden* is another area worth a visit, with about 130 shops selling clothing, high-end fashion accessories and electronics. There are also a lot of cafes and restaurants in the area. If you're hunting for bargains, make your way to *Strasse des 17 Juni* during the weekend, as this is the best-known flea market in Berlin.

Dining and Nightlife

A hotel room in Berlin is strictly a place to sleep-- and even sleeping is optional, considering all the fun things to do after dark. You can get a taste of any world cuisine among the many restaurants in the city but try to devote at least one dinner to a hearty Berlin specialty like *currywurst* and *fries* or *bratkartoffeln* (potatoes fried with bacon and onion). And, of course, have a Berliner donut, just for JFK's sake. A large number of coffee shops have emerged in Berlin and almost all are jammed with coffee lovers, hanging out and talking till the wee hours. If you like gaming, check out the casinos, including the *Casino Berlin* at Alexanderplatz or the *Spielbank Berlin* at Potsdamer Platz. You will also find a number of theaters, concert venues and opera houses to fill your bill if you're a fan of the fine arts.

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History

Berlin is in good shape- and that's despite, not because, of its 800-year long history.

Back in 1300, the two neighboring trading towns of Berlin and Coelln joined forces centering in the district now called *Mitte* (meaning "center"). All but destroyed by the Thirty Years War, the young city soon invited in its first batch of immigrants to make up for the loss in population: French Protestants, persecuted in their home country and looking for religious freedom were a welcome addition to Berlin's workforce. Their influence can be seen today in the area around the *Französischer Dom* (French Cathedral) or in the Berlin dialect, speakers of which still call a sidewalk *atrottoir*.

It then fell on the Prussian "Soldier King," Frederick William I, to develop the city. In 1709, he made Berlin the capital, and his son, Frederick the Great, strengthened Prussia's role as a major player in Europe. At this time, the Prussian court was a cradle of enlightenment, frequently visited by the philosopher Voltaire. The King's appreciation of the humanities paved the way for a new era of classicist architecture, and fantastic buildings such as the ornate *Konzerthaus* and the imposing *Altes*

Museum were erected. Berlin's love affair with the arts is reflected in the fact that the city still boasts three opera houses- the *Deutsche Oper*, *Staatsoper*, and *Komische Oper*.

The Napoleonic occupation of Berlin in 1806 was met with fervent patriotism and produced a powerful liberal reform movement. However, the bourgeois revolution of 1848 was short-lived, and William I became emperor of the Second German Reich in 1871, with Berlin as its capital.

Berlin boomed during the Founding Years at the end of the 19th century. Industrial giant Siemens built a modern underground system capable of transporting hundreds of thousands of people every day. Scientists such as Robert Koch led the world in research and development, while artists like Gerhard Hauptmann and Wassily Kandinsky paved new ground in the arts.

All this was cut short by the First World War. After the war, Berlin became the focus of the failed 1918/19 revolution and went on to become the capital of Germany's first fragile democracy, the Weimar Republic, in the 1920s. The city assumed the status of a glamorous arts and entertainment center, while at the same time being an industrial powerhouse. At the time, artists such as Brecht, Gropius and Feininger forged a legacy that left a lasting impression throughout Europe.

Berlin remained the capital of Germany during the Nazi era. Hitler even envisioned the city as "Germania," the capital of a global empire, and began to leave his megalomaniac mark on the architecture and the infrastructure of the city. Berliners suffered under Nazi rule, especially the persecuted left-wing movements and, of course, the large Jewish community. More than 60,000 Berlin Jews, nearly half of the city's population, died in the Holocaust. Thousands more fled the country. Jewish cultural life has only recently known a revival (in the *Scheuenviertel*).

At the end of World War II, Berlin was reduced to little more than a pile of rubble, its population halved. The Potsdam Agreement divided the city into four sectors, each of which was ruled by one of the Allies- the USA, the USSR, Britain and France. All too soon Berlin

Berlin Snapshot continued

became the focus and symbol of Cold War animosities (and the preferred location for spy movies). While the German Democratic Republic proclaimed East Berlin its capital, the three western sectors remained under Allied supervision until 1990. On both sides of the Wall — erected in 1961 to stop East Berliners from fleeing, Berlin continued to spearhead reform movements, such as the peace movement in the West and opposition to the one-party regime in the East. Thirty five years later, during his 1998 visit to Berlin, US President Clinton would make a point of echoing John F. Kennedy's famous words, "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner").

The fall of the Wall in 1989 wasn't entirely unexpected. Level-headed politicians on both sides of the Iron Curtain had been working towards a cautious reconciliation since the early 1970s, but few expected the Wall to fall overnight. An entire generation had grown up knowing Berlin only as a divided city.

Nowadays, Berlin is once again the capital of a democratic state, yet unification is very much a work in progress.

©

Hotel Insights

Whatever your budget and whatever your taste, the choice of places to stay in Berlin is vast. From astronomically expensive establishments boasting every conceivable luxury to basic backpackers' hostels; from mammoth international hotel chains to small, family-run boarding houses, this city has it all.

Changing Appeal

Much has changed in the decade since reunification. Many of Berlin's major hotels are now situated in the eastern part of the city, such as the legendary Hotel Adlon next to the Brandenburg Gate or the wonderful Four Seasons on Gendarmenmarkt. Many of West Berlin's traditional flagships such as the Kempinski or InterContinental are now struggling to hold their own against the young upstarts from the east. In fact, it isn't just the hotels that are suffering. The whole of the western part of town seems to have lost its attraction in recent years. Both tourists and locals now tend to head east for shopping, dining, or sightseeing.

At the opposite end of the price scale, another kind of a revolution has taken place. Since Berlin's first backpackers' hostel, Fabrik in Kreuzberg, opened in 1995, similar establishments have mushroomed all over the city. Backpackers now flood to places like Circus. Berlin's traditional youth hostels, such as the extremely central Jugendgästehaus Berlin, are equally inexpensive but have a slightly moth-eaten image in comparison to the trendy new backpackers places.

Berlin is a city of two centers, and this is reflected in the concentration of accommodation around Kurfürstendamm in the western city center and Unter den Linden in the eastern center.

Charlottenburg Most hotels in the western city center are located on Kurfürstendamm itself or in the quieter side-streets just off the main strip. Many of the major hotels can be found on the upper end of "Ku'damm" between Uhlandstraße and the Memorial Church, such as Kempinski and Steigenberger on Los-Angeles-Platz, or the Savoy on Fasanenstraße. Cheaper accommodation can be found in a number of modern, medium-sized establishments such as Hollywood Media or the Concept Hotel. If you're looking for something slightly smaller yet equally extravagant, try Bleibtreu or Hecker's. Other more intimate and inexpensive alternatives in the western center are Hotel California and Hotel Augusta.

The area between Breitscheidplatz and Lützowplatz is home to several deluxe hotels: The Palace and the InterContinental, as well as the Schweizerhof, the Grand Hotel Esplanade and Hotel Berlin, one of the largest hotels in town.

Mitte

On the other side of the Brandenburg Gate — in Berlin's historic eastern city center there are several more deluxe establishments vying for potential clients: The Westin Grand Berlin, the Hilton Berlin Hotel, the Four Seasons and the Maritim proArte Hotel Berlin. With the exception of the Hotel Adlon, none are situated directly on Unter den Linden, but in the atmospheric Friedrichstadt quarter near Gendarmenmarkt. Another place worthy of mention is the Hotel Agon on Alexanderplatz.

In all the above-mentioned areas, you'll find that you have to pay a bit extra for the privilege of being so centrally located. But if you don't need your lodgings to be totally central, there are plenty of places that offer great value for the money that are slightly out of the city center. Public transport in Berlin is very reliable and runs throughout the night, so it's generally no problem if you're staying in a hotel slightly further afield. In fact, it can often be a relief to get away from the hustle and bustle of the tourist areas and immerse yourself in the real Berlin. Located next to the Exhibition Center are a couple of more affordable options. For example, the D:O:M:I:C:I:L:, the Kanthotel or the Ibis as well as family-run pensions host guests during major trade shows at the Messe. That means that prices can increase dramatically at certain times of the year. **Schöneberg, Kreuzberg, Wilmersdorf & Tiergarten**

The Western residential districts of Schöneberg, Kreuzberg, Wilmersdorf and Tiergarten all have a wide range of places to stay, catering to all tastes and all budgets. And it's not always the case that the classy neighborhoods are full of luxurious lodgings and that less well-off districts are full of dingy dives. Thus you'll come across the moderately priced Hotel St. Michaels-Heim in the heart of exclusive Grunewald, the pricey Park Consul (with private golf facilities) in working-class Moabit and the elegant turn-of-the-century Hotel Riehmers Hofgarten in multicultural Kreuzberg.

Prenzlauer Berg & Friedrichshain

On the other hand, the Eastern residential districts still only have a limited choice of medium-sized hotels, with the Park Inn in Prenzlauer Berg and Upstalsboom in Friedrichshain being two rare examples. There are however, plenty of smaller hotels and guesthouses to choose from, such as Hotel Greifswald near Kollwitzplatz.

Lodging Near the Airports

Last but not least, a large number of hotels are congregated around Berlin's three airports. The Dorint Budget Hotel Tegel, Mercure Tempelhof Airport and the enormous Estrel (1,125 rooms) not far from

Berlin Snapshot continued

Schönefeld airport in Neukölln, are the most prominent examples.

©

Restaurants Insights

Before the fall of the Wall, eating in Berlin was regarded as a minor sideline to the more important matter of drinking. Guests wanting to sample a "typical Berlin dish" could easily be dissuaded by the mere mention of such alleged delicacies as pig's ear with yellow peas. A liquid diet was definitely the safer option.

Fortunately, Berlin's gastronomic landscape has since changed beyond recognition. Gourmets are now spoiled for choice as more and more first class restaurants open their doors to the public. Great food can also be found in many cafés, which offer a selection of national and international dishes at reasonable prices. Budget travelers are well catered to by hundreds of Imbiss fast food restaurants- once the realm of the greasy sausage- but now brimming with Asian and Middle Eastern delights for just a few Euros.

Charlottenburg

Chic and up-market. The best restaurants and cafés in the western city center are found in the side-streets between Kurfürstendamm and Kantstraße as well as in the area around leafy Savignyplatz.

Gourmets with a deep wallet should pay a visit to Ana e Bruno for exquisite Italian, while those on a normal budget could try the legendary pizzas at XXII Apostel. Otherwise head to Tai Ji for some great Chinese, to Le Canard for fantastic French or to Hitit for Turkish delights with an Oriental flair. Celebrity spotters will be in their element at Paris Bar, a French bistro better known for its well-heeled clientèle and late-night cocktails than for its food.

Fans of the traditional Berlin Currywurst sausage couldn't do any better than at the Imbiss stand at Amtsgerichtplatz in Kantstraße. The queues are always long, but it's well worth the wait! Good bets for a lazy Sunday brunch are Restaurant 31 and Pasticceria e Rosticceria Italiana. And, if you're looking for a bit of pre-Wall flair, pop into Zwiebelfisch, Diener or Dicke Wirtin- traditional Berlin pubs that haven't changed in years.

Friedrichshain

A popular hang-out for students and young Berliners. Friedrichshain is the last bastion of Berlin's "alternative" subculture and is the best district to explore if you're looking for hip bars, cool cafés and underground clubs. Most are centered around Simon-Dach-Straße, Boxhagener Platz and Schreinerstraße. But at the rate that new places are opening up, it won't be long before Friedrichshain loses its insider feel.

Check out the spacey Astro Bar, the cocktail lounge next door to Dachkammer, and finish off the evening in Tagung, a popular bar-cum-club intriguingly decorated with East German political memorabilia. If you can still handle breakfast after a long night on the town, Leander and Apotheke have a good selection at knock-down prices.

Kreuzberg

For conservative radicals. Once a haven for punks and anarchists, Kreuzberg has certainly evolved since the fall of the Wall. While you can still savor some of that old revolutionary flavor in a number of bars around Oranienstraße and Wiener Straße, southern Kreuzberg (around Bergmannstraße) is now dominated by chic cafés and exclusive restaurants.

Riehmers Hofgarten, Altes Zollhaus and Medici serve up some of the best "neue deutsche Küche" in town, while places like Austria and Jolesh are good bets for more traditional fare. Francophiles should head for Le Cochon Bourgeois, while lovers of Mediterranean cuisine should pay a visit to Sale e Tabacchi. Kreuzberg is also home to thousands of Turkish immigrants. So when in Rome... the Imbiss stand next to Schlesisches Tor U-Bahn station is widely reputed to have the best döner kebabs this side of Istanbul.

Many of Berlin's most scenic cafés are situated on the banks of the canal at Paul-Lincke-Ufer, the perfect place for a lazy Sunday afternoon brunch. Sit down, relax and watch the world go by from the gardens of Café am Ufer or Café Übersee, or wait until night falls and mingle with Kreuzberg's young generation in Ankerklause.

If you're looking for a taste of legendary hard-core Kreuzberg, check out the likes of Madonna or Intertank. Roses is a popular spot among the gay crowd. Slightly softer, but still very "Kreuzberg" are Morena and Wiener Blut, both of which are highly

recommended. If you're the more traditional type, pay a visit to Yorckschlösschen, a rustic pub with hearty local fare and live jazz on Sundays. And when it comes to tradition, there's nothing like Golgatha's beer garden on a warm summer evening.

Mitte

The undisputed center of Berlin nightlife, packed with bars, cafés, restaurants and clubs. While tourists now outnumber locals in many of the establishments around Oranienburger Straße, at least you won't have to search for long until you find a place that you like. From the sleek Café Orange to the wacky Café Zapata in Stachelschweine Kabarett Theater, the Oranienburger Straße strip has something for everyone. But if you want to avoid the masses and fancy a bit of local flair, try Café Ici or Hackbarth's in nearby Auguststraße. Alternatively, head for Mittendrin in Sophienstraße.

The area around Hackesche Höfe is equally busy. Popular lunchtime venues are Café Hackescher Hof and Yosoy tapas bar, evening favorites include the South American restaurant-bar Brazil, while night-owls flock to Cocktailbar Baal or Sage Club. Gourmets can savor the finest new international cuisine at Borchardt and Vau while fans of hearty German food will be in their element at Stäv, Volksgaststätte or Zur Letzten Instanz, said to be Berlin's oldest restaurant.

Prenzlauer Berg

The fashionable, up-and-coming district. Particularly during the warm summer months, beautiful, tree-lined Kollwitzplatz acts as a magnet for tourists who descend in droves on the atmospheric cafés and restaurants that adorn the quaint nineteenth century square.

Locals, on the other hand, prefer to meet at cafés such Anita Wronski and Sowohl Als Auch, or at late-night bars like Luxus Bar. If you wish to drink in a smoke-free atmosphere, check out Cafe Mia. Prater is also a popular destination with a fantastic beer garden.

There's good food aplenty to be had in Prenzlauer Berg: check out the breakfast buffet at Li(bi)do or Schall & Rauch, the great antipasti at Il Pane e le Rose, the spicy curries at Mao Thai, the hearty Russian dishes and live folk music at Pasternak or the Kurdish specialties

Berlin Snapshot continued

consumed on traditional floor cushions at Miro. For those looking for a quick snack: Zarskes Gaststätte.

Schöneberg

Plenty to do here. Many of the cafés and bars near Winterfeldtplatz and Goltzstraße sprung up in the 1980s, when Schöneberg was the place to go out in West Berlin. Check out cult favorites such as Café M and Mutter; try one of the superb cocktails at Green Door.

Schöneberg is also the focal point of Berlin's vibrant gay community, with countless gay bars and clubs located around Motzstraße and Fuggerstraße. Lenz die Bar is popular in the early evening, Tom's Bar, Hafens, Connection or Begine later on.

When it comes to eating in Schöneberg, you're spoiled for choice. Many Berliners come from far afield to breakfast in style at places such as Tomasa, April and Montevideo. Gourmets should head straight to Bamberger Reiter or Fischer's Restaurant for classic and modern German dishes and an enormous selection of wines. Otherwise, try Cheban for great Lebanese, Storch for traditional Alsace cuisine and Baharat or Habibi if you're in the mood for a quick falafel.

Tiergarten

Pricey and not particularly exciting, the southern part of Tiergarten is a popular haunt for businessmen, politicians and visitors staying in the hotels around Lützowplatz. Hotel bars and restaurants naturally dominate the gastronomic scene, the highlight being Harry's New York Bar in the Grand Hotel Esplanade. Guests looking to venture out of the hotel in the evening could try the wonderful Mediterranean cuisine on offer at Am Karlsbad. Alternatively, wine and dine with Berlin's high-society in Paris-Moskau, a first class restaurant with a sumptuous summer terrace, and finish off the evening with a cocktail in the Bar am Lützowplatz, Berlin's high temple of drinking.

If you're here on a warm summer evening, take a stroll through the idyllic Tiergarten park to Café am Neuen See- one of Berlin's most attractive beer gardens- or to the popular Schleusen Krug on the Landwehrkanal. A real Berlin institution is Café Einstein, an exquisite coffee house with original 1920s flair- perfect for a

relaxing brunch or an afternoon coffee break.

Wilmerdorf

This area caters to a young and affluent crowd. The cafés and restaurants around Ludwigkirchplatz heave with students during weekends. See and be seen in places like Café Solo or Manzinis, head to Jimmy's Diner for dinner and finish off the evening with a cocktail in the earthy Berlin Bar. If you're just looking for somewhere to relax during the day, try the glorious Café im Literaturhaus, a peaceful oasis just a stone's throw from Ku'damm.

©

Nightlife Insights

Famous throughout the world as a Mecca for culture and entertainment, many people would claim that Berlin is itself little more than one big entertainment complex. Yet, there are some special places in this entertainment nirvana, the best of which we shall list here.

Cinema

Berlin boasts over 100 cinemas, from ultra-modern multi-screen complexes to traditional film theaters such as the UFA Palast. A particularly atmospheric establishment is the Soviet-style International on Karl-Marx-Allee. For more obscure films try the Acud, where you won't be disturbed by hundreds of popcorn-junkies. And don't worry if your German isn't up to par, as places like the Odeon and Babylon Kino feature the latest flicks for English speakers, whereas the Cinéma Paris features movies for the French crowd.

Comedy

Well, if you can take some heavy satire, Berlin Mitte is the place to be. From the legendary Distel to the Chamäleon's late night shows in the Hackesches Hof Theater. Charlottenburg also has plenty to offer, with its traditional Wühlmäuse, Stachelschweine and the more comedy-oriented Bar jeder Vernunft.

Theater

Theater in Berlin can mean a lot of different things, such as controversial contemporary Anglo-American drama at theBaracke or a light comedy with mass appeal on Ku'damm(Komödie& Theater am Kurfürstendamm). While director

Frank Castorf heckles the audience at the Volksbühne am Rosa Luxemburg Platz, veteran Claus Peymann reinterprets Brecht at the Berliner Ensemble. International avant-garde dance troupes step it up at the Hebbel Theater, acrobats and magicians put a spell on the Wintergarten, while the Grips-Theater interacts with its young audience. Anglophiles should check out the English Theater Berlin(not opera, but fringe theater).

Music

Berlin is also a great place for music lovers. Even though David Bowie and Iggy Pop are long gone, Marilyn Manson is still supposed to enjoy some absinth around the corner. Top addresses include Kreuzberg's Junction Bar or Bebop for jazz, the Sage Club for Afro-beats and hip-hop and the SO 36 for alternative/punk/rock. Big gigs take place at the Arena and Columbiashalle. Classical aficionados have to make the painful choice between three opera houses- or simply head straight to the Philharmonie to listen to the world-famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Alternative Culture

All of the above too middle-of-the-road for you? Check out the innumerable centers of alternative culture that Berlin is famous for. The UFA-Fabrik, for example, is the place to be in summer, while the Kulturbrauerei is good for alternative theater, art and concerts. A kaleidoscope of modern Chinese art, salsa parties or readings by writers from developing countries are on the agenda at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, while the Pfefferberg concentrates on the younger, hipper, multi-cultural clientele of reggae and rai concerts.

Clubs

It's getting late and you want to move your dancing feet? The clubs around Rosenthaler Platz have the remedy! Some are tucked away in backyards and have irregular opening hours, others are hard to find for lack of a name over the door, but all are open until dawn. The Sophienclub quenches the pop, soul and Latin thirst; for techno, head to Friedrichshain's Berghain or to Tresor's new location on Köpenicker Straße. Berlin counts numerous nightclubs. Further options include the Watergate Club or the Pulp Mansion.

Other Options

Berlin Snapshot continued

Confused or undecided? The Potsdamer Platz offers- after shopping in the US-style Arkaden- many entertainment options, including a casino, a 3D IMAX Movie Theater, a musical theater, the Theater am Potsdamer Platz and a multi-screen cinema, the Cinemaxx. But if you're looking for something more typical, you'll always find plenty to do in the two streets that even Berliners love to confuse, Oranienstraße in Kreuzberg and Oranienburger Straße in Mitte, each with a mix of restaurants, shops, bars, cafés, movie theaters and music venues that will guarantee a great evening out.

©

Things to Do Insights

Most cities only have one center, but Berlin has two. Although East and West Berlin have successfully interwoven to form a more-or-less homogeneous city, city planners are still trying to cope with the "problem" of two centers.

Brandenburg Gate

For those in Berlin for the first time, a stroll down Unter den Linden, Berlin's most prestigious boulevard, is a must. Begin at the Brandenburg Gate, situated on Pariser Platz, which was once the border of East and West Berlin. Today Brandenburg Gate is a symbol of German reunification. This broad, tree-lined avenue contains many of Berlin's historic landmarks, including the Max Liebermann Haus. Near the Reichstag, home of the German government, and the Brandenburg Gate, lies a huge field of concrete blocks. The Holocaust Memorial, formally known as the Monument to the Murdered Jews in Europe, provides information about the Jews who were under the wrath of Nazi forces. For an in-depth look into 2000 years of Jewish history, pay a visit to the Jewish Museum. Also, nearby on niederkirchnerstraße is the Topographie des Terrors, which features an exhibition recounting the history of Nazi crimes. Restaurants are mostly located inside the hotels in this area, yet plenty of food stands provide visitors with refreshments and snacks.

Friedrichstraße

Friedrichstraße was the focal point of Berlin's thriving nightlife during the "Golden Twenties," but now has become filled with

ritzy shopping malls like Galeries Lafayette. Behind the Friedrichstadt-Passagen is Gendarmenmarkt, one of Berlin's most beautiful squares, featuring the graceful Deutscher Dom and Französischer Dom. Visit the popular Haus am Checkpoint Charlie to learn about the history of the Cold War. In addition, nearby is the site of the Berliner Mauer (Berlin Wall), the former symbol of a divided Europe that endured four decades of uncompromising and unrelenting politics of the Cold War era. Beginning at the former border-crossing on Friedrichstraße, the Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears) conjures up memories of tearful goodbyes as Berlin's divided families bode farewell after an all-too-brief visit. Along Ebertstraße, red stripes on the road mark the route of the Wall that many would prefer to forget. To see the longest and most famous stretch of Wall, you'll need to take the S-Bahn to Ostbahnhof. This 1.3-kilometer (3/4 mile) long stretch of Wall was painted by artists from all over the world in 1990 and has now been turned into an open-air exhibition known as the East Side Gallery.

Museumsinsel

The beautiful Schlossbrücke, which spans the River Spree, brings you to Museumsinsel (Museum Island), the northern part of the island in which several renowned museums occupy. The Altes Museum, Alte Nationalgalerie, Pergamon Museum and Bodemuseum make up one of Europe's most impressive art collections. After years of reconstruction, the Neues Museum will reopen in 2009 to the public. Next, walk back towards the main street through the lovely Lustgarten, the former royal gardens once used by the Nazis and East Germans for military marches, you can't miss the enormous Berliner Dom which rears up on your left. Built in 1905 and modeled on St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome, Berliner Dom was destroyed during the war and then painstakingly rebuilt over the ensuing decades. Across the road from the cathedral, you can still see the gloomy Palast der Republik, the former East German parliamentary chamber. It is supposed to be deconstructed by February 2009. It was built on the site of the glorious 15th-century Berliner Schloß, the royal palace that was deemed unworthy of restoration and was demolished by East German authorities in the 1950s. The only remnant of the original palace is

the triumphal arch-portal, which has been incorporated into the State Council Building on the south side of Schlossplatz.

Nikolaiviertel & Alexanderplatz

Near the State Council Building you will reach the Nikolaiviertel, the historic birthplace of the city. Within this square you can tour around the Red City Hall, Alexanderplatz, an important railway station, and the famous Fernsehturm (TV Tower). Tastefully revamped by East German authorities for Berlin's 750th anniversary celebrations in 1987, the centerpiece of this historic city quarter is the 13th-century Nikolai Church. Nearby you can also visit the Knoblauchhaus, an 18th century house, turned museum.

Kurfürstendamm

Starting from Berlin's oldest underground station at Wittenberg Platz, head down Taentzienstraße, past the legendary KaDeWe department store until you reach Breitscheidplatz, dominated by the ruins of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. You might enjoy a visit to Berlin Zoo, situated behind the Memorial Church. Continue down Joachimstaler Straße and take a right onto Ku'damm, the smart shopping boulevard that runs through the heart of the western center. If you're feeling hungry, turn right into Knesebeckstraße and follow the road until you hit Savignyplatz. The Dicke Wirtin offers typical Berlin cuisine, and Bohemian-types will like Zwiebfisch café.

Whether you travel by land or sea, you will experience the city's historical significance while you venture through the modern landscape of Berlin. Guided and boat tours offers insider information, or you can always pick up a tour book, hop on a bus and see for yourself.

Guided Tours

Insiders Walking and Bike Tours Berlin(+49 30 692 3149/ <http://www.insidertour.com/tours.php/>) Unwrapping History(<http://www.unwrapping-history.de/>) Tour-the-East(+49 30 4703 4747/ <http://www.tour-the-east.com/>)

Bus Tours

Berlin City Tour(+49 30 68 30 26 41/ <http://www.berlin-city-tour.de/>) Berlin Sightseeing(+49 30 79 74 56 00/ <http://www.berlin-stadtrundfahrt->

Berlin Snapshot continued

web.de/) Oldtimer Berlin(+ 49 30 21 90 21 88/ <http://www.oldtimer-berlin.com/>) BBS(http://www.bbsberlin.de/sightseeing_english_berlin_hotel_incoming/index.html)

A cheap alternative to an organized tour is a trip on the no. 100 bus departing from the bus station at Zoologischer Garten. The bus passes many famous sights along the way, including the Memorial Church on Ku'damm, the Victory Column and Bellevue Palace in the Tiergarten, the Reichstag and Brandenburg Gate, the State Opera on Unter den Linden and the TV Tower at Alexanderplatz. Buses run every ten minutes.

Boat Tours

Reederei Winkler(+49 30 349 95 95/ <http://www.reedereiwinkler.de/>) Berliner Seegler-Verband(<http://www.segeln-in-koepenick.de/>) Berliner Wassertaxi(+49 30 65 88 02 03/ <http://www.berlinerwassertaxi.de/>)

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Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

Currently three major airports service Berlin: The northwestern Airport Berlin-Tegel(TXL)(+49 1805 00 0186/ <http://www.berlin-airport.de/>); the southeastern Airport Berlin-Schönefeld(+49 1805 00 0186/ <http://www.berlin-airport.de/>); and the central Airport Berlin-Tempelhof(+49 1805 00 0186/ <http://www.berlin-airport.de/>). The former Central Airport of the GDR(Schönefeld) is being expanded to become the Berlin Brandenburg International Airport. After it opens in 2011, the downtown airports in Tegel and Tempelhof will be closed.

Airport Berlin-Tegel

Air Berlin(+49 1805 737 800/ <http://www.airberlin.com/>) Air France(+49 1805 830 830/ <http://www.airfrance.com/>) Air Italy(+356 2364 5300/ <http://www.airitaly.eu/>) British Airways(+49 180 5 26 65 22/ <http://www.ba.com/>) Condor(+49 180 5 767 757/ <http://www11.condor.com/>) Continental Airlines(+49 180 3 21 26 10/ <http://www.continental.com/>) Delta Airlines(+49 180 333 7880/ <http://www.delta.com/>) Eurowings(<http://www.eurowings.de/>)

www.eurowings.de/) Finnair(+49 180 3 34 66 24/ <http://www.finnair.com/>) Germania(+49 1805 737 100/ <http://www.germania.aero/>) Iberia(+49 1805 44 29 00/ <http://www.iberia.com/de/>) LTU International Airways(+49 30 4101 3601/ <http://www.ltu.de/>) Lufthansa(+49 180 3 80 38 03/ <http://www.lufthansa.com/>) SAS(+49 1805 117 002/ <http://www.flysas.com/>) Swiss International Air Lines(+49 30 4101 2764/ <http://www.swiss.com/>) TUIfly.com(+49 900 109 95 95/ <http://www.tuifly.com/>)

Airport Berlin-Schönefeld:

Aer Lingus(+49 89 552 533 53/ <http://www.aerlingus.com/>) Condor(+49 180 5 767 757/ <http://www.condor.com/>) Easyjet(+49 900 1100 161/ <http://www.easyjet.com/>) Germanwings(+49 900 19 19 100/ <http://www.germanwings.com/>) Icelandair(+49 69 29 99 78/ <http://www.icelandair.de/>) LTU International Airways(+49 30 6091 3898/ <http://www.ltu.de/>) Norwegian(+47 815 21 815/ <http://www.norwegian.no/>) Ryanair(+49 900 116 0500/ <http://www.ryanair.com/>) Sky Airlines(+90 242 3108500/ <http://www.skyairlines.net/>) Transavia(+49 695 09 85 446/ <http://www.transavia.com/>)

Airport Berlin-Tempelhof

Brussels Airlines(+49 30 6951 3850/ <http://www.brusselsairlines.com/>) InterSky(+49 30 6951 2686/ <http://www.intersky.biz/>) LGW Luftfahrt-Gesellschaft Walter(+49 30 6951 2681/ <http://www.lgw.de/>)

From the Airport

Airport Berlin-Tegel

Public Transport: It's easy to find public transportation connections from Tegel to the heart of the city: The buses 109 or express X9 will take you to Zoologischer Garten. From here you can connect by bus, U-Bahn(subway) or S-Bahn(tram) to anywhere in the city. Tickets are valid for two hours for all public transport. Stops are located outside of the terminal. For visitors from Dresden, Leipzig, and Magdeburg, the airport offers a special shuttle service that will take you to your destination and back. However, you have to book in advance under<http://www.berlin-airport.de/>.

Taxi: Taxis can be found at ground level outside of Terminal A and Terminal C. Companies include: Taxi-Ruf Würfelfunk"0800-Cabcall" AG:+49 800 222

22 55 Quality Taxi:+49 800 26 300 00 Funk Taxi Berlin:+49 30 26 10 26 TaxiFunk Berlin GmbH:+49 30 44 33 22 Even though most taxi drivers speak English, it shouldn't be expected

Car Rental: The car rental counter is located near parking space P2. Avis(+49 30 4101-3148/ <http://www.avis.de/>) Budget(+49 30 4101-3364/<http://www.budget.de/>) Europcar(+49 30 418520/ <http://www.europcar.de/>) Hertz(+49 30 4704674/ <http://www.hertz.de/>) Nationalcar(+49 30 4101-3383/ <http://www.nationalcar.de/>) SIXT(+49 1805 252525/ <http://www.sixt.de/>)

Airport Berlin-Schönefeld

Public Transport: From the airport's train station(located 400 meters/0.2 miles north), you have easy access to the subway(S9) that will take you to many of the downtown locations, such as Ostkreuz, Ostbahnhof, Alexanderplatz, Hackescher Markt, Hauptbahnhof, and Zoologischer Garten. If you want to reach Schöneberg, Charlottenburg, or the Westkreuz, S45 will take you to these destinations. A wide range of buses depart from the airport(some of them even directly in front of the terminals): X7, 162, 163, 171, 734, 736, N60, N71

Taxi: Taxis are located either directly outside of the terminals or outside of the train station. For a list of companies and phone numbers, see above.

Train: At the train station, you have access to the Deutsche Bahn(DB), which will take you to other German cities. However the Intercity Express(ICE) does not service this station, only the slower, regional train. Trains serving this station are RE7, RB22, and RB14. To reach other major German or European cities by train, the nearest stop is Ostbahnhof.

Car Rental: Avis(+49 30 6091-5710/ <http://www.avis.de/>) Budget(+49 30 6091-5700/ <http://www.budget.de/>) Europcar(+49 30 6349160/ <http://www.europcar.de/>) Hertz(+49 30 6091-5730/ <http://www.hertz.de/>) E-Sixt(+49 1805 252525/ <http://www.e-sixt.de/>)

Airport Berlin-Tempelhof

Public Transport: Airport Berlin-Tempelhof is the most central airport of the city with easy access to the subway U6 at thePlatz der Luftbrücke. From there it will take you about 15 minutes to reach the city

Berlin Snapshot continued

center at Friedrichstraße from where you have access to subway lines serving Zoologischer Garten, Alexanderplatz, Ostbahnhof, Ostkreuz, and Westkreuz. Various bus stops are located outside of the airport where you have access to the 104 and the 248.

Taxi: Taxis are located in front of the airport at the Platz der Luftbrücke. For a list of companies, see above.

Car Rental: Avis(+49 30 6951 2444 or +49 30 6581 2340/ <http://www.avis.de/>) Europcar(+49 30 6904 700/ <http://www.europcar.de/>) Hertz(+49 30 6981 9892/ <http://www.hertz.de/>) SIXT(+49 1805 252525/ <http://www.sixt.de/>)

Since May 2006, the central station Berlin Hauptbahnhof is located in Berlin Mitte. From there, travelers are able to reach their final destination in Berlin by using public transport for free if they have a valid Deutsche Bahn(DB) train ticket. Deutsche Bahn(<http://www.bahn.de/>) is Germany's national railway, offering a comprehensive service to German and other European destinations. Tickets are expensive if you pay full fare, but the DB does have a range of specials which make train travel more economical. Schedules can be found on their website. Special fares to watch out for include: Schönes Wochenende Ticket(Happy Week-end Ticket): EUR33/35. On Saturdays or Sundays, unlimited travel for up to five adults on any regional train in Germany. Brandenburg Ticket: EUR27/29. One day unlimited travel within Berlin and Brandenburg for up to five

adults. Brandenburg-Berlin Guten Abend Ticket(Brandenburg-Berlin-Ticket Night): EUR21. It is valid from Monday to Sunday for one day of your choice from 9a until 3a of the following day.

Bus The Central Bus Station(Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof(ZOB)), from which all intercity services depart, is located in the west of city. From here you catch the U2 at Messe Nord/ICC(direction Vinetastraße/Pankow) to get to the city center. The following bus companies have regular departures from the ZOB to all major German& European cities: Berlinien Bus(+49 30 302 5361/ <http://www.berlinienbus.de/>) Gullivers Reisen GmbH(+49 30 89 0660/ <http://www.gullivers.de/>)

Car Berlin can be accessed by the Autobahn, Straße des 17. Juni, Bismarckstraße, Tauentzienstraße, Potsdamer Straße and Brandenburgische Straße.

Getting Around

Public Transport Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe(<http://www.bvg.de/>) operates nine underground lines(U-Bahn), 28 tram lines(S-Bahn), 163 bus lines and six ferries. Single Tickets start at EUR2.10, Day Passes at EUR6.10 and 7-Day Cards at EUR25.40. See the website for details. For information on public transportation visit:(<http://www.berliner-verkehr.de/traffic.htm/>) Berlin Linien Bus(<http://www.berlinlinienbus.de/>)

Bike In comparison to other German cities, locals find the motorist/cyclist relationship

in Berlin rather hostile. For some, however, Berlin is bicycle heaven- wide streets, reserved(and respected) bike lanes. Bicycle Station provides bike rentals and tours of Berlin. For more information visit: Pedal Power(<http://pedalpower.de/>).

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Fun Facts

Berlin State: Berlin **Country:** Germany

Berlin By The Numbers:

Population: 3.4 million(city), 4.9 million(metropolitan) Average Winter Temperature:-6° C/ 31° F Average Summer Temperature: 18° C/ 65° F Most Precipitation: 100 mm/ 4 in Annual amount of taxes to be paid to own a dog: EUR150.

Quick Facts:

Time Zone: GMT+1(GMT+2 daylight savings time); Central European Time(CET) Electricity: 230 volts AC, 50Hz, German 2-pin-plug Country Dialing Code:+49 Area Code: 30

Did You Know?

Musician David Bowie and Iggy Pop lived in Berlin during the 1970s. He once reportedly described they city as"the greatest cultural extravaganza that one could imagine."

Imported coffee was banned by Friedrich II in order to encourage sales of the local beverage: beer!

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