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BERLIN



13 Aug 1961: Berlin Wall is erected overnight
1988: Berlin is elected European City of Culture
9 Nov 1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall
1990: Reunification of the two halves of the city
1991: Berlin is proclaimed as future capital of the new, unified Germany.

After a long slumber lasting fifty years, Berlin is now once again the capital of an unified Germany, and newly considered to be one of the most important European metropolis. After the Second World War, Berlin was left completely destroyed and demoralised, squeezed in between the East and the West, and divided both physically and metaphorically by a long wall that cut across the city. Today, now that the Cold War and the events of 1989, which ended in the knocking down of the wall, begin to be just far off memories, Berlin is beginning to think about its own future.

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»INTRO

Although a large part of its historical and artistic heritage was destroyed during the last War, new buildings, designed by world-famous architects, have sprung up everywhere in this new Berlin!! Germany's Capital has kept its cultural identity and great wealth, with its museums and many



monuments as well as other European Capitals although it is not easy to get immediately involved in the city vibe. The Berlin's many scars are very well recognizable and give both areas of the city an unfinished aspect. That's why they say 'always in progress, never done'.

»BERLIN AT FIRST GLANCE

Berlin is a huge and quite complicate city as there are many streets and interesting sites to visit but apparently not connected to each other by a distinct 'city centre'. Berlin's two souls are still very visible: the Western part has modern, alternative lifestyles and a busy and exciting nightlife, whilst the Eastern part is still a kind of trip through what remains of socialism; a living museum made up of state buildings and grey

condominium buildings, but with many hidden beauties. Just to make things easy we suggest a brief city overview keeping as a landmark one of the most important monuments of the capital: the famous Brandenburg Gate (Brandenburger Tor) as we are giving you -what we are used to call it- 'a daisy itinerary of the city' with a starting point where to return for another itinerary...well, just take as it comes! Most interesting places like theatres, universities, squares, museums and cathedrals are concentrated in the Mitte, the heart of Prussian Berlin, the city's old town, the symbol of political and imperial military power, that therefore can be reached on foot or with just a few bus/metro stops.

The Brandenburg Gate inspired by the Propileus from the Athens Acropolis and topped by a statue of the goddess of Victory leading a four-horsed chariot, rises at the end of the huge Avenue known as **Unter den Linden**. This long, glorious tree-lined Avenue, created in the 18th Century, goes from the Tor to the eastern Alexanderplatz passing by Museumsinsel (Museum Island) and then changing its name in Karl-Liebknechtstrasse.

The buildings on the west side of Unter den Linden avenue, which crosses with the elegant **Friedrichstrasse** famous for its shops, were replaced with new buildings. Worthy of note are: the **Staatsbibliothek**, the **Humboldt-Universität**, the **Neue Wache**, once the home of the royal guards and now a memorial to the victims of fascism and militarism and the **Zeughaus** - the arsenal - that was the largest Baroque building in Berlin, now home of the German History Museum. Just in front of these buildings, in the eastern part of the avenue, the constructions were restored in their original style. There you will find the **Deutsche Guggenheim Berlin Museum**, **Bebelplatz**, **Schinkel Museum** and the Forum



Fridericianus designed by Frederick the Great, a huge architectural complex that includes the **Deutsche Staatsoper**, **St. Hedwigs Kathedrale**, the **Alte Königliche Bibliothek**.

At the end of **Unter den Linden** a beautiful bridge, **Schlossbrücke**, with eight marble sections that depict the training and the growth of a Greek warrior, brings you to **Museumsinsel** and directly in **Schlossplatz**, home to the **Palast der Republik**, once the seat of Parliament for the ex-DDR. On the north side of the square is the **Berliner Dom**, built between the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century in an Italian Neo-Renaissance style. The church's crypt contains the tombs of the Hohenzollerns



that hold the power of Berlin and its region between XV-XX centuries.

If we continue east we come to the destroyed **Alexanderplatz**, dedicated to Tsar Alexander I and rebuilt after the bombing raids of the last war. In the vicinity the remarkable **Marienkirche**, just behind the **TV Tower (Fernsehturm)** and the **World Time Clock**, the **Nikolaikirche** and the **Rathaus**, the red-brick Neo-Renaissance building that is the seat of the city council in Berlin.

Going back to the **Brandenburg Gate** and carrying on towards the **River Spree**, the route arrives at the **Reichstag**, the seat of the German Parliament. It was destroyed by a fire in 1933 and then again by bombing in 1945. It was built again after the war, work which continued up to recent years, and it now has a spectacular glass



dome (23,5 metres high and 40 meters wide) from where it is possible to observe the deputies while working...what a sense of transparency! This was the place where, on 2nd October 1990, the reunification of Germany was announced! Proceeding north on the other side of river Spree and north of Alexanderplatz, a very nice and artistic quarter will fascinate you!! Once the

Jewish area, now is a MUST for night events, night clubs, night life in general! The narrow streets and courtyards are full of galleries and boutiques. The **Scheunenviertel** quarter is living nowadays a spectacular moment with many bars, restaurant, shops, galleries that open (and close) every week in narrow lines of coloured charming houses. Direct your feet to **Oranienburger Strasse**, that stretches for just over a mile between the makeshift Tacheles cultural centre near Friedrichstraße or to the fashionable **Hackesche Höfe** on Rosenthaler Straße which is the focal point of the entire district. In the area the **Neue Synagoge** with its imposing beautiful golden dome or the ever-present TV Tower will glare down at you!!

South east from our Brandenburg Tor, along Wilhelmstrasse, you reach a very popular district, once the heart of non conformist Berlin. **Kreuzberg** remains nowadays fascinatingly



diverse and guests the **Check Point Charlie** and the **Jewish Museum**.

Back again from our favourite landmark (the Brandenburg Gate) and going west in Strasse des 17 Juni, we cross the magnificent city's

green lungs: the Tiergarten, a wonderful city park which was once the hunting grounds of the Brandenburg princes. It is still part of the Mitte quarter and home to some important sites. One above all, laying on its south part, is the **Kulturforum** which gathers together the **Gemäldegalerie**, the **Neue Nationalgalerie**, the **Kunstgewerbemuseum**, the **Staatsbibliothek**, the **Kunstabibliothek** (specialized in art books). Right in the middle of the park are the Schloss Bellevue, built in a Neoclassical style, and the Grosser Stern, a huge square that is also home to the Victory Column (Siegessäule). Worth a visit are the **Zoo** and the **Aquarium**, also in the vicinity and natural liason with Berlin West: Ku'damm (shopping, restaurants & cafés area), **Charlottenburg** and **Wilmersdorf**, stretching north and west of the Mitte till the northern woods of Grunewald and lakes (Havel). To see: Schloss Charlottenburg (little Berlin Versailles!), Funkturm, the Olympic Stadium, Plötzensee.

»TRANSPORTS

Berlin has an efficient transport system network run by BVG (Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe; ph: +49 (030) 19449 or 2562 2562; www.bvg.de) that integrates the underground (**U-Bahn**), commuter rail (**S-Bahn**), bus, tram and ferry services, with easy connections to regional and main line rail services. **Bus** services crisscross the city, and night buses operate when trains are not running. This clean and always on-time network offers many options to its travellers putting at disposal many kinds of **tickets**: 2€ single ticket to travel within AB zone, with transfers; 1,20€ short distance ticket to travel up to 3 S/U-Bahn stops or up to six stops by bus or tram; €5,60 Daily Card (Tageskarte) valid up until 3am of the

following day; €24,30 weekly card (Sieben-Tage-Karte) for 7-day pass. Discounts for children, 5+ people groups, or longer periods you can get all info at the apposite offices. Underground runs everyday from 4am to 00.30; Friday to Sunday lines 2,5,6,7,9,15 run every 15 minutes (same for S-Bahn). You can buy these tickets at every station where the vending machine displays English instructions or you can get them on buses and trams. Nice, old style still comfy are the 30 public trams serving East Berlin. **S-Bahn** links together Berlin's Eastern (Ostkreuz) and Western (Westkreuz) city centres intersecting the north-south lines at Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse. Trains run daily 5am-3am. (Info at S-Bahn Berlin GmbH, Nordbahnhof office; ph: +49 (030) 2974 3333; www.s-bahn-berlin.de).

To get info about Berlin transport providers and those of the **surrounding region** contact the VBB (Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg, Hardenbergplatz, 2; ph: +49 (030) 2541 4141; www.vbbonline.de). **Ferry**: there are 3 seasonal and three year-round ferry services to the ports of Hamburg,



Kiel, Lubeck and Rostock, which are linked by road and rail to Berlin. All information available at the BVG in the pavilion at Hardenbergplatz,

in front of Bahnhof Zoo (open daily 6am-10pm), as well as counters at Tegel and Schönefeld airports and at Turmstrasse U-Bahn station. The Berlin's **taxi fleet** is quite expensive but highly recommendable if you are in a small group. They gather around the city main centres



as KaDeWe superstores, Savignyplatz, the Zoo, Friedrichstrasse and Alexanderplatz train Stations (S-Bahn). Also available by phone: Taxi-Funk Berlin (ph: +49 (030) 443 322; www.taxifunkberlin.de), Würfelfunk (ph: +49 (030) 210 101 or 0800 222 255; www.wuerfelfunk.de) and Spree Funk (+49 (030) 443322). Just to give you a rough idea, a journey from the Ku'damm to Unter den Linden (crisscrossing the city from west to east) costs about €10. Tips to taxi drivers are very common: usually 5-10 per cent of the fare.

As always, we recommend the lowest-environment impact means of transport and a way to cherish the urban life...as a citizen would do. Thanks to the flat terrain and extensive network of **bicycle** paths, cycling in the city is a pleasure!! You can rent your bike at Berlin by bike Fahrradstation centres for about 15 € per day or 50€ per week (www.fahrradstation.

deHackesche Hofe, Hof 7; Mon-Fri 8am-8pm; Sat and Sun 10 am-4pm; ph +49 (030) 28384848; or in Auguststr. 29A (Mitte) from Mon-Fri 8 am-8pm; Sat and Sun 10 am-4pm; ph +49 (030) 2859 9661; or in Leipziger Str. 56, from Mon-Fri 8 am-8 pm; Sat and Sun from 10am to 4pm; ph:+39 (030) 666 49 180; or at Bergmanstr. 9, Kreuzberg from Mon- Fri 8am-8pm; Sat and Sun from 10 am-4pm; ph +49 (030) 21515 66). Another interesting innovation are the red/silver **CallBikes** (www.callbikes.de; +49/ 0700/ 05 22 55 22) available in different corners of the cities and for as cheap as 0,06€ per minute or 15€ per day. You call the company, give them credit card details and get a code to unlock the padlock. Pre-register one week in advance. You can take and leave them in every corner of the city simply using your mobile phone to connect to the central booking system! General cycling maps, information and assistance are available at Das Radlerzentrum, run by the cycling lobby group Allgemeine Deutscher Fahrrad-Club (ADFC: Brunnenstrasse 28; ph: +49 (030) 448 4724; www.adfc-berlin.de; Mon- Fri 1200-8pm and Sat10am-4pm.

»CLASSIC YOU CAN'T MISS

Berlin is dotted with interesting attractions and touristy places but unfortunately, due to the city recent history and nature, sightseeing can be a nightmare as they spread all over! To simplify the things for our first-time visitors, we have grouped the most interesting museums and sights to see in this way: 1. Kultur Forum; 2. Museumsinsel; 3. Mitte; 4. Scheunenviertel (ex-Jewish district) 5. West Berlin: Bahnhof Zoo, Ku'damm; 6. Charlottenburg.

1. The Kultur Forum, located slightly west of Potsdamer Platz in the Tiergarten park, is an extraordinary group of museums, galleries, libraries and concert halls and is considered to be one of the best cultural centres in Germany having European art as its chief focus. (Kulturforum, Matthäikirchplatz, 8; ph:+49 030 266 2951; www.smb.spk-berlin.de;



hours; ph: +49 (0)30 266 2951; www.smb.de). The distinctive rectangular structure of the **Neue Nationalgalerie** also called the famous 'temple of light and glass' designed by Mies van der Rohe in 1968, houses the collection of 20th century European painting, sculpture and significant movements. Particularly well represented are Cubism, Expressionism, the Bauhaus and Surrealism with works by the Brücke Group, Otto Dix, Munch, Kokoschka, Paul Klee, Oskar Schlemmer, Pablo Picasso. Each year, the museum guests many highly renowned special exhibitions. During temporary exhibitions, the permanent collection is often not on view. (Kulturforum, Potsdamer Strasse, 50; ph: +49 030 266 2951; www.smb.spk-berlin.de; Tues & Wed: 10am-6pm; Thurs: 10am-10pm; Fri-Sun 10am-8pm; admission €4; reductions apply: €2.; free on for last 4 hours on Thurs). A honey coloured building on the north-east corner of the Kultur Forum houses the world renown **Philharmonie und Kammermusiksaal** that guests the Berliner Philharmonic Orchestra considered to be the best in the world. Herbert-von-Karajan had the privilege to be the director and to have an apartment inside the prestigious building until his death in 1989. We suggest to take a guided tour although available only in



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German (everyday at 1pm) or at least go for a concert!!! (Herbert-von-Karajan-Strasse 1; ph: +49 (0) 30 254 880 or 2548 8156 or 2548 8999 for online tickets; www.berlin-philharmonic.com; concerts usually on Fri-Sun 4pm and 8pm).

2. Museumsinsel (Museum Island) is an island located between two branches of the River Spree, at the eastern end of the Unter den Linden, where an impressive group of five important museums is simply irresistible for art lovers! Architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel's neo-classical building, **Altes Museum** (Old Museum) was opened in 1830 and inaugurated the Museums Island. It guests some breathtaking collections of ancient Greek and Roman artefacts whilst the upstairs galleries show the collections of the Egyptian Museum, which will be moved to the Neues Museum in 2009. (Bodestrasse



ph: +49 030 2090 5577; www.smb.spk-berlin.de; opening hours: Tues, Wed and Fri-Sun 10am-6pm; Thurs 10am-10pm; admission €4; reductions apply: €2). The newly restored **Alte Nationalgalerie** (Old National Gallery) houses an important collection of pictures and sculptures from the 14th to the 20th centuries. Last but not least is the **Pergamonmuseum**. This fantastic museum takes its name from its precious glory:



the altar from the Zeus and Athena Temple in Pergamon (West Turkey, 180-160 BC), one of the world's most significant archaeological finds brought to light by Carl Humann. Beside artefacts from the Antique world and other collections from East Asia and the Islamic world, the Museum guests other magnificent sections as the Ishtar Door of Babylon, and the façade of Nabucodonosor II Throne Room (VI cent. BC). Do not miss it!! (Am Kupfergraben; ph: +49 030 2090 5577; www.smb.spk-berlin.de; opening hours: Tues, Wed and Fri-Sun 10am-6pm; Thurs 10am-10pm; tickets: €2; free on the first Sunday of the month).

Remember: you can get a €12 joint-ticket for all the Island Museums available in any museum entrance!!

3. Mitte

-This little Berliner section of the great **Guggenheim Museums** of NYC and Bilbao, where Unter den Linden crosses Charlottenstrasse, is a gallery that usually guests 4 exhibitions in a year of modern and contemporary international artists. Nice cafeteria and book shop inside. (Everyday 11am-8pm; Tue till 10 pm; tickets €3; Mon, free admittance; www.deutsche-guggenheim-berlin.de; U-Bahn Franzoisische Strasse). Just opposite the **Staatbibliothek zu Berlin** where, beside having the possibility to read the books, you can unwind in the nice green patio and get some rest in the cafeteria in front of the fountain. The building that stands beside the national library is the Humboldt University where Albert Einstein and the Grimm brothers taught and other important names as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels took their studies.



- A trail of bricks embedded in the pavement and sidewalk traces the path of the former wall... to keep memory of human insanity. A stop at the Mauermuseum Haus am **Checkpoint Charlie**, perhaps one of the best representative places, is a **MUST** to get a sense of what the divided city was like during the Cold War. The Checkpoint Charlie was the border point between Berlin two halves and guest in the **Kreuzberg** district. This small, privately run and very well organized museum guests a number of permanent exhibitions that document the history of the Wall and place them into context, as well as record the famous paintings on the Western side of the division. In the surrounding area, some people may try to sell you some pieces of the wall...please, do not believe they're original... nor that this business is officially permitted!! (Friedrichstrasse 43-45; ph: +49 (030) 253 7250; www.mauer-museum.com; opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm; Admission charge). Just around the corner a free exhibition entitled The Topography of Terror is an informative open-air exhibition displaying a preserved section of wall and the former headquarters of the SS and Gestapo (demolished). An audio tour in English is available on the documented tortures and

sufferings. (Niederkirchnerstrasse 8; ph: +49 (030) 2548 6703; www.topographie.de; opening hours: daily 10am-8pm; May-Sep; 10am-dark Oct-Apr; Free admission).

-If you wish to complete the picture, not too far away, you can visit a controversial commemorative monument to six million victims of the holocaust: **The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe**. Inspired by Prague cemetery (see Flashbooking Pocket guide of Prague) and completed in 2005, this project by the American architect Peter Eisenmann gathers 2700 grey squared columns (Field of Stelae open to the public day and night) laying one beside the other...covering a central area that -many have said- was probably best used for civil houses. When you reach the centre of the monument, higher columns show you the entrance of the underground Information Centre maintained by a Federal Foundation. Last comment: 30 millions of euros have been spent for this Monument sponsored by Degussa (a IG-Farben partner in the production of Cyclon-B gas), monument that excludes from the commemoration other victims of the Holocaust as gypsies, handicapped, homosexuals, prisoners etc. To you the last word. (The Information Centre is open from 10am-8pm;

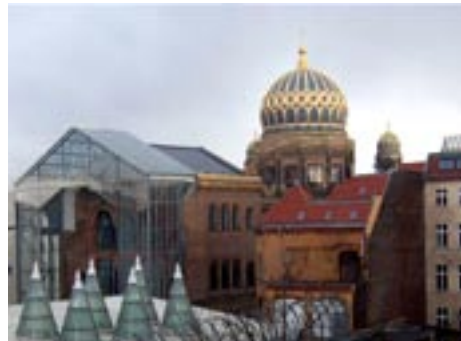
last entrance 7.15pm; closed on Mondays; free entrance; www.holocaustmahnmal.de; Oct-Mar: Tue-Sun 10am-7pm; latest admission at 6.15pm; closed on 1 Jan, 24, 26,31 Dec; ph:+49 (0) 30 26394336; Transport: any public transports that stops at Potsdamerplatz is fine.)

-On a different tone...want to see, until recently, the biggest building site project in the world!? Here you have the Berlin's new heart: **Potsdamer Platz** with its Sony centre and the Film Museum that enthral some eight million visitors every year!! Architect Helmut Jahn's **Sony Centre** on Berlin's historic Potsdamer Platz consists of a complex of seven steel and glass structures and a light-flooded plaza spanned by a spectacular roof. It is an awe-inspiring space which encloses offices, apartments, shopping centres, large 3D cinemas and a museum of Fine Arts. This area is used by cafes and bars to cater for cinemagoers, workers and tourists to the Film Museum that guests a good-quality presentation of the German Movie production with a focus on national beloved Marlene Dietrich. A Film Bibliothek is also open to the public. (Sony Center: www.sonycentre.de; Film Museum- Filmhaus; Potsdamer Str. 2; Tue-Sun 10am-6pm; Thu 10am-8pm; admission fee €6; www.filmmuseum-berlin.de; ph: +49 (0)30 300 9030; U/S-Bahn Potsdamer Platz).

4. Scheunenviertel (ex-Jewish district)

To get a bit of a quarter rich of culture, life and art, get the train to the Hackescher Markt' s station which is the entrance to the nearby fashionable **Hackesche Höfe** complex, a labyrinth of courtyards built to guest artists and their studios in the first decade of XX century and now brimming with cafés, restaurants, boutiques and art galleries. A cinema, theatres and the **Oranienburger Straße** nightlife strip complete the

list of attractions in this increasingly popular (and tourist-ridden) district. The **Neue Synagogue**, an imposing building, with its striking golden dome,



is one of Berlin's most instantly recognisable landmarks in the area. Designed by architect Eduard Knoblauch in 1859, the synagogue was the centre of Jewish life in Berlin until the Kristallnacht (9th Nov. 1938), when it was attacked by Nazi storm troopers. Destroyed in 1943, the synagogue laid in ruins for around 40 years till its restoration and reopening on the fiftieth anniversary of the Kristallnacht (1988). It is now a museum of Jewish culture. (Opening hours: Sun-Thu 10am- 5.30pm; Fri: 10am- 2pm; closed Sat and Jewish holidays; admission:



€2.50; reductions apply: €1.50).

- Very interesting is the **Museum für Naturkunde**, one of the most important Natural History Museum in the world, founded in 1716 and house of a rare fossil of an Archaeopteryx, the oldest bird ever known! 125 million year-old, this animal shows the passage from birds to reptiles and is especially well-known for the excellent imprint of the feathers! (Tue-Fri: 9.30am- 5pm;closed on Mondays; adult entrance: €3,50; reductions for children; www.museum.hu-berlin.de; U-Bahn Zinnowitzer Strasse). Another interesting site -but probably only for this player's work lovers- is the Brecht-Haus where he lived with his wife until his death. (Chausseestrasse, 125; Tue- Fri 10am-12; Thu 5pm-7pm; Sat 9.30 am-2pm; Sun 11 am-6.30pm; entrance €3; ph: +49 (0)30 283 057044).

5. West Berlin: Bahnhof Zoo, Ku'damm

Once you have reached the Zoo U/S station, you can start a visit to the West district of the Capital dedicated to shopping and nightlife: **Ku'damm**. Beside the shopping main areas rich of cafeterias, boutiques and cinemas (Tauentzienstrasse) the district offers some other attractions.

We'd suggest to start with **The Helmut Newton Foundation** (just opposite the train station), founded in 2003 by Helmut Newton himself with the aim to protect and present the photographic oeuvre of Helmut Newton and his wife June (alias Alice Springs) who was a prominent portraitist in her own right. The Foundation is guest in the former Landwehrkasino in Berlin Charlottenburg, with the ground floor and the first floor made permanently available as exhibition space. According to the wish of Helmut Newton (who died in January 2004) the foundation in Berlin, his home city, was to be

no "dead museum" but a "lively institution", so forth, the exhibition program, together with his multi-faceted, innovative and often provocative work, will also include shows on other artists



and photographers, allowing their work to enter into a dialogue with Newton's.

- As you are reading these lines, it maybe means you are interested in photography...uhmm...so you maybe would like to know that since June 2004, the **Museum for Photography** (Museum für Fotografie, part of the Kunstbibliothek -Art Library) is right there, situated under the same roof as the Helmut Newton Foundation. This recent Museum is a place dedicated to exhibitions and as a research and documentation centre aims to bring together many different aspects of the photography found in the National Museums in Berlin. (Jebensstraße, 2- Charlottenburg; +49 (0)30 318 648 25; Wheelchair Access; transports: U-Bahn U1, U2, U9; S-Bahn S5, S7, S75, S9 and many buses with stop at the Zoological Garten).

- Other sites in the vicinity are the **Zoo** and the **Aquarium** (although we are not very fond of those relegating places!) and the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche, a church that stands

as a reminder of World War II. This part of the city is worth a visit for the dynamic nightlife entertainment and as a shopping area.

6. Charlottenburg



-North of Ku'damm, there's the **Charlottenburg** district that, with its castle, gardens and museums, will take you an entire day! The Charlottenburg castle is located on the north west of Ernst-Reuter-Platz, in parkland that runs alongside the river Spree. Charlottenburg is the largest and most prestigious castle in the city, built in 1699 as the summer residence for Queen Sophie Charlotte. The magnificent palace is surrounded by a baroque garden, in which diverse architectures melt into a unique ensemble and where we suggest to take a relaxing walk! A Protector of the arts, the sovereign turned Charlottenburg into a meeting place for intellectuals and musicians. The castle was seriously damaged by bombs during the last war, and was rebuilt by copying photographs, sketches and designs. The interiors too have been returned to their antique splendour, thanks to the restoration of decorations and

furniture. The entire palace presents itself with majestically equipped rooms and saloons and with top-class art collections that offer outstanding masterpieces. One of the highlights in the exhibition is the largest collection of French paintings of the 18th century outside of France. The ensemble of rooms and saloons - artistically as well as historically impressive - is a living testimonial of courtly culture and life from baroque times until the early 20th century. (Spandauer Damm 10-22; www.spsg.de; ph +49(0) 30 320 911; besucherzentrum@spsg.de; opening hours: 1 March - 31 October from 8.30am to 5pm; 1 November - 28 February from 9am to 4pm)

- Do not miss the **Berggruen Collection**, just opposite the palace in the Western Stüler Building, presenting exceptional works of classic modern art. Included among the artists are Picasso, Klee, Giacometti and Matisse. Oil paintings, sculptures and various works on paper are on show on three floors under the title "Picasso and his Time". More than 100 works by Picasso form the heart of the collection illustrating many facets of his life's-work: from a drawing from his student days in 1897 to the works he painted in 1972, one year before he died. The blue and pink period are represented as well as cubism and classicism. (Spandauer Damm 20-24; ph: +49 (0)30 3209 1440; www.spsg.de; opening hours: Tues -Sun 9am-5pm; Tues-Sun 10am-5pm (Mar-Oct); 11am-5pm (Nov-Mar); grounds open daily 6pm-9pm (summer); daily 6pm-8pm (winter):admission charge).

»FLEA MARKETS, SHOPPING & Co.

For traditional shopping just notice that Central Shops opening hours are Mon-Fri 9/10am- 8pm;

Sat 9/10am -4pm. Those in suburban areas may close earlier. Some bakeries are open on Sundays from 2-4pm.

At **Flohmarkt am Ankonaplatz** you can get anything from 60's and 70's. (Prenzlauer Berg; U-Bahn Bernauer Strasse; Sun 11am-6pm).

If you'd like something from former USSR ... you'd better go to the small, students-run market at **Boxhagener Platz** (Friedrichshain; U/S Bahn Warschauer Str.; Sun 9am-4pm).

For old furniture, books, clothes or anything found under Berliners' roofs...try the Flohmarkt Schöenberg, right in front of the homonym Municipal hall (U- Bahn Rathaus Schöenberg; Sat-Sun 8am-4pm).

At **Fredrichstrasse Train station**, for something you might buy for your mum or mother-in-law... there's a small and nice antique market, rare books, jewels and more. (U/S- Bahn Friedrichstrasse, 190-203; Wed-Sun 11am-6pm). Also good for flowers is the close by **Blumen Röwer** open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm; Sat 10am-4pm whilst the biggest flea market runs along Strasse 17 Juni through the Tiergarten at weekends. An interesting food market is the

Türken-Markt where you can get some delicious cheese, olives, bread and dry fruits... Best on Fridays! (Kottbusser Damm/Maybachufer Neukölln; U-Bahn Kottbusser Tor, Tue and Fri noon-6pm).

Shops & Stores: **KaDeWe** the biggest store of the continent from clothes, to food... (Tauentzienstr., 21; Shöenberg; ph. +49 (0) 30 21210; U-Bahn Wittenbergplatz; Mon-Sat 10am-8pm); the cheapest nice store we suggest is Wertheim (Kurfürstendamm 231, in Charlottenburg; ph: +49 (0) 30 880030; Mon-Sat 10am-8pm; U-Bahn Kurfürstendamm). Close by and specialized in backpacking gears is the Bannat (Lietzenburger Str.65, Charlottenburg; ph: +49 (0) 30 882 7601). If you run out of books try these bookshops the huge Emporium for books, cds and software at Dussmann (Mitte; Friedrichstr.90; ph: +49 (0) 30 2025 2400; www.kulturkaufhaus.de). If you are in West Berlin try a small bookshop Books in Berlin with a good section for English narrative and used books in general (Goethestr.69, Charlottenburg; ph+49 (0) 30 3131233; www.booksinberlin.de). In the heart of East Berlin you should have a look at the East of Eden international bookshop: an independent second hand book shop hosting regular events (readings, open stage, exhibitions and live music) in the reading room. They have something like 10,000 second-hand English language books! (Schreinerstrasse 10, Samariterstr; U-Bahn Samariterst ; www.east-of-eden.de). **Art galleries:** there are many spreading all over the city. The ones in the East part are more focused on contemporary art whilst the Westerns are more elegant, luxurious and traditionally run. For all info, we suggest you grab the English-German magazine Artery Berlin, or the free copy of Galerien Berlin

A DAILY REASON WHY BERLIN IS WORTH A VISIT!!

TUE: Cine-day (Kinotag) where reductions apply to many movie theatres: at the Sony Centre many movies are in English!

THU: Free National Museums entrance on the very last 4 hours (roughly from 2pm-6pm or later)

FRI: clubbing... Scheunenviertel or Ku'damm areas!!

SAT: flea markets for all!

SUN: give your stomach a brunch and have some fitness skating in the Tiergarten park! You will feel like a real Berliner!

available in almost all galleries or again see the website www.berliner-galerien.de. The Zitty and Tip magazines also report latest art events in the city.

»EAT, DRINK AND 'BRUNCH'!

Berlin also has restaurants to suit all tastes. Our personal selection gather in a few lines places with character that feature view, charming atmosphere, good prices, fulfilling healthy food,



young crowd and divided in 3 main areas of Berlin and the Tiergarten Park.

Mitte: For a great view over the Brandenburg Gate and a variety of tasting healthy cuisine book the **Dachgartenrestaurant**, inside the futuristic Parliament building. Good also for brunches (till 11am) or 'Kaffee und Kuchen breaks' in the afternoons. (Platz der Republik, ph. +49 (0) 30 2262 9933; www.feinkost-kaefer.de). A place where usually artists and players meet for a taste of South German culinary art is **the Florian**. Wish to get some sun on a terrace? Try **Maxwell**, a restaurant where local products and a creative cuisine blend together. (Bergstrasse, 22; ph. +49 (0)30 280 7121; www.maxwellberlin.de). Close

to Check Point Charlie, and not too touristy is the **Adler Café**, famous for fresh home-made soups and breakfast! (Friedrichstr, 206; ph.+49 (0)30 251 8965; mon-Sat 10am-midnight; Sun 10am-7pm).

East: In this part of Berlin there are too many things happening to list them all here. Good places to start: **Kula- Karma**, close to the lively Hackescher Markt, serves Thai dishes with seafood or ducks. (Rosenthaler Str. 36, ph:+49 (0)30 27582035; www.kulakarma.de). A stylish option close by, clean and with a warm atmosphere given by wooden floors and candle lights, is **the Oleander**. You can chose among several Mediterranean dishes and wines. (Rosenthaler Str, 46, ph: +49 (0)30 2809 6517). On a 207metres-high tower the **Tele Café Alexanderplatz** offers international dishes and delicious soups! Booking is preferable! (Panorama Str.; ph +49 (0)30 24233 33; all days 10am-11-30 pm)

A place where to get a soup or American bakery products during your art visits is the **Barcomi's Deli** with a nice internal garden. (Sophienstr, 21; ph. +49 (0)30 2859 8363; all days 9am-10pm). On Oranienburger Strasse are the funky **808**, (Oranienburger Strasse 42-43), **Reingold**, (Novalisstrasse 11), for cocktails and jazz, or **Ambulance Barr**, Oranienburger Strasse 27, which doubles as a club. In trendy Prenzlauer Berg, the Prater, Kastienalle 7-9, with its beer garden, theatre and bar.

West: For vegetarians, the **Hamlet** is good for dinners or light meals during the day: specials baguettes, couscous, omelettes, feta crepes.... (Uhlandstrasse,47; ph +49 (0) 30 882 1361). Close by try the **Carpe Diem**, a charming stylish industrial setting and

inexpensive tapas, risottos, paella and other Spanish delightful meals. (Arch 576-577, between Uhlandstrasse and Grolmanstrasse



in Charlottenburg; ph: +49 (0)30 313 2728; www.carpe-diem-restaurant.de). Close by and good for cafés and breakfast is **Café Sauvigny** with a bohemian crowd (Grolmanstr.53; ph:+49 (0)30 31519612; all days 9am-1am). Something filling as goulash and ravioli (Maultaschen) is served at the **Zwiebelfisch**, a place for some jazz, and sleepwalking artists or journalists...the last serving hour is 3am!!! (Savignyplatz,7: ph: +49 (0)30 312 7363; open all days noon-6am)

BEER HOUSES Best in springtime!

In Mitte **the Leopold's Brauhaus** is a Bavarian style spot which offers excellent beers like the famous Weissen and specialty food for lunch at good prices! (Karl-Liebknecht-Str.13, Mitte; Mon-Sat 10am-midnight; Sun 10 am-11pm). A view on Charlottenburg Castle and never-ending pouring beer is the **Luisenbrau** (Luisenplatz,1; ph.+49 (0)30 341 9388; Mon, Thu and Sun 9am-1am; Fri and Sat 9am-2am).

Tiergarten: For a relaxing break in the green **the Café am Neuen See**, a Bavarian beer house, is the ideal place to cool down with fresh beverages and small appetizers close to the pond where you get on boat trips... (Lichtensteinallee, 2; ph. +49 (0) 30 254 4930; all days 10am-1pm). To



end the light meal with something sweet, get a special cake at the park **Café Buchwald**, since 1852 an institution! (Bartningallee, 29; ph.+49 (0)30 391 5931; all days Mar-Oct 11am-11pm; Nov-Feb 11am-6.30pm)

NIGHTLIFE

Once in town, get the free magazine 030 (www.berlin030.de) or Zitty (www.zitty.de), Tip (www.berlinonline.de/tip), Prinz (www.prinz.de) or the main English language paper, the ExBerliner (www.exberliner.com).

Berlin literally wakes up at night! For this reason it is considered one of the liveliest cities in Europe featuring discotheques, style bars, yuppie haunts, parties, clubs and every type of entertainment! The right spot to be, although it could sound like a non-sense, is the resurgent new East Berlin! As

first time visitors, we recommend a nightly tour through Berlin-Mitte and around the Hackesche Höfe, Oranienburger Straße, Friedrichshain and above all Prenzlauer Berg; on West Berlin Savignyplatz and Kreuzberg.

Mitte: A very DDR-look for this club WMF (Cafe Moskau) featuring Hip, electronic and famous djs. (Karl-Marx-Allee 34; Schillingstraße; www.wmfclub.de; open Thu-Sun 10 pm till late). A stylish place with a retro atmosphere, the Gruner Salon attracts many people on Thursdays for tango, on Fridays for swing and on Saturdays for cabarets. Charges apply. (Rosa Luxemburg Platz,2; ph: +49 (0) 30 2459 89 39; www.gruener-salon.de; U-Bahn Rosa- Luxemburg-Platz; Mon-Sat from 7pm till late). The Adagio Berlin club is rather unusual with its baroque and old-times interiors: it can guest up to 1000 people dancing disco classics, house and RnB. (Marlene-Dietrich-Platz 1, Tiergarten; ph: +49 (0) 30 258989; Wed 9pm-3am, Thu 7pm-2am, Fr-Sa 10pm-5am).

Prenzlauer Berg: A big place, with lounge bar, privè and bar where it's easy to find your own intimate spot it the Icon, one of the best clubs



in Berlin for drum 'n' bass with International dj. (Cantianstr. 15; ph: +49 (0)30 6128 7545;

www.iconberlin.com; U-Bahn Eberswalder Str.: opening hours vary). Soda, a former beer Industry features soul, house and funk and good salsa on Thursdays and Sundays. (Knaackstr. 97; ph: +49 (0)30 44058707; www.soda-berlin.de; U- Bahn Eberswalder Str.: opening hours vary)

Friedrichshain: In the summer we suggest the beer house Pavillion with Nu Jazz, soul and funk...(Friedenstrasse in Volkspark, ph: +49 0172 750 4724; www.pavillion-berlin.de; U-Bahn Strausberger Platz).

Kreuzberg: Golgotha very popular especially on Thursdays where music from the 60's attracts many people on its open air dance floor! (Dudenstr. 48-64; ph: +49 (0) 30 7852453; U and S- Bahn Yorkstrasse).

The famous Far Out is a very friendly place in **Charlottenburg** with a large dance floor. It's very popular among locals and tourists: on Wednesdays nights has free entrance for people over 30! Recommended option for your night! (Kurfürstendamm,156; ph: +49 (0) 30 3200 0723, www.farout-berlin.de; Tue from 7pm, Wed from 9pm, Thu-Su from 10pm).

JAZZ CLUBS: The jazz and blues scene is



particularly happening (www.berlinjazz.de) and popular spots include Quasimodo, for renowned

jazz musicians as well as upcoming talents playing jazz, blues, folk, funk, soul. (Kantstraße, 12; Charlottenburg; ph: +49 (0)30 3128086; www.quasimodo.de; open daily from 9pm; live music from 10pm). Soultrane, the elegant side house of the A Trane: after dinner, first class jazz is being served. (Stilwerk, Kantstraße 17, Charlottenburg; ph: +40 (0) 30 315 18 60; www.soultrane.de). In Mitte, try also B-Flat, spacious and modern where you can get good jazz every night: on Wednesday jam session and Tango on Sundays!! (Rosenthaler Strasse 13; +49 (0) 30 2838 6835; www.b-flat-berlin.de). Another very good spot for jazz, salsa and cabaret occasionally is the Flöz (Nassauische Strasse,37; Wilmersdorf; ph:+ 49(0) 30 861 1000 from 9 pm till late every day.)

A good alternative for an evening are the city



CINEMAS.

Close to the Grune Salon there's the Babylon where they often have English movies (Dresdener Str. 126; Kreuzberg; ph. +49 (0)306160 9693; U-Bahn Kottbusser Tor); Cinemaxx Potsdamer Platz or the Cinestar Sony Center are huge multiplex that project movies in original languages. (both in Potsdamer Platz, U/ S Bahn Potsdamer Platz;

respectively phone numbers: (0)30 44316316; (0)30 26066260).

A concert of the Philharmonie is a must! OCNtact the ticket office at +49 (0)30 2548 8999; www.berliner-philharmoniker.de; Matthaikirchstr,1).

»EVENTS OF THE YEAR

January

Sechs-Tage-Rennen (6 day bicycle racing), end of January.

Long Night of the Museums (Lange Nacht der Museen) www.langenacht-der-museen.de , end of January

February

Berlinale: Internationale Film festival

March



Internationale Tourismusbörse, tourism fair, halls at the radio tower, Funkturm: more info at www.messe-berlin.de.

Berliner Festspiele: a festival for topical music Maerz-Musik. (www.berlinerfestspiele.de)

May

Museuminsel festival (festival on the Museuminsel) starts in May and goes on till September (www.

museumselfestival.info)

Women's Tennis Open of Germany (info at www.german-open-berlin.de)

June: Fete de la Musique on 21st: groups, bands from all over Europe literally invade Berlin clubs, jazz clubs and streets. (www.lafetedelamusique.com)

Christopher Street Day: everything is brightly coloured on last Saturday of June: gay pride parade, music events a lot of fun! (www.csd-berlin.de)

The long science night : info at www.langenachderwissenschaften.de

July

Love Parade: a huge street tecnoparty attracting hundreds of thousands of techno fans from all over Germany and Europe! (www.loveparade.de)

Classic Open Air at the Gendarmenmarkt on the beginning of July (www.classic-openair.ch)

Bach Celebrations and concerts all over the city on the second week of July.

August

Internationale Berliner Bierfestival where you can taste over 1700 beer specialties from 200 breweries of 75 different countries. Berlin becomes a 2 km long outdoors beer-house! (second weekend of August).

Gauklerfest nice and small festival of street

artists and their arts, cabaret and specialties from Berlin cooks along Under den Linden. (beginning of August)

Lange Nacht der Museen (end of August) over 100 museums are open till midnight promoting various cultural events (www.mdberling.de).

Young Euro Classic, youth orchestras from all over Europe perform on different theatres. (www.young-euro-classic.de)

Tanzfest Berlin at Hebbel Theatre: dance performances and shows with artists from all over the world. (www.tanzfest.de; last 2 weeks of the month)

September

Art Forum Berlin, fair for contemporary art, with galleries and artist performances at the Messegelände in Hammarskjöldplatz-Masurenallee (www.art-forum-berlin.de).

Berlin-Marathon starting on Strasse des 17 Juni and running for 50 km through Dahlem, and back to Ku'damm. Subscription deadline close 1 month earlier. (www.berlin-marathon.com)

Internationales Literaturfestival (www.literaturfestival.com)

PopKomm, pop music and entertainment professional fair with many side programs, parties and music festival (end of September)

Musikfest Berlin: 2 weeks of September

dedicated to classical music concerts (www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en)

October

Berlin Festival a vast program of different performing arts from dance to theatre, literature reading, live music and more! (www.berlinerfestspiele.de)

November

JazzFest Berlin (Berlin Jazz Festival): info at www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en.

Berliner Lektionen (Berlin Lectures): these Sunday morning lecture series held in the

SUGGESTED FILMS

Run Lola Run (1998) by T. Tykwer

The Sky Over Berlin (1987) by W. Wender

Bourne Supremacy (2004) by P.

Greengrass

Schlinders list (1993) by S. Spielberg

Faraway so close (1993) by W. Wenders

Around the world in 80 days (2004) by F.

Coraci

Beyond the Sea (2004) by K. Spacey

AND BOOKS

We Children from Bahnhof Zoo by

Christiane F. or Film (1981) by U. Edel

Letter from Berlin Ian McEwan

Any book by Nobel Prize Heinrich Boll

Renaissance Theatre guest international renown prominent figures of our time - philosophers, artists, scientists and politicians-offering an alternative to the bland talk-show mentality of our time.

Jewish Culture days: presentations of books, movies, concerts etc. (www.juedische-kulturtag.org)

December

Christmas Markets: the most attractive in Richardplatz in Neukölln; the biggest in Altstadt Spandau.

Silvester Marathon on the 31st.

»USEFUL NUMBERS

Fire 112

Police 110

Ambulance 19222

Central Post Office: Joachimstaler Str. 7 (www.deutschepost.de)

Main Tourist Office: Brandenburg Gate, Pariser Platz

General Train info: (01805) 331050

Lost and found: +49 (0) 30 756 00 (Platz der Luftbrücke)

»Embassies

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