

**POLYGLOTT** on tour

# Berlin

Including large pull-out map & 80 stickers  
for individual planning



**English Edition**



**POLYGLOTT** on tour

# Berlin

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**Large pull-out map  
& 80 stickers  
for individual planning**

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### SYMBOLS

-   The Authors' Top  
Recommendations
-  Special Activities and  
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-  Entertaining Cultural  
Insights
-  Top Highlights
-  Highlights of the Destination

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#### TOUR SYMBOLS

① The POLYGLOTT Tours

⑥ Places of interest

① Food & drink stop-off

① Pointer to 50 Things

[A1] The coordinates refer to the  
the pull-out map

[a1] Position shown on the back of  
the pull-out map

#### PRICE SYMBOLS

Hotel (Double) Restaurant

€ up to 50 euros up to 20 euros

€€ 50–100 euros 20–30 euros

€€€ over 100 euros over 30 euros

Brandenburger Tor, the symbol  
and landmark of Berlin



A photograph of a classical building with large columns, partially obscured by a blue overlay containing the text 'LOCAL FLAIR'. The image shows a low-angle view of several massive, fluted columns supporting a structure. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. In the background, a street with trees and a few people can be seen through the opening of the colonnade. The blue overlay is a solid, vibrant color that frames the central text.

# LOCAL FLAIR

# 50 Things that You ...

This is where you can discover, try out, marvel, gather holiday memories, and skilfully avoid any faux-pas. These tips will help you experience what is really typical and make you want to find out more. Have fun!

## ...Should Do

① **Reunification first-hand** As you walk through the Brandenburg Gate, consider the fact that it divided the democratic West from the socialist East until 1989; you can then celebrate the Reunification over a coffee in the luxury Hotel Adlon. > p. 72

② **Popular refreshment** Bask in the sun among Berlin's beautiful people and occasionally take a dip in the swimming pool in the Spree ([www.arena-berlin.de](http://www.arena-berlin.de), entrance: Eichenstr., 10997, Arena), then while away the evening in the 'Freischwimmer' restaurant next door (Reserve in advance! Vor dem Schlesischen Tor 2a, 10997, [www.freischwimmer-berlin.com](http://www.freischwimmer-berlin.com)). [M5]

③ **Spectacular Karl-Marx-Allee** Admire the 'Workers' Palaces' in Stalinist Gingerbread style on the magnificent former socialist boulevard stretching from Strausberger Platz to Frankfurter Tor. > p. 93

④ **Start Saturday evening in a good mood** Listen to German authors reading their texts in the Alte Kantine of the KulturBrauerei > p. 65 and then at the same location sway to hand-picked pearls of music history in the Megapearls Disco ([www.alte-kantine.de](http://www.alte-kantine.de)).

⑤ **Beach with backdrop** Sit down on a deckchair and take time to relax after two rounds of beach volleyball on Berlin's coolest beach – in the Metaxa Bay Beach Club – before the evening beach parties get going. > p. 176

⑥ **Berlin from above** Climb up the 258 steps to the viewing platform of 'Gold-Else' > p. 108, as the Berliners call the Victory Column and you will be rewarded with a magnificent vista of the green capital.

⑦ **Film metropolis Berlin** Take the videoBus to original shooting locations of well-known films: at the relevant places, you will see excerpts



Urban beach experience: Metaxa Bay

from i. a. *The Legend of Paul and Paula*, *Run Lola Run* and *Goodbye Lenin* (Tour: *Movie City Berlin*, every second Saturday in German; on request also in English, Unter den Linden 40, 10117, [videobus tour.de](http://videobus.tour.de)). [H3]

**8 Berlin swings** Take a short introductory course to swing at Clärchens Ballhaus, and then sweep your partner onto the dance floor and get jiving (Auguststraße 24, 10117, [www.ballhaus.de](http://www.ballhaus.de)); it is even more fun if you wear clothes in 1930s style, e. g. from Marlenes Töchter (Große Hamburger Straße 19a, 10115, [www.marlenes-toechter.de](http://www.marlenes-toechter.de)). [H2]

**9 Paddle Paradise** Discover the New Venice, the romantic waterway system between the two lakes of Müggelsee and Dämeritzsee. Boats can be hired from 13 Kanus (Am Küstergarten 18A, 12589, [www.13kanus.de](http://www.13kanus.de)).

## ...Should Try

**10 Currywurst** is the capital's classic snack. *Brühwurst* – depending on your devotion – is eaten with or without the skin, with spicy onions and, of course, curry sauce. Unbeatably tasty at Curry 36 (Mehringdamm 36, 10961, daily 9–5). [H5]

**11 Tastes great!** *Kohlroulade* (stuffed cabbage) is a classic Berlin dish and appears on the menu in numerous restaurants. The Altes Zollhaus offers a particularly tasty

and hearty version with its *Kohlroulade à la Heini Holl*. › p. 38

**12 Berlin with chopsticks** Just thinking about Dim Sum probably makes fans' mouths water. The stylish Long March Canteen is the stronghold of Chinese Dim Sum variations (tapas), from €5. Tip: Order a selection and share them. › p. 38

**13 Traditional Middle Eastern dish** The vegetarian alternative to a Kebab is Falafel. These deep-fried chickpea nuggets are available as a Falafel dish or with sesame sauce in pita bread, are freshly made and particularly good at Sufis (Yorckstr. 82, 10967, [sufis-berlin.de](http://sufis-berlin.de)). [G5]

**14 Popular doner kebab** No, it was not invented along the Bosphorus but near the station at Berlin Zoo. In 1972, Kadir Nurman was the first person to put the meat from the revolving spit into pita bread and add onions, salad and sauce. Bagdad, for instance, is open 24/7 (Schlesische Str. 2, 10997). [L4]

**15 Chill with Berliner Weiße** The top-fermented beer tastes particularly refreshing flavoured with a red raspberry or green woodruff syrup in beer gardens like Prater › p. 40, 132, or Loretta am Wannsee (Kronprinzessinnenweg 260, 14109).

**16 A fistful of meat** Freshly prepared hamburgers with high-quality ingredients and in countless variations – from chilli burgers to vegan burgers – are all the rage. Popular:



## Overview of the Districts

Does Berlin have a centre? Of course there is a *Mitte* district – and the German word *Mitte* translates as centre, but is Berlin's *Mitte* actually in the city centre?

From a historical point of view, the so-called **historical centre** is located to the left and right of the magnificent Unter den Linden boulevard – between the Brandenburg Gate on Pariser Platz and the place where the city palace once stood and is now in the process of being rebuilt. This centre encompasses the UNESCO World Heritage Museum Island, the Gendarmenmarkt and the Friedrichstraße.

During the GDR period, the undisputed centre of the capital was in the **Mitte** district around **Alexanderplatz**. The contrast between the old architecture, such as the Marienkirche (Our Lady's Church) or the Nikolaiviertel, and the Modernist (East) buildings, such as the TV tower could hardly be

bigger. However, if you ask any of the young visitors to the city where Berlin's centre is, then you will find that most of them give only one answer: around the Hackescher Markt, in the so-called north Mitte encompassing Oranienburger Straße and the Scheunenviertel (Barn District). Here you will find elegant shops and a pulsating art and cultural scene. Trends develop here; people go out and have fun. It is here that Berlin is really cosmopolitan.

Only a few metres from Pariser Platz is an area that raises a '*Mitte*' claim. Until the end of the 1980s, it belonged to the 'death strip' around **Potsdamer Platz**, but before the Second World War this was indeed a 'centre' of cultivated life. Today, the revived square and its environs including the Leipziger Platz, the Kulturforum and the Ministergärten, surrounded by the **Tiergarten** and the **Regierungsviertel** (Government District) have again moved into a

### Thought about it?

Simply tick and set off prepared



- Passport
- Flight/train/bus tickets
- Vehicle registration/driving licence
- Credit card
- Small change for the parking meters (if applicable)
- Hotel reservation
- Online tickets for museums, Reichstag dome, and plenary session (if booked)
- Batteries and chargers for mobile phones and cameras
- Medicines and plasters for blisters
- If travelling in the autumn or winter, don't forget an umbrella.



Equestrian statue in front of the Altes Museum

central position, as is shown by the many foreign visitors around Sony Center, the Marlene-Dietrich-Platz and the Leipziger Platz. Yet Potsdamer Platz is nonetheless not the traditional centre, at least as far as the people from West Berlin are concerned. For them, the centre is as it always was the Ku'damm, the Tauentzien, the Memorial Church and the KaDeWe – and thus the intersections of the three areas Schöneberg, Charlottenburg and Wilmersdorf, called **City West**. From the shopping perspective, Ku'damm and Friedrichstraße seem to be equal rivals, while **Schloss Charlottenburg** is for the City West what the Museum Island is for the Historic Centre.

But what is a centre without the periphery? Based on the definitions of the centre above, Prenzlauer Berg, Kreuzberg, Friedrichshain and Schöneberg are located on the periphery. Yet, when one looks at Berlin as a whole, they are also 'in the centre'. So the periphery must be defined differently in Berlin – something a long way out. And even if many people from the inner-city areas are moving to the suburbs, the **Prenzlauer Berg** area with its beautifully restored old buildings remains one of the most popular residential areas in Berlin with young, affluent families; it has the highest density of prams and pushchairs. Around Kollwitzplatz and Helmholtzplatz, a lively restaurant and pub scene has grown up and there is a wide range of cultural attractions, for example in the KulturBrauerei.

**Kreuzberg**, for some a negative, for others a positive example of a multi-cultural society, was once the hindmost part of West Berlin and only moved into the centre of the city after the fall of the Wall, where together with **Friedrichshain** it now forms a lively east-west district, in which there is a lot going on, especially by the Spree. The Mercedes-Benz Arena (originally called O<sub>2</sub> World) was opened in Autumn 2008. The surrounding, former industrial area is now in the process of being developed with businesses and

## Facts & Figures



- **Geographical Position:** 52°31'N and 13°24'E, 34–60m (112–196ft) above sea level. The highest elevation is the Großer Müggelberg

in Köpenicker Forst at 115m (377ft) above sea level.

- **Area:** Total area about 892km<sup>2</sup> (345mi<sup>2</sup>), of which 55% is on the west and 45% on the east side of the city. The city extends at max. 45km (28mi) east-west and 38km north-south (23.5mi).
- **Resident population:** 3.5 mill. residents, of which 950,000 are of migrant background and over 500,000 are foreigners from 186 countries (2013).
- **Population density:** The most densely populated area with 12,400 residents per km<sup>2</sup> is Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, the least densely populated area is Treptow-Köpenick with 1,400 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>.
- **Unemployment:** 10.7% of the labour force (2015).
- **Government:** Berlin is a city state which has been subject to federal law since 3 October 1990. The Berlin Senate is based in the 'Red Town



Hall' (Rotes Rathaus). The Senate comprises of the governing mayor – since 2014 Michael Müller, SPD – and a maximum of eight senators.

- **Abgeordnetenhaus:** The Berlin State Parliament has at least 130 elected members who directly represent the people of Berlin. Its members meet in the building that formerly housed the Prussian Parliament.
- **Administration:** Until 2000, Berlin consisted of 23 administrative units that had developed gradually over a period of time. As part of an administrative reform programme in 2001, they were reorganised and reduced to twelve in total.
- **Partner cities:** include Los Angeles, Moscow, Paris, Madrid, Brussels, Istanbul, Budapest and Mexico City.

## Geography

Berlin is the largest city in Germany in terms of area, number of inhabitants and population density, yet it is by no means a concrete jungle. The idyllic landscape traversed by streams

and full of woods and parks took shape during the Pleistocene ice ages. For thousands of years, the lowland plain of the Berlin-Warsaw glacial valley has largely consisted of marshy and sandy ground.



Murals at the East Side Gallery: a Trabant, still affectionately called a *Trabi*

On sunny weekends, the inner-city's green oases, such as the Tiergarten, provide leisure and recreational opportunities for the city's residents. Just a few miles north, Lübars offers nature at its best, and on spring days the woods of Spandauer Forst and the Wuhlheide heath near Köpenick are ideal for getting away from it all.

## Economy

Large companies, such as Siemens, Borsig and Osram, used to have their headquarters in Berlin. The Second World War brought about a massive economic downturn. After 1949, Berlin's isolation made economic recovery even more difficult. Many companies left altogether after the construction of the Wall. One exception was Axel Springer who had his new publishing house (1961–66) built directly next to the Wall in Kreuzberg. Industrial investment was also subsidised by the government. (West) Berlin was the largest industrial location of the federal republic until the Reunification in 1989. East Berlin was home

to many of the GDR's major industrial companies, too. In both halves of the city, disproportionate numbers of people were employed in government administration.

## Since the Reunification

The economic situation of the metropolis has shown a significant improvement since the Reunification. Its geographic position makes it the hub between east and west, especially for trade purposes. The movement of the official seat of government to the reunited capital city accelerated the development of the infrastructure. Nevertheless, Berlin, together with the new federal states, has the highest level of unemployment of all the major German cities. The capital is losing further ground as an industrial location. The high property prices in the city area play an important role in this respect. However, the income generated by the service area is growing. Tourism is booming in the capital: in 2014 over 11.8 mill. people visited Berlin, an increase of about 5.6% compared with the previous year.

The U1 line on its way over the Oberbaumbrücke bridge towards Kreuzberg



# TOP TOURS & SIGHTS

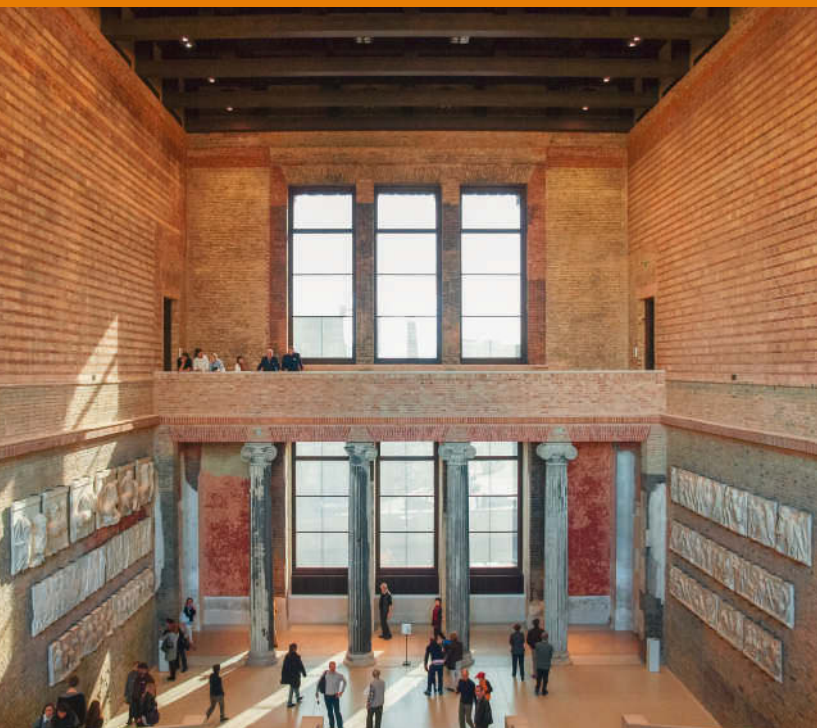


# THE HISTORIC CENTRE

## A Little Inspiration

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- **Spend some time on Pariser Platz** and take photos of the Quadriga, the four-horse chariot atop the Brandenburg Gate › p. 73
- **Look down from the viewing platform of the Französischer Dom** onto the Gendarmenmarkt › p. 78
- **Visit the Old National Gallery** and admire the paintings of Caspar David Friedrich › p. 84
- **Sit back in the well-heated Märchenhütte** and sip on a glass of hot punch while you enjoy a wintertime performance of the Brother Grimm's tales › p. 87





**This is where you will find the architectural treasures of the city; Brandenburg Gate, the Gendarmenmarkt and Museum Island all enjoy world renown.**

Berlin's historic centre is teeming with such magnificent, world-class architecture that it is one of the highlights of a visit. One day should be set aside for exploring the heart of the city, which even today throbs with urban vitality, and if you want to visit the museums allow at least one extra day.

**Brandenburger Tor** (Brandenburg Gate), the entrance to the historic centre is one of the must-see sights in Berlin as is **Pariser Platz**, the location of the Hotel Adlon, the American and French Embassies and the Academy of Arts.

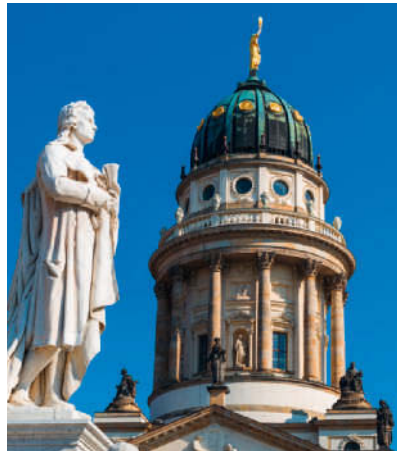
From Brandenburg Gate, the famous boulevard **Unter den Linden** leads towards Schlossplatz.

**Friedrichstraße** has almost reattained the status of its heyday as a shopping and recreational mile. An increasing number of high-quality businesses have set up here over the past few years and enjoyment is also high on the agenda. Friedrichstadt-palast and Admiralspalast, two famous temples of entertainment can be found in the north of Friedrichstraße. There are some fine restaurants in and around **Gendarmenmarkt** which, with the Französischer and Deutscher Dom, arguably ranks as the city's loveliest square.

**Museumsinsel** (Museum Island) is the name given to the north section of Berlin's island on the Spree,

the half a mile or so between Lustgarten and Monbijoupark, due to its five internationally acclaimed art temples.

This little world of its own in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the city traffic exudes an air of calm and dignity. Many of the buildings are surrounded by scaffolding, and the renovation work will continue for some time. In 1999, Museum Island was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. The adjacent green oasis of the **Monbijoupark** offers a wonderful recreational spot in the summer.



Above: Französischer Dom with Schiller Memorial

Left: Neues Museum – a treasure house of ancient gems



## Tours in the Historic Centre



### From Brandenburg Gate to Schlossplatz

**Route:** Brandenburg Gate › Holocaust Memorial › Pariser Platz › Unter den Linden › Friedrichstraße › Gendarmenmarkt › Staatsoper › Schlossplatz

**Map:** page 74

**Duration:** 4 hours

**Useful Tips:**

- The starting point is Pariser Platz in front of Brandenburg Gate, which can be comfortably reached with the © 1 or © 2, 25 (Brandenburger Tor Station), or with the sight-seeing buses no. 100 and 200.
- It is also easy to get back from Schlossplatz to Pariser Platz with these two bus routes (direction Zoologischer Garten).

### Tour Start: Brandenburg Gate [G3]

For many years, people could not pass through here; the Berlin Wall ran just behind Brandenburg Gate. When the first piece of Wall fell two days before Christmas in 1989, the triumphal arch became a symbol of the reunified city. At its inauguration in 1791, the edifice was called Friedenstor (Gate of Peace): Johann

Gottfried Schadow's goddess of victory brings peace into the city with her Quadriga. A relief shows Zeus's son Heracles as the mythical benefactor of humanity. The political reason for the depiction was to pay homage to Friedrich II (Frederick the Great) as a victorious commander and king of peace. Architect Carl Gotthard Langhans based his design for the sandstone gate on the model of the Propylaea (gate) on the Athenian Acropolis. His work marks the beginning of Neoclassicism in Berlin, which Karl Friedrich Schinkel would later propel to glamorous heights.

Napoleon was so enamoured with the Quadriga that he had it taken back to Paris as part of the booty seized after his victory over the Prussians in 1807. In 1814, during the Wars of Liberation, it was returned to Berlin. King Friedrich Wilhelm III (Frederick William III) commissioned the addition of the Iron Cross and the Prussian eagle.

Since its renovation, the Gate has remained closed to vehicles in both directions, including taxis and buses travelling east. It is open to pedestrians and cyclists (**50 Things** ① › p. 12).

Anyone seeking respite from the bustling city centre can retreat to the 'Room of Tranquillity' (Brandenburger Tor, north wing; Pariser Platz, 10117, tel: 030 305 95 83, [www.raumder-stille-im-brandenburgertor.de](http://www.raumder-stille-im-brandenburgertor.de), March–Oct 11–6, Nov, Feb 11–5, Dec, Jan 11–4).



Inside the DZ Bank on Pariser Platz is an accessible sculpture by Frank O. Gehry

## Holocaust Memorial 2 ★ [G3]

Germany's central Holocaust memorial to the Jews murdered in Europe was opened in 2005. Designed and reworked many times by the American architect Peter Eisenmann, the 'Field of Stelae,' comprising around 2,700 concrete slabs spread over 19,000m<sup>2</sup>, is open 24 hours a day. The adjoining **Information Centre**, located in subterranean rooms, documents the Holocaust (Ebert-/Wilhelmstraße, 10117, tel: 030 28 04 59-61/60, April–Sep Tue till Sun 10–2, Oct–March Tue till Sun 10–7, admission free; [www.holocaust-denkmal-berlin.de](http://www.holocaust-denkmal-berlin.de)).

Since May 2008, there has been a **commemorative stone** in the south of the Tiergarten opposite the

Holocaust Memorial **dedicated to the homosexuals persecuted by National Socialism**. It is the work of the Berlin artist duo Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset. A film projection inside the large stone shows a couple of the same sex kissing; the male and female couples alternate in a two-year cycle ([www.stiftung-denkmal.de](http://www.stiftung-denkmal.de)).

## Pariser Platz [G3]

Pariser Platz stretches out in front of the Brandenburg Gate. While the buildings surrounding the square uphold the traditional architectural style, the interior styles are all very different, examples being the **Haus Liebermann**, once the residence of the German artist Max Liebermann, now the office of the Stiftung Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg





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