With its many incarnations the capital has been considered the least German of German cities. Anyone who stays even a short time will find out why.

Any journey to Berlin is a journey to many Berlins: a medieval village on one bank of the Spree that became the site of a Hohenzollern fortress; the centre of the Prussian state from the 17th to 19th centuries, eventually becoming a city of international rank; the Wilhelmine industrial powerhouse that doubled in population between 1880 and World War I; the liberated Christopher Isherwood world of the 1920s and 1930s with its economic peaks and troughs, political uncertainties and moral freedoms, only to be transformed by the greater extremities of the Nazis; the rubble after World War II, the city of ‘zero hour’ that was a continuing battle for survival; the split Berlins of the Communist east and capitalist west, embodying a divided Cold War world, and the reunified German capital that is again remaking itself.

Some of these Berlins can be visited, others glimpsed through surviving buildings and museums, others experienced only through literature or reading history. More often than most cities Berlin has been a place of extremes – often opposing extremes – morally, politically and culturally and a place of diverse views and voices. At times it has suffered through becoming a symbol, but by being a symbol it has also more than once been saved. After viewing film of its ruins in 1945 it will seem a miracle the city survived at all.

Today’s Berlin is also a state (surrounded by the state of Brandenburg), challenged financially by its own need for renewal and socially by its own variety. Neither test is new but the future is unclear.

History: Berlin is used to crisis, novelty and immigrants. It began as a village of traders and travellers, first mentioned in 1237 and eking out an existence in the middle of the Mark Brandenburg on the opposite bank of the Spree to the fishing village Cölln. Its first lord Albrecht ‘the Bear’ gave the city its symbol but it was after the arrival of the Hohenzollern electors early in the 15th century that Berliners had their first taste of firm authority. In the shape of a castle on the Spree, it proved hard to digest. Hohenzollern rule was, however, to remain until 1918.

But there were freedoms. The elector Joachim II Hector hesitantly adopted Lutheranism as the Reformation spread. The Hohenzollerns moved to adopt Calvinism early in the 17th century and the policy of tolerance was confirmed when the elector Friedrich Wilhelm invited Jews and Protestant Huguenots (from France) and Bohemians to Brandenburg while the local Catholic minority remained.

Two generations before Frederick the Great the queen Sophie Charlotte was the driving force behind the establishment of academies of the arts and sciences and brought culture to the court of a kingdom – now called Prussia – that was already showing signs of militarism. The Enlightenment was to leave its mark more deeply on the upper middle class of Berlin than other parts of Germany, partly due to a greater receptiveness to ideas from French thinkers. Frederick, despite advancing Prussia’s military ambitions, was an enlightened absolutist who believed in the potential of the individual and pursued an alternately close intellectual companionship and angry frustration with Voltaire.

Beyond the Prussian court it was the writer, publisher and bookseller Friedrich Nicolai who was among the leading Berlin thinkers and critics. With the most prominent Jew of the times, the philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, and the playwright and poet Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Nicolai led the parade of ideas that opened the minds of Berliners late in Frederick’s reign.

Ideas of, on one hand, a more liberal and democratic constitution, and on the other improvements to working-class conditions, were drivers behind the March Revolution of 1848. Fighting between troops and demonstrators broke out, leaving more than 250 demonstrators dead, their bodies to be laid at the Gendarmenmarkt before burial. The king Friedrich Wilhelm IV at first acceded to revolutionary demands, then imposed instead monarchist reforms including a new Prussian assembly that undercut the revolutionaries. Deliberations for a liberal constitution continued in Frankfurt until well into the following year but went nowhere and the revolution dissolved under the force of Prussian troops.

Conservative forces, as represented by the Prussian rural landholding class known as the Junkers, maintained their grip. From the 1860s the emerging Junker statesman Otto von Bismarck used his political skills...
to stymie liberal and socialist factions while pursuing a nationalism-monarchist agenda and the extension of Prussian power throughout Germany. In 1871 Bismarck was in a position to make the Hohenzollerns emperors of Germany as well as kings of Prussia. Despite Bismarck’s dismissal by Wilhelm II in 1890, the conservative imperial regime, supported by the army, remained in control until the army itself sidelined the throne during World War I.

The frustration of liberal and proletarian aspirations thus continued during the period of Berlin’s most spectacular growth from the 1880s. The industrial working class, many immigrants from rural areas, crowded into Mietskasernen, rental housing developments accommodating hundreds of people in close quarters that lacked facilities. This drove social life into the streets, Kneipen (pubs) and Hinterhöfe, the courtyards that were the common areas of the residents. These became the domain of the caricaturist and photographer Heinrich Zille, who used his skill and sense of humour to represent everyday life in a way that increasingly endeared him to ordinary Berliners.

The first successful revolution was artistic. The state’s influence over art through official patronage was resented by many leading artists, who formed the Berliner Sezession at a time when similar groups promoting artistic freedom had sprung up in Munich and Vienna. At the invitation of the president, the Berlin Impressionist Max Liebermann, Zille joined the Berlin group, populated by leading and emerging artists. The most political was Käthe Kollwitz, whose etchings and sculptures came to embody the paths of proletarian circumstances and the cause of pacifism. She was to lose a son in World War I and a grandson in World War II.

At the collapse of the German imperial government and armistice in November 1918 two revolutions unfolded at once. The Marxist Spartakusbund faction, led by Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, and Social Democrats both declared republics. But the Social Democrats headed by Friedrich Ebert maintained links with the army and right-wing militias comprising disgruntled returned soldiers, until January 1919 maintaining a semblance of control. The Spartacists then revolted, occupying Berlin buildings, but in ensuing street battles the army and militias bloodily seized control, forcing the leaders into hiding. Liebknecht and Luxemburg were hunted down, beaten and murdered. Days later a Social Democrat-led national assembly was elected, the beginning of the Weimar Republic. In 1920 Greater Berlin, which encompassed many of the city’s fringe villages, was created.

Weimar Berlin, against a background of unemployment, unprecedented rampant inflation and general disillusionment, became a centre of nightlife and experimental lifestyle for those who could afford them. Art also became experimental, in some cases celebrating the new liberality, in others attacking decadence in the establishment that had survived to help prop up the new order. The right wing never left Berlin but it was not until late in the 1920s, with Joseph Goebbels as the Nazis’ Berlin party chief, that they began to show any electoral success, winning a quarter of the Reichstag vote by 1932.

The burning of the Reichstag building early in 1933 set in train events through which Hitler, then chancellor, seized ever-wider powers. Soon after Goebbels organised a burning of books by officially disapproved authors including Jews in what is now the Bebelplatz. Anti-Jewish measures proceeded but it was during World War II that the worst of the horror was unleashed. In Wannsee outside Berlin in 1942 the plans for the deportation and extermination of Jews were laid out.

The Allied heavy bombing force from 1943 increasingly targeted Berlin. By night Royal Air Force Bomber Command inflicted heavy damage on residential as well as industrial areas and by the time the Soviet Red Army reached the city in April 1945 it was fighting defenders through extensive areas of rubble. That month, the war lost, Hitler, then Goebbels, committed suicide in Berlin.

At a time when Berlin men were mostly dead soldiers, dead civilians or prisoners, the women, who came to be known as Trümmerfrauen, began to clear up the rubble by hand, but not before many had become victims of rape or of sexual coercion in their efforts to survive the Soviet occupation.

New tensions emerged when the Allied powers, the US, UK and France, arrived to divide Berlin into sectors with the Soviets. In 1948 the Allies asserted the need to carry through currency reforms to eliminate the cigarette-and-barter economy that had developed, in defiance of Soviet wishes. In retaliation the Soviets, who controlled German regions around Berlin, in June 1948 blockaded the city by road, forcing Allied forces led by the US general Lucius Clay to airlift supplies into the western areas of Berlin for almost a year until the blockade was lifted. The Allies then declared a Federal Republic of Germany under a new government but West Berlin remained under Allied administration through a West Berlin senate headed by a mayor. A Soviet-sponsored German Democratic Republic was declared, claiming Berlin as its...
The prominent sight in Berlin is the Fernsehturm (television tower, 1969), topping out above Panoramastraße at 368m. It was designed by Hermann Henselmann as a space-age socialist icon and centrepiece of then East Berlin city centre being created from Berlin’s post-war rubble. The observation deck is placed at 203m and the café-restaurant (207m) rotates twice per hour. The wait for the trip up the elevator (Mar-Oct M-Su 9-24, Nov-Feb 10-24, €12.50/8) can be long, but booked tickets (€19.50/11.50, tv-turm.de) can beat the queues. Take the U-Bahn or S-Bahn or bus 100 or 200 to Alexanderplatz.

The busy city transport junction Alexanderplatz had been named for the Russian emperor’s 1805 visit and was the title and backdrop for Alfred Döblin’s 1929 novel about Berlin life. But it lay in ruins after World War II. It was recreated as a pedestrian zone of three hectares in the GDR period, the focus of a socialist city centre. The Urania world clock was raised at a time when most GDR citizens were not permitted to visit the places whose names it showed. Take the U-Bahn or S-Bahn, bus 100 or 200, or trams M2, M4, M5 or M6 to Alexanderplatz.

The late 13th century red brick Gothic Marienkirche (Apr-Sep M-Su 10-21, Oct-Mar M-Su 10-18) in Karl-Liebknecht-Straße is one of few surviving medieval churches. Much rebuilding was need after a 1380 fire and Baroque decoration including the pulpit was added by Andreas Schlüter. The tower recreation (1790) in Neogothic is by Carl Gotthard Langhans. The chief feature, however, is the medieval Totentanz oder danse macabre fresco in the hall beneath the tower, created after the 1484 plague. In this typical feature all stations of society confront death equally. Take the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Alexanderplatz or bus 100 or 200 to Spandauer Straße (where the Heilig-Geist-Kapelle at Heiliggeistkirchplatz completes the remnants of medieval Berlin).

The Franciscan order established itself in Berlin in 1249, the Dominicans in its twin Cölln across the Spree. The only sign of this today, apart from the grey monk leading the Dominicans in its twin Cölln across the Spree. The only sign of this today, apart from the grey monk leading the Franciscans won the affections of Berliners by continuing their ministry when an angry pope placed a ban on the town early in the 14th century. Their order and school (1574) afterwards remained important institutions, educating some of the famous names of German history, notably Bismarck and the Berlin architects Karl Friedrich Schinkel and Johann Gottfried Schadow. Take U2 to Klosterstraße.
Before the television tower it was the 94m tower of the city hall known as Rotes Rathaus (1879) on Rathausstraße that dominated Berlin’s Altstadt. The name came from its Neorenaissance red brick chosen by the architect by Hermann Friedrich Waesemann. The sculpted frieze above the ground floor depicts the history of the city up to the Prussian empire in 36 scenes. It became the seat of the East Berlin city government during the Cold War. Take U2 to Klosterstraße, bus 248 to Berliner Rathaus or bus 100 or 200 to Spandauer Straße.

The Parochialkirche (1695, M-F 9-15.30) at the corner of Klosterstraße and Parochialstraße is one of the few truly Baroque churches in Berlin and of unusual design. It was designed by Johann Arnold Nering and enlarged by Martin Grünberg. As a Reformed church – Berlin’s first – it reflects the Calvinist beliefs of the Hohenzollern elector-kings, though its congregation remained a Berlin minority. In 1944 it largely burned in air raids, losing its tower and cupula, and was not reroofed until 1988. The tower belfry was restored in 2016. Thereafter the interior was restored and it has in recent years once again been in regular congregational use. Nearby in Waisenstraße is a remnant of the medieval Berlin wall. Take U2 to Klosterstraße.

The Nikolaikirche (c1230) at Nikolaikirchplatz is much reconstructed and had a single tower until its late 19th century Neogothic makeover. But its stone-and-red brick character is unchanged. It was consecrated to the patron of traders and water travellers in a town founded on these pursuits. Before rebuilding in the 1980s it was a bombed-out ruin. Now part of Stadtmuseum Berlin (M-Su 10-18, €5/3 with audio guide, visitors under 18 free), it retains fragments of interior wall painting and depicts medieval Berlin history. With it was redeveloped the surrounding Nikolaiviertel precinct, which gives some impression of the close streets of old Berlin, notably the house of the writer Gotthold Ephraim Lessing at Nikolaikirchplatz 7. Take U2 to Klosterstraße, bus 248 to Nikolaiviertel or bus 100 or 200 to Spandauer Straße.

East Berlin was a place for propaganda. Facing Schloßplatz (during the GDR period Marx-Engels-Platz) at Breite Straße, reliefs on the present Hochschule für Musik (formerly Neuer Marstall) commemorate November 9, 1918, the day Karl Liebknecht proclaimed a socialist state from the nearby palace Berliner Schloß. The balcony of Liebknecht’s speech has since been built into the ESMT building across Breite Straße. Liebknecht never took power as the communist forces led by Rosa Luxemburg lost the street battle for Berlin. The pair were murdered by Freikorps militia as a Social Democrat-led government gained control. A matching relief depicting Karl Marx links Liebknecht’s dream with the GDR state of 1949. Take U2 to Klosterstraße, bus 248 to Berliner Rathaus or bus 100 or 200 to Spandauer Straße.

As much an expression of Prussian might as any building is the bronze and granite fountain Neptunbrunnen (1891) by Reinhold Begas opposite Rotes Rathaus. In a work influenced by time Begas spent in Rome, Neptune, standing for the sea, and four goddesses (representing the rivers Rhine, Elbe, Oder and Vistula) reflect the extent of Prussian territory and ambition. Begas, an apprentice old enough to remember the creation of Rauch’s Frederick the Great (see below), became a nationalistic sculptor of the new imperial Berlin. Take U2 to Klosterstraße, bus 248 to Berliner Rathaus or bus 100 or 200 to Spandauer Straße.

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MUSEUMS

The number of museums of Berlin multiplies as the city keeps up with history and trends. The usual estimate is 170 and these can be sampled at www.museumsportal-berlin.de. The Berlin city website offers a selection at www.berlin.de/en/museums, as does the Visit Berlin site. Staatliche Museen zu Berlin has full details of the city’s principal museums at www.smb.museum. Many others have their own websites.

Only Berlin has a true museum island, Museumsinsel, essentially a product of Prussia’s and Germany’s pre-eminent roles in Classical studies, the 19th century desire to establish Berlin’s international status and a nationalism that sought the authority of antiquity – not to mention the acquisitive tendencies of late 19th century archaeology. Some antiquities go back to the 17th century collections of the Brandenburg electors. But ever since the Prussian empire the importance and public accessibility of Berlin museums have been institutionalised. After war and the division of the city scattered much of the cultural capital it has been the life’s work of three generations to reassemble, restore and house some of the world’s great collections of art and artefacts. Museumsinsel’s redevelopment is affecting some museums on an ongoing basis (see Pergamonmuseum below).

Two other main precincts, the Kulturforum near Potsdamer Platz and the Dahlem museums in Zehlendorf, are part of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. A one-year ticket for these (almost 20) museums, including entry to the permanent collections for restricted hours (usually the last two hours) costs €25. Tickets for all hours (€50/25), but excluding special exhibitions, are also available.

A three-day Museum Pass Berlin (€24/12) covers more than 50 museums including special exhibitions in key Museumsinsel museums. The list is available at the Visit Berlin website. The days of use must be consecutive. For museum buffs prepared to concentrate their visits the pass could be quite valuable given admission costs but these must be weighed up against the combination tickets on offer for some museums and the entry discounts (plus free travel) available with Berlin WelcomeCard (see City Cards & packages below).

For more museums in and around Berlin see the sections below: Art museums, galleries & design (page 6), Museums of Berlin culture and Dahlem ethnographic museums (page 12), History museums (including Cold War sites, page 13) and general interest museums (page 16).

Museumsinsel

The Museumsinsel museums (Bode-Museum, Pergamonmuseum, Alte Nationalgalerie, Neues Museum and Altes Museum) are artworks in themselves, heritage-listed by UNESCO. As well as the visual arts there is an emphasis on art in antiquity. Work on the structure and organisation of the museums continues. All admit visitors under 18 free (other concessions available). A ticket to all the area’s museums (available at any) costs €18/9. See also the Berlin WelcomeCard section above for offers on entry to these.

For Museumsinsel take S3, 5 or 9 to Hackescher Markt and cross the Spree bridge at Burgstraße or take the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Friedrichstraße and cross at Bodestraße. Buses 100 and 200 stop at Lustgarten.

The Bode-Museum (Tu-W & F-Su 10-18, Th 10-20, €10/5) was renamed for its great founder and curator. Wilhelm von Bode assembled the basis of the exhibition of sculptures, Byzantine art from more than 1500 years, medieval European works including the carving of Tilman Riemenschneider and the coin cabinet. The 1904 building required ingenious engineering by Ernst von Ihne to be fitted to its site at the north point of the island, reached from Monbijoubrücke.

Classical art is the subject of Altes Museum (Tu-W & F-Su 10-18, Th 10-20, €10/5), matched by its restored and colonnaded Lustgarten facade designed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel and completed in 1828. Greece and Rome are represented with Etruscan art in the standing antiquities collection.

The rest of the state antiquities are displayed in the Pergamonmuseum (F-W 10-18, Th 10-20, combination ticket €14/7 for special exhibitions and the Museum für Islamische Kunst) on Am Kupfergraben. Central are two great artefacts from Aegean Turkey, the Pergamon altar (closed to the public due to rebuilding between late September 2014 and 2019) and the Market Gate of Miletus. In the associated Vorderasiatisches Museum is the extraordinary Ishtar (or Lion) Gate from the walls of Babylon and the facade of the throne room of Nebuchadnezzar II. These great works are largely reassembled inside the museum with interpretive exhibits and preserved antiquities. The Museum für Islamische Kunst (F-W 10-18, Th 10-20) features the superb and intricate Aleppo Room and the Mshatta facade from Jordan.

The collection of the Ägyptisches Museum Berlin, best known for the Nefertiti bust, and its papyrus collection has required several homes in Berlin but is at present in Neues Museum (F-W 10-18, Th 10-20, €14/7 with special exhibitions) on Bodestraße. With it is the Museum Vor- und Frühgeschichte with Heinrich Schliemann’s Troy collection and the golden ceremonial hat known as the Berlin Gold Hat. The equally Classical Alte Nationalgalerie (Tu-W & F-Su 10-18, Th 10-20, €10/5) is actually a forum for 19th century painting and sculpture, notably the Romantic paintings of Caspar David Friedrich, the works of Adolph von Menzel documenting Frederick the Great and the French Impressionist painters Renoir, Monet and Manet.

A guidebook to Cold War sites is The Divided Berlin 1945–1990 by Oliver Boyen (€14.90). The Berlin Wall Story (€4.90) by Hans-Hermann Hertle is full of short background articles, historical vignettes, statistics and photographs. Both are published by Ch. Links Verlag (www.ch-links-verlag.de). The Berlin Wall: Division of a city (€9.95) by Thomas Flemming and Hagen Koch, is another short guide to the history, published by Be.bra Verlag (www.bebraverlag.de).

Bookshops: Hugendubel’s broad book range including Berlin literature, guidebooks and maps and some general reading in English is at several locations: in KaDeWe at Tauentzienstraße 13 (M-Th 10-20, F 10-21, Sa 9.30-20), Wilmersdorfer Straße 121 (M-Sa 9.30-20), in Karstadt at Hermannplatz (M-Sa 10-20) and at Karl-Marx-Straße 66 in available, called ‘KD WLAN Hotspot+’ or ‘30 Min Free WIFI’. The names appear in the list of available networks as soon as the devices are in the range of the network. A map of Public WiFi Berlin hotspots is available at the Berlin mobile website (under the Inform menu of the Visit Berlin site. Alternatively, users can find any available hotspots with the Hotspotfinder app available free in the App Store or from GooglePlay. A long list of mobile apps with links on various themes as available under Visit Berlin’s Inform menu.

The Bluespot initiative involves an online site (www.bluespot.de, available in English), mobile apps and touchscreen terminals placed in key areas of Berlin. They have information about walks, sites, public toilet locations and some commercial content including bars and restaurants. Terminals are placed at Alexanderplatz, Potsdamer Platz, Brandenburger Tor, the Kurfürstendamm, Ernst-Reuter-Platz and Tegel airport. The Bluespot app in English is available at the App Store or for Android at GooglePlay.

Publications: Visit Berlin publishes city guides including Seeing Berlin, with general tourist information, walk suggestions, arts and entertainment, shopping and dining, and Museums to Enjoy. Rahmel Verlag’s Colour Image Guide Berlin (€6.50) has bite-sized information on the main sights.

The website www.exberliner.com and bimonthly magazine Exberliner (£2.90) have an excellent summary of events, culture (with a focus on English), entertainment and food venues as well as news and features. Not least interesting is an online shop for publications about Berlin in English.

There are a couple of searchable archives in English that are useful if revenue-based. Berlin-Life.com (www.berlin-life.com) is a searchable summary without lots of detail but can satisfy casual interest. The English website berlininfo.com (www.berlininfo.com) looks a little out of date in places but much of the information on arts, food and entertainment will still be worth following up.

The established Berlin fortnightly counter-culture and lifestyle publications Zitty and Tip Berlin are in German although with the right browser translation something can be gleaned from their websites (www.zitty.de and www.tip-berlin.de).

For information about Berlin Wall sites or history, visit the city site www.berlin.de and click on the section for The Berlin Wall or www.berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de.

ART MUSEUMS, GALLERIES & DESIGN

Kulturforum
Modern and contemporary art is gathered in the arts precinct at the south-east corner of the Tiergarten (take S1, S25 or U5 to Potsdamer Platz or bus 200 to Philharmonie). A combination ticket (€12/6) is available for these museums. The Neue Nationalgalerie (Tu-W & F 10-18, Th 10-20, Sa-Su 11-18, €6/4, visitors under 18 free) in the building on Potsdamer Straße has changing exhibitions of modern art but, being too small to house all its 20th century works, is expected to be closed for extended renovation from 2015. The Gemäldegalerie (Tu-W & F-Su 10-18, Th 10-20, €10/5) collection across Sigmundstraße at Mattäkirchplatz is the home of painting from the 13th to 18th centuries. Dürer is the leading German name among the masterpieces of Botticelli, Raphael, Rubens, Rembrandt, Bruegel, Vermeer, Titian and Gainsborough. It is planned to return these collections to the Museuminsel precinct in the future to accommodate the modern works.

If perhaps the widest range of work is at the Kupferstichkabinett (Tu-F 10-18, Sa-Su 11-18, €6/3), which has more than 100,000 drawings, including illuminated medieval codices and works by Rembrandt, Dürer, Menzel, Munch and Schinkel, through to Picasso and pop art. The Kunstgewerbemuseum of decorative arts was expected to be closed until late 2014.

Other art museums
Apart from Berlin’s Museuminsel and Kulturforum collections the variety of art museums and galleries and styles of presentation seems endless. Some of those more frequentened or with special Berlin flavour are below.

The Museum für Gegenwart (Tu-W & F 10-18, Th 10-20, Sa-Su 11-18, €10/5 or €14/7 with special exhibitions, visitors under 18 free) at the restored Hamburger Bahnhof on Invalidenstraße features art by Joseph Beuys and Andy Warhol among its late 20th century works. Periodic exhibitions of contemporary art are held in the adjacent Rieck-Hallen. Free tours in English (Sa & Su 12.00) take place twice weekly. Take S5, 7 or 9 to Hauptbahnhof or bus 120 to Invalidenpark.

The Akademie der Künste (Tu-Su 10-19, changing entry fees, free the first Sunday each month) at Pariser Platz near Brandenburger Tor rejoices in its heritage of the Enlightenment with changing exhibitions in fields from fine arts to literature to media. Take U5 or bus 100 to Brandenburger Tor.

More contemporary art is shown at Daimler Contemporary Berlin (M-Su 11-18, entry free) near Potsdamer Platz at Alte Potsdamer Straße 5. Works by hundreds of artists form part of the standing and regularly changing exhibitions focusing on modern forms. Take S1, 2 or 25, U5 or bus 200 to Potsdamer Platz.

The window of experience of a sculptor and artist in Berlin is the subject of the Käthe-Kollwitz-Museum (M-Su 11-18, €6/3) at Fasanenstraße 24. Much of Kollwitz’s sculpture, prints and drawings was political and depicted the intense suffering of loss. Take U1 to Uhlandstraße.

The work and techniques of a modern Surrealist icon are on permanent display at Dalí - Die Ausstellung am Potsdamer Platz (M-Sa 12-20, Su 10-20, €11/9, children under 6 free, families €25) at Leipziger Platz 7. Take U2, S1, S2 or bus 200 to Potsdamer Platz.

Contemporary art from the Deutsche Bank collections is shown at the KunstHalle (€4/3, families €8, children under 12 free) at Unter den Linden 13 along with exhibitions by guest curators. Take bus 100 or 200 to Friedrichstraße.

The Bauhaus-Archiv Museum für Gestaltung (W-M 10-17, €7-6/4-3), in a building designed by Walter Gropius on the Landwehrkanal at Klingelhöferstraße, has hundreds of Bauhaus movement objects including furniture and fittings and a library of thousands of documents. Entry costs less Wednesday to Friday. Take bus 100 to Lützowplatz.

The design gallery Zeitlos-Berlin (M-Sa 10-19, Su 12-18, free entry) at Kantstraße 17 presents collections of Bauhaus design including furniture by Walter Gropius, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Marcel Breuer and others. Take S5, 7 or 9 to Savignyplatz.

The Museum Bergruen (Tu-Su 10-18, €10/5 or with Charlottenburg area ticket €12/6) at Schloßstraße 1 opposite Schloß Charlottenburg with its collection including 100 Picassos and works by Matisse and Paul Klee. Next door the Brühman Museum (Tu-Su 10-18, €6/4, students under 18 free, audio guides free) is the place for Functionalism, Art Nouveau and Art Deco in arts and crafts. Complete interiors and a picture gallery are among the exhibits assembled from the late 1880s through to the end of World War II. Take U2 to Sophie-Charlotte-Platz or bus M45 or 109 to Luisenplatz.

An open forum for non-European cultures is at Haus der Kulturen der Welt (M-Sa 10-19, exhibitions W-M 11-19) at John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10.

Museum für Fotographie (Tu-W & F-Su 10-18, Th 10-20, €10/5) at Jehnstraße 2 features the controversial works of Helmut Newton and exhibitions from library collections including work from the 19th century. Take the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Bahnhof Zoo.

Across the bridge from Museuminsel at Am Kupfergraben 10 is the Galeriehaus am Kupfergraben (Th-F 11-17.30, Sa 11-16) with a private collection of contemporary fine arts. Contemporary sculpture exhibitions and art installations are at the Bauhaus Schinkel Pavillon (Th-Su 12-18) at the rear of Kronprinzenpalais at Oberwallstraße. Take buses 100 or 200 to Staatsoper or the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Friedrichstraße.

The Friedrichsandersche Kirche at Werderscher Markt by the Spree with its sculptures of famous German thinkers was closed early in 2014 and until further notice.

Neukölln (M-Sa 10-21). Thalia Bächer has many locations including: the Alexa centre, Grunerstraße 20 (M-Sa 10-21), Schönhauser Allee Arcaden, Schönhauser Allee 78 (M-Sa 10-21), Spandau-Arcaden, Klosterstraße 3 (M-Sa 10-21) and Wilmersdorfer Straße 46 (M-Sa 10-21).

The bookshop at Gedäntztüte Berliner Mauer (see History museums) has the best array of books in English on the Berlin Wall and the Cold War years. The Tagesspiegel-Shop (M-F 9-18) on the newspaper building’s ground level at Askaniischer Platz 3, has a wide range of books and DVDs on historical and cultural matters, some of which are in English or multilingual.

Cedon has museum bookshops at the Deutsches Historisches Museum and Jüdisches Museum (hours and museum admission applies, see Museums) and Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas information centre, Cora-Berliner Straße 1 (Apr-Sep Tu-Sa 10-20, Mar-Oct Tu-Su 10-19).

Transport
Rail: Main regional and international trains stop at the central Berlin Hauptbahnhof, Berlin Zoologischer Garten (Bahnhof Zoo) in western Berlin and Berlin Ostbahnhof south-east of the city centre. These stations also have connected S-Bahn and U-Bahn platforms.
Some trains from the west stop at Spandau, some from the south at Südkreuz, some from the north at Gesundbrunnen, stations that are also part of city rail transit. Tickets in the VBB area (see below) can be used on DB Regio or S-Bahn trains originating in the state of Brandenburg.

On a trip to Sweden, the Berlin Night Express runs to and from MalmöPersborg nightly (seven hours 30 minutes, sleeping places available), using the Salsa-Trelleborg ferry.

There are four Berlin-Poznan/Posen-Warsaw/Warschau) services daily (five hours 40 minutes to seven hours 45 minutes) via Frankfurt an der Oder. The night services either way are not well timed, departing Berlin before dawn and arriving just after midnight.

Berlin-Wrocław/Breslau-Cracow/Krakau trains (10 hours, six times weekly) run via Cottbus.

The Berlin-Prague/Prag service (four hours 50 minutes) runs 10 times daily. There are three Berlin-Budapest services (nine hours 45 minutes to 12 hours, 30 minutes) daily, including a sleeper train. Berlin-Vienna/Wien trains (nine hours 45 minutes to 12 hours) run twice daily, including a sleeper.

The Berlin-Paris night service (Su-F, 11 hours 30 minutes) has sleeper provisions. There are three daily Berlin-Amsterdam services (six hours 20 minutes to seven hours 10 minutes).

For ticket and sales inquiries there is a DB Reisezentrum in Berlin Hauptbahnhof at the UG1 (lower) level (M-Su 6-22) and the information desks near either entrance are open 24 hours. For information about DB rail passes and associated travel matters weekdays from March until 23 December there is Euroaid (www.euroaid.de) information available next to the Hauptbahnhof Reisezentrum (Mar-Apr M-F 11-19, May-Jul M-F 10-20, Aug-Oct M-F 10-19, Nov-M-F 11-18.30, Dec M-F 10-19.30).

At Bahnhof Zoo the Reisezentrum (M-F
The Berliner Dom (1905) facing the Lustgarten at Schloßplatz defines Wilhelmine ambition and grandiosity. It replaced earlier cathedrals on the site as the court church and burial place for the Hohenzollerns. The design by Julius Raschdorff, an attempt to create a great Protestant cathedral with references to St Peter’s in Rome, has always been controversial but there are undeniably great works inside: the graves of the elector Friedrich Wilhelm (by Johann Michael Döbel), the king Friedrich I and his queen Sophie Charlotte (Andreas Schlüter) and the elector Johann Cicero (Peter Vischer the elder). The cathedral (M-Sa 9-19, Su 12-19) was renovated after bomb damage over two decades and reopened in 1993. Take bus 100 or 200 to Lustgarten.

The Berliner Schloß or Stadtschloß at Schloßplatz rises again. The Hohenzollern electors first developed a strategic fortress at the Spree crossing and gradually an enlarged Renaissance palace was followed by an early 18th century Baroque building by Schlüter (and later Johann Friedrich Eosander von Göthe). It was the centre of Berlin’s revolutionary chaos of 1918 and heavily bombed in World War II. In 1950 the GDR government decided on demolition and in the 1970s the Palast der Republik was built on the site. But after reunification this too fell foul of political taste and was demolished. A rebuilt palace is expected to be complete by 2019 as the Humboldt-Forum and the glass Humboldt-Box (Apr-Oct M-Su 10-20, Nov-Mar M-Su 10-18, €4, families €10) is an information centre for the project. Its model of Wilhelmine Berlin Mitte is particularly interesting. Take bus 100 or 200 to Lustgarten.

The survivals of Karl Friedrich Schinkel’s work are rarer than those of some Berlin architects but his is the name most revered. His Neoclassical Altes Museum (1828) at the north end of the Lustgarten is regarded as one of the great works of the genre. The eagles guarding the columns and the dedication combine to associate the Prussian kingdom with empires of antiquity, art and learning. The museum as a temple of culture – with palace, church and armoury – completed the Lustgarten suite of buildings. It was restored after war damage without some of Schinkel’s details, now housing state antiquities. Take bus 100 or 200 to Lustgarten or the S-Bahn to Hackescher Markt.

The oldest residential house remaining in Berlin is believed to the Renaissance Ribbeckhaus (1624) at Breite Straße 35. It retains a dating inscription above the portal naming the electoral court official Hans George von Ribbeck but the house, one of Berlin’s grandest, was bought by the elector Johann Sigismund for his daughter. In the early 19th century a storey was added but the original roof was replaced. It has since been used by royal departments including the stables, as a theatre and (now) as a centre for Berlin studies. Take U2 to Spittelmarkt or bus M48 or 248 to Fischerinsel.

What looks like an English chapel at Werdersche Markt is Schinkel’s Friedrichswerdersche Kirche (1830), a Neogothic concept he submitted at the king’s request after having planned a Classical design. In returning to the Gothic he used the red brick of medieval north German churches but with an English flavour suited to a parish church. Friedrich August Stüler later emphasised the Gothic features. The church was rebuilt in the 1980s after World War II damage and houses a museum of Schinkel’s work, sculpture by Schadow, Rauch and Christian Friedrich Tieck and busts of great German minds such as Goethe, Immanuel Kant and the Humbolds. In 2012 it was closed indefinitely pending restoration. Adjacent is a fabric ghost of Schinkel’s vanished masterpiece the Bauakademie. Take U2 to Hausvogteiplatz.

8-21, Sa-Su 9-21) and an information counter (M-Su 6-22.30) are on the ground level. At Berlin Ostbahnhof the Reisezentrum (M-F 6.30-21, Sa-Su 8-21) is in the main hall and the information counter is open 24 hours. At Friedrichstraße the Reisezentrum (M-F 8-21, Sa-Su 9-21) is in the ground level hall and the 24-hour information counter is near the Friedrichstraße exit. At Berlin-Brandenburg Airport the Reisezentrum (Su-F 8-20, Sa 8-18.30) and the information booth (M-Su 6-22.30) are in the ground level hall.

Bus: The central bus station Berlin ZOB at Münzgarten near the Berlin Messe grounds west of the city handles the main international and regional services. It is on the M49 city Metro Bus route (stopping at Bahnhof Zoo) or a short walk (east via Neue Kantstraße over the railway lines) from Messe Nord/ICC station to the east (U2, S41 and S42). Luggage lockers at the bus station are limited. Student Agency Bus has services between Prague and Berlin (up to five hours 15 minutes, four times daily), Dresden (two hours 20 minutes), Frankfurt (four hours, daily), Munich (five hours 25 minutes, one or two services daily) and Nuremberg (four hours 10 minutes). Other destinations include Hamburg, Bremen, Düsseldorf, Hannover, Cologne, Saarbrücken and Würzburg.


Berlin Linien Bus, which also has a ticket kiosk (M-Su 6-21) and office at the ZOB passenger hall, links Berlin with German cities as well as London, Paris, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Brussels, Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Szczecin, Gdansk, Poznan and Warsaw, Cracow, Tallinn, Vilnius, Prague, Budapest and Vienna. Another BB office is at Ostbahnhof. FlixBus offers direct connections with Hamburg, Hannover, Düsseldorf, Cologne, Frankfurt, Nuremberg, Stuttgart, Munich and Dresden.

MeinFernbus serves Hamburg, Hannover, Dortmund, Cologne, Frankfurt, Nuremberg, Stuttgart, Munich and Dresden. For more information on services and fares see the Bus section of the Raven Guides Germany - International Transport and National & Regional Transport menus.

Air: Berlin’s main airport remains Tegel northeast of the city. It is being upgraded to deal with temporary passenger diversions as the opening of Berlin-Brandenburg Airport south of the city could be delayed until 2017. Tegel relies on four buses to connect with the U-Bahn and S-Bahn networks and regional trains. The TXL express bus (S41 and S42 and DB Regio at Beusselstrasse) and X9 express bus (U7, S41 and S42 at Jungfernheide) connect with the Berlin city rail network. Bus 109 also runs to Jungfernheide and bus 128 connects with the U6 line at Kurt-Schumacher-Platz.

Schönefeld, 18km south-east of central Berlin and base for the budget airlines EasyJet and Germanwings, continues operation until its planned incorporation into the neighbouring Berlin-Brandenburg Airport. Schönefeld has S-Bahn (every 10 minutes, change at Ostkreuz to reach central Berlin) and regional train (28 minutes, every half-hour) access to the city.
Unter den Linden, one of the world’s great avenues, was named for the linden trees that line it, although time and war damage have required replacements. The “Great Elector” Friedrich Wilhelm had six rows of trees planted along an old bridle path in 1647 and by the end of the century his Lindenallee had acquired a residential aspect. Because of the need for fortifications many trees at the east end were later felled. But in the 18th century, notably during the reign of Frederick the Great, state buildings began to appear. By the mid 19th century the east end was an assertion of might and west of Friedrichstraße Unter den Linden was a socially, commercially and diplomatically desirable address.

The Zeughaus, the royal armoury built over three decades at the head of Unter den Linden, had four different architects, all of great significance to Berlin: Johann Arnold Nering, Martin Grüner, Andreas Schlüter and Jean de Bodt. Its Baroque overall is restrained and regarded as the beginning of a ‘Prussian style’ but the dying warriors sculpted by Schlüter for the courtyard windows are an evocative element. Under the Prussian empire it became a military museum, after World War II damage (which wrecked much of the interiors) it became the GDR’s chief history museum and today it is the Deutsches Historisches Museum. It was the first of the avenue’s imposing monuments. Take bus 100 or 200 to Staatsoper.

Neue Wache (1818) was Karl Friedrich Schinkel’s Neoclassical gift to Unter den Linden, one of the street’s smaller buildings because its role was that of guard house. In the 1930s it was converted to a World War I memorial. After 1960, in the hands of the GDR, it became a memorial to ‘victims of fascism and militarism’, which could seem like mockery during the ritualistic goose-stepping guard changes that went on in front late into the 1980s. The guards are now gone and inside is an enlargement of Käthe Kollwitz’s moving sculpture of a mother with her dead son, like a pieta for two world wars. Take bus 100 or 200 to Staatsoper.

Sculpture completes the Prussian edifice on Unter den Linden. The equestrian statue of Frederick the Great (1851) by Christian Daniel Rauch takes pride of place as the most glorious of the Hohenzollern martial statesmen and chief patron of the avenue’s builders. Below is a roll call of the great Prussian generals and other leading figures of the period. Due to the GDR’s political ambivalence over Frederick the statue was moved by the government in 1950 but was returned in 1980 as part of an ideological restoration of Prussian symbols. Take bus 100 or 200 to Staatsoper.

from the attached station as well as buses to the city. S45 runs Schönefeld-Südkreuz. There is also a bus link to the U7 line terminus at Rudow.

Urban transit
Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG) coordinates all public transport in greater Berlin. Deutsche Bahn operates S-Bahn trains as S-Bahn Berlin in concert with Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg (VBB), the coordinating body for all operators in the states of Berlin and Brandenburg.

Information: The BVG website www.bvg.de is operational in English, except for lists of fares (‘Tarifübersicht’ under the Tickets & Tarife menu, which major browsers translate well). There the useful flyer Discovering Berlin by Train and Bus can be downloaded as a PDF or picked up at BVG sales points. BVG has a telephone help service (tel 030-19449) and a series of service points and customer centres. Some key locations are: Zoologischer Garten U-Bahn station (M-Th 5.30-23, F 5.30-24, Sa 7-24, Su 8-23), Alexanderplatz U-Bahn station mezzanine (M-F 6.30-21.30, Sa-Su 11-18.30), Tegel airport (information counter, M-Su 7-22) and Rathaus Spandau U-Bahn station near Münzinger Straße (M-F 6.30-20.30, Sa-Su 11-18.30).

Single-service timetables, network maps and VBB timetables are available at ticket desks spread throughout the network, most commonly at U-Bahn or joint railway stations (see the Quick Guide sections of the district chapters following or the list at the BVG website). For S-Bahn information a Kundenzentrum (M-F 6-22, Sa-Su 7-22) is on the Haupbahnhof upper level but another helpful source is the S-Bahn Berlin website www.s-bahn-berlin.de. There is also an S-Bahn call centre (tel 030-29743333, M-Su 0-24). VBB has a telephone help service (tel 030-25414141, M-F 8-20, Sa-Su 9-18).

The Fahrinfo Mobile apps for iPhone, Android and Java-enabled phones can be downloaded at the ‘Mobile Auskunft’ tab of the BVG website.

Tickets & fares: The network is simplified to three concentric fare zones. Zone A covers inner Berlin including the S-Bahn ring – up to Ostkreuz, Westkreuz and Südkreuz and to Gesundbrunnen in the north. Zone B around that includes Tegel airport, Spandau and Wannsee. Zone C covers areas outside Berlin, including Schönefeld airport, and Potsdam. Children aged 6-14 are eligible for concession fares and children under 6 ride free with a ticket holder.

BVG tickets can be bought at BVG signed news kiosks, BVG customer centres or ticket desks. Visit Berlin tourist offices, the ZOB and many hotels. Ticket machines accept cash or stored-value EC cards. Ticket machines are not at most tram stops but on the trams (these accept coins only). Bus drivers can sell short-trip, single-trip and day tickets. Tickets bought in advance must be validated in stamping machines before beginning the journey – if in doubt check the ticket for a date or time stamp. Short-trip tickets (€1.50/1.20) are for one-way journeys of up to three rail stations or six tram or bus stops, or for ferries. Changes may only be between S-Bahn and U-Bahn – the tickets are invalid on regional trains. Four short-trip tickets (€5.60/4.40) for use in zones A and B may be bought in a block at rail
The Rococo Staatsoper (1743) on Unter den Linden became the namesake of the square Opernplatz (now Bebelplatz) after being created for Frederick the Great by Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff. It was at that time one of Europe’s great opera houses, accommodating 2000, though only the king had a seat. It was however an assertion of Frederick's desire to bring culture to Berlin and the first step in a suite of buildings to be known as the Forum Fredericianum, in which Frederick took a close personal interest but which was never fully realised. At present the Deutsche Staatsoper performs at the Schiller Theater during the extensive building and restoration at Bebelplatz, where the building was expected to be ready for performances in mid 2015. Take bus 100 or 200 to Staatsoper.

At Bebelplatz is the memorial (1995) by Micha Ullmann to the book burning of May 10, 1933, in what was then the Odeonplatz, ordered by the SA and conducted by students under the eye of Joseph Goebbels, for literature by Jews or otherwise deemed un-German. The writer and satirist Heinrich Heine, whose works were among those burned, had once scripted: "Where books are burned, they will finish by burning people." Goebbels' threat was implicit: many of the books had been taken from the university across the road and burned in full view of the university and the old library. The below-ground artwork depicts empty bookshelves and a plaque records Heine’s words. Take bus 100 or 200 to Staatsoper.

The Baroque Alte Bibliothek (1780) at Bebelplatz fell victim to the city’s wit and has generally been known by Berliners as the Kommode (‘chest of drawers’). The concept by Fischer von Erlach had been planned for use elsewhere but was adopted for the royal library. The book collection, which went back to the days of the elector Friedrich Wilhelm, had become in itself an Enlightenment treasure, numbering about 150,000 volumes. By World War I this had increased tenfold and a new building was requisitioned, but not before Lenin had used this one and the GDR named a reading room for him. This building is now used by the university. Take bus 100 or 200 to Staatsoper.

The Forum Fredericianum had been conceived by Frederick the Great as a plaza of culture, science and power. However the present Humboldt-Universität building (1766) opposite Bebelplatz, commissioned to Jan Bouman the elder, became the Prinz Heinrich Palais, a residence for the king’s brother. Later the original plan was in some measure fulfilled when it was handed over by Friedrich Wilhelm III to Berlin’s university, founded in 1810 largely through the efforts of Wilhelm von Humboldt, a leading thinker in Prussian reform. Not until after World War II did the university bear the name of Humboldt, who is represented by a statue. Take bus 100 or 200 to Staatsoper.

Knobelsdorff with Frederick’s input designed the dome of the expanded St Hedwigs-Kathedrale (1773) to the south of the Staatsoper, a project carried through by Bouman. This was Frederick’s gesture to his Catholic subjects after his attack on Austria and another grand statement in Baroque with a dome owing much to the Pantheon of Rome. This building also fell victim to bombing in World War II but the exterior was restored early in the 1960s, while the interior was redesigned by Hans Schwippert.

stations or from ticket machines and validated as needed.

Single-trip tickets (A and B zones €2.60/1.60, B and C €2.90/2.00, all zones €3.20/2.30) are for one-way journeys with multiple modes or changes as necessary, valid up to two hours. They cannot be used to return to the starting point. Blocks of four single-trip tickets (€8.80/5.60) for zones A and B are available and can be validated as needed.

Day tickets (A and B €6.70/4.70, B and C €7.50/5.30) are valid in all zones until 3.00 the day after validation. Small group tickets for up to five people (A and B €16.20, B and C €16.50, all zones €16.70) are also valid for the day. Day tickets bought in machines must be validated before use.

A one-week pass (A and B €28.80, B and C €29.70, all zones €35.60) is unlimited and also allows an adult and up to three children 6-14 to travel with the ticket holder between 20.00 and 3.00 and all day weekends (and holidays when these are shared by Berlin and Brandenburg). The pass is valid to midnight on the seventh day from validation. Monthly passes range from €78 (A and B) to €97 (all zones).

There are DB tickets for VBB (Berlin-Brandenburg region) day or night travel, with some additions and exceptions, so it is best to check travel plans at a BVG ticket counter, where they cost a little more (€31 and €24). A weekend group ticket for Saturdays or Sundays (€42 from machines or online or €44 from ticket offices, valid to 3.00 next day) can be used on BVG services, Potsdam local services and second-class DB trains. These are valid for up to five people travelling with the ticket holder, who must write their name on the ticket. Identification must be carried for ticket checks.

Rail: S-Bahn and U-Bahn services are the framework of the city transit network. In the main the U-Bahn lines cross the city north-south and east-west (usually underground) while the S-Bahn lines circle it above ground or join the eastern and western centres of Mitte and Charlottenburg. But in places the S-Bahn will go underground (two lines cross the city north-south) and the U-Bahn will be elevated. Sometimes there will be separate stations with the same name (one underground), generally linked by elevators or escalators. Occasionally (such as at Stadmitte) platforms of the same station serving different U-Bahn lines will be connected by a pedestrian tunnel. If changing to the U4 from the U7 during reconstruction of the connecting tunnels at Bayerischer Platz, surface and then use the Westparksstraße entrance. Mobile phone service is available on trains and at U-Bahn stations.

U-Bahn lines except the U4 and U55 operate past midnight on Fridays and Saturdays (or before holidays), along with most S-Bahn lines. Frequency is at least every five minutes during peaks and business hours and 10 minutes during evenings and on Sundays. Other nights services may be run by N-buses carrying the same number route, some with slight route variations.

The short U55 shuttle between the Hauptbahnhof and Brandenburger Tor is part of a project to link Brandenburger Tor to the U5 at Alexanderplatz. Building its underground link station to the U6, Unter den Linden, has recently disrupted some services. The journey to the ultimate U5 link will be a long one.

RAVEN TRAVEL GUIDES GERMANY - Berlin 9
Berlin 10 - RAVEN TRAVEL GUIDES GERMANY

The Lutherans Deutscher Dom, completed in 1708 to designs by Martin Grünberg, forms the counterpart to the Huguenot church opposite in a rare mirror effect. Work on the churches began at the same time, but the effect of today was achieved only when the towers and cupolas of the two churches were reworked to the 1785 design of Carl von Gontard for Frederick the Great. Frederick’s vision is believed to have been for a counterpart to Rome’s Piazza del Popolo. Both churches needed rebuilding after World War II. Take U2 to Stadtmitte or Hausvogteiplatz or U6 to Stadtmitte.

The building at Gendarmenmarkt long known as the Schauspielhaus (now Konzerthaus) was not first designed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel but the architect made it into a great building after fire wrecked Karl Gotthard Langhans’ national theatre in 1817. Schinkel’s recasting of the facade, elevation of the portal and general Neoclassical restyling made the project one of his great achievements. Schinkel’s versatility extended to painting and set design, one of his great achievements. Schinkel’s recasting after fire wrecked Carl Gotthard Langhans’ national theatre in 1817. Schinkel’s recasting of the facade, elevation of the portal and general Neoclassical restyling made the project one of his great achievements. Schinkel’s versatility extended to painting and set design.

As well as proving a shrewd economic play, the elector Friedrich Wilhelm’s invitation to the Protestant Huguenots seeking asylum from French Catholic persecution was a gesture of freedom of conscience that presaged the Enlightenment. Like the Jews who also came, the refugees brought commercial skills including silk manufacture that were to benefit Brandenburg and Berlin. The 1705 Französischer Dom (Tu-Su 12-17) at Gendarmenmarkt, designed by Louis Cayard and Abraham Quesnay, reflects the Huguenot influence on the city, especially the Friedrichsstadt quarter. Today the Hugenottenmuseum (see Museums) in the church tells the Huguenot story. Take U6 to Französische Straße or U2 to Hausvogteiplatz and enter from Französische Straße.

Langhans’ Brandenburger Tor (1791) at Pariser Platz again became the symbol of Berlin in 1899 after long being the gate that was closed by the Berlin Wall. The Classicism of Langhans’ design came from the Propylaen portal of the Acropolis. It was first known as the Friedenstor (‘peace gate’), but this was not the view of Napoleon who, when occupying Berlin in 1806, snatched the Quadriga of Eirene sculpted by Johann Gottfried Schadow. In 1814 the Quadriga was reclaimed by the Prussian army and returned and reshaped by Schinkel as Viktoria, complete with conqueror’s laurel and Iron Cross. Take bus 100, S1, S25 or U55 to Brandenburger Tor or bus 200 to Behrenstraße.

On the Behrenstraße south of Unter den Linden, between Ebertstraße and Cora-Berliner-Straße, is the open Holocaust-Mahnmal (2004), also called the Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas (‘memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe’), crafted by Peter Eisenman and Buro Happold as about 2700 concrete blocks. The design was said to be intended to be disorienting but the resemblance to grave slabs in a cemetery is palpable. Both the height of the slabs and the walking surface is uneven. The underground information centre (Apr-Sep Tu-Su 10-20, Oct-Mar Tu-Su 10-19, entry free) lists names of all known Holocaust victims. Take bus 100, S1, 2 or 25 or U55 to Brandenburger Tor.

The DB Regio services, serving outer areas and towns in surrounding Brandenburg, though not stopping at all city stations. Tram: The tram network, inherited from the old East Berlin, serves the north-eastern and eastern parts of Berlin with two types of line, one the MetroTrams (nine lines, carrying M-numbers) and the other lines numbered 12-68. Metro trams run 24 hours, at least for most of the route. Segments running 20 hours only (0.30-4.30) are dotted on BVG transport maps. Bus: MetroBus routes, carrying M-numbers, serve mostly western, north-western and southern suburbs where there are no trams. But at night (0.30-4.30) they take over the transit load in these areas. Buses must be entered from the front door and prepaid tickets shown to the driver. Express buses (X-numbers) link the airports with U-Bahn lines. Buses 100 (via the Reichstag) and 200 (via Potsdamer Platz) link the east and west centres of Berlin at Alexanderplatz and Zoo Berlin, running down Unter den Linden. A wide network of bus routes (including express buses) can be explored at the BVG website, reaching outer areas that become especially useful reaching destinations around Forst Gruenwald that are removed from rail services.

Taxi: There are standard rates for telephone bookings or taxis picked up from ranks and separate basis for short trips taken in hailed taxis. Standard fares are €3.40 per journey plus €1.79 per kilometre up to 7km (€1.28 per kilometre thereafter). Short trips (up to 2km) in taxis hailed on the street cost €4. In either case surcharges up to €1.50 apply for heavy baggage or card payments. Rides to or from Tegel airport attract a €0.50 surcharge. Negotiated fare arrangements with drivers are allowed only to and from Schönefeld airport (at normal city fares up to €40) or outside Berlin.

Taxis queue outside the Hauptbahnhof at Europaplatz (at the north exit) and Washingtonplatz (south exit) and the ZOB. Outside Bahnhof Zoo, they use Hardenbergplatz. Central areas such as to the north-east side of Alexanderplatz station and the north side of Savignyplatz usually have taxis on hand. Contact numbers include: City Funk (tel 030-210202), Taxi Funk Berlin (tel 030-443322), Funk Taxi Berlin (tel 030-261026) and Eco Taxi (tel 030-2101020).

Ferry: A handful of ferries are included in the BVG network (routes with F-numbers) on VBB fares but are basically for river crossings (most of the Spree above Wilhelmsstrand in Köpenick) lasting a few minutes. The most useful is likely to be F10, crossing the Havel lakes area from southern Wannsee to Alt-Kladow in the Spandau district (hourly, about 20 minutes). Short-trip tickets will not suffice here and the fare for the crossing will be a single-trip ticket (€2.60/1.60).

Bicycle: Berlin has more than 600km of bike trails and use is elsewhere encouraged. There are 12 radial routes from the city (coded RR) converging on Schloßplatz and leading onto regional or international routes with a range of TR routes interconnecting and others in development. Some streets have bicycle lanes both sides or on one side and there are some dedicated paths. A system of white signs with green text is used with the route codes marked. The Berliner Mauerradweg is a special route devised to follow much of the former Berlin.
The Reichstag (1894) at Platz der Republik became the seat of the German national assembly under the Prussian empire. The Neobaroque design of Paul Wallot took more than 10 years to build. When the emperor Wilhelm II fled the crumbling empire in November 1918 a republic was declared on the site. But Hitler was chancellor in 1933 when the building was largely burned, most likely by a Dutch arsonist, and left empty. Hitler seized full power later that year. The building was further damaged in the 1945 battle for Berlin but triumphantly claimed by the Red Army and today preserves graffiti from the period. The site fell within the Allied occupation sectors, later becoming part of West Berlin, and during the city’s 1948-49 blockade mayor Ernst Reuter there defiantly addressed a crowd calling for world attention to the city’s plight. In the 1960s it was rebuilt and again became the seat of the German assembly the Bundestag in 1999 after further extensive redesign under Sir Norman Foster.

The Reichstag is open daily (Tu-Su 12-18, Sa-Su 10-18, Sa 10-17, Su 9.30-14, Oct-Mar M-Su 9.30-14) at Matthiaskirchplatz. Visit the Bundestag tab, where an information flyer is offered. Booked visits cannot however be guaranteed. Take U55 to Bundestag or bus 100 to Platz der Republik.

The triumphal column Siegessäule (1873) at Großer Stern in the centre of the Tiergarten was erected for the Prussian victories of the 1860s and 1870s that culminated in the German unification and empire of 1871. Known with typical Berlin irreverence as the ‘victory asparagus’, it once stood further north, faced directly by the Reichstag to the east, and its move was one of the few accomplishments in Hitler’s plan for a rebuilt Berlin. Viktoria, the victory goddess at the top, was sculpted in bronze by Friedrich Drake with an eagle helmet symbolising Prussia and weighs more than 30 tonnes. Steps inside lead to an observation platform

The sticker (€5-15) must be fixed to the lower right corner of the windsceen and is available at the registration offices of the following organizations: DEKRA, TÜV Süd, TÜV Nord, GTÜ and at licensed vehicle garages. Fines of €40 are levied for violations. To lodge an online application, go to: www.bundesagentur.de/koenigswarte/feinstaubplakette.shop.en.php. Addresses: In Berlin, as with most cities

Wall with some of the standing monuments. Maps are available at www.stadtwanderung.berlin.de under the Traffic menu, ‘Getting around Berlin’ tab, including a geopatial map, but these use German. Bicycles can be transported on U-Bahn and S-Bahn trains, and on trams (or on U-Bahn replacement buses) if space permits (nights before public holidays excepted) but a ticket must be bought for the bicycle. They may also travel on cross-river ferries. The designated areas are signed inside the carriages and cabins. Where space is at issue wheelchairs and prams are expected to take priority.

Bicycle ticketing mirrors other tickets from short trips, to single trips and day tickets across the zones. Short-trip bicycle tickets are €1.10, single-trip tickets for A and B zones €1.70, B and C €2, all zones €2.30. Day tickets are €4.70, €5.10 and €5.30. One-month cards are available at €10 for zones A and B, €12.50 for all three zones. For the whole VB Berlin-Brandenburg area, single-trip bicycle tickets cost €3.20, day tickets €6, one-month tickets €20.

Fahrradstation (tel 030-66649180, www.fahrradstation.com) at Friedrichstraße (enter Dorotheenstraße 30, Mar-Apr M-F 10-19, Sa 10-18, Su 10-16), Leipziger Straße 56, Kollwitzstraße 77 (both M-F 10-19.30, Sa 10-18) and other city locations offers rentals at €15 per day, €35 for three days, €50 per week. Passport and credit card are required. Bikes can be booked online for collection at several city locations. From November to February the Friedrichstraße office is closed on Sunday and all close at 16.00 on Saturday, while Kollwitzstraße (M-F 14-20) has reduced weekday hours.

Fat Tire Bike Rentals (tel 030-24047991, www.berlinfahrradverleih.com) at Panorama Straße 7A under the Fernsehturm, or at the parking area of Bahnhof Zoo, has rentals at €12 for the first day, €10 the second, then €8 a day (Mar-Apr & Oct-Nov 9.30-18, May-Sep 9.30-20).

Berlin Bike Tour (tel 030-60949498, www.berlinbiketour.eu) Apr-Sep M-Sa 9.30-18, Su 9.30-14, Oct-Mar M-Sa 9.30-14) at Bornholmer Straße 75 has a daytime rental rate of €8 (9.30-18), 24 hours €15, weekends €25, three days €40, a week €60.

Car: Only vehicles certified for low emissions can enter Berlin’s low-emission zone. To enter the area (Umweltzone), defined basically by the S-Bahn and motorway rings and marked by signs with a red circle, drivers need the Feinstaubplakette sticker that indicates the class of emissions the vehicle produces. This is based on European emission classes and the date of the vehicle’s initial registration. Green stickers (class 4) are accepted, applying to all vehicles registered since 1993 and diesel vehicles registered since 2006. Yellow stickers, for diesel vehicles registered between 2001 and 2005 (class 3), will also be admitted until the end of 2014. The sticker (€5-15) must be fixed to the lower right corner of the windshield and is available at the registration offices of the following organizations: DEKRA, TÜV Süd, TÜV Nord, GTÜ and at licensed vehicle garages. Fines of €40 are levied for violations. To lodge an online application, go to: www.bundesagentur.de/koenigswarte/feinstaubplakette.shop.en.php.

Addresses: In Berlin, as with most cities...
**MUSEUMS OF BERLIN CULTURE**

The museums documenting life in Berlin have grown since reunification. There are also several district Heimatmuseen taking a more parochial perspective.

The whole story of Berlin and the Mark Brandenburg from before the Hohenzollerns to after the Berlin Wall is told at the Märkisches Museum-Stadtmuseum Berlin (Tu-Su 10-18, €5/3, visitors under 18 free, free entry first Wednesday each month) at Am Köllnischen Park 5 by the Spree. Take U2 to Märkisches Museum or the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Jannowitzbrücke and cross the Spree.

Objects from 800 years of Berlin history are displayed at the Nikolaikirche (Tu-Su 10-18, €5/3) at Nikolaikirchplatz. Take U5 to Klosterstraße or bus 248 or M48 to Nikolaiviertel.

The Story of Berlin (M-F 9-20, €12/9, children 6-16 €5) at Kurfürstendamm 206 uses pictures, sound and room settings to give an impression of the Berlins carried away by war and time, including the Third Reich and Cold War periods. It does not shy away from taking positions, leading visitors downstairs through the Nazi period and back up the elevator to experience reunification. A fascinating off-site guided tour in English puts visitors in a 1970s bomb shelter. Last admission is at 18.00. Take U1 or bus M19, 109 or 110 to Uhlandstraße.

The contribution of the silk-weaving Huguenot community admitted to Berlin by the ‘Great Elector’ Friedrich Wilhelm in the 17th century is documented in the Hugenottenmuseum (Tu-SA 12-17, Su 11-17, €2/1) in the Französischer Dom at Gendarmenmarkt. It extends to the life story of the Mark Brandenburg novelist Theodor Fontane, a Huguenot descendant. Take U6 to Französischer Straße, U2 to Hausvogteiplatz or bus 100 or 200 to Unter den Linden/Friedrichstraße.

The so-called Biedermeier style of the early 19th century is best expressed in middle-class home interiors of the period. The Knoblauchhaus (Tu & Th-Su 10-18, W 10-20, donation requested) preserves these in a patrician residence and business house at Poststraße 23, dating from a slightly earlier period. Take U5 to Klosterstraße or bus 248 or M48 to Nikolaiviertel.

No one documented the life of Berlin during its spectacular growth better than Heinrich Zille. His pencil, his camera, his humour and the streets of Berlin are the subject of the Heinrich Zille Museum (Apr-Oct M-Su 11-19, Nov-Mar M-Su 11-16, €6/5) at Propsteistraße 11. Only some information is in English however. Take U5 to Klosterstraße or bus 248 or M48 to Nikolaiviertel.

Berlin’s growth over centuries would have been impossible without the inland shipping plying the Spree and Havel and the network of interconnecting canals. Historischer Hafen Berlin is a small fleet of historic steamers, barges and ferries docked at Märkisches Museum.

Fischerinsel and many hotels and kiosks. It must be validated at first use like a transit ticket. Purchasing a zone C travel ticket does not valid a zone A and B card across Berlin.

Berlin WelcomeCard Museum Island at €38.50 for 72 hours adds free entry to all standing exhibitions (not special events) at the Museumsinsel museums to the other benefits for A and B travel zones. A €40.50 card for the same period adds Potsdam and zone C to the benefits (Museumsinsel museums normally admit visitors under 18 free).

The Berlin WelcomeCard can be bought at tourist offices, BVG ticket counters, airports and many hotels and kiosks. It must be validated at first use like a transit ticket. Purchasing a zone C travel ticket does not validate a zone A and B card across Berlin.

**DAHLEM**

Berlin museums with cultural and ethnographic emphasis are collected near the Freie Universität Berlin campus at Dahlem. For these museums take U3 to Dahlem-Dorf or bus X83 to Meseum Dahlem.

The Ethnologisches Museum (Tu-F 10-18, Sa-Su 11-18, €8/4, visitors under 18 free) at Lansstraße 8 has about half a million objects in its archive as well as film, photographs and documents of ethnographic interest. The adjacent Museum für Asiatische Kunst (Tu-F 10-18, Sa-Su 11-18, €8/4, visitors under 18 free) begins its exhibits of oriental art long before the Christian era and pays special attention to the effects of the silk routes.

How modern European cultures behaved and interacted is the stuff of the Museum Europäischer Kulturen (Tu-F 10-18, Sa-Su 11-18, €8/4, visitors under 18 free) at Arnimallee 25. Custom, lifestyle and immigration and their effects on European society are examined.

For the nearby Domäne Dahlem and Botanisches Museum see the General interest museums on page 16 below.
HISTORY MUSEUMS

Cold War
Mauermuseum and Museum am Checkpoint Charlie (M-Su 9-22, €12.50/9.50, visitors 7-18 €5.50, children under 6 free) at Friedrichstraße 43 is the story of the Berlin Wall at the site of the chief US sector and border crossing from 1945 to 1961. It shows the stories of escape, division and frustration and occasional triumphs. Take U2 to Stadtmitte or U6 to Kchestraße.

The Black Box Kalter Krieg (M-Su 10-18, €5/3.50, visitors under 18 €2) at Friedrichstraße 47 near Checkpoint Charlie is a multimedia exhibition covering the Cold War years with themes such as disarmament negotiations and GDR escape attempts. A permanent museum on these lines is proposed. The Asisi panorama art project Die Mauer (M-Su 10-18, €10/8, children 6-16 €4) at Checkpoint Charlie presents views of everyday lives either side of the Berlin Wall in the 1980s. The panomater is open until 19.00 in August and September. Take U6 to Kchestraße or bus M29 to Checkpoint Charlie.

Over time Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer (M-Su 8-22) has developed a string of open-air and exhibition sites along the remaining Bernauer Straße line of the Berlin Wall, showing what the security barrier was like and how it operated. The new visitor and documentation centre (Apr-Oct Tu-Su 9.30-19, Nov-Ma-Tu-Su 10-18) at Bernauer Straße 111 takes the explanation further with a bookshop full of varied literature and other materials about the wall and the GDR between the years 1961 and 1989. Across the road is the former man’s land, marked between Nordbahnhof and Brunnenstraße by the remains of barriers (Bergstraße), information boards, audio and visual posts and memorials to those who died along with the wall’s archaeology. Small footpath plates mark the places of successful escapes. The chapel of reconciliation (Tu-Su 10-17 except during services) is east of Ackerstraße and another surviving section of wall is the focal point of Mauerpark, running north parallel on a pedestrian section of Schwerdtstraße. A smart phone or tablet web-based tour (www.berliner-mauer.mobi) uses QR codes scanned from a card. Take S1 or S2 or tram M10 to Nordbahnhof.

A free exhibit at Nordbahnhof station shows the strange divided rail network of the Berlin Wall years and how the forbidden ‘ghost’ stations of East Berlin were guarded while West Berliners travelled through them. Take S1 or S2 to Nordbahnhof.

The recently opened Tränenpalast exhibition (Tu-F 9-19, Sa-Su 10-18, free entry) at Reichstagufer 17 on the Spree focuses on the business of border controls and how they affected people during the division of the city. Take the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Friedrichstraße.

DDR Museum (Su-F 10-20, Sa 10-22, €6/4) at Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 1 is a small, busy museum of life in the East German socialist state with exhibits and artefacts from the period down to room settings. At times a little fun is made of the subject and the coverage seems superficial, but a cell interior shows a harder edge. The guidebook (€3.80) could prove useful. Take bus 100 or 200 to Spandauerd Straße or S3, 5 or 9 to Hackescher Markt. What life was like for the occupiers of the FRG and West Berlin after World War II and during the Cold War is the stuff of the Alliierten Museum (Tu-Su 10-18, entry free) at Clayallee 130 in Zehlendorf, with its reliefs of border checkpoints, intelligence equipment and hardware including a supply aircraft. Take buses 115 or X10 to Königin-Luise-Straße.

Stasi Museum Berlin (M-F 10-18, Sa-Su 12-18, €5/4), in the old security police building at Rüschestraße 103 gives an insight into the environment and work of the GDR’s Staatssicherheitspolizei in Berlin during the Cold War. Take U5 to Magdalenenstraße.

German history
The Deutsches Historisches Museum (M-Su 10-18, €4/4 for all collections, visitors under 18 free) in the Zeughaus and adjacent Ausstellungshalle at the east end of Unter den Linden has the standing historical collection plus periodic special exhibitions. It is important also to view the dying warrior sculptures of Andreas Schlüter in the courtyard window arches. Take bus 100 or 200 to Staatsoper or the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Friedrichstraße.

Explaining coercive power is the mission of Topographie des Terrors (M-Su 10-20, entry free) at Niederkirchnerstraße 8, a site where the SS and state police planned many operations during the Third Reich and which afterwards lay in the Berlin Wall area. It examines the workings of the Nazi terror apparatus and its agencies and, step by step, the unfolding of Nazi state security. The outside area is open until dusk. A documentation centre (M-F 10-17) is included and there are 30-minute tours (Su 15.30) in English (sign up at the information desk at least 30 minutes in advance or email fuhrungen@topographie.de). Take U6 to Kchestraße or S7, S25 or U2 to Potsdamer Platz.

Among infamours sites Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz (M-Su 10-18, free entry), is a chapel with an oil painting of the Wannsee House. Here in 1942 SS deputy Reinhard Heydrich chaired a meeting to set the strategy for transporting and exterminating the Jews of Germany. It is now a Holocaust museum and education centre with library (open weekdays). The house is at Am Großen Wannsee 56 (take S1 or S7 to Wannsee, then bus 114 about 2.5km).

On Stauffenburgstraße the Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand (M-W & F 9-18, Th 9-20, Sa-Su 10-18, entry free) documents resistance work, including the 1944 plot against Hitler. Take bus 200 to Philharmonie.

Tours
There is a wide range of tours in English available and some are links are available at the Visit Berlin site www.visitberlin.de, where discounts are available with Berlin WelcomeCard. Walk-in rates are quoted in the Seeing Berlin booklet.

Walks: Insider Tour Berlin (tel 030-6923149, www.insidertour.com) has walks all year including its basic Insider Walk (twice daily, €12/10) of the east or west areas, a Third Reich walk (10.00 M, W, Fri & Su), a Cold War walk (10.00 Tu, Th & Sa). The Jewish Berlin walk (Apr-Oct, twice daily) has east and west start points, where visitors can arrive at the start point and time, pay and take part. There are 25% discounts for Berlin tourist cards. These and other tours can be viewed at the website. Original Berlin Walks (www.berlinwalks.de/public) has a similar range of offerings starting at Bahnhof Zoo or Hackescher Markt. A four-hour foot and rail discovery tour (Apr-Oct, M-Su 10.00 & 13.30, €12/10). There are two Third Reich tours, a Jewish life tour and Potsdam and Cold War tours. Berlin WelcomeCard discounts apply.

Free (tips only) twice-daily 3-½-hour tours of eastern Berlin starting at the Brandenburger Tor are provided by Sandemans New Berlin (www.newberlintours.com) or an alternative Berlin (€12/10), a Sachsenhausen memorial tour (€15/13), a Red Berlin (€12/10) and Potsdam and Third Reich tours and organised pub crawls are also on offer.

Bus: The Berlin-City-Tour (www.berlin-city-tour.de) Classic Tour (€15/5, children under 6 free) is a two-hour hop-on, hop-off double-decker bus offering with German-English commentary or multilingual headphones. Stops include Alexanderplatz, Unter den Linden, Checkpoint Charlie, the Tiergarten and the Kurfürstendamm. There are discounts for the Berlin cards and online purchase. The Wall & Lifestyle Tour offers wall remnants and monuments, a bunker, Prenzlauer Berg and Karl-Marx-Allee at the same prices.

The VideoBustour (www.videobusstour.de/berlin) each Saturday includes on-board multimedia presentations showing footage from history but is in German only.

Bicycle: Berlin Bike Tour (tel 030-60949498, en.berlinbiketour.eu) starts a range of daily tours (maximum eight riders, Apr-Oct 10.00 and 15.00, Nov-Mar 10.00) at Bornholmer Straße 75. Some tours use the Berliner Mauer-radweg (four hours, €19 with rental, students €17). Riders with their own bikes receive a €5 discount.

Fahrradstation (www.fahrradstation.com) offers daily bicycle tours (€15 including bike rental, one-third discount with Berlin WelcomeCard) at 14.30 (meet at Dorotheenstraße 30 near Friedrichstrasse) with themes including Berlin Cold Tours, Berlin highlights or east Berlin/west Berlin tours. Reservations (M-F 10-19, Sa 10-18, Su 10-16, tel 20454500, email rentabike@fahrradstation.de).

Cruises
Spree cruises through the city or further afield are a relaxing way to see some sights and tickets can generally be bought at the pier for the multiple daily journeys. Reederei Riedel (tel 030-67961470, www.reederei-riedel.de) offers city-centre cruises of one hour (from Moltkebrücke at Alt-Moabit) or 90 minutes
The ornate Neorenaissance Martin-Gropius-Bau (1881) at the corner of Niederkirchnerstraße and Stresemannstraße was built as an arts and crafts museum. Mosaics are notable in the exterior decoration. Exhibiting bullet damage from World War II, the structure required heavy restoration, not completed until after reunification because of its proximity to the Berlin Wall. Today it houses changing exhibitions of art and photography. The architect Gropius’ great-nephew Walter was later a leading figure in the Bauhaus movement. Take U2, S1, 2 or 25 or bus 200 to Potsdamer Platz.

Niederkirchnerstraße between Stresemannstraße and Wilhelmstraße south of Potsdamer Platz preserves a chipped, graffitied but otherwise unadorned section of the Berlin Wall. It is the best possible impression of what the wall was like from the East Berlin side of Checkpoint Charlie for almost 30 years, with the Mitte district to the north and Kreuzberg to the south. On the other side was the no-man’s-land strip of defences. On Zimmerstraße closer to the checkpoint are more information boards and photographs. About 150m east of Potsdamer Platz on Erna-Berger-Straße is a lone surviving GDR guard tower that can be climbed (M-Su 14-18) for a small donation. Take U2, S1, 2 or 25 or bus 200 to Potsdamer Platz.

After World War II, during the 1948–49 Berlin blockade and after the 1961 erection of the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie on Friedrichstraße near Zimmerstraße was a potential flashpoint, notably at the 1961 tank standoff between two armies. It was the crossing between the US sector and the Soviet sector and a replica of its famous sign remains on Friedrichstraße. The US guard house was removed to the Alliiertenmuseum in 1990 but a replacement (sometimes with replica soldiers) has been provided for photographic purposes. Today a museum tells the site’s story in words and pictures (see History museums). Take U6 to Kochstraße.

The writer Erich Kästner described the Potsdamer Platz (of the 1920s and 1930s) as an “eternal roar” of rushing people and transport that was apt to bowl over unwanted visitors from out of town. This was the definitive Berlin as metropolis, matched in this period only by New York for bustle and speed. World War II and the Berlin Wall (fragments are on the site) left the area a wasteland watched over by border guards, but today it is again a centre of modern traffic and buildings, the newest high-rise and cultural precinct of Berlin. Take U2, S1, 2 or 25 or bus 200 to Potsdamer Platz.

The main Zoo Berlin (including the aquarium) is in the central area of Charlottenburg (see the Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf chapter). Tierpark Berlin at Friedrichsfelde to the east of the city (mid Oct-Mar 9-17, Apr-early Sep 9-19, early Sep-mid Oct 9-17, €12/6) features a collection of African animals including elephants. Take U5 to Tierpark or trams 27, 37 or M17 to U-Tierpark.

Parks & gardens

About one-third of Berlin’s area is green open space. It is blessed with a great park at its centre, with vast surrounding green areas and by the foresight that created a Volkspark in many districts for the free enjoyment of the citizens and their children. The city owes a great debt in particular to the work of Peter Joseph Lenné in the mid 19th century. Its results proved of inestimable benefit to working families facing the challenges of living in an industrial metropolis and later the isolated community of Cold War West Berlin. See the district chapters for details of their large public parks, gardens and woodlands.

Markets

The liveliest of the regular markets takes place twice weekly when the Türkemarkt strings along Maybachufer on the Landwehrkanal in Neukölln (Tu & F 11-18.30), offering fresh produce, a tasty array of Middle Eastern street foods, fabric and accessories. More conventional is the hall environment at Kreuzberg’s Marheineke Markthalle (M-F 8-20, Sa 8-18) at the corner of Bergmannstraße and Zossener Straße.

Farmers’ produce from the countryside comes into the centre of Berlin for Brandenburger Bauernmarkt am Wittenbergplatz (Th 10-19) at the square at the east end of Tauentzienstraße in Schöneberg. The upmarket food market is Markt am Kollwitzplatz (Th 12-19, Sa 9-16) in Prenzlauer Berg. Small day markets (M-Tu & Th-F 9-17) at Markt in the Spandau Altstadt present a good selection of fresh produce. Two Sunday flea markets prove popular. On the park north of Bernauer Straße is Flohmarkt Mauerpark (7-18), as much

Berlin 14 - RAVEN TRAVEL GUIDES GERMANY
Some of the greatest names of Berlin rest in the cemetery Dorotheenstädtischer Friedhof (Apr & Sep M-Su 8-19, May-Aug M-Su 8-20, Mar & Oct M-Su 8-18, Nov-Feb 8-16) at Chausseestraße 126, established in 1762. The graves include the Idealist philosophers Johann Gottlieb Fichte and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Karl Friedrich Schinkel, designer of several of Berlin’s great buildings, and his pupil Friedrich August Stüler, the sculptors Johann Gottfried Schadow and Christian Daniel Rauch, whose work is prominent in the city, and (more simply) Bertolt Brecht and his wife Helene Weigel, who came to Berlin after a long exile to establish the Berliner Ensemble. The Brecht-Weigel house at the north entrance was being restored in 2013. Take tram M6 to Torstraße or U6 to Oranienburger Tor.

A focal point of the so-called Scheunenviertel north of the Spree was the courtyards of the Hackescher Höfe off Rosenthaler Straße, which were a residential, commercial, retail and entertainment hub early in the 20th century. Art Nouveau was influential in the design of the main courtyards and preservation was ordered in the 1970s. The restoration a century after its heyday is also as a multi-use precinct including entertainment, restaurants and boutiques. Take S5, 9 or 75 or trams M4-M6 to Hackescher Markt.

Berlin’s early industrial period had several terminus railway stations serving long-distance passenger traffic, one of which was Hamburger Bahnhof (1847) in Invalidenstraße. But the growth of Berlin late in the 19th century superseded it and before World War I it was already a museum. War damage left it derelict well into the 1980s but the restored complex now houses the contemporary art of Museum für Gegenwart (see Art museums). Take S5, 7 or 9 to Hauptbahnhof or bus 120 to Invalidenpark.

A classic of industrial architecture is the turbine factory Turbinenhalle der AEG (1909) at the corner of Huttenstraße and Berlichingenstraße. It is a still-productive monument to the period of Berlin’s industrial and economic growth, the first of the industrial buildings designed by Peter Behrens and innovative in its layout and use of glass, which was much admired worldwide. It was originally 110m long. Take bus M27 to Reuchlinstraße.

The size and importance of Berlin’s 19th century Jewish congregation demanded the impressive domed Neue Synagogue (Apr-Sep Su-M 10-20, Tu & Th 10-18, F 10-17, Mar & Oct Su-M 10-20, Tu & Th 10-18, F 10-14, Nov-Feb Su-Tu & Th 10-18, F 10-14, €3.50/3) at Oranienburger Straße 28. Designed by Eduard Knoblauch and Stüler, it was completed in 1866. It was the centre of Jewish Berlin and survived the Kristallnacht pogrom of 1938 with some damage but was wrecked by bombing and areas of graves were devastated. The building was restored and in 1995 reopened for worship. Take S1, S2 or trams 12, M1 or M6 to Oranienburger Straße.

A social event as anything, extending to afternoon karaoke. In Friedrichshain Trödelmarkt am Bockshagener Platz fills the square near Warschauer Straße (10-18).

Events

The Berlin International Film Festival or Berlinale each February is one of the world’s best regarded. Tickets go on sale early in February at www.berlinale.de. This is not to be confused with the Berlin Biennale (www.berlinbiennale.de/blog), a biennial mid year festival of contemporary art spread over two months.

The Berliner Festspiele continues its program of arts through the year with theatre, music and other arts events based at the Haus der Berliner Festspiele in Schaperstraße in Wilmersdorf and the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Niederkirchner Straße. Its longest event is the three-week Berliner Musiktage with international orchestras performing until mid September. For the program and details of ticket sales visit www.berlinerfestspiele.de.

The recently established Berlin Art Week (www.berlinartweek.de), around the third week of September, involves key Berlin art venues. Tickets allowing admission to all (six days €30/22, two days €20/15) can be bought online in the lead-up or at participating galleries during September.

The Berlin Pride Christopher Street Day LGBT event late in June stops the city with its parade, the largest CSD event in Europe. The separate Kreuzberg Pride takes place about the same time.

Christmas markets begin late in November and run for varying periods at locations including Potsdamer Platz, Rotes Rathaus, Gendarmenmarkt, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche at Breitscheidplatz, Schloß Charlottenburg and the Kulturbrauerei on Schönhauser Allee in Prenzlauer Berg.

Food

The characteristic Berliner Kneipe (pub or tavern) exudes an intimate, even rustic quality, serving a traditional meat-based menu and often breakfast. In the 21st century it is harder to find the genuine article, but for a taste consider Zum Nußbaum in the Nikolaiviertel (see Food in the Berlin Mitte chapter).

Berlin is the home of the all-day breakfast, a staple of the best cafes and the breakfast Kneipe. A legacy of the extreme lifestyles of the early 20th century, it remains essential to nightlife and has become a brunch buffet in the early 20th century, it remains essential to nightlife and has become a brunch buffet in the early 20th century, it remains essential to nightlife and has become a brunch buffet.

For suggested eateries consult the district chapters.

Meet & drink

Animated conversation is a Berlin characteristic, ideally fuelled with a beverage. The cafe scene is diverse, covering the range from the upmarket Konditorei with cakes and confections to budget coffee bars and alternative scenes – depending on the district.

The term Kneipe is conventionally applied
**GENERAL INTEREST MUSEUMS**

**Jüdisches Museum Berlin** (M 10-22, Tu-Su 10-20, €5/2.50, €7/3.50 with special exhibitions, families €12) in the Postmodern complex at Lindenstraße 9-14 has a permanent exhibition tracing two millennia of German-Jewish relations as well as special exhibits. Audio guides (€3), including versions for teenagers and children (€1), are available in English. Take bus 248 to Jüdisches Museum or U6 to Kühistraße.

**Museum für Kommunikation** (Tu-W & F 9-17, Th 9-20, Sa-Su 10-17, €7/4.50) at Tiergarten Straße 1 exhibits collections from the Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung including unusual pieces and full organ installations. Take bus M41 to Kulturforum.

**Deutsches Technikmuseum** (Tu-Fr 9-17, Sa 10-18, €6/3.50) at Trebbiner Straße near Gleisdreieck covers traffic and transport with a strong rail shed collection, communications, navigation, aeronautics, science and energy. Interactivity is emphasised. Take U1 or U2 to Gleisdreieck.

**Luftwaffe museum der Bundeswehr** (Apr-Oct Tu-Su 10-18, Nov-Mar Tu-Su 9-16, entry free) in hangars, in the control tower and on the tarmac at Berlin-Gatow airport covers aircraft and other exhibits from the history of military flight in Germany. Take bus 135 from Spandau rail station to Luftwaffenmuseum or bus X34 to Alt-Kladow, then bus 135.

A dinosaur skeleton of huge proportions is promised among the prehistoric wonders at Museums für Naturkunde (Tu-F 9.30-18, Sa-Su 10-18, €6/3.50) at Invalidenstraße 43.

Interactive tools also aim to bring their images to life. Exhibits on broader geology go with the fossils. Take U6 or tram M6 to Naturkundemuseum.

**The Botanisches Museum** (M-Su 10-18, €2.50/1.50 or €6/3 with entry to the Botanischer Garten) is at König-Luise-Straße in Dahlem, examining the biology and behaviour of vegetation in a museum surrounded by one of Europe’s largest botanical collections on 40 hectares. Take bus X83 to König-Luise-Platz.

The historic manor farm Domäne Dahlem (W-M 10-18, €3/1.50) at König-Luise Straße 49 is an open-air agriculture museum and bio-farm in the borders of Berlin with all animals and implements and offering the chance to get involved in crafts or markets.

The Deutsche Kinemathek Museum für Film und Fernsehen** (Tu-W & F-Su 10-18, Th 10-20, €7/4.50, families €14) at Potsdamer Straße 2 has standing and occasional exhibitions on German cinema history and television and an extensive archive. Entry is free W 16-20. Take U2, S1 or S2 or bus 200 to Potsdamer Platz.

Courtly hunting is the subject of the exhibitions at Jagdzeugmuseum Jagdschloß Grunewald (Apr-Oct Tu-Su 10-18, Nov-Mar Sa-Su 10-16, €2/1.50, castle combination ticket €6/5) at Hüttenweg 100 near Grunewaldsee. The implements are laid out in the magazine next to the hunting lodge and the rituals and techniques are explained, including the use of dogs. Visiting without car or bicycle requires a walk of about a kilometre north-west of the Clayallee/Königin Luise Straße intersection along Im Jagen (take bus 115, X10 or X83).

For Akademie der Künste see Art & Design museums above.

Quicker than Berlin and set amid the Havel lakes, the former royal seat **Potsdam** offers restored streetcapes, palaces and expanses of parkland for visitors. Frederick the Great found solace here in his summer palace Schloß Sanssouci, whose attached park came to accommodate many Hohenzollern palaces and monuments. Almost complete is the rebuilding of the city’s castle, destroyed by bombing, and the Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte covers the important history of the rise of a European power. In the Babelsberg area Germany’s film industry developed in the first half of the 20th century. The main tourist office at Brandenburger Straße 3 (tel 0331-275580, Apr-Oct M-F 9.30-18, Sa-Su 9.30-16, Nov-Mar M-F 10-18, Sa-Su 10-16) is backed up by an office in Bahnhofspassagen (M-Sa 9.30-20, Su 10-16) at Potsdam Hauptbahnhof. Take S7 to Potsdam Hauptbahnhof.

The arched steel **Glienicker Brücke** (1907) across the Havel at the north end of Potsdam was used for a known handful of prisoner exchanges at the Cold War frontier and hence will always be regarded as the bridge of spies. At this isolated spot the border was a simple line across the middle of the bridge, though carefully watched. Here the U-2 reconnaissance pilot Francis Gary Powers was handed back to US officials in 1962. By this time the original structure, blown up during World War II, had been almost completely rebuilt. Other prisoner exchanges were set here in the pages of popular espionage fiction. Take S1 or S7 to Wannsee then bus 316 to Glienicker Brücke.

**Accommodation**

Many hotels charge more for the first night and some for the first two. Sundays can be cheaper, Fridays and Saturdays a little dearer than weekdays. Others can have minimum bookings of two or three nights – though not necessarily for all days of the week. Some offer cheap last-minute deals and occasionally long bookings bring rate discounts of the order of 20%. But bookings can be by credit card only, in which case it is important to check cancellation terms and penalties.

A bed tax of 5% on stays in Berlin has been proposed for introduction during 2014.

There is plenty of cheap short-term apartment accommodation in positions where prices would be difficult for even two-star hotels to match. A booking service is at the ‘Find+Book’ tab at the Visit Berlin website www.visitberlin.de. For other inquiries see the Information section above. More budget rooms are listed online at www.deutsche-pensionen.de/pension-berlin.

DJH has a youth hostel service centre for Berlin-Brandenburg (tel 030-2649520). The organisation offers several weekend or city packages and three-for-two specials, some for particular times of year.

For individual accommodation suggestions see the district chapters.
PERFORMANCE

The website www.berlin-buehnen.de provides a performance calendar and links to orchestras, ensembles and companies for information and ticket sales. Berliner Konzerte sells tickets to music events by phone or email (M-F 9-18, tel 030-6780111, email info@cm-reimann.com) or through the website www.berliner-konzerte.de. Tickets for some events are sold at the desk of the Tagesspiegel-Shop (M-F 9-18) through the foyer at Anskarsischer Platz 3. Hekticket.de at Hardenbergstraße 29D (M-Sa 10-20, Su 14-18) and Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 13 (M-Sa 12-20) sells a variety of concerts and other live events, advertising big discounts for events such as revues at the Friedrichstadt-Palast and Berliner Philharmonien. Information and purchases are also possible at the website www.berlin-konzerte.de or hotline (tel 030-2309930). Tickets for events at the historic Konzerthaus at Gendarmenmarkt go on sale at the website www.konzerthaus.de or by phone (tel 030-203092101). Programmed guided tours of main venues take place at times shown on websites.

Prices below may not apply to premieres or special performances. Children’s or matinee performances are sometimes staged.

Concerts

Berlin’s Cold War tale of two cities ended with six symphony orchestras. The acclaimed Berliner Philharmoniker (www.berliner-philharmoniker.de), based at the Philharmonie, fulfills a busy schedule including international engagements. Concert tickets booked online for perforances at the Großer Saal of the Philharmonie range from €7 to €8 (for standing room or choir seating) to €224, depending on the seating and concert category. Seats at the Kammersaal range from €10 to €35. Basic tickets for venues such as the Komische Oper can be booked for €10.

Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (www.dso-berlin.de) performs in symphony concerts at the Philharmonie (€10-59) three or four times a month, chamber concerts (€5-18) at other Berlin venues and a program of occasional casual concerts. Tickets are available online or at the DSO Berlin ticket office at Charlottenstrasse 56 (M-F 9-18, tel 030-202987, email tickets@dso-berlin.de).

Konzerthausorchester Berlin performs at the Konzerthaus at Gendarmenmarkt. Tickets (€20-61) can be purchased through the Konzerthaus website or by phone (see above).

The Berliner Symphoniker (www.berliner-symphoniker.de) also performs at the Philharmonie, with last-minute tickets available at the venue for €9, otherwise €16-39 (or €28-45 for chamber concerts). Tickets (tel 030-3255562, email karten@berliner-symphoniker.de, M-F 10-15.30) are not available directly through the website.

The Staatskapelle Berlin is one of Germany’s oldest orchestras and today performs with the Berliner Staatsoper at the Schiller Theater on Bismarckstraße during ongoing works at the Unter den Linden opera house (expected to reopen in 2015). The orchestra members also play in several chamber ensembles. For a program or to buy tickets online go to www.staatsoper-berlin.de.

The Bundelfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin (www.rsb-online.de) appears at a variety of Berlin venues and ticket prices vary accordingly. Tickets for occasional family concerts cost €10/5. The orchestra’s visitor centre is at Charlottenstrasse 56 (M-F 9-18, tel 030-20298715, email tickets@rsb-online.de).

The chamber orchestra Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin (www.akamus.de) tours extensively with its program of Baroque and early music but appears up to several times a month in Berlin.

Opera

The Berliner Staatsoper (www.staatsoper-berlin.de), with the musicians of the Staatskapelle Berlin performs temporarily at the Schiller Theater at Bismarckstraße 110 as well as the Philharmonie and Konzerthaus. Tickets (€14-250) are on sale at the website (fee €2), the Bismarckstraße box office, the ticket office at Unter den Linden 7 (both M-Su 12-19) or at the telephone hotline (M-Sa 10-20, Su 12-20, tel 030-20354555), where discounted tickets go on sale. Tickets to Philharmonie and Konzerthaus performances (both €16-59) are also sold at the website. Patrons under 16 and students under 30 can receive 50% discounts on some seats up to a month before performances. Remaining discount tickets go on sale to eligible patrons at €13 at the venue 30 minutes before performances.

The other leading opera company is Deutsche Oper Berlin (www.deutscheoperberlin.de) at Bismarckstraße 35. Ticket sales and bookings are possible online or through the ticket office (M-Sa 11-19, Su 10-14, tel 030-34384343, email info@deutscheoperberlin.de). Seat prices range from €17 to €162 and reservations incur a €2 charge. Concession price tickets (25% of pensioners and students, 50% for students under 21) are available at the ticket office on presentation of ID up to a week before performances. Concerts at the Tischlerei (€20/10) to the rear of the main opera house introduce works in development or emerging artists. The opera and ticket office are closed from late in June to early in August.

Tickets for the popular light opera of Berlin’s Komische Oper (www.komische-oper-berlin.de) at Unter den Linden 41 cost between €10 (restricted view) and €149. The main ticket office (M-Sa 11-20, Su 13-16, closed from late July to mid August) opens one hour before evening performances. A ticket centre accepts phone or email bookings (M-Sa 9-20, Su 14-20, tel 030-47997400, email karten@komische-oper-berlin.de).

Dance

The Staatsballett Berlin (www.staatsballett-berlin.de) performs at the Deutsche Oper, Schiller Theater or Komische Oper with ticket prices varying from €10 to €122 by venue, seats and performance. Sales are from the website, phone or email (tel 030-34384140, email ballet@staatsballett-berlin.de) or box offices (see Opera above).

The experimental-progressive performance group Hebbel am Ufer (www.hebbel-am-ufe.de) or HAÜ blends dance and theatre at three venues in Kreuzberg (Stresemannstraße 29, Hallesches Ufer 32 and Hallesches Ufer 10). Some performances are in English, bilingual or with supertitles. Tickets range between €7 and €25 with concession rates available.

Showtime

The north end of Friedrichstraße either side of the Spree is the centre of the show precinct. Sophisticated show spectaculars are the essence of Friedrichstadt-Palast at Friedrichstraße 107 with its two-hour evening and weekend afternoon performances. Tickets start at €17, ranging up to €122 for VIP benefits and varying according to the show (add 15% for most advance bookings). Lounge prices are however considerably higher. Bookings can be made online at www.show-palace.eu, at the booking centre (M-Su 9-20, tel 030-23262327, email tickets@show-palace.eu), or the ticket office (M-Su 10-18.30). Spot sales begin one hour before shows.

Variety is the key at Admiralspalast at Friedrichstraße 101, which stages performances ranging from international touring shows to cabaret acts. Bookings can be made online at www.admiralspalast.de or on the hotline (M-F 11-18, Sa-Su 11-17, tel 030-47997499). The foyer ticket office is open M-Su 8-20 and spot sales begin two hours before evening shows.

Theatre

Traditions including the direction of Max Reinhardt are behind the Deutsches Theater at Schumannstraße 13A. The company performs classics both modern and ancient and contemporary drama, often with supertitles. The three stages cater for audiences of varying proportions. Reservations can be made online at www.deutschestheater.de or tickets (starting around €5) booked the ticket office (M-Sa 11-18.30, Su 15-18.30, tel 030-28441225, email service@deutschestheater.de). Spot ticket sales begin one hour before performances.

The social criticism of the Maxim Gorki Theater (english.gorki.de) at Am Festungsgraben 2 off Unter den Linden is performed with English supertitles. Tickets (€10-30, student/Member €5) are available online, at the website or from the box office (M-Sa 12-18.30, Su 16-18.30, tel 030-20221115, email ticket@gorki.de). Spot tickets go on sale one hour before performances.

The Berliner Ensemble (www.berliner-ensemble.de), established by Bertolt Brecht and Helene Weigel, plays contemporary productions as well as classics including Brecht's own works at the Theater am Schiffbauerdamm (in German only, tickets from €5).

Cabaret

Interview Berlin was a centre of political cabaret, satire and black humour. Some of this tradition survives at Kabarett-Theater Distel, Friedrichstrasse 101, naturally in German. Visit www.distel-berlin.de.
Mitte

Despite war damage most of Berlin’s historical monuments and key public buildings are still to be found at the centre of the city.

Once restricted in use, the name Berlin Mitte was adopted by the wider administrative district formed around the medieval Berlin, later the Cold War centre of East Berlin. Now it is connected with the Tiergarten district, making sense once again of the great avenue Unter den Linden and the Brandenburger Tor. A new government centre continues to grow around the Spree north of the Tiergarten and construction proceeds apace as a yet another Berlin is created.

For entries describing the sights of Mitte consult the main Berlin chapter.

Mitte

The long, direct walk between Pariser Platz and Alexanderplatz is dotted with mainly Prussian monuments. To walk through the Brandenburg Gate was long impossible because of the Berlin Wall. But in 1806 Napoleon did so and left with the gate’s Quadriga as a war trophy, probably Prussian history’s low point. Stretching east is the avenue Unter den Linden, named for the linden trees that mark its centre. Symbolically grouped at the east end are the US, British, French and Russian embassies, representing the powers that administered Berlin and Germany after World War II.

Beyond Friedrichstraße, one of Berlin’s great thoroughfares, the avenue is all about Prussian greatness. The suite of buildings by great Prussian architects includes (on the north side) the present university building, the Neue Wache and the Zeughaus (a work shared by four designers and now the Deutsches Historisches Museum). On the south side is Bebelplatz, with the Alte Bibliothek, St-Hedwig’s-Kathedrale, Deutsche Staatsoper (which is being refurbished) and the Kronprinzenpalais. In the centre of the boulevard the equestrian statue of Frederick the Great dominates some of the great names of 18th and 19th century Prussia.

Across the Kupfergraben arm of the Spree is Museumsinsel. To the north is the Lustgarten, faced by the bombastic Berliner Dom, to the south Schloßplatz with the construction site slowly resurrecting the Prussian palace Berliner Schloß. Over the Spree proper on Karl-Liebknecht-Straße is the GDR regime’s showpiece area, where the post-war rubble was cleared from around the medieval Marienkirche. Dominating the precinct – as it does all Berlin – is the tower Fernsehturm. Behind it and the S-Bahn station is Alexanderplatz.

Großer Tiergarten

On the west side of the old Berlin customs wall – and for almost 40 years the Berlin Wall – is the green heart of greater Berlin, in part the legacy of the Brandenburg electors, who reserved the area for their hunting pleasure. Friedrich I opened the wooded area as the ‘animal garden’ early in the 18th century, then it was razed by Friedrich Wilhelm I for use as a parade ground. Frederick the Great wanted it restored for recreation and George Wenzelslaus von Knobelsdorff relaid the area with pavilions. The area was redesigned by Peter Joseph Lenné in 1830s. Wrecked by World War II and stripped of timber for fuel afterwards, it is now restored over about 200 hectares and officially known as Großer Tiergarten.

Dark deeds of 1919 also took place in the Tiergarten. With the future of Germany in the balance, the German communist leader Karl Liebknecht was shot by right-wing militia in the south-west corner near Neuer See and the body of his comrade Rosa Luxemburg was dumped nearby in the Landwehrkanal.

The east-west axis is Straße des 17. Juni. West of the Brandenburger Tor on the north side of the road is the war memorial to Soviet soldiers who were sacrifices in the capture of Berlin in April and May 1945, who planted the red flag (at night) on what was left of the Reichstag. At the east end of the garden are statues of giants of German literature and ideas: Goethe (near Ebertstraße) and Lessing (near Leipziger) Between is an innovative memorial to homosexual victims of Nazism by Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset.

Above the Tiergarten tunnel south entrance the pathway Ahornsteig leads south-west. Near Tiergartenstraße at the park’s south-east boundary is the picturesque Luiseninsel,
encircled by the waters of Tiergartengewässer with a monument (1880) to the queen of Friedrich Wilhelm III. Wagner’s monument is further to the south-west on the north side of Tiergartenstraße. On the south edge across Tiergartenstraße is the Kulturforum of major cultural centres, most prominently the Berliner Philharmonie (1963) by Hans Scharoun, and an embassy precinct.

The pathway Große Sternallee leads north-west. About 100m beyond Groller Weg a path leads north-east across the water to the ornamental Rosengarten, where the beasts that formerly roamed here are recalled by a statue of a stag. Here a path leads along the north bank of the water back to the boulevard approaching the centre Großer Stern. The central column Siegessäule was erected for the Prussian victories of the 1860s and 1870s and is known with typical Berlin irreverence as the ‘victory asparagus’. An observation platform is near the top (see Views).

Directly north of the Siegessäule is the statue of Bismarck (1901, by Reinhold Begas) that formerly stood before the Reichstag. Either side are the generals Moltke (1904, Joseph Uphues) and Roon (Harro Magnussen, 1904).

North-west on Spreeweg is Schloß Bellevue, official residence of the German president. John-Foster-Dulles-Allee leads back east along the Spree bank past the shell-like Haus der Kulturen der Welt. Straight ahead is the remodelled Reichstag building – now seat of the German parliament – facing Platz der Republik.

**Berlin Wall**

Bernauer Straße best encapsulates the story of the Berlin Wall and a walk north-east from Nordbahnhof will interest most visitors. In September 1961, as GDR border security police were throwing up the border that became the wall, residents to the south of the street tried desperately to escape through the windows of the residential buildings, some by jumping with the aid of West Berlin firemen. Photographs and film of the 77-year-old Frieda Schulze, who reached freedom from a first-floor window after a desperate tug-of-war by police were thrown up the border that closed this, the island and Friedrichswerder – Berlin's medieval sister village Cölln. The medieval defences – the Mühlendamm – were Berlin’s medieval sister village and both now museums (see Museums).

The street was the scene of the first of thousands of fatalities among escapees and the first section of wall to be broken down in November 1989. A monument to the first major demolitions the following year is at the corner of Ackerstraße. At the junction with Eberswalder Straße, at the east end of Bernauer Straße near the present Mauerpark, the first border crossing was created through a first-floor window after a desperate tug-of-war between police and her rescuers, became world news. Bernauer Straße now forms a commemorative and documentation precinct (see Museums in the main Berlin section).

**The Ephraim-Palais, above, and former GDR security tower.**

Turn north-west to follow Stresemannstraße to today’s sooting Potsdamer Platz towers, the site before World War II of Berlin’s busiest crossings and a no-go wasteland between 1961 and 1989. In parts of Berlin the line of the wall is marked only by a double row of cobbles in contrast to the paving: the west side of Stresemannstraße approaching Potsdamer Platz is such a place. About 150m to the east along Erna-Berger-Straße is a surviving GDR security tower (1966) that can be climbed (M-Su 14-18, donation €3.50/2.50).

**Old Berlin**

The river Spree divides into two arms around what is known at its north end as Museumsinsel, itself dividing eastern Berlin in two. East of the river is the area of the medieval Berlin and on Fischerinsel (around Mühlendamm) was Berlin’s medieval sister village Cölln. The medieval defences – the first Berlin wall – enclosed Berlin on the east bank. Its only remains today are a section along Waisenstraße between Gruner Straße and Stralauer Straße. A medieval moat enclosed this, the island and Friedrichswerder on the Spree west bank, running north past Mittelstraße.

From Waisenstraße follow Parochialstraße to the facade of the 17th-century Parochialkirche at Klosterstrasse. To the north is the bombed-out ruin of the Klosterkirche, the last remnant of the Franciscan monastery. Where Spandauer Straße begins on the other side of the wide Grunerstraße, a path leads through toward the twin towers of the 13th century Nikolaikirche. With its. restoration the surrounding Nikolaiwirtel precinct was created, a combination of restoration and reinvention that gives some impression of the close streetscapes of old Berlin – so hard to imagine from the modern open spaces. Notable among the houses is that of the writer Gotthold Ephraim Lessing at Nikolaikirchplatz 7. In Poststraße adjacent to the church is the Knoblauchhaus at No 23 and the Ephraim-Palais at No 16, both from the 18th century and both now museums (see Museums).

The Spree crossing at Mühlenstatt was the reason the Hohenzollerns decided to fortify the island in the medieval period. Today’s Breite Straße was the site of some of Berlin’s oldest surviving buildings, the oldest being the Renaissance Ribbeckhaus at No 35. Fischerinsel was the centre of the fishing village Cölln and the Petripalak recalls the demolished Petrikirche, whose antecedents went back to the 13th century.

Across the bridge at Fischerinsel is Mäerkisches Ufer, where the restored remnants of the Berlin Baroque have been collected. The early Berlin story is told at the Mäerkisches Museum.

An outer customs wall built early in 18th century created the Tor (‘gateway’) placenames familiar today, including the survivor, Brandenburger Tor (another was at Potsdamer Platz) and the names now most associated with railway stations: Oranienburger Tor, Frankfurter Tor, Schlesisches Tor, Kottbusser Tor and Hallesches Tor.

**Views**

The unbeatable view is near the top of the Fernsehturm (Mar-Oct M-Su 9-24, Nov-Feb 10-24, elevator €12.50/8), just over 200m above Alexanderplatz, where there is a bar and restaurant. Take the S-Bahn, U5 or bus 100 or 200 to Alexanderplatz.

At Potsdamer Platz 1 is Panorama Punkt Berlin with an observation deck (M-Su 10-20, €3.50/4, families €4.50) and café (M-Su 11-19). Take the S-Bahn or U2 or bus 200 to Potsdamer Platz.

BallonGarten am Checkpoint Charlie on Zimmerstrasse near Wilhelmstrasse allows up to a 15-minute view (€19/13, children 2-6 €3) of Berlin from a tethered balloon basket about 150m up. Conditions permitting, the balloon is aloft daily, in summer from 10.00, winter from 11.00. Take U6 to Kehlstrasse or bus M29 to Wilhelmstrasse.

The roof terrace and glass dome of the Reichstag building (M-Su 8-23 except some holidays and maintenance periods, entry free) at the east end of the Tiergarten command superb views and come with an audio guide. But visitors should register full details of their visit, with two days’ notice (select the Visit the Bundestag tab at www.bundestag.de). Visits on two hours’ notice of registration might be possible if vacancies are available in the 15-minute entry slots.

The Siegessäule at the centre of Großer Tiergarten – and Berlin – is almost 70m high and has a viewing platform (Apr-Oct M-F 9.30-18.30, Sa-Su 9-19, Nov-Mar M-F 10-17, Sa-Su 10-17.30, €3.50/2.50).

A viewing platform (M-Su 10-19, €3/1) is 40m up in the tower of the Französischer Dom at Gendarmenmarkt with an ideal view of the square and its architecture. Take U6 to Französische Straße or U2 to Stadtmitte.
Parks & gardens
Großer Tiergarten (see above) is a rare example of an open, rambling environment in the midst of a metropolis, retaining a little of its forest heritage despite the tunnel that now runs below it.

Berlin’s Zoologischer Garten was part of the pheasantry of the original Tiergarten area, redesigned by Lenné and opened in 1844. Today’s Zoo Berlin (Jan-late Mar 9-17, late Mar-early Sep M-Su 9-19, early Sep-late Oct 9-18.30, late Oct-Dec 9-17, €13/10, children 5-16 €6.50) retains its garden character as well as being one of the world’s chief zoos. There are many endangered animals among the 4000 species. An aquarium (combination ticket €20/15, children €10) is in the grounds. Family tickets with two adults are €35 (€50 with aquarium). The oriental Elefantentor entrance (original 1899, rebuilt 1984) is from Budapestere Straße and the Löwentor (‘lion’) entrance is from Hardenbergplatz. Take the S-Bahn or U-Bahn to Zoologischer Garten.

Volkspark Humboldthain covers about 30 hectares north of the city centre. It was laid out by Gustav Meyer in 1875 and restored after World War II. The remains of the anti-aircraft tower and bunker on the north side are visible and the wall is used for climbing practice. Bike paths are included with walking paths and there are two hills, a rose garden, picnic areas and a swimming pool. Take the S-Bahn to Humboldthain or U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Gesundbrunnen.

Food
A modern restaurant strip has been constructed around Alte Potsdamer Platz near Potsdamer Platz and the Arkaden mall at No 7 provides further options.

Zur letzten Instanz (M-Sa 12-1, Su 12-23, tel 030-2425528) near the remnants of the medieval wall at Waisenstraße 14 is a restaurant in a building from 1621 with accumulated traditions and a Berlin menu to match.

At Basic, old-style Berlin cooking awaits at Zum Nußbaum (M-Su 12-24, a recreation of the traditional intimacy of a Berlin Kneipe, in this case the haunt of Heinrich Zille of the traditional intimacy of a Berlin Kneipe, in this case the haunt of Heinrich Zille, 0-16 €6.50) retains its garden character as well as being one of the world’s chief zoos. There are many endangered animals among the 4000 species. An aquarium (combination ticket €20/15, children €10) is in the grounds. Family tickets with two adults are €35 (€50 with aquarium). The oriental Elefantentor entrance (original 1899, rebuilt 1984) is from Budapestere Straße and the Löwentor (‘lion’) entrance is from Hardenbergplatz. Take the S-Bahn or U-Bahn to Zoologischer Garten.

At Meininger Hotel Berlin Hauptbahnhof (tel 030-98321073), next to the station at Ella-Hebe-Straße 9, singles with full facilities can vary from €40 to €120, multi-bed rooms from €11 to €29. These, uncharacteristically, can be low on Friday and Saturday but shift with anticipated demand. Rates for each day in advance can be checked through the website booking function. Lockers, free WLAN (as well as PCs) and bicycle hire are available. Breakfast is €5.90. Much the same applies at Meininger Hotel Berlin Mitte Humboldthaus (tel 030-31879816), Oranienburger Straße 67, where places in multi-bed rooms can vary from €11 to €30. Singles and doubles come in as little as €39, but either can cost well over €100. For breakfast. There is also a Friedrishshain hotel. Book beds for both online at www.meininger-hotels.com/en/berlin. Take U8 to Heinrich-Heine-Straße.

At Meiningher Hotel Berlin Hauptbahnhof (tel 030-98321073), next to the station at Ella-Trube-Straße 9, singles with full facilities can vary from €40 to €120, multi-bed rooms from €11 to €29. These, uncharacteristically, can be low on Friday and Saturday but shift with anticipated demand. Rates for each day in advance can be checked through the website booking function. Lockers, free WLAN (as well as PCs) and bicycle hire are available. Breakfast is €5.90. Much the same applies at Meininger Hotel Berlin Mitte Humboldthaus (tel 030-31879816), Oranienburger Straße 67, where places in multi-bed rooms can vary from €11 to €30. Singles and doubles come in as little as €39, but either can cost well over €100. For online bookings visit www.meininger-hotels.com. Take S1 or S2 to Oranienburger Straße. A sister hotel is in Prenzlauer Berg.

At Hidden Hotel Berlin Hauptbahnhof (tel 030-98321073), next to the station at Ella-Hebe-Straße 9, singles with full facilities can vary from €40 to €120, multi-bed rooms from €11 to €29. These, uncharacteristically, can be low on Friday and Saturday but shift with anticipated demand. Rates for each day in advance can be checked through the website booking function. Lockers, free WLAN (as well as PCs) and bicycle hire are available. Breakfast is €5.90. Much the same applies at Meininger Hotel Berlin Mitte Humboldthaus (tel 030-31879816), Oranienburger Straße 67, where places in multi-bed rooms can vary from €11 to €30. Singles and doubles come in as little as €39, but either can cost well over €100. For online bookings visit www.meininger-hotels.com. Take S1 or S2 to Oranienburger Straße. A sister hotel is in Prenzlauer Berg.

At Wombats City Hostel Berlin (tel 030-84710820, www.wombats-hostels.com), Alte Schönhauser Straße 2 near Torstrasse. At high-season rates twin apartments with full facilities start from €80, doubles €58. Dorm beds are priced from €20 high season, €12 low season. Breakfast is €3.70 per person, free WLAN is available in the lobby, along with internet PCs, free maps, laundry and bicycle facilities and lockers. Take U2 to Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz.

The reconstructed Nikolaikirchplatz precinct includes the Lessinghaus, above.

The reconstructed Nikolaikirchplatz precinct includes the Lessinghaus, above.

Meet & drink
The most congenial environment for coffee or other beverages is the outdoor spaces opposite the archways at Hackescher Markt, but there are indoor options (and some chain coffee houses) in the Hackescher Höfe and along Rosenthaler Straße.

Alte Potsdamer Straße has coffee houses without being able to recapture the attested pre-war appeal of Potsdamer Platz.

A quieter corner is Dortmunder Straße north of the Spree bend and Hansaviertel, where ProMo (M-F 9-1, Sa-Su 9-24) is at No 8.

Accommodation
At A&O Berlin Hauptbahnhof (tel 030-322904200), Lehrter Straße 12, expect singles with full facilities to be €40-50, twins €45-60. Dorm beds can be €14 in low season (even €10 on Sunday) but rise to €27. Family rooms (€90-100) are available. Walk north from Invalidenstraße on Lehrterstraße.

A&O Berlin Mitte (tel 030-809475200) at Köpenicker Straße 127 has singles (€30-50) and doubles (€45-100) with full facilities. Family rooms (€90-130 depending on season, though early bird bookings can bring down the minimum) and apartments (from about €80) are available. Add €6 per person to all prices for breakfast. There is also a Friedrichshain hotel. Book beds for both online at www.aohostels.com/en/berlin. Take U8 to Heinrich-Heine-Straße.

At Meininger Hotel Berlin Hauptbahnhof (tel 030-98321073), next to the station at Ella-Hebe-Straße 9, singles with full facilities can vary from €40 to €120, multi-bed rooms from €11 to €29. These, uncharacteristically, can be low on Friday and Saturday but shift with anticipated demand. Rates for each day in advance can be checked through the website booking function. Lockers, free WLAN (as well as PCs) and bicycle hire are available. Breakfast is €5.90. Much the same applies at Meininger Hotel Berlin Mitte Humboldthaus (tel 030-31879816), Oranienburger Straße 67, where places in multi-bed rooms can vary from €11 to €30. Singles and doubles come in as little as €39, but either can cost well over €100. For online bookings visit www.meininger-hotels.com. Take S1 or S2 to Oranienburger Straße. A sister hotel is in Prenzlauer Berg.

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Hotel4Youth am Mauerpark (tel 030-28598585) at Schiffbauerdamm 6 it is hard to get a course under €20 unless vegetarian but either can cost well over €100. For breakfast. There is also a Friedrichshain hotel. Book beds for both online at www.meininger-hotels.com. Take S1 or S2 to Oranienburger Straße. Another Baxpax hostel is in Kreuzberg.

Smart Hostel Berlin (tel 030-45486454, www.smarthostel-berlin.de) at Genter Straße 53 offers high-season beds in small dorms in the €24-26 range, although prices can be much lower in low season or higher during festivals. High-season hotel singles/doubles start at €49/62 and apartments are also available. WLAN is in the lobby. Take U6 or tram 50 or M13 to Seestraße.

The three-star Hotel Pension Kastanienhof (tel 030-443050, www.kastanienhof.biz) at Kastanienallee 65 has normal high-season rates for singles with full facilities starting at €79, but last-minute online booking rates (or for more than six nights) are €65, subject to availability. Most rooms are in fact doubles and twins, bookable at last-minute online rates of €79 or €69. Breakfast is €9 extra. WLAN is available. Take tram 41 to Zionskirchplatz.

The DJH hostel City-Hostel Berlin International (tel 030-747687910, email info@berlin@jugendherberge.de) at Kluckstraße 3 has 345 beds with rates in high season of €23, low season €17. Take U1 to Kurfürstendamm, walk north on Potsdamer Straße, turn left at Lützowstraße, then right at Kluckstraße.

RAVEN TRAVEL GUIDES GERMANY - Mitte 3
Prenzlauer Berg

The district beside the Berlin Wall nurtured social frustration during the divided years and the wall’s demolition has shaped the social changes since.

Prenzlauer Berg’s working-class traditions go with the period of Berlin’s growth from the 1870s. Hundreds of buildings from the late 19th century survived the war (and have since been heritage-listed). The home of the proletarian artist Käthe Kollwitz did not.

A sombre area during the Cold War and a nursery of counter-culture after it, Prenzlauer Berg, especially its southern part, has now been largely gentrified as an area for cafes, restaurants and family apartments and a venue for weekend brunch. As such it has widened its appeal as a residential address and entertainment and dining destination but the budget accommodation – very handy by tram or U-Bahn to central Berlin – still has an emphasis on youth.

Kastanienallee & Kollwitzstraße

Prenzlauer Berg retains its urban edge around busy Schönhauser Allee (especially Eberswalder Straße U-Bahn station) and along the Danziger Straße strip. But its appeal is now in green, comfortable streets such as Kastanienallee and Sredzkistraße (linked by Öderberger Straße) with high-value apartments and eateries, cafes and occasional boutique shop fronts. A turn south-west on Kollwitzstraße leads to Kollwitzplatz, where a Kollwitz sculpture now presides over child’s play amid the affluence now stamped on the area. On Knaackstraße is the heritage water tower, last reminder of an industrial past and an inspiration. The 21st century trend in Prenzlauer Berg is exemplified by Kollwitzstraße.

Parks & gardens

Some of the public parks in Berlin were not due to long-ago planning or inspiration. The present 30 hectares of parkland at Volkspark Prenzlauer Berg was created in the 1960s from three mounds of World War II rubble from the centre of Berlin. There were already hills and gardens on the site but the hills of today were enlarged by millions of cubic metres of debris. Walking paths were laid and small public sculptures added in the 1970s. Take trams M5 or M6 to Öderbruchstraße.

Mauerpark straddles the old wall line, which now divides Berlin Mitte from Prenzlauer Berg, a place to stroll or visit weekend flea markets.

Food

The restaurant scene is centred on Kollwitzplatz, where a glance around quickly provides plenty of choice. In the middle of it all and making good use of the backdrop of Kollwitzplatz is Restauration 1900 (tel 030-44224444) at the corner of Husennannstrasse and Wörther Straße, open daily from 10.00 with all courses under €20 and a popular weekend brunch offering.

Also known for weekend brunch but based around a specialty Mexican menu (in English and Spanish) is Frida Kahlo (tel 030-4457016, M-Th 9-2, F-Sa 9-3, Su 10-2) at Lychener Straße 37. The choice is wide but expensive, mostly under €10 per course, and the weekend brunches are on until 16.00 (bookings recommended).

Fish snacks, fish and chips and a range of fish dishes with rice or salad under €16 are on the menu at Der Fischladen (M-Sa 10-21, Su 14-21), Schönhauser Allee 128.

Meet & drink

Kollwitzplatz and Kollwitzstraße burn the brightest evening lights and the artist herself would not recognise the neighbourhood. The assortment of cafes and Kneipen at the Kulturbrauerei, Schönhauser Allee 36, is a gathering place for Berliners and visitors.

For a taste of 21st century Prenzlauer Berg, visit Das Filmcafe (M-F 17-24) at Schiellmannstraße 17, far cry from the counter-culture scene that used to inhabit the precinct. But there is a downstairs cinema with an arthouse program and occasional films in English as well as vegan and vegetarian fare with the drinks and coffee.

Accommodation

A lively business in a variety of hostels and other budget options has grown up in the area to match the social life. Guests lacking internet can try the public wi-fi hotspot at Kollwitzplatz.

EastSeven Berlin Hostel (tel 030-93622240, www.eastseven.de), Schwedter Straße 7, offers single rooms at €38 in high season and €31 in low season, doubles €52 and €44, three-bed rooms €66 and €57 and dorm beds from €18 and €14. There are lockers and kitchen access, free WLAN and maps, laundry facilities and bicycle rental. Take U2 to Senefelder Platz.

Aurora Hostel (tel 030-46995530, www.auora-hostel.com), Pappelallee 21, has singles/doubles/triples with shared facilities at €30/49/64.50, with bath €42/66/80. Children under 12 stay free. WLAN is available but breakfast is not included. Take

RAVEN QUICK GUIDE

Tourist information: Maschinenhaus, Kulturbrauerei, Schönhauser Allee 36 (M-F 11-19).

Money: Deutsche Bank, Danziger Straße 125, (M-Tu & Th 10-18, W & F 10-16); Sparkasse, Schönhauser Allee 182 (M-F 9.30-18).

Post: Schönhauser Allee Arcaden, Schönhauser Allee 79 (M-F 9-20, Sa 10-20).

Internet: Internetcave am Tor, Schönhauser Allee 188 (M-F 8-4, Sa-Su 8-5); Internetcave Day & Nightstore, Schönhauser Allee 104 (M-Su 8-3).

Laundry: Eco-Express Waschsalon, Danziger Straße 7 (M-Su 6-23); Wasch-Center, Wichertstraße 9 (M-Su 6-22).

Police: tel 110, Eberswalder Straße 6 (tel 030-4664115701).

Pharmacy: Elisabeth-Apotheke, Prenzlauer Allee 184 (M-F 8-20, Sa 9-17); Nordring Apotheke, Schönhauser Allee 118 (M-F 8-20, Sa 8.30-18); Cecilien Apotheke, Gaudystraße 1 (M-F 9-19, Sa 9-14); Schönhauser Apotheke, Danziger Straße 5 (M-F 8-19, Sa 8.30-14).

Ambulance: tel 112.

On the east side of the Bisebrücke rail bridge on Bornholmer Straße, Platz des 9. November 1989 commemorates the moment the first East Berlin residents were able to cross to West Berlin after the announcement by the GDR government that borders would open. Information boards record the history of the border point and the night it reopened forever. Take S1, S2, or S5 or tram M13 to S-Bahnhof Bornholmer. At the corner of Eberswalder Straße and Bernauer Straße near Mauerpark, the first formal crossing was created through the Berlin Wall, 15 minutes after midnight on November 10. Take tram M10 to Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark or U2 to Eberswalder Straße.

The 30m Wasserturm (water tower, 1875) at the corner of Kolmarstraße and Knaackstraße belongs to the period at the beginning Berlin’s spectacular growth. It was built as a pressure regulator, exploiting the 50m height of the hill then known as the Windmühlenberg (because of the many windmills that had only recently disappeared). The storage had a capacity of 1200 cubic metres. The attached engine house and boiler room went out of use during World War I but from 1933 were used as one of the earliest Nazi concentration camps, dealing with political dissidents. By this time the area had already been landscaped as a garden. A monument on the site honours the camp’s tortured and murdered victims.

What is now known as the Kulturbrauerei at Schönhauser Allee 36 is the former brewery (1891), designed by Franz Schwechten for the expanding Schultheiss business that had maintained a cellar on the site since the 1850s. Berlin’s brewing operations had, with the population, boomed throughout the period, and Schultheiss became one of the biggest producers in the world. Today the restored site is a venue for performance, cinema, bars and retailing. Take U2 to Eberswalder Straße.

The nearby Green-Hostel-Berlin (tel 030-55878946, www.green-hostel-berlin.de) offers budget basics at Berliner Allee 39. High-season rates per person without breakfast are €23 twin and low season €18, €21 and €14 in three-bed rooms, €18 and €12 in four-bed rooms and €13-15 and €10-11 in six to eight-bed rooms. Singles are available on request. Free WLAN, lockers and maps are available. Take trams M4, M12 or 13 to Antonplatz.

For Prenzlauer Berg

reunification meant gentrification based on residential appeal, heritage architecture and city proximity. What would the former resident Käthe Kollwitz, whose sculpture is in the square where she lived, make of it now?

Prenzlauer Berg 2 - RAVEN TRAVEL GUIDES GERMANY
Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg & Neukölln

Once separated by a river and a wall, Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain still show differences. The years between 1945 and 1989 are what continue to divide them.

Long the centre of Berlin counter-culture, Kreuzberg is now joined with the former East Berlin district Friedrichshain to span the Spree in one sprawling district south and east of Mitte. The northern tip of Neukölln protrudes into this diverse environment.

What they have in common is origins in the rapid industrialisation of Berlin late in the 19th century and (for today's visitor) a lively small cafe scene and plenty of budget accommodation options, especially hostels. It is certainly the case that in Kreuzberg the proximity of the Berlin Wall was a social experience that served to concentrate creativity and drive all manner of experimentation to an unusual intensity.

A large post-war population with Turkish and otherwise immigrant backgrounds is one difference. This, overlaid with Kreuzberg’s inherited tolerance, equals variety and excitement. In recent years two writers of Turkish background contributed an online research article entitled In Kreuzberg, there are no Foreigners! This is also true of the north part of Neukölln, which now seems to have more in common with Kreuzberg south of the Landwehrkanal than Kreuzberg’s more recently gentrified northern part.

Friedrichshain’s own gentrification is well under way, but only time will tell whether it heads the same way as its multicultural neighbours.

Kreuzberg

One cross-section of the district is within reach of Moritzplatz. Follow Oranienstraße through Oranienplatz to Adalbertstraße, turning south to Kottbusser Tor and along Kottbusser Damm to Hermannplatz at the north end of Neukölln. On Tuesdays or Fridays it will be compelling to divert at Maybachufer, where the Türkenviertel with its many foods, fabrics and passing parade of patrons takes over the Landwehrkanal’s south bank.

Kreuzberg’s gentler shades are worth appreciation. A short walk from the U-Bahn at Mehringdamm south to Bergmannstraße, turning east to Marheinekeplatz, takes in some of the more fashionable cafes and bars as well as leafy streets.

Friedrichshain

A now-famous walk is now on the east bank of the Spree near Ostbahnhof, along the Eastside Gallery section of the Berlin Wall with bold street art by international practitioners. Oberbaumbrücke is the landmark at the south end.

But an experience of eastern Berlin would not seem authentic without the Stalinist streetscape of Karl-Marx-Allee between Frankfurter Tor and Strausberger Platz with its apartment monoliths, little changed from the 1950s.

Views

The Kreuzberg in Viktoriapark was chosen for Karl Friedrich Schinkel’s east-monument iron, often compared to a Gothic spire. Part of the Tempelhofer Berge, the Kreuzberg is almost 70m above the city, putting the Viktoriapark viewer at the same elevation as the Viktoria on the Siegessäule in the Tiergarten. Take U6 to Platz der Luftbrücke or bus M19 or 140 to Kottbuscher Platz.

The hilltops of Volkspark Friedrichshain (see below) are vantage spots and the walking paths spiral up to the lookout. The tallest, known as Mont Klammot, is just over 70m.

Parks & gardens

The wooded area of Volkspark Friedrichshain, bounded by Danziger Straße and the oldest of the public spaces laid out by Peter Joseph Lenné, is a relief amid the eastern city area. Lenné laid out the western section between 1846 and 1848 and Johann Gustav Meyer extended it east between 1874 and 1876. Its two hills have a ponds between. There are two fountains toward the north-west corner, notably the Märchenbrunnen, designed by Ludwig Hoffman and built in 1913 with statues by Ignatius Taschner. The eastern area is suited for more active recreation. Take tram 5, 6 or 8 to Platz der Vereinten Nationen.

The peak in Viktoriapark gave Kreuzberg its name. The park is not big but wooded and the peak is the ideal place for the cascades that flow from the spot.

Volkspark Hasenheide was a shooting range for centuries but in the 19th century
became the home of the nationalist Friedrich Ludwig Jahn’s gymnastics movement. A monument to Jahn is uphill from the main north entrance near Jahnstraße. The area was relaid as parkland in the 1930s. War rubble was heaped around a wartime bunker at the Rixdorfer Höhe, creating a hill almost 70m high. A small children’s farm with ponies, fowl, goats and sheep has been developed. Take U7 to Südstern or Hermannplatz.

Just over the district boundary in Treptow, Treptower Park parallels the Spree and the green areas extend along the river’s southern bank to the more heavily wooded Plänterwald. The park was laid out by Gustav Meyer from 1876 and today is dominated by the solemnity of the war monument Sowjetisches Ehrenmal Treptow. Take S8, 9, 41 or 42 to Treptower Park.

Food & drink
There is a wide range of choices from fresh to fish among the food bars in the Marheineke Markthalle (M-F 8-20, Sa 8-18) at the corner of Bermannstraße and Zossener Straße.

The long-established Café Alibi (M-F 9-3, F-Sa 9-4, Su 10-3) at Oranienstraße 166 serves breakfast and light meals including salads as well as coffee and cake. Milch & Zucker (M-F 7-20, Sa-Su 8-20), nearby at Oranienstraße 37, also offers vegetarian and vegan options.

Espressolounge (M-Su 7-20) in a prime Kreuzberg location at Bergmannstraße 92 serves tea and soy or yoghurt shakes as well as coffee.

Bagel, Coffee, Culture (M-F 8-20, Sa 9-20, Su 10-20) at Mehringdamm 66 serves rolls, bagels and wraps, light vegetarian and vegan meals and inexpensive breakfasts.

Café Tasso (M-Su 9.30-20) at Frankfurter Allee 11 in Friedrichshain takes the idea of culture even further, providing an antiquarian bookish environment in addition to breakfasts, its daily light meal specials (until 17.00) and beverages.

Accommodation
Uniformity and bunk beds are eschewed at the medium-sized Grand Hostel Berlin (tel 030-20095450), on the Landwehrkanal at Tempelhofer Ufer 14. The restored old-style building makes for several different price levels. Singles are from €35 with shared facilities. Doubles and twins start from €19 per person with shared facilities, €29 with en suites. Rates per person for three-bed rooms are €15, four and five beds €14, six beds €12. The buffet breakfast is €5.90 and WLAN is free throughout. Lockers are provided and guests can wash laundry at €5.50 a load. Take bus M41 to Willy-Brandt-Haus or U1 or U7 to Mückernbrücke and cross the canal.

Metropol Hostel Berlin (tel 030-25940890, www.metropolhostel-berlin.com) at Mehringdamm 32 offers singles/doubles or twins with full facilities from €32/49, beds in four-bed rooms with attached facilities (€20-24) and dorm beds with shared facilities (€11.40-23). Take U6 or U7 or bus M19 to Mehringdamm.

The non-smoking Happy Bed Hostel (tel 030-7933647, www.happybed.de) at Hallesches Ufer 30 offers singles/doubles/triples in high season, with breakfast and WLAN access, from €34/54/66 and beds in multi-bed rooms starting at €15. The prices rise to €40/60/78 at busier times, doubles €38-92. Dorm beds in high season are €18-25 depending on bookings but off-season rates can be as low as
The Kreuzberg-Denkmal (1821) on the peak in Viktoria Park was designed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Schinkel had earlier designed the decoration of the Iron Cross for the king Friedrich Wilhelm III for Prussia’s Wars of Liberation against Napoleon and this Neogothic cast iron monument to those wars carries that cross, which that gave the hill (and the district) its name. The monument carries the names of victorious battles with symbols of Prussian might. Cascades were added to the hill late in the 19th century. The terrace today provides one of the city’s best views. Take U6 to Platz der Luftbrücke or bus 140 along Kreuzberger Straße to Katzbachstraße.

At the end of World War II Berlin was in ruins and about three-quarters of its civilian population were women. The story of the Trümmerfrau, the women who helped clear the streets brick by brick, is commemorated by the Trümmerfrau-Denkmal (1955) by Katharina Szelinski-Singer in Volkspark Hasenheide, one of the places where the rubble of Berlin were eventually carted and used in landscaping. First placed on the Rixdorfer Höhe, it was later moved nearer the northern park boundary, about 50m from the entrance at Graefestraße. Take U7 to Südstern or U7 or U8 to Hermannplatz.

Karl-Marx-Allee was the premier boulevard of the GDR when constructed as Stalinallee in the years 1950-65—began at a time when its new apartment blocks were still surrounded by the rubble of ruined Berlin. A stretch almost 2km long was greatly widened and the Strausberger Platz, the areas of the earliest buildings, turned into a feature. The strip closer to Alexanderplatz is in the 1960s style. The buildings were occupied by party officials and the workers who built them and remain monuments to architecture of the Stalinist period. Take U5 to Strausberger Platz.

The Kunstmeile or East Side Gallery comprises more than 100 separate works of art painted 1989-90 along the Mühlenstraße bank of the Spree in Friedrichshain, on the 1300m longest surviving length of the Berlin Wall. Political comment is the focus of these works by international artists and photographs added to the river side of the wall observe human rights themes. After controversy over the restoration of some works, four painted sections of wall were removed from their site as part of a real estate development in March 2013. Developers declared their intention to return them, but a lobby of artists called for UNESCO world heritage listing to protect the site. Take the U-Bahn or S-Bahn to Warschauer Straße or bus 347 to Oberbaumbrücke.

The former Russian war memorial Treptower Park is the site of the Sowjetisches Ehrendenkmal Treptow (1949) and grove to the Red Army’s fallen in the 1945 Battle of Berlin. The works were created by the architect Yakov Belopolski and Socialist Realist sculptor Yevgeny Vuchetich. The central memorial shows the Soviet soldier as allegorical protector, smashing the Nazi Hakenkreuz (swastika). There are frescoes inside the pedestal by Alexander Gorpenko. White stones flanking the terrace carry reliefs and quotes from Josef Stalin and the monumental triangular gates were raised from red marble from the ruins of Hitler’s Reich chancellery. Take the S-Bahn to Treptower Park or buses 166 or 167 to Sowjetisches Ehrenmal.

€12. Family rooms (€75-100) are available. Breakfast is €6. Take the S-Bahn to Ostkreuz and walk north on Neue Bahnhofstraße, or U5 to Frankfurter Tor, then tram 21 to Neue Bahnhofstrasse.

The decor and furniture is East Berlin (c1980) at Ostel (tel 030-25768660, www.osttel.eu) in the GDR era building at Wriezener Karree off Straße der Pariser Kommune. Singles/doubles with shared facilities start at €25/32, with shower and toilet €30/37. Holiday apartments start at €80. The breakfast buffet is €7.50 extra and WLAN is free in the lobby. A bar and garden are on site. Take U5, S3, S7 or bus 140 or 147 to the nearby Ostbahnhof.

A smaller hostel is U Inn Berlin Hotel (tel 030-330424410, u-innberlinhostel.com) at Finowstraße 36, which splits high-season and low-season (Nov-Feb) rates. The costs for singles are €29 and €25, doubles or twins €50 and €46, three-bed rooms €69 and €61. Rates per person in four-bed dorms are €19 and €17, eight-bed dorms €15 and €13. Free WLAN and PC access is available in the lounge. Take U5 to Samariterstrasse (and walk east on Frankfurter Allee) or U5, U8, S41 or S42 to Frankfurter Allee (and walk west). Aiming to be basic but bright is Backpacker Berlin (tel 030-29369164, www.backpackerberlin.com) at Knorrpromenade 10. The hostel offers singles €32 the year round, doubles €49 high season (mid-Mar-Oct) and €44 low season (or bigger rooms €50 all year), twins €49 and €39, beds in four-bunk rooms €18 all year, beds in six-bunk rooms €9.90 (but €14.90 Thursday to Saturday). Sheets and towels are charged (€2) once for bunk beds. A kitchen is provided but no breakfast. Take S3, S7 or S5 to Ostkreuz and walk north-west on Sonntagstraße to Wühlschissstraße, then 70m west to Knorrpromenade.

Among the Friedrichshain novelty hostels is the boat Eastern Comfort (tel 030-66763806, www.eastern-comfort.com), moored at Mühlenstraße 73 near the Oberbaumbrücke over the Spree at Warschauer Straße. There are a few levels of comfort (and space) but some cabins squeeze in a double bed with full facilities (€62-78), corresponding singles are €54 while other accommodation is a tent (€14.90 Thursday to Saturday). Sheets and towels are charged (€2) once for bunk beds. A kitchen is provided but no breakfast. Take S3, S7 or S5 to Ostkreuz and walk north-west on Sonntagstraße to Wühlschissstraße, then 70m west to Knorrpromenade.

The small Hotel Pension Lohwasser Berlin (tel 0176-25331745, www.lohwasser-berlin.de) at Kreuzigerstraße 20 has a mixture of en-suite and shared facilities. There are singles/doubles from €35/70 and a four-bunk room with beds from €25, €60 the room. Extra beds cost €10 and a kitchen, lounge and garden are available. WLAN is free throughout. Take U5 to Samariterstrasse and walk 130m west on Frankfurter Allee to the narrow gateway next to the pizza shop opposite Rathaus Passage (it becomes Kreuzigerstraße to the south behind the street fronts).

TRYP by Wyndham Berlin City East (tel 030-555070, www.hotel-berlin-east.de) at Ruheschtraße 45 offers restricted rates on singles or doubles with breakfast from €47 in double rooms, while standard singles/doubles start at €50/60. WLAN is included. Take tram 16 or M13 to Storkower Straße and walk east on Josef-Orlopp-Straße to Ruheschtraße.
The Berlin Wall did not run through Schöneberg or Tempelhof but at different times both districts found themselves in the forefront of the Cold War. And in several ways both kept up the hopes of West Berlin in dark days. There are few signs of this today in what are mostly quiet residential areas marked by gracious buildings about a century old.

Tempelhof’s airport is no longer in use but was the prototype of the modern aviation hub and an international showpiece when developed under the Nazis. It became the chief port for the Berlin Airlift, which late in the 1940s supplied a city that had been cut off on the ground by the Warsaw Pact.

The monument at Platz der Luftbrücke outside the airport stands in acknowledgement of Allied lives lost in the mission. Ernst Reuter, a former communist, as mayor of West Berlin led the defiance of the blockade and inspired Clay’s airlift initiative. His administration was based at Schöneberg’s town hall, where West Berlin was governed throughout the Cold War. It was the rallying point for an isolated city and later became the scene of one of history’s great pieces of oratory, part of the US president John F. Kennedy’s ‘Ich bin ein Berliner’ speech. Today the square that was filled with a cheering crowd that day in 1963 bears the president’s name.

Quieter today, Schöneberg retains a period charm with late Wilhelmine residential buildings and leafy streets. The streetscapes and architecture made it a popular abode for artists, writers and entertainers through the 20th century. Nollendorfstraße, in the northern part of the district, was the chief setting for Christopher Isherwood’s book Goodbye to Berlin, the Weimar period tale of complicated lives and sexual freedoms that was the basis for the film Cabaret. The Nollendorfplatz precinct is still identified with gay lifestyles.

**Walks**

For lively surroundings nothing would exceed a short stroll down Tauentzienstraße from Breitscheidplatz past the classic department store Kaufhaus des Westens (‘KaDeWe’) to Wittenbergplatz. But Schöneberg quickly shows its residential face and for this it is better to choose quieter streets.

Nollendorfstraße with its early 20th century architecture became widely recognised (Isherwood lived at No 17 when Berlin was at its wildest) but for a look at the streetscapes walk between Schöneberg Rathaus and Bayerischer Platz along Salzburger Straße.

**Parks & gardens**

The old runways of Flughafen Tempelhof are now a vast open space, Tempelhofer Freiheit (M-Su 6-dusk), for foot or cycling recreation. Plaques on historical themes including aviation milestones and the Berlin Airlift have been placed around the pathways. An interactive map is available at [www.tempelhoferfreiheit.de](http://www.tempelhoferfreiheit.de).

**RAVEN QUICK GUIDE**

**Money:** Sparkasse, Grunewaldstraße 61 (M, W & F 9.30-15, Tu & Th 9.30-18); Deutsche Bank, Bayerische Platz 9 (M-Tu & Th 10-13, 14-18, W & F 10-13, 14-16).

**Transit Information:** Kleistpark U-Bahn station, platform kiosk (M-F 5-22, Sa 7-22, Su 8-22); Nollendorfplatz U-Bahn station kiosk (M-F 4-19.30, Sa-Su 6-19).

**Post:** Kleiststraße 23 (M-F 9.30-18.30, Sa 9-14); Potsdamer Straße 134 (M-F 9.30-18.30, Sa 9-13).

**Internet:** Dr@Shop, Grunewaldstraße 39 (M-F 10-22, Sa 10-20, Su 11-22).

**Laundry:** Schnell und Sauber Waschcenter, Grunewaldstraße 49 (M-Su 6-23); Schnell und Sauber Waschcenter, Hauptstraße 77 (M-Su 6-23).

**Police:** tel 110; Hauptstraße 45 (tel 030-466442701); Götzstraße 6 (tel 030-466444701).

**Pharmacy:** Martin-Luther-Apotheke, Martin-Luther-Straße 93 (M-Tu & Th-F 8.30-18.30, W 8.30-14, Sa 8.30-13); Apotheke am Flughafen, Manfred-von-Richthofen-Straße 2 (M-F 8.30-18.30, Sa 8.30-13); Apotheke am Bayerische Platz, Bayerische Platz 6 (M-F 8.30-18.30, Sa 8.30-13).

**Ambulance:** tel 112.

**Hospital:** St Joseph Krankenhaus, Wüsthofstraße 15 (tel 030-78820).
From Rathaus Schöneberg the peaceful Rudolf-Wilde-Park stretches west to Kurfürsteiner Straße, where the green strip becomes Volkspark Wilmersdorf. For details see the Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf chapter.

**Food & drink**

A breakfast, lunch and dinner cafe-restaurant in the classic waistcoated tradition is Café Einstein Stammhaus (tel 030-26391918, M-Su 8-1) in a gracious building at Kurfürstenstraße 58. The courses are within reach however, with a menu priced mostly at €21 or less. Upstairs is a cocktail bar and outside is a cafe garden.

**Accommodation**

Budget accommodation is not difficult to find and pensions and guesthouses are many. CVJM Jugendgästehaus Berlin, Einemstraße 10 (tel 030-26491088, www.cvjm-jugendgaestehaus.de) offers singles/twins from €37.90/55.80, three and four-bed rooms from €24.90 per person, breakfast included. In family rooms adults pay €30.50 a night, children €12.50-24.90 depending on age. Add €2 for a one-night stay, €2-3 for guests aged over 26. Rates may also vary at peak periods. Take U2, 3 or 4 to Nollendorfplatz.

Jugendhotel Berlincity (tel 030-78702130, www.jugendhotel-berlin.de) at Crellestraße 22 is a large youth hotel with singles/doubles with full facilities from €45/55, shared facilities from €35/50. Three and four-bed rooms cost from €70/85 and basic multi-bunk rooms are also available. Take U7 to Kleistpark.

The small Berliner Bed & Breakfast (tel 030-24373962, www.berliner-bed-and-breakfast.de) at Langenscheidtstraße 5A offers singles/doubles at €35/55 with shared facilities, three and four-bed rooms at €70/85. Apart from breakfast, kitchen facilities are available. Take U7 to Kleistpark.

Flughafen Tempelhof, built on the former exercise ground of the Prussian army, was the most extraordinary airport of its time – and a pattern for most that were to come. It was established in 1923 but grew to include the largest building on the planet, setting engineering precedents with its design. The main terminal building (1941), designed by Ernst Sagebiel, took many years to complete and at one stage was used for wartime aircraft assembly. The master plan for the airport was never realised but the terminal remains a striking design. The airport, which bore the early brunt of the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49, finally closed to traffic in 2008. Two-hour tours (Sa 15.00, Su 14.00, €12-8, children 6-16 €6) are available from the Tempelhofer Damm terminal entrance. A plaque to General Clay (‘father of the airlift’) is nearby. Take U6 or buses 104 or 248 to Platz der Luftbrücke.

‘They gave their lives for the freedom of Berlin’. Platz der Luftbrücke outside the airport in Tempelhof, with the Luftbrückendenkmal (1951) by Eduard Ludwig, commemorates the feat of supplying West Berlin by air alone for almost 11 months during the Soviet-imposed land blockade, and the 100 people including aircrew who died during the operation. It also marks the moment when Berlin was first politically divided between east and west. The monument, a symbolic bridge reaching for the sky, became known to West Berliners as ‘the claw of hunger’. Almost 700 aircraft, 25 of which crashed, took part in the civil-military operation. Take U6 or buses 104 or 248 to Platz der Luftbrücke.

Rathaus Schöneberg (1914) was in dire times the centre of what regarded itself as free Berlin. That was certainly the view of John F. Kennedy in his 1963 ‘Ich bin ein Berliner’ speech, delivered from its balcony to the packed square that now carries his name. Here West Berlin was governed for more than 40 years. But the building’s connection with the U.S and the symbols of freedom goes back to 1950, when a replica of the Liberty Bell was hung in its tower. This rings daily at noon. Take U4 or bus M46 to Rathaus Schöneberg.

From Rathaus Schöneberg the peaceful Rudolf-Wilde-Park stretches west to Kurfürsteiner Straße, where the green strip becomes Volkspark Wilmersdorf. For details see the Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf chapter.

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The former outlying villages that were incorporated into the boundaries of Greater Berlin after World War I became the core of West Berlin during the division of the city.

West Berlin’s heart became the area of Breitscheidplatz and Zoologischer Garten station and the Kurfürstendamm became one of the great retail avenues of the world. The core of the British Allied sector after World War II, the combined administrative district now known as Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf appeared only in 2001.

The affluence of Charlottenburg and Wilmersdorf shaped their late 20th century profile as retail and residential areas, for the most part devoid of the public buildings that dominate the traditional centre of eastern Berlin. But they are representative of the fabric of the industrial metropolis that emerged from the Wilhelmine empire.

Kurfürstendamm

Today’s Kurfürstendamm is a boulevard of international rank and demands exploration on foot, starting from the new-old church of Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche at Breitscheidplatz. A survey of modern architecture is possible at least as far as Wielandstraße, where the shop windows become noticeably smaller and the streets less bustling.

The affluence of Charlottenburg and Wilmersdorf provides views of western Berlin, Grunewald and the Havel. Take S41 or S42 and change to Rathaus Schöneberg from Nollendorfplatz 2km of open space. For the east end, take U4 near Hohenzollerndamm, making more than 2km of open space. For the east end, take U4 to Rathaus Schöneberg from Nollendorfplatz (U1, 2 or 3) or take S41 or S42 and change at Innsbrucker Platz. For the Blissestraße intersection use the Blissestraße (U7) station.

Behind the Charlottenburg palace is Schloßpark Charlottenburg, an open area with sculpted gardens before the north facade of the palace and walking paths through extended parkland bordered to the east by the Spree. The fixtures include the fountain Schloßbrunnen and the rare garden mausoleum (1810) of the king Friedrich Wilhelm III and queen Luise, designed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, and their sarcophaguses (1846) by Christian Daniel Rauch.

A further area surrounding the lake Fennsee reaches almost to the motorway ring near Hohenzollerndamm, making more than 2km of open space. For the west end, take U4 to Rathaus Schöneberg from Nollendorfplatz (U1, 2 or 3) or take S41 or S42 and change at Innsbrucker Platz. For the Blissestraße intersection use the Blissestraße (U7) station.

RAVEN QUICK GUIDE


Money: Deutsche Bank, Kurfürstendamm 28 (M-Tu & Th 10-18, W & F 10-16), Alt-Moabit 109 (M-Tu & Th 10-18, W & F 10-16); ReiseBank, Hardenbergplatz 1 (M-Sa 8-21); Berliner Bank, Hardenbergstraße 32 (M-W & F 10-16, Tu & Th 10-19).

Lockers: Zoologischer Garten station, ground level ($6/4 per day); ZOB (€4/3 per day).


Post: Joachimstaler Straße 41 (M-F 10-19, Sa 10-19).

Internet: Starbucks, Kurfürstendamm 26 (M-Th 7-22, F 7-22.30, Sa 8-22, Su 8-20.30-21).

Laundry: Picobello, Knessebeckstraße 86 (M-F 8-19, Sa 9-14).

Police: tel 110; Kurfürstendamm 142 (tel 030-4664226700); Bismarckstraße 111 (tel 030-4664225700).


Ambulance: tel 112.

Hospital: Franziskus-Krankenhaus Berlin, Budapester Straße 15 (tel 030-26384005); DRK-Kliniken Berlin Westend, Spandauer Damm 130 (tel 030-30354004); Martin-Luther-Krankenhaus, Caspar-Theyß-Straße 27, (tel 030-89550).

Visits (late Mar-May & mid Sep-Oct M-F 9-19, Jun-mid Sep 9-20, €7.5; families €16). Take S5 to Olympiastadion.

The terrace of the old radar station on the 115m Teufelsberg provides views of western Berlin, Grunewald and the Havel. Take S5 or bus M49 to Heerstraße and walk south on Teufelseeestraße (it is about 2km along Teufelseechaussee to the Teufelsberg – see the Teufelsberg entry below).

Parks & gardens

The Volkspark Wilmersdorf is an open green strip of more than a kilometre stretching from Uhlansdamm in the west, crossed only by Bundesallee, to Martin-Luther-Straße in the east, where it is again broken by crossroads. Playing fields are in the west but it is possible to walk through treed areas from end to end.
Take bus 109 or M45 to Luisenplatz, S41, 42 or 46 to Westend or U7 to Richard-Wagner-Platz.

For Zoo Berlin, see the Mitte & Tiergarten section.

Food
Savignyplatz is the centre of an established quarter of small restaurants with local and traveller clientele.

Schwarzes Café (Jan-Nov W-M 0-24, Tu 3-10) at Kantstraße 148 is no longer quite counter-culture but still intimate and different, offering two floors of tables as well as courtyard service when weather permits. Breakfasts are highly rated and vegetarian or vegan offerings are part of the sub-€15 menu.

The pasta restaurant and pizzeria La Forneria (tel 030-31805177) at Kantstraße 31 (corner Schlüterstraße) has a tasty Italian menu, almost all of it under €12.

If a wide choice in vegetarian dishes is the aim, Dean & David (M-Sa 10.30-20.30, Su 12-18) has a food bar in the passage at Kurfürstendamm 21.

Some of Berlin’s least expensive cafeteria lunches, including vegetarian dishes, are available at Cafeteria Skyline (see Meet & drink).

For Café Einstein Stammhaus in Kurfürstenstraße see the Schöneberg-Tempelhof chapter.

Meet & drink
Café Kranzler (M-Su 8.30-19) on level 3 at Kurfürstendamm 18 in the Neues Kranzler Ecke shopping plaza, is the most famous name in Berlin cafes, reaching back before World War II, when it was at the corner of Unter den Linden and Friedrichstraße. Formerly the Charlottenburg premises, this cafe developed its own identity during West Berlin’s Cold War isolation and offers a view of the busy end of town with coffee and cake.

An even better view is on offer at the university eatery Cafeteria Skyline (M-F 7.30-16.15) on level 21 of the towering Telefunken-Hochhaus at Ernst-Reuter-Platz 7. The cafeteria is closed during the study break from late in November to early January.

Accommodation
Charlottenburg is the area best supplied with mid-priced hotels and pensions. Some budget and mid-priced hotels like to mention the Kurfürstendamm (‘Ku’damm’) in their names or literature but can be some distance away.

Hostel Die Etage (tel 030-89090820, www.die-etage.de) is at the west end of the Kurfürstendamm at Katharinenstraße 14. Rates are split between high season (March-October) and low: singles are €23 and €18, twins €44 and €32, three-bed rooms €63 and €45, four-bed rooms €80 and €44 up to eight-bed dorms at €17 and €10 per person. Family rates are lower: three beds €45 and €39, four beds €56 and €40. Breakfast is not included. WLAN is free throughout, as are city maps. Take S41 or S42 or buses M19 or M29 to Halensee. A sister hostel is just outside Prenzlauer Berg in Weißensee.

Amaryl City-Hotel (tel 030-884860, www.hotel-amaryl.de) is 150m south of the Kurfürstendamm at Lietzenburger Straße 76. There are basic singles/doubles with breakfast and WLAN from €40/60, extra beds €20, although some suites are much higher. Take
The broken Neoromanesque Alter Turm (1895) or west tower of Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche at Breitscheidplatz survived World War II only as monument to the consequences of conflict. The Franz Schwechten design had stood at the head of the Kurfürstendamm as the perfect medievalist church with the tower complete at 113m. But demolition of the “hollow tooth” was opposed after the war and Egon Eiermann designed the new octagonal chapel (M-Su 9-19 except during services and organ concerts) and hexagonal tower components (1961) to replace its missing pieces. The Gedenkhalle (M-F 10-18, Sa 10-17.30, Su 12-17.30) now tells the story of both churches and the Hohenzollern emperors. Take S5, 7 or 75 or U2 to Bahnhof Zoo or U1 or U9 to Kurfürstendamm.

The main wing of Schloß Charlottenburg (1695) at Spandauer Damm was built by the first Prussian king Friedrich I for his consort Sophie Charlotte, but the palace did not acquire the queen’s name until after her death. The design by Johann Arnold Nering was expanded with side wings by Johann Friedrich Esander von Göthe along the lines of Versailles, with the addition of the central tower and long orangerie. Enlargements and additions by some of the great names of Berlin architecture – Knobelsdorff, Langhans and Schinkel (the pavilion) – followed. The palace gave its name to the village that was later engulfed by the spectacular growth of Wilhelmine Berlin. Extensive rebuilding was required after World War II damage but the commitment to the French Baroque including painting is evident in the interiors. Andreas Schlüter sculpted the Baroque equestrian statue of the ‘Great Elector’ Friedrich Wilhelm (1703) now standing in the forecourt. The Schloßpark extends north with its west boundary on the Spree (see Parks & gardens). The older parts of the palace and gardens (Apr-Oct Tu-Su 10-18, Nov-Mar 10-17, €12/8 including tour or audio guide) are open but the new wing was expected to be closed until at least December 2014. Take bus 109 to Luisenplatz, S41, 42 or 46 to Westend or U7 to Richard-Wagner-Platz.

At the north end of the woods of Grunewald, the Teufelsberg reflects post-war Berlin in two ways: by containing a 25 million cubic metres of debris swept from the ruined city and a site for an electronic spy station monitoring radio messages into and out of East Berlin. The bulk of the US radar emplacement remains on the 115m hill, where a Nazi technology centre once stood. Its concrete structures are now home to one of the biggest street art galleries in Europe. A one-hour tour (M-F 12-dusk, €7) or a two-hour historical tour (Sa-Su 12-dusk, €15/8 or Berlin Welcome Card discounts) are available from the gate. The area is a building site that is potentially dangerous and should only be visited with these tours. Take S9 or S75 or bus M49 to Heerstraße and walk 1.4km south on Teufelsseechaussee, turn right and climb the hill for 10 minutes.

The Olympiastadion (1936) was built at Olympischer Platz to the design of Werner March, whose father had built the 1913 Deutsches Stadion on the same site. March echoed designs of antiquity with an arena that nonetheless seated 100,000 at that time, with an open gate for marathon runners to use in what became famous as Hitler’s Olympics. The 2004 rebuilding upgraded the facilities for today’s sports needs (as home of Hertha BSC) and reduced the capacity while little altering the impression from ground level. The stadium is open to visitors (late Mar-May & mid Sep-Oct M-F 9-19, Jun-mid Sep 9-20, €7/5, families €16) and the bell tower, which at almost 80m provides a view of the modern complex, can be climbed (except during sports or entertainment events). Take S9 or S5 to Olympiastadion.
Older than Berlin, Spandau at the confluence of the Havel and Spree was a medieval strategic point that demanded a powerful castle.

The 12th century castle of the Askanier margrave Albrecht the Bear was the real beginning for Spandau although the Slavic tribes of the Havel region had used the site for hundreds of years. When the Renaissance reinforcement of the castle by the Hohenzollern elector Joachim II Hector was completed in the 16th century, Spandau was a bulwark against threats to the now established seat of Berlin. Joachim Hector for family reasons long remained Catholic but received a rare double communion in Spandau’s St-Nikolai-Kirche as part of a long journey toward Lutheranism.

Spandau’s jail was used by the Nazis but after the war housed some of their leaders, including the once deputy Führer Rudolf Hess, Hitler’s successor Karl Dönitz and armaments minister Albert Speer. The jail was demolished at the death of Hess in 1987.

The Altstadt, on the metropolitan margin and far from most World War II bombing, has retained some of the late Gothic and smaller houses that Berlin lacks. A quieter accommodation option than most parts of Berlin, Spandau offers an S-Bahn or U-Bahn ride to any part of the city from a point where many long-distance trains stop.

Information
A local tourist information office (M-Sa 10-18) is in the restored 15th century Gotisches Haus at Breite Straße 32.

Altstadt
The Altstadt has preserved its water defences through the Havel in the east and the narrow channel of Mühlengraben, though none of this is obvious around the large but unappealing Rathaus (1913). Carl-Schurz-Straße leads north through Markt, where there are markets four times a week, to the St-Nikolai-Kirche at Reformationsplatz. To the west on Ritterstraße, several half-timbered townhouses have been preserved.

At the north end of Viktoriaufer the look is more 20th century but one tiny classic half-timbered cottage remains at No 3. From the junction, Jüdenstraße leading south offers a mixture of styles and centuries back to the pedestrian Moritzstraße leading to Markt.

Heading through Markt to Breite Straße, the scene is again one of small town houses, the most important being the Gotisches Haus at No 32. From the north end near Am Juliusturm, Lindenufer provides a way east to a path leading south back along the Havel bank as far as the Stresowstraße bridge. From there Lindenufer leads back toward the Rathaus.

Parks & gardens
The open park area around the Zitadelle where the Havel and the Spree meet offers a quiet stroll around the old moat either direction from the bridge, giving the best view of the castle walls. On the west side the path leads past the sluiceway to the small boat harbour on the Havel. Take U7 to Zitadelle.

Food & drink
In quiet surroundings La Rustica (Tu-Su 11-23, tel 030-33604086) at Jüdenstraße 28 has pasta, fish, salads and pizza under €15. Locally popular and more lively is Satt und Seelig (M-Sa 9-23) at Carl-Schurz-Straße 47 with steak, schnitzel, fish and pasta as well as breakfast.

Accommodation
The Ibis Berlin Spandau hotel (tel 030-335020) is at the Arcaden shopping complex at Klosterstraße 4. Singles/doubles can be as little as €55 (breakfast €10 per person extra) but rates will more often be about €77. Parking is available at €2.50 a day and WLAN is extra. Take U7 to Rathaus Spandau or S5 to Spandau and walk 100m south to Brunsbütteler Damm.

The 14th century brick Gothic St-Nikolai-Kirche (M-F 10-17, €4/50-2.50, families €10, audio guides €2), despite 19th century retouches considered one of the best-preserved of Renaissance castles. But it is better known for what it held in than what was kept out. The Prussian nationalist Friedrich Ludwig Jahn served a brief sentence within its walls and reparations from the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War, reportedly of 120 million gold pieces, were held in the Juliusturm until 1919. Tours (Mar-Oct Sa & Su 11.00, 13.00 and 15.00, €3/2) include the vaults and casemates but are in German only. Take U7 to Zitadelle.

A fortress was in place at the river junction as early as 1200. The keep of a 14th century extension, preserved as the Juliusturm, still dominates the moated Zitadelle Spandau (M-Sa 10-17, €4/50-2.50, families €10, audio guides €2), despite 19th century retouches.

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The 14th century brick Gothic St-Nikolai-Kirche (M-F 12-16, Sa 11-15, Su 12.30-16) at Reformationsplatz is the marker for the remnants of the Spandau Altstadt and one of the few medieval churches left in Berlin. Its other significance is shown in its patron, the protector of traders – especially those who travel on the water. Spandau was a key position for river trade and this was not the first church on the site. The present church was restored by Karl Friedrich Schinkel in 1839, when the cannonball from the Napoleonic wars was bricked into the north side. The impressive tower (1468), reaching more than 75m, had to be rebuilt after a 1944 air raid. The Spandovia Sacra parish museum is adjacent at Reformationsplatz 12. Take U7 to Altstadt Spandau.

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Heading through Markt to Breite Straße, the scene is again one of small town houses, the most important being the Gotisches Haus at No 32. From the north end near Am Juliusturm, Lindenufer provides a way east to a path leading south back along the Havel bank as far as the Stresowstraße bridge. From there Lindenufer leads back toward the Rathaus.

Parks & gardens
The open park area around the Zitadelle where the Havel and the Spree meet offers a quiet stroll around the old moat either direction from the bridge, giving the best view of the castle walls. On the west side the path leads past the sluiceway to the small boat harbour on the Havel. Take U7 to Zitadelle.