BERLIN IS A HUB OF PULSATING NIGHTLIFE, ANOMALOUS STYLE AND BLAZING CREATIVITY, WITH AN UNDERGROUND VIBE AND LAIDBACK CHARM THAT THRUMS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

Its over 400 galleries have transformed Berlin into Europe's center of art, youth and pop culture, enchanting visitors, artists and trendsetters alike. Although the river Spree penetrates the city, Berliners still orient themselves using the former wall, so let your adventures take you from happening Mitte in the east, all the way to Charlottenburg where it's all serene on the western front.
Berlin comes into her own in summer; fall’s changing leaves are gorgeous; spring sees the first lush greens; winter can be grey, wet and nippy with scant 8-hr days, but the action is 24/7 all year round.

English is widely spoken, but any German is appreciated.

Tegel is the main airport for international flights and is a zippy 20mins / €20 by cab to the city.

The U-Bahn is the subway and the S-Bahns are trains. Both are safe, clean and efficient. Buy tickets at the platform; Zones A+B will get you anywhere in the city.

Taxis are a boring beige and are easily found along the main drags, if not, simply call for one.

Street numbers run consecutively down one side of the street, do a u-turn at the end and continue up the other side, so #3 on a street might be opposite #145.

Generally, shops open 10am-8pm, but hipper places won’t get going till post-noon, and don’t even try to shop on a Sunday, trot to spas and museums instead.

Many shops are tucked inside courtyards, so dive in.

The smoking ban is official, but implementation variable.

Tax, but no service charges are included on the bill at restaurants, so it’s always nice to round up.

Smaller shops and restaurants are often cash only.

International country code for Germany is +49. Drop Berlin’s area code 30 when calling from landlines in town, as listed in this Wanderlist, but on your mobile, dial 030 first.

Police dial 110, ambulance dial 112.
Moritz Krueger and Philipp Haffmans are the CEO/Creative Director and Design Director of cult eyewear brand MYKITA. Since 2004 their unique, innovative and functional designs, plus collaborative ventures with avant-garde designers such as Bernhard Willhelm, Romain Kremer, Marios Schwab and Alexandre Herchcovitch, have seen MYKITA appearing on international catwalks in Paris, New York, Sao Paulo and London, and become an established feature of the fashion world.

mykita.com
WHAT ARE THREE OF YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS IN BERLIN, AND WHAT DISHES DO YOU ORDER?

3 Minutes sur Mer on Torstrasse (on the corner with Bergstrasse) for oysters; Dong Xuan Center on Hertzbergstrasse for the best Vietnamese pho in town; and an old Chipperfield canteen called Das Lokal on the corner of Linienstrasse (and also on Kleine Hamburger Strasse) for local meat dishes.

3minutessurmer.de
dongxuan-berlin.de
lokal-berlin.com

WHERE DO YOU GO TO GET TAILORED CLOTHING, AND WHY DO YOU GO THERE?

Herr von Eden on Alte Schönhauser Strasse for those who like vintage cuts and high-end materials. Another must-visit is the Andreas Murkudis store on Potsdamer strasse - an amazing 1,000sqm space where you can find truly select items from designer clothing to unique furniture, perfumes, porcelain and the latest MYKITA eyewear.

herrvoneden.com
andreasmurkudis.com

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MUSEUM OR ART GALLERY IN BERLIN, AND WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?

If you want to learn something about the German soul, we recommend the Alte Nationalgalerie which has recently been restored. All masterpieces are presented in the way they would have been shown at the end of the C.19th. Our tip: look out for the romantic painters.

smb.museum

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STORE FOR VINTAGE OR ANTIQUE FINDS?

The flea market at Arkonaplatz in Mitte, and Trouvé, a little shop on Schwedter Strasse.

trouve-berlin.de

WHICH NEIGHBORHOOD MUST AN ART-LOVER VISIT IN YOUR CITY?

Art-lovers should take a walk along Auguststrasse in Berlin Mitte - a place where a lot of emerging and active galleries are based - nearly all were founded shortly after the wall came down. Another hotspot for art is Heidestrasse, near the Central Station, where a variety of interesting galleries are located in an industrial surrounding.
LUXE Loves

DAS STUE
Hotel
Located in the 1930s heritage building formerly used as the Danish embassy, this boutique hotel boasts 79 rooms with fabulous Patricia Urquiola-appointed interiors, Spanish restaurant Cinco from Michelin-starred Catalonian chef Paco Pérez, divine Susanne Kaufmann spa with 14-meter indoor pool, and prime real estate with nearby Tiergarten park and Berlin Zoo.

Drakestr. 1 / Tiergarten
+49 30 311 7220
das-stue.com

SOHO HOUSE
Hotel
Fun, funky and perfectly located, this Bauhaus department store turned Stasi HQ is now an exclusive private members club mixing Berlin grunge with British charm and quirk. Hotel guests can access the Cookhouse for bites, House Tonic for tipples, and a heated roof pool as well as the deeply divine, if unromantically named, Cowshed spa.

Torstr. 1 / Mitte
+49 30 405 0440
sohohouseberlin.com

25HOURS HOTEL BIKINI
Hotel
Named for its location in the striking Bikini-Haus building, the German 25hours franchise is making a splash in chic Charlottenburg with 149 design-led rooms packing floor-to-ceiling views of the leafy Tiergarten, raw concrete and wood-panelled walls, eye-popping furniture, and Grohe rain showers. A gym and sauna, Russo-Persian fusion diner NENI, and groovy terrace Monkey Bar, as well as comp. use of a Mini Cooper and bicycles also await when you can bear to venture outside your loll-worthy quarters.

Budapesterstr. 40 / Charlottenburg
+49 30 120 2210
25hours-hotels.com
LUXE Loves

GLASS
Dining
From Tel Aviv native and Alinea and Maze alum Gal Ben Moshe comes this locavore-beloved restaurant, occupying a former gym in Charlottenburg and retaining an industrial vibe with exposed piping and concrete flooring. The spare interior keeps the focus firmly on the plate, with 6- and 8-course degustation menus highlighting seasonal and local ingredients in modern Israeli-meets-European iterations.

Uhlандstr. 195 / Charlottenburg
+49 30 5471 0861 / dinner Tue-Sat

glassberlin.com

SCHNEEWIESS
Dining
Despite the snow-white interiors, the cozy, inviting vibe of this neighborhood delight with snazzy patrons and hearty alpine dishes dispels any thoughts of Berlin chills, while their paper-thin schnitzels and fab cocktails ensure more ski-ins than ski-outs.

Simplonstr. 16 / Friedrichshain
+49 30 2904 9704
6pm-1am Mon-Fri, from 10am Sat-Sun

schneewies-berlin.de

GROSZ RESTAURANT
Dining
Sitting pretty in Berlin’s historic, restored Cumberland building, this exquisite all-in-one restaurant, bar, coffee house, and bakery boasts nouveau columns, high ceilings, and a covetable courtyard. The glitz n’ glamor of the space is matched by its VIP clientele - frock up and stop in for all-day dining, or a spot of afternoon tea with some of the best Franco-Austrian pastries in town.

Kurfürstendamm 193-194
Charlottenburg / +49 30 652 142 199
lunch & dinner daily

grosz-berlin.de

WEINBAR RUTZ
Dining
A Michelin-starred gourmand hot spot, with impeccable wine pairings, bi-level and alfresco dining on the summer terrace, fanciful presentations and extensive cellar. Add a great wine bar and urbane woody interior and you realize why it has become a magnet for Berlin’s power-players and chic set.

Chausseestr. 8 / Mitte
+49 30 2462 8760 / dinner Tue-Sat

rutz-weinbar.de

SAPHIRE BAR
Bar
Bacchanalian, zebrano-walled sleek spot where almost 400 premium spirits line the eight meter-long bar, accompanied by a clued-in local crowd, a mighty cocktail list and a nice line in organic drinks too.

Bötzowstr. 31 / Prenzlauer Berg
+49 30 2556 2158 / from 8pm daily

saphirebar.de

TAUSEND
Bar
Don’t be fooled by the dingy doorway and railway arch locale, inside awaits an elegant, glittering stretch of modish mirrored surfaces, soft lighting, sleek sofas, classic cocktails and, of course, the beautiful people. Undeniably one of the best and buzziest bars in town.

Schiffbauerdamm 11 / Mitte
+49 30 2758 2070
7.30pm-late Tue-Sat

tausendberlin.com
LUXE Loves

PRATER GARTEN
Activities
You cannot visit Berlin without sampling its many famous beers, and while there are plenty of biergartens dotted across the city, why not make your way to the oldest in town, which dates back to 1837. Winter finds the outside area closed, but the adjacent restaurant still bustling, and the communal tables in both ensure you will make friends quickly, no matter what the time of year.

Kastanienallee 7-9 / Prenzlauer Berg
+49 30 448 5688
from 6pm Mon-Sat, from noon Sun
pratergarten.de

BERLINER UNTERWELTEN
Activities
Compelling histories of bygone wars permeate the secret abandoned spaces in the underbelly of Berlin. These enlightening underground tours weave through bomb passages, tunnels, civilian shelters and bunker complexes to tell the story of the fascinating but hidden world of Berlin. Grab a helmet!

Brunnenstr. 105 / Mitte
+49 30 4991 0517
check web for tours
berliner-unterwelten.de

DAADGALERIE
Activities
Experience what a year in Berlin can do to an artist at the exclusive exhibition space of the renowned artists-in-residence program. Soak up some inspiration and then fill out your own DAAD application!

Zimmerstr. 90-91 / Mitte
+49 30 261 3640 / 11am-6pm Mon-Sat
daadgalerie.de

ATELIER AKEEF
Shopping
The modern German men’s outfitters have refined and rebranded their concept, with a shiny new atelier that’s committed to exclusively carrying brands devoted to sustainable fashion, like Tuscany’s family-run Atelier Awash and UK-based accessory label Elvis and Kresse. So too does the store reflect this ethos, with a clean and simple aesthetic featuring upcycled wood, sustainable clay and non-toxic colorants.

Max-Beerstr. 31 / Mitte
+49 30 2198 2645
11am-7pm Mon-Sat
atelierakeef.com

TEMPORARY SHOWROOM
Shopping
Fashion meets art at this curated showroom and agency, which spotlights up-and-coming European and international designers each for a limited six-month run. Currently lining the racks at this edgy fashion mecca are names like MM6, United Nude, and Reality Studio.

Kastanienallee 36A / Mitte
+49 30 6220 4564
11am-7pm Mon-Sat, also by appt.
temporaryshowroom.com

GALERIE TREYKORN
Shopping
Sabine and Andreas Treykorn’s established stable of fine jewelry design features not only their own dazzling bespoke pieces, but also prêt-à-porter baubles from a dynamic selection of avant-garde German and European designers including Carl Dau and Oliver Schmidt.

Savignyplatz 13 / Charlottenburg
+49 30 3180 2354 / 11am-7pm Mon-Fri until 4pm Sat
treykorn.de
LUXE Loathes

DESPOTIC CYCLISTS
Guess who never learnt to share in kindergarten

SUNDAY CLOSING
Everyday should be a retail day!

PUBLIC TOILETS
Scarcer than hen's teeth, and when you do find one, there's usually a pee fee

DOG POOP EVERYWHERE
Urban landmines whose sole purpose is to destroy your Beatrix Ongs
Drab vs. Fab

GOING UNDERGROUND
Thinking that all you can see above ground is all there is to Berlin is a big mistake, so grab a helmet and go underground to explore the fascinating subterranean air-raid passages, civilian shelters, bunkers, and brewery cellars of the German capital with Berliner Unterwelten.
berliner-unterwelten.de

TRAFFIC
Touring the city at a snail’s pace thanks to the traffic-laden streets can seriously impair your enjoyment, but sailing past the Spree’s smorgasbord of sights on a canal ride aboard the passenger ships of Stern und Kreisschifffahrt is guaranteed to please.
sterndreieck.de

PRIVATE TOURS
Blindly visiting the city’s myriad museums and galleries on your own means you all too often miss out on hidden treasures, so seek out Culture Trip for insider information, excellent curator-led museum tours, gallery visits and even access to private collections.
culturetrip.de

TAXIS
Queuing for a cab in the busy streets of the capital, especially in the icy wintry months is no joke, so why not consider being chauffeur-driven in a swish limousine or Mercedes Benz courtesy of Beverly Cars – also ideal to ferry around all that fabulous Berlin shopping!
beverlycars.de

SHOPPING GURU
Weaving in and out of the shopping arteries of the German retail capital only to discover you’ve missed many choice boutiques can be very frustrating, so book a personalized shopping tour with stellar stylist Kathrin from Shopisticated.
shopisticated.de
Lovely Berlin is the capital of late nights and lie-ins, so do as many locals do and forgo the alarm clock. When you do manage to tumble out of bed, head to pre-war mahogany parquet and garden delight Cafe Einstein to bond over breakfast, as many literary greats have. This Viennese charmer will have you in the cultural mood, so consult Go Art for a customizable excursion, whether it’s contemporary and modern art galleries, private collections, or big-name museums that your heart desires. Alternatively, you can meander along Potsdamer strasse, the city’s contemporary art district, for international and local artists, with the must-see Arndt gallery on the way. If the weather is on your side, hop in a taxi to Volkspark Friedrichshain for lunch alfresco at Schoenbrunn, with its pretty lake views. Love is in the air, so why not retreat now to Adlon Day Spa for a couple’s treatment in one of their luxurious suites? Sporting your spa glow, opt next for some retail therapy at Mitte’s myriad excellent designer boutiques, like progressive lifestyle purveyor Andreas Murkudis on Potsdamer strasse. Here you’ll find all manner of objects in a minimalist, white and wood oasis offering sartorial temptations for him, her and the home from top-notch global and local designers. You must be parched after all this heavy retail and that means sundowner time at seductive La Banca (see LUXE Loves), all sunken armchairs and dark woods inside the Hotel de Rome, before taking your table at delicious Weinbar Rutz (see LUXE Loves). There really is nothing like dinner and a dance to get the heart fluttering, so off with you now to Clärchens Ballhaus for a romantic spin around the dance floor to tango, salsa, or swing. And don’t worry, if your energy starts to lag, you can snatch nibbles in the courtyard to keep those toes tapping. Finally, for nightcaps head to Saphire Bar (see LUXE Loves), a local favorite with a retro back-to-the-future interior and a wonderful cocktail list, before returning to your romantic bower at Soho House (see LUXE Loves).
LUXE ITINERARY

Style

The early bird doesn't catch the worm in the German capital, so enjoy a few extra beauty winks before taking brunch at The Barn Coffeeshop, with its haute coffee and delectable homemade cafe treats, and don’t miss the quiches that never fail to bring a queue of Mitte artophiles. While in museum-central, contact Virginia and Tina of Culture Trip (see Drab vs. Fab) to book the best cultural insider- and curator-led tours and when you’re done seeing the sights, take respite and afternoon tea at Opera Court, located in the Hotel de Rome with ace sandwiches, scones, sweet delicacies and tea. Rested? Get your credit cards ready for a fashion frenzy in the retail jungle that is Berlin, but note that with the city’s many hidden boutiques and winding streets, it’s often best to take the stress out of shopping. Try calling Kathrin of Shopisticated (see Drab vs. Fab), who offers personalized boutique tours with spot-on tips of the best locales and the newest shops to try - don't miss Rianna in Berlin for vintage and niche designer garments, or Temporary Showroom (see LUXE Loves) for seasonal wares from European and international up-and-comers. Major case of shopper’s shoulder? Hail a cab to Charlottenburg to find Aspria Ku’Damm for an extensive list of spa treatments and amenities, including a day pass that’ll afford you an afternoon with free reign of the various saunas, pools and gym. A few hours of kneading and pampering later, don your new threads and make for relaxed German cuisine at Florian, packed full of stage and screen stars from early evening to the wee hours. Continue stargazing at Tausend, where Berlin’s jet set slink in a sexy fuselage of black mirrors and the extensive cocktail menu, then when bed finally beckons, it has to be boutique stylista Hotel Casa Camper. Sweet dreams!
Culture

Berlin, one of the art champions of Europe, continues to stimulate, surprise and shock the art world with its dazzling creativity. Start your day with a coffee and morning bagel at New York-style Barcomi’s Deli before hitting the perennially fascinating Museumsinsel (Museum Island), where you can gaze upon the legendary Nefertiti bust at Neues Museum, and visit the Pergamon Museum which houses the astonishing Pergamon Altar and the Ishtar Gate. Make your way now to the Topography of Terror, in Potsdamer Platz, for an interactive history lesson on the Nazi atrocities during WWII in this war crime exhibit in the Gestapo and SS’s HQ and ‘house prisons.’ Recover with a late lunch at two Michelin-starred neo-French classic, Facil, before making your way to Kulturforum, West Berlin’s answer to a cultural precinct, loaded with landmark modern architecture. The Philharmonie is home to the unmissable Berliner Philharmoniker, and also in the vicinity is Mies van der Rohe’s modernist triumph of light and glass, the Neue Nationalgalerie with its C.20th modern art collection. If you’re pining after the great classic artists that were bypassed on Museum Island, visit the Gemäldegalerie for its abundance of C.13th-18th Old Masters like Rembrandt and Caravaggio. By now you must be famished, so hail a cab to Theodor Tucher for modern German cuisine, and postprandial, join the intellectuals discoursing on the breezy patio tucked beside the Brandenburg Gate (weather permitting), or in the soaring glass hall with the corner library upstairs. Turning in? Take your chamber at bijou boutique hotel Das Stue (see LUXE Loves), the former Danish embassy turned high-design abode where Patricia Urquiola-appointed suites offer C.21st mod cons and Berlin Zoo vistas. This city never sleeps, but if you must...
LUXE ITINERARY

The Essentials

ROMANCE

• Cafe Einstein
  Kurfürstenstr. 58 / Tiergarten
  +49 30 263 9190 / 8am-1am daily
  cafeeinstein.com

• Go Art
  Call +49 30 3087 3626
  goart-berlin.de

• Arndt
  Potsdamerstr. 96 / Mitte
  +49 30 2061 3870
  11am-6pm Tue-Sat
  arndtberlin.com

• Schoenbrunn
  Volkspark Friedrichshain
  +49 30 453 056 525 / from 10am
daily in summer, w/ends only in winter
  schoenbrunn.net

• Adlon Day Spa
  Hotel Adlon / Unter den Linden 77
  Mitte / +49 30 2261 2220
  enter from hotel rear
  kempinski.com

• Andreas Murkudis
  Potsdamerstr. 81E / Mitte
  + 49 30 680 798 306
  10am-8pm Mon-Sat
  andreasmurkudis.com

• La Banca
  (see LUXE Loves)

• Weinbar Rutz
  (see LUXE Loves)

• Clärchens Ballhaus
  Auguststr. 24 / Mitte
  +49 30 282 9295 / daily
  ballhaus.de

• Saphire Bar
  (see LUXE Loves)

• Soho House
  (see LUXE Loves)
LUXE ITINERARY

The Essentials

STYLE

- The Barn Coffeeshop
  Auguststr. 58 / Mitte
  8am-6pm Mon-Fri
  from 10am Sat-Sun
  thebarn.de

- Culture Trip
  (see Drab vs. Fab)

- Opera Court
  Hotel de Rome
  Behrenstr. 37 / Mitte
  +49 30 460 609 1260 / 2-6pm daily
  hotelderome.com

- Shopisticated
  (see Drab vs. Fab)

- Rianna in Berlin
  Grosse Hamburgerstr. 25 / Mitte
  +49 30 8645 0918
  noon-7pm Mon-Fri, till 8pm Sat
  riannainberlin.com

- Temporary Showroom
  (see LUXE Loves)

- Aspria Ku’Damm
  Karlsruherstr. 20 / Charlottenburg
  +49 30 8906 8880 / daily
  aspria-berlin.de

- Florian
  Grolmanstr. 52 / Charlottenburg
  +49 30 313 9184 / 6pm-3am daily
  restaurant-florian.de

- Tausend
  Schiffbauerdamm 11 / Mitte
  email host@tausend.com for res
  from 7.30pm Tue-Sat / dress smart / unmarked steel door under tracks
  tausendberlin.com

- Hotel Casa Camper
  Weinmeisterstr. 1 / Mitte
  +49 30 2000 3410
casacamper.com
LUXE ITINERARY

The Essentials

CULTURE

• Barcomi’s Deli
  Sophien-Gips Höfe
  Sophienstr. 21 / Mitte
  +49 30 2859 8363
  9am-9pm Mon-Sat, from 10am Sun
  barcomis.de

• Neues Museum
  Museumsinsel
  +49 30 266 424 242
  10am-6pm Fri-Wed, till 8pm Thu
  smb.museum

• Pergamon Museum
  Museumsinsel
  +49 30 266 424 242
  10am-6pm Fri-Wed, till 8pm Thu
  enter from Am Kupfergraben
  smb.museum

• Topography of Terror
  Niederkirchnerstr. 8 / Potsdamer Platz
  +49 30 2545 0950
  10am-8pm daily
  topographie.de

• Facil
  5/F / Mandala Hotel
  Potsdamerstr. 3 / Potsdamer Platz
  +49 30 590 051 234
  lunch & dinner Mon-Fri
  facil.de

• Philharmonie
  Herbert-von-Karajan Str. 1
  Kulturforum / +49 30 2548 8999
  berliner-philharmoniker.de

• Neue Nationalgalerie
  Potsdamerstr. 50 / Mitte
  +49 30 266 424 242 / 10am-6pm
  till 8pm Thu, closed Mon
  smb.museum

• Gemäldegalerie
  Matthäikirch Platz 4/6 / Tiergarten
  +49 30 266 424 242
  10am-6pm Tue-Sun, till 8pm Thu
  smb.museum

• Theodor Tucher
  Pariser Platz 6A / Mitte
  +49 30 2248 9463 / all day daily
  theodortucher.de

• Das Stue
  (see LUXE Loves)
Your LUXE notes