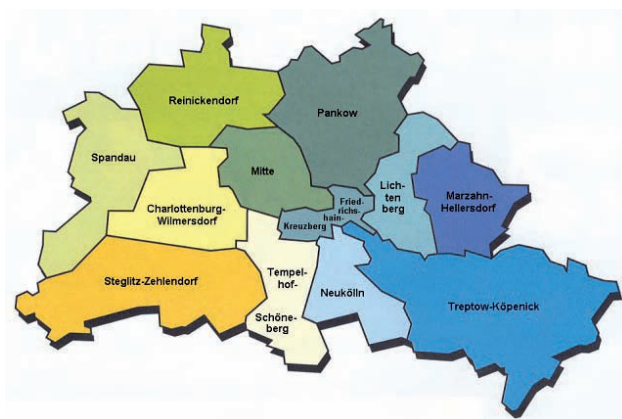




**Brandenburger Tor >**  
© Berlin Partner/FTP-Werbefotografie



Map of Berlin's twelve districts  
source: <http://www.berlinstadttouren.de/beztour.htm>

Berlin is the capital city and one of the sixteen states of the Federal Republic of Germany. The city is subdivided into twelve districts (Bezirke). Each borough is subdivided into a number of subdistricts (Orts-teile), which are the local neighborhoods within the districts. Today, the city of Berlin consists of 95 such subdistricts.

Berlin is a major center in European politics, culture, media, and science. It also serves as a continental hub for air and rail transport. The city's economy is primarily based on the service sector encompassing a diverse range of creative industries, media corporations, environmental services, congress, and convention venues. Berlin is the third most visited tourist destination in the EU.

Berlin is home to world-renowned universities, research institutes, sporting events, orchestras, museums and personalities. Berlin's urban landscape and historical legacy has made it a popular setting for international film productions. Recognized for its festivals, contemporary architecture, nightlife and avant-garde arts, Berlin has evol-

ved into a focal point for individuals attracted by its liberal lifestyle, modern "zeitgeist" and low-cost living. We advise you to bring a good guidebook in your native language as we cannot extensively cover any Berlin's features here. But here's an overview:

### History of Berlin

First documented in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Berlin was successively the capital of the Kingdom of Prussia (1701-1918), the German Empire (1871-1918), the Weimar Republic (1919-1932), and the Third Reich (1933-1945). After World War II, the city was divided. East Berlin became the capital of the GDR (East Germany) while West Berlin remained a West German enclave surrounded by the Berlin Wall from 1961-1989. The city was completely separated. It was possible for Westerners to pass from one side to the other, but only through strictly controlled checkpoints. For most Easterners, travel to West Berlin or West Germany was no longer possible. In 1971, a Four-Power agreement guaranteed access across East Germany to West Berlin and ended the potential for harassment or closure of the routes.

In 1989, pressure from the East German population brought a transition to a market-based economy in East Germany and its citizens gained free access across the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989, which was subsequently mostly demolished. Not much is left of it today. The East Side Gallery in Friedrichshain near the Oberbaumbrücke over the Spree preserves a portion of the Wall. On 3 October 1990, the two parts of Germany were reunified as the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin became the German capital in accord with the unification treaty. In 1999, the German parliament and government moved from Bonn to Berlin.

### Tourism and Sightseeing

The true historical center of the city is in the eastern half. Probably the most easily recognized monument is the Brandenburg Gate, which



### Unter den Linden

©LandBerlin/Gläser

was the main gathering place for celebrations following the fall of the Wall in 1989. The once majestic boulevard Unter den Linden is today an eight-block study in overstated imperial grandeur and Eastern Bloc drabness. The most notable buildings are found on the eastern end, such as the Staatsbibliothek (State Library), Humboldt University, Neue Wache (National Memorial), the Zeughaus (Museum of German History), and the grand Staatsoper.

The Fernsehturm (TV tower) at Alexanderplatz in Mitte is the tallest building in the city at 368 meters (1,207 ft). Built in 1969, it is visible throughout most of the central districts of Berlin. The city can be viewed from its high observation deck 204 meters (669 ft) above ground. From here Karl-Marx-Allee heads east, an avenue lined by monumental residential buildings, designed in the Socialist Classicism Style of the Stalin era. Adjacent to this area is the Rotes Rathaus (Red City Hall), with its distinctive red brick architecture. The previously constructed fountain in front of it is the Neptunbrunnen featuring the Roman god Neptune.

Gendarmenmarkt, a neoclassical square in Berlin, whose name dates back to the Napoleonic occupation of Berlin, is bordered by two similarly designed cathedrals: the French Cathedral with an observation deck and the German Cathedral. The Konzerthaus (Concert Hall), home of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, stands between these two cathedrals.

The Berliner Dom, a Protestant cathedral and the third church on this site, is located on the Spree Island across from the site of the Berliner Stadtschloss and adjacent to the Lustgarten. A large crypt houses the remains of some of the earlier Prussian royal family. Like many other buildings, it suffered extensive damage during World War II. The Cathedral of St. Hedwig is Berlin's Roman Catholic cathedral.

Potsdamer Platz is an entire quarter that did not exist until 1995 and was not rebuilt as the Wall divided it. To the West of Potsdamer Platz is the Kulturforum, which houses the Gemäldegalerie and is flanked by the Neue Nationalgalerie, two art museums, and the Philharmonic. The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, a Holocaust memorial, is situated to the north.

The area around Hackescher Markt is home to the fashionable culture, with countless clothing outlets, clubs, bars, and galleries. This includes



### Hackesche Höfe

©BerlinPartner/FTB-Werbefotografie

the Hackesche Höfe, a conglomeration of buildings around several courtyards, reconstructed around 1996. Oranienburger Straße and the nearby New Synagogue were the center of Jewish culture before 1933, and has reclaimed its title today. Straße des 17. Juni, connecting the Brandenburg Gate and Ernst-Reuter-Platz, serves as the central East-West axis. Its name commemorates the uprisings in East Berlin of 17 June 1953. Approximately half way from the Brandenburg Gate is the Großer Stern, a circular traffic island on which the Siegessäule (Victory Column) is situated. The monument was built to commemorate Prussia's victories and was relocated in 1938–39 from its previous position in front of the Reichstag.

Kurfürstendamm is home to some of Berlin's luxurious stores with the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church at its eastern end on Breitscheidplatz. The church was destroyed in World War II and left in ruins. Nearby on Tauentzienstraße is KaDeWe, claimed to be continental Europe's largest department store.

West of the center, Schloss Bellevue is the residence of the German President. Schloss Charlottenburg, which was burnt down in World War II and largely destroyed, has been rebuilt and is the largest surviving historical palace in Berlin.

Tourist Information

<http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de/index.en.php?>

### Public Transport

To get around Berlin we suggest sticking to the S-Bahn and U-Bahn – the lines that appear on the subway maps posted at every station. Free maps are available at most stations, hotels, and airports. You can download a printable PDF version at:

<http://www.bvg.de/index.php/en/index.html>

S-Bahn stands for Stadt-Bahn (city train), U-Bahn stands for Untergrundbahn. The S-Bahn and U-Bahn lines are color-coded. The digital displays on the platforms indicate the time until the next train arrives, as well as the final destination. Visitors commonly use the U2 as it connects Zoologischer Garten, Potsdamer Platz, the Friedrichstraße shopping boulevard, and the popular nightlife district, Prenzlauer Berg.



### Fernsehturm

© Berlin Partner/FTP-Werbefotografie

Night Transportation: Public transportation runs 24 hours a day. The S-Bahn system runs until 1.30 am on weeknights and all night on weekends. U-Bahn trains run until 12.30 am on weeknights, and most lines run all night on weekends. Berlin also has an extensive and reliable network of night buses and trams, so you won't get stranded if you stay out late during the week. At bus and tram stops, look for routes designated with "N" followed by a number (for example, N10).

Berlin for Handicapped: In the last few years, the public transportation of Berlin (BVG and S-Bahn) has made effort to make the transportation more wheelchair accessible. 51 underground and 118 suburban train stations are equipped with elevators or ramps, to provide easy access to the platforms. The transport network and city maps of the public transportation of Berlin BVG and S-Bahn show all stations accessible to wheelchairs.

Tickets and Fares: Berlin has three fare zones. Zone A is delineated by the S-Bahn ring and encompasses the city center, Zone B ends at the city limits. Zone C includes Berlin's immediate surroundings (e.g., Potsdam, Oranienburg). Tickets can be purchased with the zone combinations AB, BC or ABC. Standard fares apply to adults, reduced fares for children aged 6-13 and children under 6 ride free. Tickets can be purchased at any of the many BVG and S-Bahn Berlin ticket counters and at ticket machines located at the stations. The machines are equipped with convenient on-screen menu navigation and are available 24 hours a day in 6 languages (German, English, French, Spanish, Turkish, Polish).

Semester Ticket: Your student ID does a double duty as your semester ticket. Together with an official photo ID (passport), this becomes a valid public transportation pass. The semester ticket operates throughout the ABC local transport zones managed by the Berlin-Brandenburg transport consortium (VBB) for an unlimited number of journeys.

Using a bicycle: having a bicycle is a very good alternative to using public transportation. If you don't want to buy a new bike, you can either rent a bicycle or buy one second-hand. There are advertisements for second-hand bicycles in the biweekly magazine Zweite Hand. The German Railways Deutsche Bahn AG auctions bicycles regularly (dates and times are posted in local daily newspapers). For bicycles for rent: <http://www.fahrradstation.com/fahrradstation.php/cat/2/title/Stationen> (in German)



### Shopping KaDeWe

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Fare name	Fare zone	Price in Euro
Single Ticket	AB	2,30
	ABC	3,00
Short-Trip-Ticket *		1,40
4-Trip Ticket	AB	8,20
Day pass	AB	6,30
7-Day Pass	AB	27,20
Monthly Pass	AB	74,00

\* three U- or S-Bahn stops, six bus stops

Journey planner: <http://www.fahrinfo-berlin.de/Fahrinfo/bin/>

### Shopping

In Berlin everyone likes to go shopping in their own district. In nearly every district shopping malls and centers reflect the character of their neighborhood's inhabitants. A great variety of shopping centers and shopping tips for everyone can be found on the Internet:

[http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de/english/berlin-erleben/e\\_be\\_shopping.php](http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de/english/berlin-erleben/e_be_shopping.php)

Flea markets: Sundays in Berlin are a good time for brunch and bargain-hunting. If you are searching for rare coins, postcards, books, maps, and old DDR cameras, or are just happy to browse, a stroll through one of Berlin's flea markets is sure to lead you to some genuine gems that you can't find in souvenir shops. The market at Straße des 17. Juni (Tiergarten) is one of the biggest and is mostly touristy. Another large one is a local market hidden away in Kreuzberg (U8 Moritzplatz). Both are open on Saturdays and Sundays until about 4 or 5 pm. On Sunday, Boxhagener Platz in Friedrichshain (U5 Samariterstraße) turns into a vivid little flea market.

Flea markets on Internet:

<http://berlin.barwick.de/shopping/flea-markets/index.html>

### Post Offices

The Deutsche Post has two divisions: the Postal service (Postdienst) and the banking services (Postbank). If you want to use the postal service, go to the yellow counters in the post office and not the blue (Postbank) counters. Post office counters can also be found in small stores, e.g., convenience stores, and will sell stamps, take registered

letters and carry out some other postal services. The post offices in Germany are open (in general):

Mon – Fri: 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Sat: 8.00 am – 1.00 pm

#### **Main post office Charlottenburg**

Joachimsthaler Straße 7

10623 Berlin

S+U Zoologischer Garten

Mon – Fri: 9.00 am – 8.00 pm

Sa: 10.00 am – 8.00 pm

#### **Post office branch**

in Friedrichstraße S-Bahn station

Georgenstraße 12

10117 Berlin

Mon – Fri: 6.00 am – 10.00 pm

Sat, Sun: 8.00 am – 10.00 pm

#### **Public Telephones**

Public telephone boxes can be found everywhere in the city. Telephone cards can be bought at the post office, at newsstands, Berlin info stores and many other places. Call shops, where you can make international calls at reasonable prices, can be found, for example between the Kurfürstendamm and the Zoologischer Garten train stations.

#### **Cellular Phones**

Cell phones in Germany are called Handys. There are four main providers:

- T-Mobil ([www.t-mobile.de](http://www.t-mobile.de)): operated by the former state monopoly Deutsche Telekom.
- Vodafone ([www.vodafone.de](http://www.vodafone.de))
- E-Plus ([www.eplus.de](http://www.eplus.de))
- O2 ([www.o2online.de](http://www.o2online.de))

Germany operates on a GSM network, so if you have a cell phone from Europe or many other countries, it will probably work in Germany. If you are coming from North America or parts of Asia, you will probably have a CDMA phone which will not work. For a GSM phone, you need to check whether your phone is unlocked as some phones are network-specific (e.g., some Orange handsets). If your phone is not locked, you just need a new SIM card. Then all you need to do is to insert a German SIM card into your phone and you can take advantage of the local rates. You can purchase a prepaid German SIM card with call credit already incorporated, and if necessary, you can easily add more talk time to the SIM card.

#### **Book Stores**

Here is a list of some of popular book stores.

#### **Berlin Story**

Unter den Linden 40, Berlin-Mitte

(U+S Friedrichstraße)

Everything about Berlin, with 2500 books, 250 in English, and books in 12 other languages, videos, DVDs, and a 25-minute Berlin film in eight languages free in the Berlin exhibition.

#### **Bücherbogen**

Books on Art: Knesebeckstraße 27,

Charlottenburg (S Savignyplatz)

Books on Film: Stadtbahnbogen 593,

Charlottenburg (S Savignyplatz)

#### **Dussmann – The Cultural Department Store**

Friedrichstraße 90, Berlin-Mitte

(U+S Friedrichstraße)

Find a wide selection of literature, CDs, DVDs and other cultural products.

#### **Hugendubel**

Tauentzienstraße 13, Charlottenburg

(U Kurfürstendamm);

Schlossstraße 110, Steglitz (U Schlossstraße)

There are numerous branches around Berlin. You're welcome to read their books on their comfortable couches or relax in their in-store café.

#### **U&R Kiepert**

Hardenbergstraße 9a, Charlottenburg

(U Ernst-Reuter-Platz)

This store is the successor of the legendary Kiepert bookstore. Find fiction, arts, literature and language books.

#### **KOHLHAAS & COMPANY**

Fasanenstraße 23,

Charlottenburg

(U Uhlandstraße, Kurfürstendamm)

In the Literaturhaus with garden café you will find books from German-speaking areas and German translations of world literature.

#### **Lehmanns Fachbuchhandlung**

Hardenbergstr. 5, 10623 Berlin

(U Ernst-Reuter-Platz)

Bookshop with reference books on medicine, psychology, natural sciences, engineering, architecture, informatics, economics, law, languages, and humanities.

#### **Schleichers Buchhandlung Dahlem-Dorf**

Königin-Luise-Straße 41, Zehlendorf

(U Dahlem-Dorf)

The traditional bookshop of the Freie Universität Berlin in Dahlem.

#### **Marga Schöller**

Knesebeckstraße 33, Charlottenburg

(S Savignyplatz)

This comfortable bookshop offers well-chosen literature and a huge assortment of English books and film literature.



### Botanischer Garten

© Botanischer Garten Berlin

### Public Parks (Green and Recreation Spaces)

Berlin enjoys a great national and international reputation as a metropolitan center of Europe, thanks in large part to its great wealth of urban green space, which helps provide a high quality of life. Hardly any other city can boast as many green spaces as Berlin. Parks and garden spaces, city squares and green strips of various sizes and shapes characterize the city, and hark back to different eras in its history. The more than 2,500 public parks, covering a total surface of over 5,500 ha, provide Berliners and tourists with a huge variety of recreational opportunities. The protection, care, maintenance and development of the urban green spaces are the common tasks of the departments of green spaces in the Berlin districts and the Senate Department for Urban Development. Select parks and city squares can be found on the Internet:

[http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/umwelt/stadtgruen/gruenanlagen/index\\_en.shtml](http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/umwelt/stadtgruen/gruenanlagen/index_en.shtml)

### Going Out and Cultural Events

Berlin is noted for its numerous cultural institutions, many of which enjoy international repute. The city has a very diverse art scene and is home to hundreds of art galleries. It hosts the annual Art Forum – an international art fair, which focuses on contemporary art. Berlin has established itself as a center of youth and popular culture in Europe as young German and international artists continue to settle in the city.

### Museums and Galleries

Berlin is home to more than 170 museums. The ensemble of Bode Museum, Neues Museum, Alte Nationalgalerie, Pergamonmuseum and Altes Museum on the Museum Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is situated in the northern part of the Spree Island between the Spree and the Kupfergraben. The Neues Museum (New Museum) also houses the Egyptian Museum with the bust of Nefertiti. Outside the Museum Island the Deutsches Historisches Museum in the Zeughaus features an overview of 2000 years of German history. Daniel Libeskind built the extension to the excellent Jewish Museum in Kreuzberg and there is also a Museum of Natural History and a Museum of Me-



### Philharmonie, Kammermusiksaal

© Land Berlin/Thie

dical History and the list goes on and on... An abundance of state museums, as well as private collections, e.g., the Ramones Museum in Mitte, is bound to satisfy every taste.

In Dahlem, partly on the FU campus, there are several museums of world art and culture, such as the Museum of Indian Art, the Museum of East Asian Art, the Ethnological Museum, the Museum of European Cultures, as well as the Allied Museum (a museum of the Cold War). In Lichtenberg, on the grounds of the former East German Ministry for State Security (Stasi), is the Stasi Museum. In Karlshorst you can visit one of the sites where the surrender of the German military that ended World War II was signed in 1945. Checkpoint Charlie remains as a tourist site and a museum about one of the crossing points in the Berlin Wall. A list of museums and galleries in Berlin can be found here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_museums\\_and\\_galleries\\_in\\_Berlin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_museums_and_galleries_in_Berlin)

### Opera and Classical Music

#### Deutsche Oper Berlin

The famous operas such as "Magic Flute" or "Pelléas et Mélisande," Wagner's "Ring" or Rossini's "Semiramide" are regulars at the Deutsche Oper Berlin in Charlottenburg.

#### Staatsoper Unter den Linden

Under the artistic direction of Daniel Barenboim, the opera has a varied repertoire with focus on operas from the Pre-Mozart-epoch and contemporary operas.

#### Komische Oper Berlin

The opera house Komische Oper Berlin with its lovely, neo-baroque interiors built in 1892, houses modern musical theatre.

#### Konzerthaus

The Konzerthaus Berlin is regarded as one of the most exciting centers of classical music.

#### Philharmonie

The Philharmonie at the Culture Forum is home to the world famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.



< **Gedächtniskirche**

© Land Berlin/Thie

> **Synagogue  
Oranienburger Straße**

© Land Berlin/Thie



## Theaters

Here you will find a brief overview of Berlin's theaters:

<http://www.visitberlin.de/kultur/index.en.php>

Online Ticket Service for events:

[http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de/english/suchen-buchen/e\\_sb\\_veranstaltungen.Php](http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de/english/suchen-buchen/e_sb_veranstaltungen.Php)

The One-Stop Office will also help you when you're looking for advice on Berlin's cultural life. Ask us or have a look here for information about Berlin, concerts, theaters, cinemas, bars, restaurants, etc.

Useful links

The English language paper for Berlin:

<http://www.exberliner.net/cityguide/>

City information in English:

<http://www.berlin.de/english/>

Berlin Tourist Information:

<http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de/index.en.php>

Berlin Free Tours:

<http://www.newberlintours.com/nbt/index.php?lang=en>

English-language community website for Berlin:

<http://www.toytowngermany.com/berlin/>

English events in Berlin:

<http://www.english-events-in-berlin.de/man/welcome.php5>

Theater and concert tickets:

<http://www.heckticket.de>

## Berlin Places of Worship

Whether you are looking for a church, synagogue, mosque, temple or other place of worship, you can easily find a place to meet your spiritual needs.

### Churches

#### Protestant (Lutheran) church

<http://www.ekbo.de/> (in German)

<http://www.ekbo.de/english/fs5.htm> (English language services)

#### Roman Catholic

<http://www.erzbistumberlin.de/> (in German)

Worship services in Spanish, French, Polish and other languages are also offered.

For English services check:

<http://www.english-mission-berlin.de/frameset.html>

### Synagogues

Jewish Community in Berlin:

<http://www.jg-berlin.org/>

### Mosques

Muslim Community in Berlin:

<http://www.dmk-berlin.de/> (in German)