

## Exotic encounters: happening places in Berlin.

Discover a new dimension  
in urban architecture.

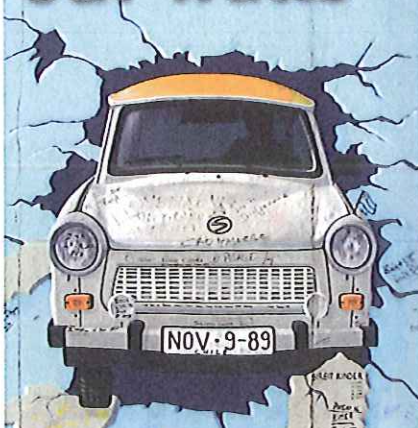
Enjoy unique city centre oases that offer enchanting encounters with nature. Take an elevator ride through a 14-metre column of water featuring exotic fish and surreal reef landscapes, or eavesdrop on the birds of paradise in two vibrant courtyard aviaries. DIFA's DomAquaree and Neues Kranzler Eck CityQuartier developments are both truly amazing places.

www.domaquaree.de  
www.neueskranzler Eck.de



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# Look what we did to our walls



## Berlin - the new capital of a new Germany

Fifteen years ago, a chain-reaction of falling dictatorial regimes across Eastern Europe caused the Berlin Wall to crumble in the hands of normal citizens armed with hammers and a strong desire to end the madness. Now, Berlin is one of Europe's most visited cities, with an incredibly vibrant and varied cultural, bar and restaurant scene. *Berlin In Your Pocket* is there to help you make the most of your visit. Read the guide and download a free Instant Guide at [www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com).

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# Shops & Services

Retail opportunities that are idiosyncratic, individualistic and irreducibly Berlin.

While it also boasts upmarket centres with every international chain from agnès b to Zara, what Berlin does best is offer both space and independence to small, idiosyncratic businesses. Scattered across the city, in backyards and sometimes otherwise barren streets, in neighbourhoods from the punky bohemia of Friedrichshain to the well-heeled pavements of Charlottenburg, are individual fashion labels and design boutiques, second-hand shops and eccentric specialists. If you're prepared to put in the footwork, shopping in Berlin can be more akin to a day on the set of an indie art film than a crude consumerist activity.

Conventional shopping can be found in abundance on Tauentzienstrasse and Kurfürstendamm in the west end, and along Friedrichstrasse in Mitte. The former has the KaDeWe, continental Europe's biggest department store, and blocks of everyday and upmarket chains. Interior design and household goods can be found in abundance between the Ku'damm and Kantstrasse. Luxury brands cluster around Fasanenstrasse.

Across town, on Friedrichstrasse, is some slightly funkier shopping, with department stores such as *Galleries Lafayette* and *Quartier 206* rubbing shoulders with the cultural cornucopia that is *Dussmann das KulturKaufhaus*. Potsdamer Platz is stuck

on its own in between these two centres, with an unremarkable but useful arcade full of chain stores (and some of the best ice-cream in Berlin).

The edgier cultural experience starts... well, wherever you choose. Music and fashion are huge here and, in keeping with the emphasis on the individual and entrepreneurial, you'll find gems and bargains that reflect a city keyed into, and determined to forge an identity within, the vinyl and streetwear revolution. Start in the upper price ranges with the polished but cutting-edge boutiques around Alte and Neue Schönhauser Strasse and the Hackesche Höfe in Mitte. Then move to the elegant bohemian assortments on and around Kastanienallee in Prenzlauer Berg. Friedrichshain has recently started to boom, with the Boxhagener/Simon-Dach-Strasse axis now unfolding to include music shops and streetwear boutiques around Grünberger Strasse and Wülischstrasse. Across the river, the area around Kreuzberg's Oranienstrasse is pumping with both local and national designers, and reworked vintage wares. The same borough's Bergmannstrasse area is a rich seam for books and music. Further west, in Schöneberg, is the lively *Winterfeldt Markt*, and good antique and curiosity shops abound on *Winterfeldtstrasse* and *Goltzstrasse*.

### OPENING HOURS

Shops can sell goods until 8pm on weekdays and 6pm Saturdays (8pm for department stores and supermarkets). Those in central areas keep these hours, but shops in residential areas begin shutting at 6pm on weekdays and 3pm on Saturday. But the general tendency is for more shops to stay open longer. On Sundays, only shops in stations are allowed to stay open, although late-night delis (*Spätkauf*) have begun to find loopholes and many bakeries open for a couple of hours on Sunday afternoon to satisfy indigenous demand for cake. Most big stores open between 8.30am and 9am, newsagents and bakeries as early as 6am, and smaller or independent shops around 10am or later.

### Antiques

Collectors and browsers with an interest in the 18th and 19th centuries will find many of the better dealers on *Keithstrasse* and *Goltzstrasse* in Schöneberg. The streets around *Fasanenplatz* in Wilmersdorf are

### The best Shops

#### Claudia Skoda Level

Designer clothes combining graceful lines and innovative fabrics. See p167.

#### IrieDaily

Skate style with an *Ost* flavour. See p172.

#### Marga Schoeller Bücherstube

Independently run and helpful to a fault. All bookshops should be like this. See p161.

#### Mondos Arts

Buy some of the East – the western conglomerates all have. See p180.

#### Weichardt-Brot

Love bread? Feed that passion. See p175.



# Introduction

No city is ever complete – change is the nature of the urban beast. But after nearly two decades of major construction and reorganisation, following 40 years of being torn in two and walled into an uneasy stasis – and that after the entire place had literally been bombed into rubble – Berlin has finally arrived at a point where it can sit down for a minute and say 'pewh!'

From the end of May 2006, the new Berlin Hauptbahnhof will open where the old Lehrter Bahnhof once stood (see p102 Hub, bub). This doesn't just mean a humble S-Bahn station reborn as the continent's largest railway intersection and a city that spent half of the 20th century way off the map repositioned as a key hub in the north European transport network. It's also the final piece of the reunification puzzle, the completion – after the new government quarter and the area around Potsdamer Platz – of the last big initiative meant to heal the wounds of history and bring Berlin's two halves back together.

Of course, nothing's ever that easy. The German capital remains an enigmatic place and east and west still have their differences even if they do now mingle in the malls and cinemas of Potsdamer Platz. But for the

## ABOUT TIME OUT CITY GUIDES

The seventh edition of *Time Out Berlin* is one of an expanding series of around 50 Time Out guides produced by the people behind the successful listings magazines in London, New York, Chicago and other cities around the globe. Our guides are all written by resident experts who have striven to provide you with all the most up-to-date information you'll need to explore the city or read up on its background, whether you're a local or a first-time visitor.

## THE LOWDOWN ON THE LISTINGS

Above all, we've tried to make this book as useful as possible. Telephone numbers, websites, transport information, opening times, admission prices and credit card details are included in our listings. And we've given details on facilities, services and events, all checked and correct at press time. However, owners and managers can change their policies with little notice. Before you go out of your way, we strongly advise you to call and check

visitor it means both a new point of arrival and one more piece of spectacular architecture in a new downtown cityscape that's become an attraction in itself.

Other attractions are of older vintage. A renegade underground culture still thrives on energy pent up over decades of political suppression and engagement. Division has left Berlin with twice as many orchestras and opera houses as any normal city. A fondness for shameless nightlife and no-holds-barred hedonism dates back even further, to the pre-war Weimar era, as does Berlin's role as a major gay city, a crucible of experimental art and a centre for theatre and cabaret. And the city's deserved reputation for tolerance dates back even further still, to the 19th century, and still holds true today. Berlin might not superficially be the world's most welcoming city, but whatever you want to get up to, the natives really aren't going to mind.

Meanwhile, one of the first things any visitor will notice on arriving at Berlin Hauptbahnhof is the curious lack of any connection to the U-Bahn system. Same story, strangely enough, at both Tegel and Schönefeld airports. For all the vague sense of completion, it's clear that this puzzle of a city just ain't quite finished yet.

opening times, dates of exhibitions and other particulars. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide, the publishers cannot accept responsibility for any errors it may contain.

## PRICES AND PAYMENT

Our listings detail the major credit cards – American Express (AmEx), Diners Club (DC), Discover (Disc), MasterCard (MC) and Visa (V) – taken by each venue. Many will also accept travellers' cheques issued by a major financial institution, such as American Express.

The prices we've supplied should be treated as guidelines, not gospel. Fluctuating exchange rates and inflation can cause prices to change rapidly, especially in shops and restaurants. If costs vary wildly from those we've quoted, then ask whether there's a good reason – and please email us to let us know. We aim to give the best and most up-to-date advice, so we always want to know if you've been badly treated or overcharged.



The Arkaden near Potsdamer Platz.  
See p102.

## THE LIE OF THE LAND

Berlin is a big, sprawling city. For ease of use, we've split many chapters of this guide into districts. The first page of each sightseeing chapter contains a small locator map, so you can see how each area relates to those around it, and then there is a larger overview map of Berlin's *Bezirke*, or boroughs, on page 320.

The back of this book also includes street maps of inner Berlin, with enlarged maps of those areas most densely packed with things to see and do. The street maps start on page 300, and now pinpoint the specific locations of hotels (📍), restaurants (🍴), and cafés and bars (☕). The majority of addresses fall into the area we've mapped, and we've given map references to make them easier to find.

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The code for Berlin is 030, dialled before the relevant number when calling from within

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Germany. From abroad, you need to dial the international access code followed by 49 for Germany, 30 for Berlin and then the number itself. For more on telephones, see p283.

## LANGUAGE

Many Berliners, especially younger ones, speak some English, but you can't assume you will be understood. A few basic German phrases go a long way, and you'll find some on page 286, plus some help with restaurant menus on page 134.

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

For any practical information you might need for visiting the city, including visa and customs information, disabled access, emergency telephone numbers, a list of useful websites and the ins and outs of the local transport network, see the Directory (pp270-289) at the back of this guide.

## LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

We hope you enjoy *Time Out Berlin*, and we'd like to know what you think of it. We welcome tips for places that you believe we should include in future editions and appreciate your feedback on our choices. Please e-mail us at [guides@timeout.com](mailto:guides@timeout.com).

There is an online version of this book, along with guides to over 100 other international cities, at [www.timeout.com](http://www.timeout.com).