



Berlin

COLOUR

The essential
young people's guide
to Berlin



CITYTRAVELREVIEW



BERLINCOLOUR...

Spend a few days in Berlin and you will have seen all the important sights- the Brandenburger Tor, the Berlin Wall, Museum Island. You will have had a meal of Currywurst, and sampled some of Germany's excellent beer. You may even have learnt a word or two in the local language.

Stay a bit longer and you will discover Berlin in all its colours. The squats filled with graffiti street art at its best. The underground bars that play eclectic mixes of music fuelled by strange concoctions. Meeting people from all over the world and tasting their delicacies in roadside vans.

You will become 'Berliner' in your actions. Avoiding smelly old men with their sinister-looking dogs trawling the streets for discarded empty bottles. Chilling in parks with 60 cent beer in the Berlin sunshine. Jumping on old-school bicycles and cycling around the city centre in your socks and sandals.

There is so much to do in Berlin that however long you stay it will not seem sufficient. This guide endeavours to show you some of the best and most economical ways to get the most out of your stay in Berlin. Some are tourist Meccas, others are a bit left of the centre; all make Berlin what it is now.

So throw yourself into the people, the music, the food; the experience that is Berlin. Prost!

Itinerary



Berliners and tourists relaxing on the grass in front of the Altes Museum

Four days in Berlin

Day 1

First, visit the *Reichstag*, one of Berlin's most popular sites for visitors but worth the queues (Page 15). Next head to the Brandenburg Gate (Page 11) for a cheesy but necessary tourist photo on your way to the Holocaust Memorial (Page 29). From here you can work your way up to Potsdamer Platz and down Stressmannstraße to the Topography Terror exhibition (Page 13), and if you've got any energy left, head to Checkpoint Charlie and check out the museum – this is best to do in the evenings to avoid the crowds and the children on school tours (Page 14)

Day 2

Alexanderplatz has a long history in Berlin and is a good place to do some wandering around and take some snapshots of the Fernsehturm (Page 14), one of the city's most famous landmarks. From here you are only a short walk away from *Museuminsel* (Page 17.), where you can enjoy the museums or the sprawling lawn in front of *Altes Museum*. Next head to Beckers Fritten for some famous chips with special sauce (Page 36), before checking out some of the bars and clubs

on Oranienburgerstraße.

Day 3

If it's a Tuesday or a Friday, start off the day at Kreuzberg's Turkish Market. From here you can walk to the East Side Gallery and take in the colours of the graffitied wall remnants. From here it's a five minute walk to the S-Bahn where you can jump on a train to Treptower Park – take a picnic for lunch, some bevies and a frisbee! Check out the large Soviet Memorial whilst you're here. Then head around the river, past a large sculpture in the river of three men moving in to an embrace, and end up for some drinks at the very cool barge bar Club Divisionair (Page 54)

Day 4

Today, walk along Auguststraße taking in all the small art galleries around this area (Page 26). Walk until you end up at Tacheles to see Berlin at its creative best (Page 28). Spend the afternoon relaxing at a Turkish Shisha bar in Oranienburgerstraße if you will. Then, for dinner, go to Mehringdamm Strasse U-Bahn station because the three men at Mustafa's Kebab Van make the best kebabs in the world. Get your dancing shoes on and Russian jig the night away at Kaffee Burger (Page 53).



East Side Gallery

The Arts

Berlin offers an art scene enriched with diversions from local rising musicians to photographers, painters and graffiti artists. You cannot stay here without involving yourself in the music scene, the street culture and the alternative and unique bohemian vibes.

Walking through the streets you cannot fail to notice the proliferation of art forms and graffiti. This has become part of Berlin's character; ranging from political, comical and artistic creations to the downright random. You only need to look upwards to be amazed by the determination of some people to express themselves several storeys up, in places that could only possibly be accessed with lengthy ladders or a complicated method of hoisting and scaling. It is worth it though, as the results give the city charm and individuality through allowing freedom of expression.

Given Berlin's free spirit, contemporary expression has flourished. The city boasts more than 5000 artists in residence, who are regularly opening their studios or exhibiting their work in many of the galleries that the city has to offer.

Wherever or however you want to experience this important aspect of Berlin's charm and



Just wandering the city reveals some amazing creations

character, there is something here for everyone. Walking between any of Berlin's main attractions reveals expressionist graffiti on many walls of the city. Take to the back streets rather than following the typical tourist trails to see some of the more interesting pieces of work. There is often much to see around train stations and on shop shutters at night-time. Also, more artistic and bohemian areas of the city, such as Prenzlauer Berg and Kreuzberg, offer a vast range of interesting creations.

There is also the more conventional means of exploring the city's artistic works, through visiting some of the multitudinous galleries that are located throughout the city. From photography to abstract art, from contemporary to eclectic, the galleries provide an interesting scope for all tastes. In this section, some of the more off-the-wall and unique ways to discover the true artistic spirit of Berlin are highlighted. This covers not only interesting galleries, but also ways to see a different cultural side of the city

To find a list of temporary exhibitions and what's on where and when, refer to the city's monthly magazine, *artery berlin*, which is also available in English. This guide can be acquired in most galleries, but also has an online version at www.artery-berlin.de. Usually further information can be found in the galleries that you visit.



Street art down Auguststraße contrasts with the chic galleries

Auguststraße

If you are in the mood for checking out some of the more contemporary art that the city has to offer, make your way to Auguststraße. The street is a hive of galleries, from visual to photographic arts. Start at one end and work your way down, with your eyes watching both sides of the street, for this stretch of the city offers a dense supply of individual and exciting galleries.

Auguststraße was the centre of the Berlin arts scene in the 1990s, renovated after the fall of the Wall in 1989 from a poor inner city district to the quaint and buzzing sight you can see today. The galleries attract artists from all over the world and feature some of the most bohemian, controversial and eclectic pieces that you are likely to see in Berlin.

Deschler

www.deschler-berlin.de Auguststraße 61, U6 Oranienburger Tor, Tuesday – Saturday 12.00 – 18.00

This gallery, on two floors, features works from several artists at one time. Its exhibits are of an eclectic style, often portraying the more adventurous types of art. Exhibits tend to veer away from canvas works, and there are often life size models, statues and decorative items to be seen. Deschler often houses visual artwork, a rising trend in artistic circles.

Galerie Gerken

www.galerie-gerken.de Auguststraße 49, U6 Oranienburger Tor, Tuesday – Friday 11.00 – 18.00, Saturday 13.00 – 18.00

In a large, open and airy space you can see a vast range of works from individual artists. The art displayed here is generally very off the wall, and a long while can be spent wondering at the symbolism, the content or even just at the time spent to create the art itself.



Galerie Gerken

Berlin Art Projects

www.berlinartprojects.de Auguststraße 50b, U6 Oranienburger Tor, Monday – Friday 11.00 – 19.00, Saturday 12.00 – 18.00

The space here, unlike other galleries on this artist's stretch, encourages relaxation and contemplation of the work. Sofas, tables and chairs are placed in the centre, and from that vantage point you can contemplate the pieces from a comfortable distance.

Eigen + ART

www.eigen-art.com
Auguststraße 26, U6 Oranienburger Tor
Tuesday – Saturday 11.00 – 18.00

This is one of the most important of the Auguststraße galleries, as it is run by Gerd Harry Lybke, the first person to open a private gallery in the GDR. The staff are very friendly in this small gallery and information is supplied in English. Artists exhibited tend to be from the east of Germany, although it is now veering more to other young international artists. The exhibits mix simple techniques with the new, ranging from photography to installations.



"Swept Away" Painting by Jay Mark Johnson on display in the Galerie Deschler

Interview with Thomas Klingenstein, artist and poet



How did you decide what to paint on your section of the East Side Gallery?

I grew up in East Berlin, in the shadow of the Wall. As a child I had always wanted to go to Japan but living in the GDR meant that I could not. The GDR system was very restrictive. When the wall came down and they were searching for artists to paint the East Side Gallery, I knew immediately what I wanted to paint. The fall of the Wall meant that Japan would have been possible for me, so I painted the opening to a Japanese section of the city.

Is there any other message in your section?

My painting also aims to show how ridiculous, how crazy, this separation was. To divide a whole country, a whole people, is madness. Just imagine how it would be if suddenly your own country or city was divided, and you could not have freedom of speech or movement. The consequences of this separation are enormous, and that is something that is often overlooked.

What sort of consequences for you are the most noticeable?

This “wall in the head” concept is not as strong in Germany as it is portrayed in other countries.



Thomas Klingenstein, “Jale” To see his current works, see www.thomas-klingenstein.com



Thomas section of the East Side Gallery

However there are indeed differences in the mentality of people from the East and from the West. This is not so important for the younger generation, who have grown up without the presence of the Wall, but for the older people, who experienced this situation first hand, it is not something that you can just repress. The East Side Gallery plays a role to re-emphasise that not only was a land cut into two, but also the people. The East Side Gallery represents a piece of history that is intrinsic to the current day. It was crazy, troublesome, for the people of Berlin to have this wall dividing them. When the borders were reopened, the people of Berlin wanted nothing more than for this ugly reminder to be gone.

How was growing up in the GDR for you?

I was very young when I started to come into conflict with the oppressive regime in the GDR. I started to write poetry, and I wanted to publish my work. I was unable to do it in the East, so I worked hard to get them over to the West. I was the youngest person to ever publish Eastern literature in the West. The Stasi knew of what I had done and I was taken to Hohenschönhausen, the Stasi prison. I was there for four months. When you don't know when you will be free again, that is an eternity. It was an awful time. Very intense. There was outcry in the West when my imprisonment became known, and the BRD paid the sum demanded for my freedom. I was released to the West in February 1981.

Did you ever make it to Japan?

I did eventually get to go to Japan. In total I spent about three years there, but in a period stretching over eight or nine years. I learned Japanese. I fulfilled my youthful dream.

Bader and Dawn • Cupcake



Needing a change of scenery and fuelled by a hunger for the German capital after backpacking in Berlin several years ago, Dawn Nelson upped and left America and her former life to go it alone in one of Europe's biggest and most exciting cities.

She met Bader within a month, formed a business plan to open Berlin's very first cupcake shop and the rest, she says, is history.

What made you decide to set up Cupcake and how did you get the ball rolling?

The concept of Cupcake started out when my best friend and I were vacationing in Prague. We were having lunch at a cafe and I was pondering what I wanted to do for work in Berlin, since good paying jobs were hard to come by. She said "You love to bake and cook for other people, so why don't you open a cupcake shop!" and the light bulb went off. When we got back to Berlin I started researching the idea and realized that there wasn't a cupcake shop in Berlin (or even Germany at the time!) Finally, in April 2007, we officially opened Berlin's first cupcake shop!

How did you decide on location of Cupcake and how did you obtain a lease, get funding and advertise?

It took us about 5 months to find a good location. We searched all over Berlin. The store was a record shop before and Bader used to trade cds with the previous owner. He mentioned that we were looking for a shop and the guy actually

happened to be leaving... it was pure luck! We used our own private money, it was totally DIY. We have never really spent much money on advertising; we rely mainly on word-of-mouth from happy customers.

What clientele do you usually serve at Cupcake?

We get all kinds of people - French, Italian, British, Canadian, Brazilian... we have also had many celebrity clients including Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, Celine Dion, Jared Leto, loads of bands and some German actors.

What are the best and worst parts of your work?

The best part is meeting new and interesting people from all over the world. Our shop is a magnet for tourists and travellers. It's really cool that we get people from Spain or Brazil who have heard about our cupcakes and searched us out specifically! The worst part is having to be so responsible and being so anal retentive about the cupcakes and the shop. Also, waking up really early to bake everything in time for opening!

Do you have any future business plans to expand Cupcake or set up other shops?

We always have ideas about taking things to the next level and opening more stores, but then reality sets in and we realize that we already work so much. Maybe in the near future once we set up plans and get financial help.

Bader and Dawn pictured behind the counter at



GDR chic furniture in Dachkammer

Shisha

Krossener Straße 19
Friedrichshain
U1, S75, S7, S5, S9, S3 Warschauer Straße

Going to a Shisha bar is a relaxing and social experience in a fast paced capital city like Berlin. Smoking Shisha has become a popular reserve of the twentysomethings of Berlin, and this particular bar in Friedrichshain has a vibrant collection of ten different flavours ranging from melon to vanilla at an appealing price of approx. €5 each. Shisha is quite a large establishment with private, dimmed lighting in the evenings where you can quite easily smoke away the hours with the accompaniment of good conversation. There's also outdoor seating where you can read a book and enjoy the haziness of shisha in the sun.

DachKammer

www.DachKammer.com
Simon-Dach-Straße 39
Friedrichshain
U1, S75, S7, S5, S9, S3 Warschauer Straße

From the outside, you're drawn towards this bar due to its disorganised, cluttered appearance. After entering, you will find yourself transported back into the 70s, the purposely dated blasé furniture strewn around both floors adding to the ambience. This bar is perfect for a casual, relaxed drink, and the maze of rooms offers a variety of chaotic furniture whilst adding an element of eccentricity to this spacious bar. With most beers at 2,80€ and special Monday to Friday cocktails only 4,10€, this bar is definitely worth a visit and is often found to be swarming with students. The welcoming atmosphere and dusky lighting separates this bar from those more select and pretentious. Try to aim for the happy hour, daily from 7pm to 8pm, in order to make a saving.

Summer drinks on the canal side at Club der Visionaire (pg. 54)



Meet the team



Eloise Johnstone, Australia

Practical Information

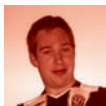
Eloise is currently travelling Europe after finishing her Journalism degree. She is into sipping fine cheap beer, giving the night away to pretentious indie rock and roll and making up nicknames for people. Has a poorly concealed nerdy passion for European history which is often exposed at her clear excitement when approaching a good quality museum.



Adija Adamu, Cameroon

Itineraries

Adija studies tourism and hospitality management at the Eastern Mediterranean University in northern Cyprus. She loves dancing, listening to music, travelling, meeting new people, and having quiet moments alone.



John Latham, England

History

John is a 22-year old history graduate from Loughborough, who is currently working towards a writing career after travelling the Silk Road. His interests include cooking, world music, and a masochistic support for West Bromwich Albion FC.



Pitt Max, Luxembourg

Museums

Pitt is a recent MA graduate in contemporary English literature from the mighty Grand Duché of Luxembourg. Eager to finally get a job and exploit his writing skills, he is currently looking for an opportunity to break into the brutally competitive world of public relations. Besides his affinity for cheap German beer, he loves the smell of grilled Turkish meat in the late hours of the evening.



Anne Smellie, England

Arts and Culture

Anne loves the great outdoors, sport and sarcasm. Running has been the best way to see the city, as without trainers she would not have discovered that the East Side Gallery was a mere 5 minutes from her apartment. She would also have failed to discover that the drunk red-faced man who sits outside the newsagent on Adalbertstraße is not only there between 9am and 9pm, but also can be seen at 6am with a Sternberger in hand. She is considering joining him one day.



Cathy Reay, England

Food and Drink

Cathy is a journalist from London,. She writes for a charity magazine by day and dances stupidly at music concerts on behalf of entertainment publications by night. She hated beer before she came to Berlin, now she can't get enough of it. She loves food almost as much as music (and beer), especially cupcakes.



Anne Wittorff, Denmark

Shopping

Anne is addicted to travelling with her backpack, however needs to invent something that will allow her to do more shopping whilst backpacking. Loves pizza fungi when drunk and is more than capable of finishing an entire one on her own.



Ruth Jacob, England

Sport

Ruth Jacob is a Nigerian born final year Journalism and Economics student. She loves, music, singing, eating, fashion, sport, keeping up with current affairs and is keen to get travelling around this planet and beyond. She can be a little shy and quiet sometimes. You know what they say about the quiet ones...



Natasa Vunduk, England

Nightlife

Natasa has developed an unhealthy addiction to gherkins during her time in Berlin. She also likes taking photographs. Also when someone concocts an injection of enthusiasm, she would quite like to know about it.



Hannah Bourke, Australia

Hostels

Hannah is a temporarily homeless and jobless individual from Newcastle, Australia. She enjoys travelling, shopping and music in all its forms, and is currently putting off getting a job and becoming a grown-up for as long as possible. She has also been seriously considering getting a goldfish.



David Aguirre Hoffmann, Honduras

Graphic Designer

David's enthusiasm for digital arts has taken him to very inspiring locations since his childhood. At the moment he's lucky enough to be living in Berlin, and continues to draw his days away into the next horizon.