



YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO BERLIN

Top places to go, where to eat, what to drink, on a budget, how to get there...and everything you need to know to make your stay in Berlin and DasSMACC one to remember!

Berlin is a fantastically beautiful modern European city steeped in history with lots to explore. Here's a flavour of what is on offer (apart from the amazing Tempodrom!)

TOP ATTRACTIONS

Reichstag

No visit to Berlin is complete without a trip to the Reichstag. Don't miss the view from the building's glass dome to get a bird's eye view of the hustle and bustle of Berlin.



Holocaust Memorial

Located close to the Brandenburg Gate this memorial is a must-see if you want to understand how modern Berliners pay respect to their past. It is a sprawling site covered with over 2700 concrete slabs in memory of the Jewish victims of the WWII Holocaust.



Checkpoint Charlie

East meets West at the site of Checkpoint Charlie. Also the setting for James Bond spy thrillers - remember 'Octopussy'? Visit the Mauermuseum (Berlin Wall museum) and see what life was like under the DDR regime.

Berlin Television Tower

Berliner Fernsehturm (Television Tower) stands 368m tall and is the highest publicly accessible building in Berlin and Europe. Get a 360-degree revolving view of the city!

East Side Gallery

See the longest stretch of the Berlin Wall (1.3km) that remains standing along the banks of the river Spree in Friedrichshain. This huge open gallery was painted by 118 artists and is an international freedom memorial.



Brandenburg Gate

Brandenburg Gate is Berlin's most famous landmark. A symbol of Berlin and German division during the Cold War, it is now a national symbol of peace and unity.



Berlin is serviced by a 24-hour-a-day interconnected network of underground rail (U-Bahn), suburban rail (S-Bahn) buses, trams, and ferries.

Pick up a [Berlin Welcome Card](#) or [City Tour Card](#) to take advantage of discounted travel rates and reduced entry to many of the city's tourist attractions.

FOOD, DRINK & NIGHTLIFE

Restaurants

Berlin boasts many gastronomic surprises, from top-end dining to authentic Bavarian fare!

Fine dining

Rutz Restaurant & Weinbar rutz-restaurant.de

Glass glassberlin.de

Casual

Drei Schwestern 3schwestern-berlin.de

Parker Bowles parker-bowles.com

Vegetarian

Cookies Cream cookiescream.de

Steakhouse

Grill Royal grillroyal.com

Coffee

Father Carpenter Coffee may just be the best beans in town (fathercarpenter.com) but there are many other caffeine pit stops in Berlin (goo.gl/SQW3yz)



Clubs & Bars

Once divided but now a unified city - Berlin's thriving and eclectic nightclubs are often located close to the old Berlin wall. These are some of our favourites but go explore & find you own!

Berghain

Berlin's most famous and hedonistic club is in the shell of an abandoned power station, it is also one of the world's most exclusive clubs so make sure you have a back-up plan....



://about blank

Listen out for techno in once-illegal ://about blank (aboutparty.net) in Friedrichshain.

Farbfernseher

Farbfernseher (berlin-fever.com/en/clubs/farbfernseher) is an old colour TV store that now cranks out midweek tunes.

Claerchen's Ballhaus

Dance with the ghosts of 2 world wars in 1920s Claerchen's Ballhaus. You might recognise the interior from Tarantino's movie 'Inglorious Bastards'.

Beer Gardens

Prater Garden

Serving Berliners beer since 1837, Prater Garden is Berlin's oldest beer pratergarten.de.

Hofbräu Munchen

Sample Bavaria in Berlin - try Hofbräu Munchen at Alexanderplatz hofbraeu-wirtshaus.de.



SHOPPING

Berlin has become a global fashion centre in recent years.

'Kudamm' is the most popular shopping promenade in Berlin. Picture a 3km long European style boulevard filled with high end designer boutiques and turn of the century style cafes. Don't miss KaDeWe in Tauentzienstrasse, the largest department store in Europe

Browse around Les Galeries Lafayette department store in Friedrichstrasse or wander around the Alexa shopping centre in Alexanderplatz.

If upmarket is not your style or you are looking for unique gifts for home, try Mitte's Hackescher Markt shopping area, packed with a tangle of funky local designer shops and labels.



SUMMER IN BERLIN

Berlin boasts a temperate Summer climate - sunny & warm with temperatures up to 35 deg C or 77 deg F. Easy to get outdoors and enjoy the sun!

1. City beaches are plentiful in Berlin - that's right - sand without the sea in a city. Try StrandBar Mitte or Oststrand for urban beach chic. Or you can visit the elegant Ku'Damm beach in Grunewald for luxurious surroundings.



2. Berlin is a cyclist's dream with many dedicated cycles paths and flat profile. Get around the city in style and comfort - book a bike from [Fat Tires Tour Berlin](#).

3. Looking to cool down? Relax in Badeschiff swimming pool on a barge and take in the local bar and nightlife scene.

4. Berlin is a city on the water and has more bridges than Venice! Grab a boat tour along some of the 180km of local waterways. Check out [cruises](#) on the river Spree.

5. Enjoy a Summer picnic at the open air cinema at Freiluftkino Friedrichshain or the Sommerkino Kulturforum at Potsdamer Platz.

6. Mauerpark in Prenzlauer Berg is on the site of the former 'death strip' between East and West Berlin. Nowadays it is home to the fleamarkets, food stalls and the famous BearPit Karaoke ([bearpitkaraoke.com](#))



7. Tempelhofer Park is the site of the old Berlin Templehof airport and was reopened as a public park in 2010. You can roll on the run way or just sit out under the old air traffic control tower. It gets busy on a good day - full of triathletes or skateboarders!

BERLIN ON A BUDGET

A different view...

Try a free trip up the Reichstag dome and take in the spectacular 360 degree view of the city. Hike up to the top of Teufelsberg (Devil's mountain) - an abandoned American listening station during the Cold War.



Grab some street food...

There is an abundance of varied street food on offer to reflect Berlin's cosmopolitan population. Doner kebabs from [Tadim](#) and [Mustafa's](#) are among the best in the world. If you fancy something more spicy sample Berlin's best currywurst from Konnopke's Imbiss on Schoenhauser Allee. Mo's Kleiner's Imbiss in Kreuzberg serves up a delicious vegetable falafel.

Take a tour...

Discover Berlin's subcultures on the [Alternative Berlin](#) tour from Alexanderplatz. [New Berlin](#) tours will take you around the recent historical sites in Berlin. Discover the street art of Berlin with [slowtravelberlin.com](#) or catch a free lunchtime concert by the [Berlin Philharmonic](#) orchestra.

Go clubbing for less...

Pay what you think you should for wine at [Weinerie](#). Follow the crowd and find a free rave at [OpenAirToGo](#)

Chill out...

By the river Spree in the [Holzmarkt](#) urban community oasis of shops, stalls and studios - a favourite Summer evening pastime.



Here are some activities for your children:

Animal Attractions

Berlin Zoo is in Tiergarten. It is Europe's oldest zoo and is a super day out for both younger and older children (zoo-berlin.de/de). Or, meet the animals up close at Kinderbauernhof Berlin (kinderbauernhofberlin.de) an urban farmyard for children.

Museums

Find the T-Rex skeleton at the Natural History museum (naturkundemuseum-berlin.de/en/) or visit the Museum of Technology (sdtb.de/546). Or, what about the Computer-game Museum? (computerspielmuseum.de). The MACHmit! is a museum just for children with activities and play spaces in a converted church (machmitmuseum.de)

Get busy building at Legoland Berlin! (legolanddiscoverycentre.de/berlin-en/)

Or, fly a kite or ride a bike in Tiergarten or TempleHof...



INSIDER SECRETS TO BERLIN

DID YOU KNOW?

Berlin loves ice cream - seriously who doesn't?!

Try out black sesame delights at [Berlin Homemade Ice Cream](#) or Italian style affogato at Cuore di Vetro.

Our favourite parlour is [Jones Ice Cream](#)!



Many international artists consider Berlin as their spiritual and creative home. Political activist and Chinese artist Ai Wei Wei maintains an underground art studio in old East Berlin. David Bowie recorded his 'Berlin Trilogy' of albums in the 1970s, inspired by the city's contemporary music and art scene and Irish band U2 reinvented themselves in Berlin in 1991 with 'Achtung Baby'.

Berliners are generally very tolerant with an 'anything goes' attitude to life. In some bars and clubs, a deposit ('pfand') is added to your bottle or glass and is reimbursed when you return it to the bar.

DasSMACC recommended websites

Check out these free online guides to Berlin:

visitberlin.de

stilinberlin.de