

City Series

2 | BERLIN, GERMANY



*"Berlin...the greatest extravaganza that one
could imagine."*

David Bowie

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BRIEF OVERVIEW



Berlin, Germany's capital city, is known for its diverse range of landmarks, active cultural scene, and fast-paced, yet calm way of life.

In fact, the city is famous for its stark contrasts. As the past and present collide, historical structures coexist with modern architecture. From the Brandenburg Gate to the Chancellor's Office, the landmarks of Berlin give witness to the history of an entire nation and empires of the past.

In Berlin, one of Europe's major start-up capitals, the sky is the limit when it comes to inventiveness. The city has transformed into a gigantic laboratory of cultural innovation in the last 20 years, thanks to a spirit that supports and encourages new ideas, as well as once ample space and low rent. The last two, on the other hand, are a thing of the past. Top international performers continue to grace Berlin's theatre, concert, and opera stages. There's plenty of place for highbrow, lowbrow, and everything in between when it comes to cultural expression.

Berlin is a city steeped in history, which you are confronted with at every turn. This is a city that organized a revolution, was occupied by Nazis, bombed to bits, divided in two, and was finally reunited – and all of this happened in the twentieth century! Before that, Berlin was the home of revolutions, take-overs, Prussian influence and much more. Walk through the Berlin Wall's relics, marvel at the beauty of a Prussian castle, see Checkpoint Charlie, or stand in the room where the Holocaust was plotted. Berlin is like a never-endingly intriguing 3D textbook where the past is always present.

Berlin is a big multicultural metropolis but deep down it maintains the unpretentious charm of an international village. Locals and expats follow the credo 'live and let live' and put greater emphasis on personal freedom and a creative lifestyle than on material wealth and status symbols. Cafes are jammed at all hours, drinking is a religious rite and clubs keep going through the weekend into Monday. Size-wise, Berlin is pretty big but its key areas are wonderfully compact and easily navigated on foot, by bike or with public transport.

More and more artists are flocking to Berlin from all around the world to draw inspiration from the endless creative vibes, making it one of the most exciting destinations in the whole of Europe.

Now where should you stay while you're here?



Charlottenburg

The best neighborhood for entertainment and shopping

Charlottenburg has always been a cultural hub for entertainment and a must-visit destination for anyone looking for a more up-scale ambiance as the previous city center of West Berlin. Charlottenburg has established itself as the wealthy side of town, with high-end boutiques and exquisite baroque buildings overlooking its tiny streets. While the district is known for its high-end vehicles, high-end labels, and high-end restaurants, it also has a rich history with museums and baroque palaces like the Schloss Charlottenburg.



Tiergarten

The best neighborhood for relaxation

For some, Berlin's bustling and fast-pace is exciting, but for others, it may be overpowering. Tiergarten, fortunately, is a tranquil and relaxing haven. Forget about Berlin's congested streets, incessant traffic, and hectic city life, and simply forget yourself in this vast forest in the city's core. Tiergarten, on the other hand, is more than just a large park. Climb the 270 steps to the top of the Victory Column for some of the best panoramic views of Berlin, or stop by for a quick view of the Bellevue Palace, the official residence of Germany's President.

Regierungsviertel (Government District)

The best neighborhood for architecture, culture and history

The Regierungsviertel in Berlin is a historically significant area and the best to stay for sight-seeing tourists. You have access to everything you could want to see by foot. You can easily spend a full day exploring the exact locations where major moments in the twentieth-century occurred - the energy is tangible. Follow the Berlin Wall's path and stop by Checkpoint Charlie, a former East/West Germany border crossing site, or visit the Topography of Terrors to learn more about Nazi atrocities. Further down the trail, visit the powerful Holocaust Memorial, pass through the famous Brandenburg Gate, and enter the German Reichstag. The section of Germany is emotionally provoking, yet truly important for the historical weight of the world at one point.



Prenzlauer Berg

Best neighborhood for local life

Prenzlauer Berg is a wonderful example of why you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. Once you scratch the surface of this region of Berlin, you'll find some of the most fascinating experiences. Its charming cobblestone roads are ideal for taking beautiful scenic walks and photographing the liveliness around you. There is a broad selection of ice cream stores, healthy cafes, and international restaurants that make it a terrific destination to visit if you are a foodie.

Kreuzberg

The best neighborhood for boho-chic vibes

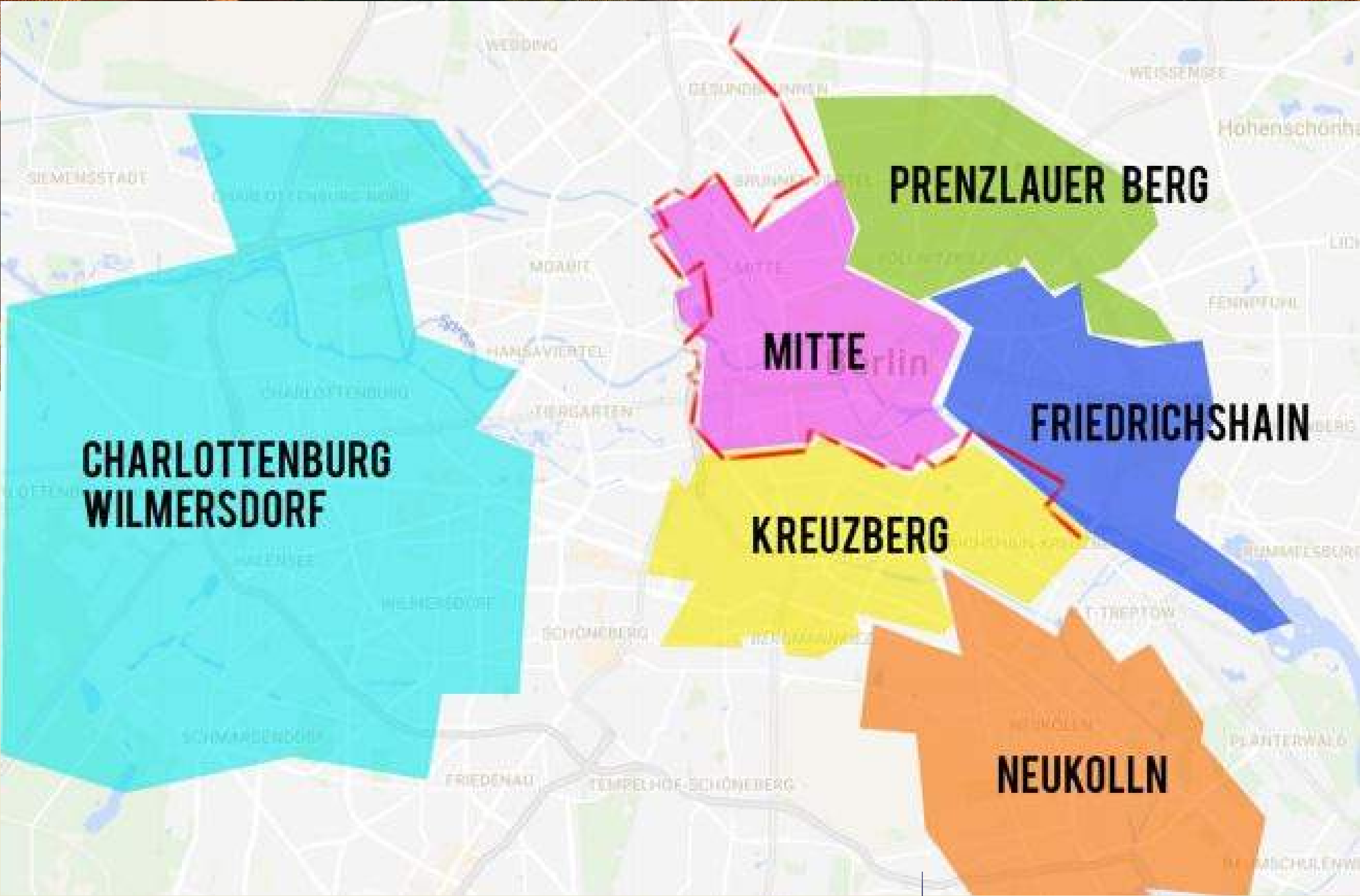
Kreuzberg is regarded as Berlin's center for alternative art and culture. Being a resident in Kreuzberg entails a specific rebellious character, which has long been associated with Berlin. Secondhand shops, independent bookstores, bright street art, and dynamic pubs are interwoven throughout the streets of Kreuzberg, making it unique. Expect to see people of many religions, social groups, and ethnicities. Kreuzberg is a place where you may feel lively, internationally connected, and impressed.



Friedrichshain

The best neighborhood for techno-clubbing

Friedrichshain is now one of Berlin's most lively and trendy areas that is meant for a young, fast-paced lifestyle. During the day, sample different foods at Boxhagener Platz, relax with a cold drink at Holzmarkt or YAAM, or take a stroll along the East Side Gallery. After the sun sets, life in Friedrichshain changes. Techno clubs and alternative bars open making the night come alive. There are places where party never ends, as certain clubs, such as Crack Bellmer, are open until the sun rises. There is no shortage of fun in this part of the city, so try to step out of your comfort zone and experience the famous Berlin social scene.





TRANSPORTATION

Berlin's public transit system is extensive, reaching every part of the huge metropolis. It connects tourists to the rest of Germany by passing over, beneath, and through Berlin. U-Bahn, S-Bahn, buses, and trams are all part of this comprehensive system. The Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG) is in charge of the majority of the operations. A single ticket gives you access to a variety of means of public transportation, and most people utilize an assortment of these public transportation options on any given day. The system is well-organized, large, safe, routinely protected by law enforcement and fairly punctual, yet I highly recommend to review the systems from an online map before your visit.

How to Ride Berlin's U-Bahn

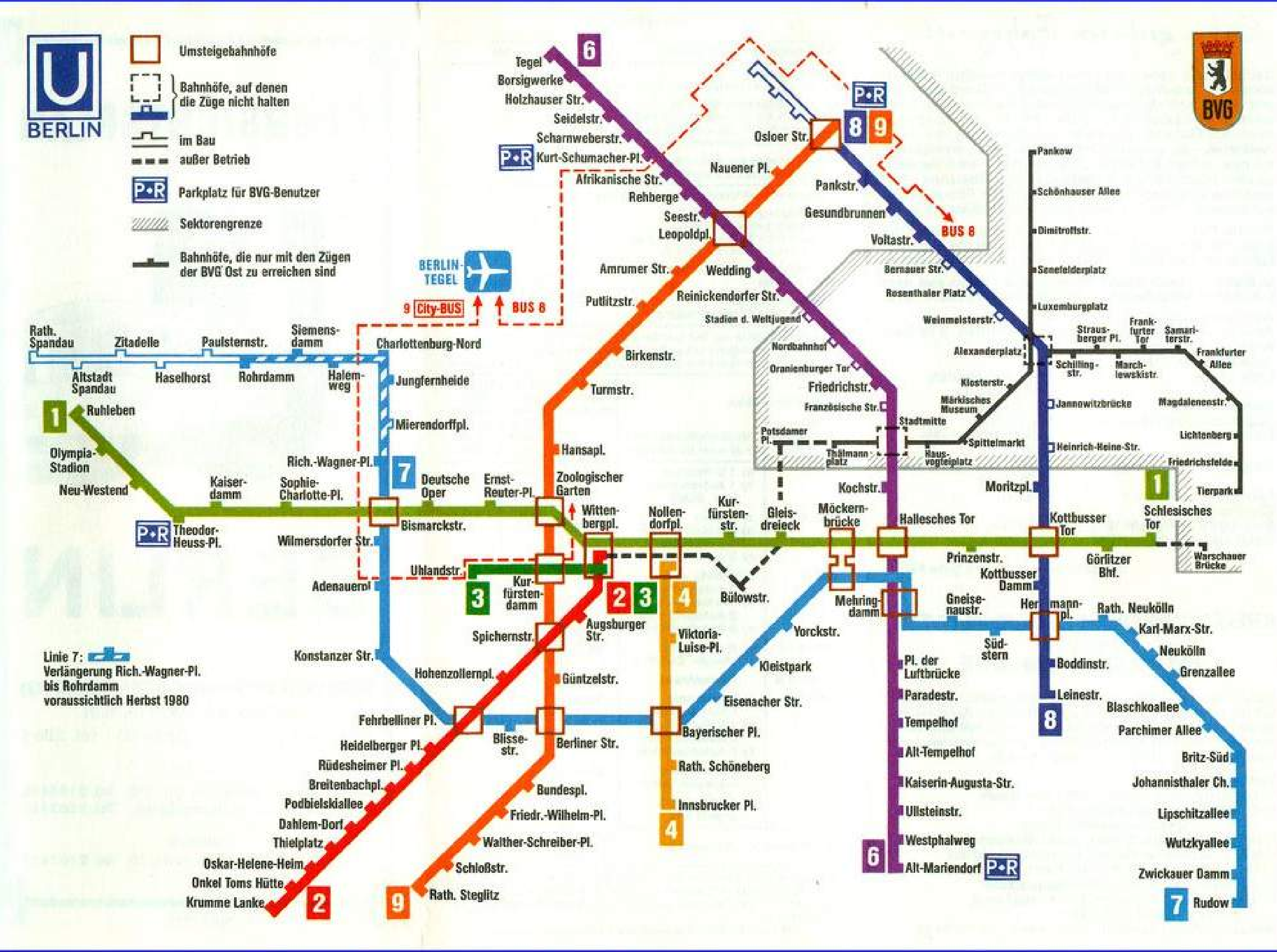
Within Berlin's city borders, the U-Bahn runs mostly below ground (AB zone). The initial stations opened in 1902 and have been in continuous operation since, with frequent closures, upgrades, and additions. The station name is written in a variety of traditional characters on an illuminated "U" that marks the entry. Enter the station and stamp your ticket (purchased from a machine on the platform or from a BVG distributor) before boarding your U-Bahn. On the platform, there are maps and electronic boards with information on the upcoming trains and their expected arrival times.

Lines on Berlin's U-Bahn

The U-Bahn has about 170 stations and ten lines, including the well-known U2, please view an image of the map below. The bright yellow cars and vibrant stations provide lots of photo opportunities for Instagram enthusiasts.

Hours of Operation for Berlin's U-Bahn

On weekdays, the Berlin U-Bahn runs from 4:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. On weekends and holidays, service is available 24 hours a day, with reduced frequency. Within the city center, it operates every 5 to 10 minutes. After 8 p.m., the U-Bahn runs every 10 to 15 minutes, with night buses taking over.





How to Ride Berlin's S-Bahn

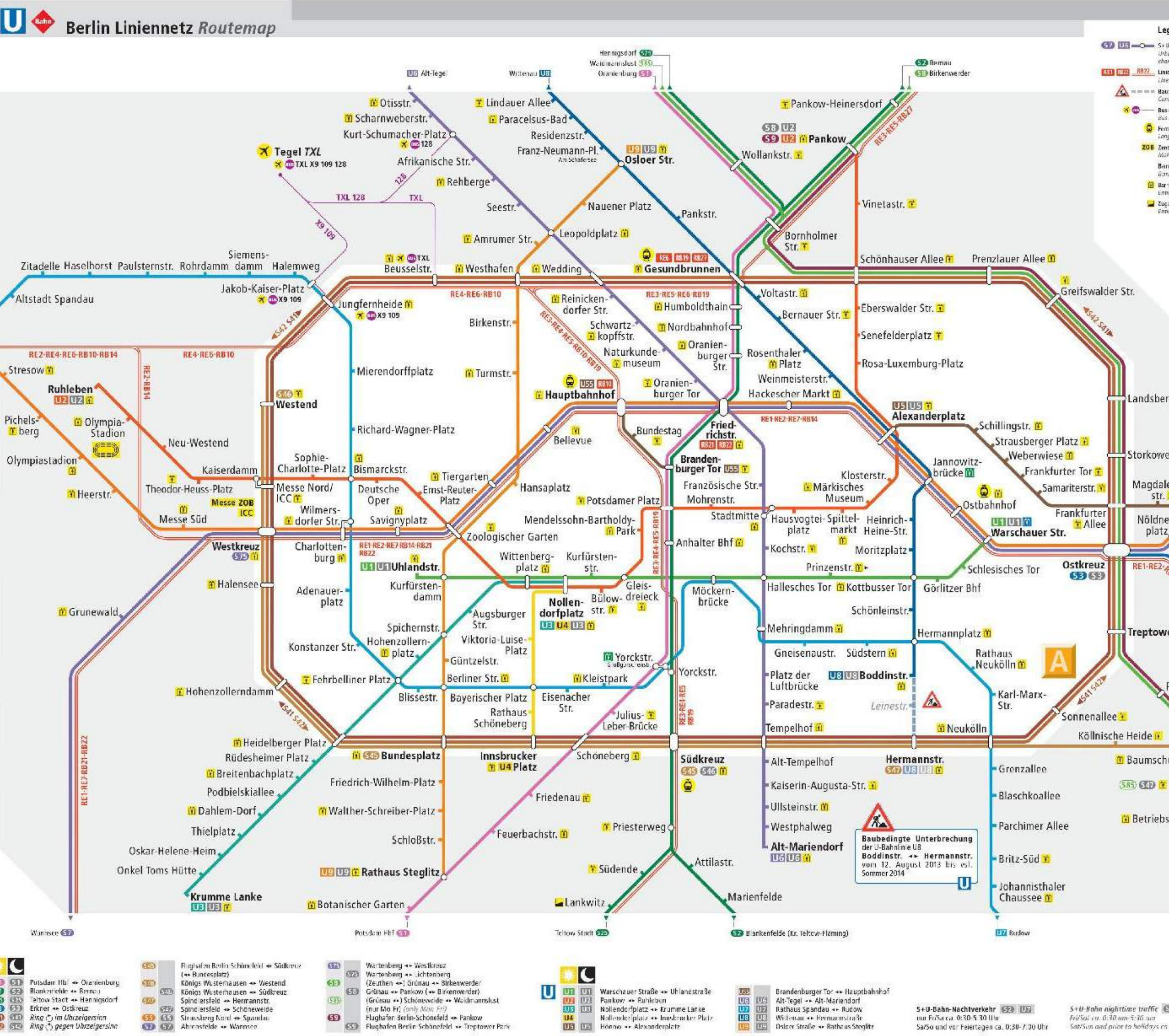
The city's S-Bahn, or Stadtbahn (city train), is an above-ground local rail system. The distance between stations is longer than on the U-Bahn, but it is the quickest method to get across the city and to the outskirts like Potsdam and Wannsee. Unlike the majority of Berlin's public transportation, the S-Bahn is run by Deutsche Bahn (German rail company). The S-Bahn is served by the same tickets as the rest of Berlin's public transportation. The green and white "S" sign distinguishes S-Bahn stations. Enter the platform without a barrier and stamp your ticket before boarding the S-Bahn. On the station, maps are provided, and electronic boards display information about the next arrival.

Important Lines on Berlin's S-Bahn

The S-Bahn covers 15 lines with almost 170 train stations.

Hours of Operation for Berlin's S-Bahn

The S-Bahn runs from 4:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. on weekdays. It is open 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays. Trains run every 10 minutes during peak hours, and every 10 to 20 minutes outside of those hours, and every 30 minutes at night.





How to Ride Berlin's Buses

Berlin's buses extend the city's already extensive network even further. Berlin buses, despite being a slower means of transportation, help to reduce walking in this sprawling metropolis. They can also be a terrific way to see the city because many of them pass by famous landmarks and offer spectacular vistas from their double-decker levels. Buses are more widespread in former West Berlin, since earlier tram lines were "modernized" by ripping them out.

A circular sign with a green "H" marks bus stops. They frequently have a small shelter and an electronic sign that displays arrival information, as well as regularly posted schedules and routes. Tickets can be purchased via S- or U-Bahn ticket machines, BVG ticket booths, or directly from bus drivers. If your ticket isn't dated, stamp it.

If you like to enjoy the nightlife, it is important to remember that NightBuses take over when other modes of transport shut-down. They are marked by the letter N and depart every 30 minutes. There are more than 350 routes and over 2,634 bus stops to get you home safely.

How to Ride Berlin's Trams

Trams run at street level, mostly in old East Berlin, and wind their way through the city. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the train's ticket machines. MetroNetz, denoted by a "M," provide a higher frequency of service (approximately every 10 minutes) and are available 24 hours a day. Trams run every 30 minutes at night.

Tickets on Berlin's Public Transport



Ticket machines are available on U & S-Bahn platforms, can be purchased in small shops with a "BVG" sign, buses, or with the [BVG app](#). (Tickets from the app should be purchased before boarding transport.)

You must be in possession of a valid ticket on public transport and it's largely on the honor system. However, you need to show a ticket when entering buses and when ticket controllers — both uniformed and plain clothes — ask to see your ticket by saying "Fahrscheine, bitte" (Ticket, please). If caught without a ticket, you are subject to a 60 euro fine and controllers are infamously unsympathetic.

Other Berlin Ticket Options:

- **Berlin Welcome Card:** This tourist ticket offers access to transport and discounts on attractions from 48 hours to 6 days.
- **Tageskarte:** Day passes for 7 euros (AB zone) are available for unlimited travel from time of purchase until 3:00 a.m. the next day. Up to three children (6 to 14) are included in the ticket.
- **Wochenkarte:** There are weekly (34 euros) and Monatskarte (monthly) tickets (84 euros). A major advantage for these tickets are they allow you to take 1 adult and 3 children under 15 with you after 8 p.m. Monday-Friday and all day on weekends.
- **10-Uhr-Karte:** An alternative to the regular monthly ticket is the 10 a.m. ticket. It costs 61 euros and allows for unlimited travel after 10 a.m. Note that you cannot take additional passengers with you.
- **Kurzstrecke:** For three (or less) stops on S-Bahn or U-Bahns, or six stops on buses and trams with no transfers, buy a short trip ticket for 1.90 euros.
- **Fahrradkarte:** You can take your bike on S-Bahn, U-Bahn or tram (not bus) but you must buy a ticket for 1.90 euros.



Ferries

Berlin is the land of lakes and there are several ferries included in public transport marked with an F.



Biking:

One of the best ways to travel around this exceptionally flat city. Second-hand bikes are inexpensive, although you should also get a receipt as bike theft is rampant. If you need a bike briefly, use one of the many bike-sharing programs. Helmets are not required and bike lanes are plentiful.



Taxis/Ubers

Taxis and Uber apps are available throughout the city at taxi stands, airport and train stations or by reserving ahead. Taxis are cream with a "TAXI" roof sign. A Kurzstrecke options allows for short trips of up to two kilometers at a flat rate of six euros, while longer journeys are two euros per kilometer (up to seven kilometers, or 1.50 euros per km after that). Download uber or lyft to get around safely, as well!



Car Rentals

Renting a car is not recommended for travel within Berlin, but can be helpful if traveling around the country and sampling the world famous Autobahn. Refer to our full guide on car rentals in Germany.

CURRENCY & TIPPING



Payments are made in Euros in Berlin, as they are throughout Germany. Because of the European currency, travelers from most EU nations can use their local money without issue. Others can exchange money for Euros or withdraw cash from cash machines at any of the city's numerous currency exchanges and banks.

If you're considering a trip to Germany's capital city, you might be thinking about tipping customs. Unlike many European cities, where tipping is almost non-existent, Berlin has a strong tipping culture. Locals and visitors are observed tipping, but only if the service is deserving; it is not required.



1 United States Dollar equals

0.88 Euro

Jan 24, 2:13 AM UTC · Disclaimer

1

United States Dollar

0.88

Euro



In Berlin, it is customary to round up to the next Euro or two, but for exceptional service, you can add between 5% and 10% to your total. Take a close look at the bill because service is occasionally included, so you'll only want to tip extra if the service was absolutely great. When tipping at a classy restaurant with good service, a standard sum is ten percent.

Important: Berliners prefer to pay with cash whether they are shopping, eating in a restaurant, or going to a club. Debit and major credit cards (American Express, Visa, Mastercard) are frequently accepted, however smaller shops and cafés may only accept cash. As a result, travelers should keep some euro notes and coins on hand at all times.

WHAT TO DO IN BERLIN



When the Federal Government was relocated to Berlin, it was time to rouse the Reichstag building from its lengthy slumber on the Mauerstreifen, the military zone that separated the two sides of the Wall. The Reichstag has now been extensively modernized, and tourists can now stare out from the building's glass dome for a bird's eye perspective of the city's hustle and bustle. It is now known for its state power and welcomes worldly prominence for years. It is the meeting place for the federal assembly and is a sight to behold.



The Brandenburg Gate is without a doubt Berlin's most iconic historical landmark (Brandenburger Tor). It was once a sign of a divided nation, but it is now a symbol of peace and unity. In 1788, King Frederick Wilhelm II commissioned this massive Neoclassical gate, which was inspired by the Propylaea on the Acropolis of Athens. The 26-meter-tall sandstone monument is on Pariser Platz in Berlin's Mitte neighborhood, just a block from the Reichstag building.

Its physical and symbolic status as a barred gate along the Berlin Wall made it a popular site for West Berliner rallies during the Cold War. It's well known as the site of US President Ronald Reagan's 1987 appeal to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to demolish the Berlin Wall.

It was also the site of a moving gesture in 1999, when political leaders from a number of countries — including Angela Merkel of Germany, Mikhail Gorbachev of Russia, and Lech Walesa of Poland — went through the gate together to commemorate the tearing down of the Berlin Wall ten years before. Seeing the Brandenburg Gate at night is a unique experience and probably one of Berlin's best free activities.





Museum Island

SSpree Island, also known as Museum Island (Museumsinsel), is one of the city's most important UNESCO World Heritage Sites, sandwiched between the River Spree and the Kupfergraben in a 400-meter-long canal. The Old Museum (Altes Museum), erected in 1830 to hold the Crown Jewels and other royal artifacts, is one of the city's oldest and most prominent museums. The New Museum (Neues Museum) was reconstructed and reopened in 2009 after being damaged during WWII. It houses the Egyptian Museum's, the Papyrus Collection's, and the Collection of Classical Antiquities' large collections.

The Old National Gallery (Alte Nationalgalerie) was founded in 1876 and houses a collection of Neoclassical sculpture and paintings from 1815 to 1848, as well as Impressionist and early Modernist works. The Bode Museum has a Byzantine art collection as well as a major sculpture collection dating from the Middle Ages to the late 1800s. The Pergamon is the city's most popular museum, with a Museum of Islamic Art, the Ishtar Gate, and restored old Middle Eastern structures. The Humboldt Forum, Berlin's newest museum, opens in 2019 and contains the Ethnological Museum and the Museum of Asian Art.



Berlin Wall Memorial

During the Cold War, the German Democratic Republic built the Berlin Wall in 1961 to separate Western Germany from the rest of Germany and prohibit emigration. Between 1961 and 1989, over 100,000 people attempted to scale the wall. Nearly 200 individuals were killed in the attack. The Berlin Wall Memorial (Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer) has a piece of the wall that has been preserved. This is a very moving attraction and houses the Topography of Terror that outlines the Nazi rise to power.



Checkpoint Charlie

A trip to the crossing site between East and West Berlin is only a block away from the Berlin Wall Memorial. During the Cold War, the place was dubbed Checkpoint Charlie by Western allies, and you may take a photo at the site where the Berlin Crisis nearly resulted in a nuclear war. Checkpoint Charlie was not only an important Cold War site, but also witnessed numerous attempts to escape from East Berlin. An open air exhibition on the corner of Schützenstraße and Zimmerstraße tells the story of those that failed and those that succeeded. An installation by the artist Frank Thiel and a commemorative plate also mark the memorial.



Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

In the heart of Berlin, there is a Holocaust memorial dedicated to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The memorial is made up of around 2,700 concrete slabs, some of which are over 15 feet tall! As it is also the Central Holocaust Memorial in Germany, various walking and bus excursions will travel by this place. Make sure you complete the free tour of the Memorial to Europe's Murdered Jews at the adjoining park.



Mauerpark

If you find yourself in the city on a Sunday, you must make your way over to Mauerpark for the flea market! There, you'll find several tents selling local goods. You can find anything here like: local delicacies, hand-made clothing, bikes, and even furniture. In addition to shopping, you can also relax in their outdoor Ampitheater listening to Karaoke (yes, I know what I said).



Berlin Television Tower

What once stood as a symbol of Communist power, now holds the record for tallest structure in Germany. The Berlin Television tower (or the Berliner Fernsehturm or Fernsehturm Berlin or Fernmeldeturm 32) is now an observational tower with a rotating bar and restaurant. The Berlin Television Tower sees roughly 1,000,000 visitors a year and now represents the power and unification of Berlin.



Tiergarten

The Tiergarten is a vast open-air garden in the middle of Berlin's urban environment. Monuments and statues may be found all throughout this former hunting ground. The pedestrian tunnels may be explored, a picnic can be had, and the Victory Column can be visited. The Victory Column, often known as the "Big Star," was erected in 1873 and moved to the Tiergarten by the Nazis in 1938. The Column was erected to commemorate Prussia's victory in the 1864 Prusso-Danish Wars.

The Jewish Museum Berlin

The Jewish Museum of Berlin, which opened in 2001, is Europe's largest Jewish museum. Inside, you may see the documented history of Jews in Germany, as well as antiquities dating back to the Middle Ages. It is one of Germany's most popular museums, with about 700,000 visitors each year. It is very emotional and thought-provoking. Understand that you will experience these things and it will be heavy on your soul so plan your day accordingly.

Berlin Zoological Garden

If I didn't mention the Zoo, this list would be incomplete! The Berlin Zoological Garden is Germany's oldest and most well-preserved zoo. The Tiergarten Zoo in Berlin is home to more than 1,300 different species and over 20,000 animals. The Berlin Zoological Garden is thought to have the world's greatest collection of species. The Zoo of Berlin is also the most popular zoo in the world, with over 3 million visitors per year. Expect to stroll a lot and take in the live feedings:)



TRADITIONAL FOOD & DRINK

Currywurst



So damn popular it even has its' own museum! Originating in 1949, the Currywurst is a sausage (usually made with pork) topped with Chillup. Chillup is quite literally ketchup and curry mixed. This dish is usually served with fries.

Spätzle



Although this dish dates back to the 18th century, the "Swabian Speciality" is still a very popular dish in Berlin. A Spätzle can vary in size and shape, but traditionally resembles little sparrows. The Spätzle is a handmade dough that is cooked in boiled water (think of cute little pasta pieces).

Schnitzel



Although versions of a Schnitzel can be found all around the world, in Berlin, expect a fried cutlet of veal, pork, chicken, or steak.



Bockwurst

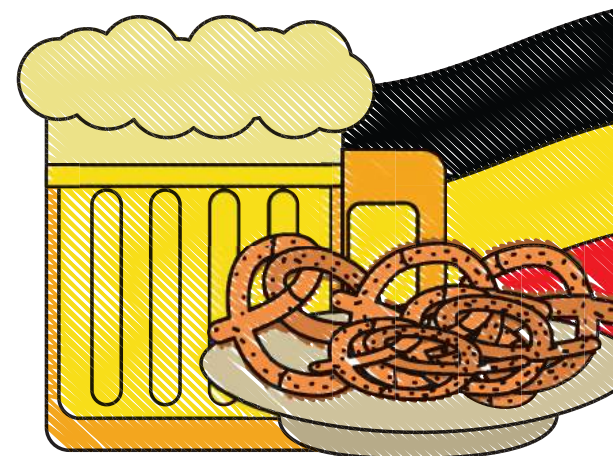


Invented in 1889 by a local Berliner, a Bockwurst is a sausage containing a mashup of meats "traditionally stuffed" with veal and pork. Don't be surprised if you find it smoked!

Bier



Now I know technically this isn't a food, but Berlin is home to some of the oldest breweries in the world! You'll find all sorts of beer on every corner! Stay tuned for my Munich City Series eBook when I talk about Oktoberfest!



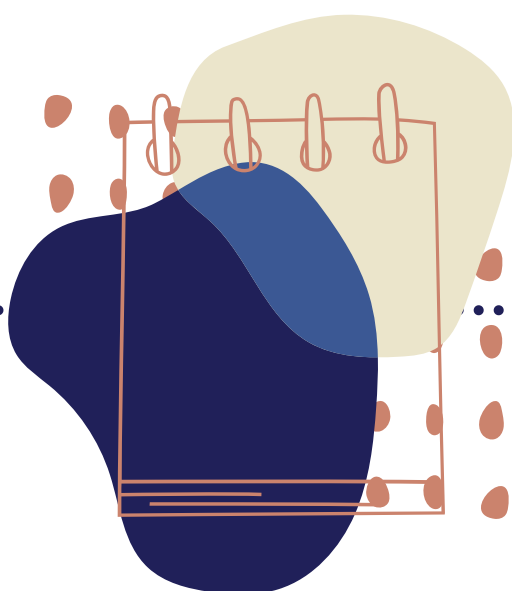
Journal Entry

September 3, 2020

Our entrance into Berlin was a bit bumpy. After a 7 hour commute from Copenhagen, we were absolutely exhausted. However, we were ready to pull off another adventure in a new city with so much to see and eat and drink and experience. We left the train station and got denied a taxi ride because our hotel was so only 1.4 miles away, but it was certainly a hike since my best friend, Kayla, and I had these dual-style rolling bags and the sidewalks were very bumpy. My back, shoulders and legs took a beating but it was another reminder to PACK LIGHT.

Our hotel was smaller than we imagined, but we left to try some traditional German food. We ate at a restaurant called Maximilians and I had meatballs, mashed potatoes, and carrots. It was delicious! For the table, we shared pretzels, bread, and a lovely charcuterie board with German sausages. We tried craft beer and relaxed, taking in the air of a new city.

We made it a tradition to go to the supermarket next to our hotel and grab any necessary items that we needed. We got back to our hotel, did laundry in the sink, strung it up and let them hang to dry. The amount of clothes that we had lined in our bedroom actually created rooms as two clothes lines spanned over the entire room. We had to duck under it to see each other or even leave the room.



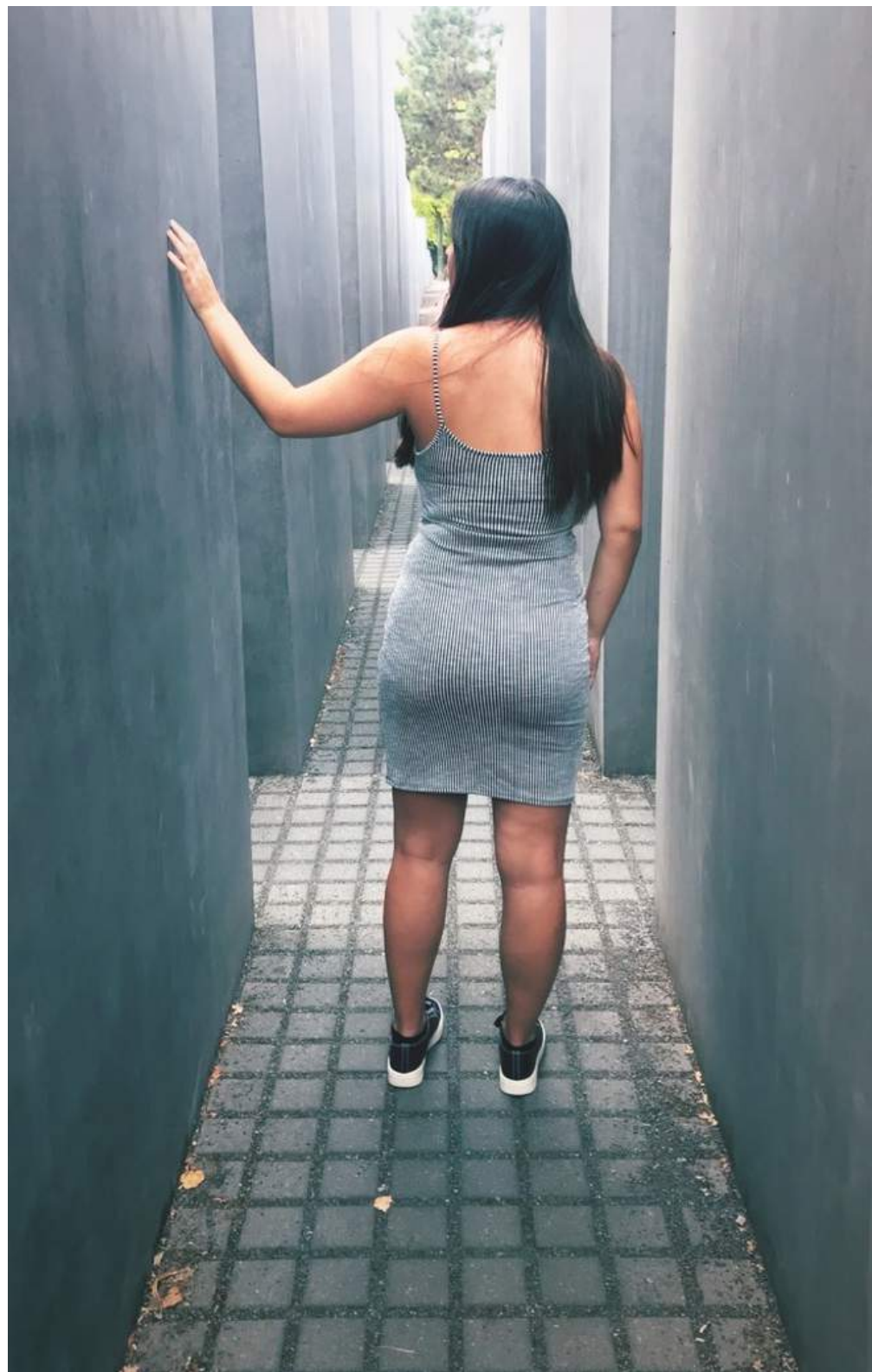
September 4, 2020

We woke up and made our way to breakfast using Yelp, which we lovingly called, "Yelp Daddy," to a cute artsy coffee and tea shop called, Vintage Steel Bikes. On the way we passed a seemingly pedestrian parking lot with a random informational sign and a big group of people, immediately indicating it had to be some sort of landmark. When we fully investigated, we realized it actually was the old, destroyed bunker that Hitler frequented. It was the first time I felt very eerie and uncomfortable in Berlin as the history of this part of the world started to weigh heavy. It was an incredibly historic spot that was now... just a parking lot.



After I enjoyed a bit of breakfast and drank some honey tea as my through started to feel a bit scratchy, we continued to make our way around the city. It seemed like we never really had a plan. I just came to each city with a list of things that I wanted to see and we would go see them whenever it it felt right. We were very "go-with-the-flow."

We came upon the incredibly emotional Memorial of the Murdered Jews of Europe and it was quite somber. At first glance, it seemed very simple and bare, but after really trying understand the artistical significance to this piece, it became clear. There were 2,711 cement blocks that took over a huge square park that started around waist high. As you walk in a straight line towards another end of the Memorial, the cement blocks rose higher, and higher... and higher -all the way up to around 10 ft. When you are on the outside of the Memorial, the optical illusion of the floor would lead you to believe there are just a ton of cement blocks with nothing different about them, but when you started getting deeper, so did the impact.



Before you know it, you are surrounded by these blocks. My interpretation is the gradual increase in height throughout the Memorial represents the chronological timing of the Nazi impact on Jewish people throughout World War II and how significant the death toll rose. On the outside looking in, people wonder how it got to the point that it did because it was hard to understand the gravity of it all, but while on the inside, it is clear as day how much harm was caused.

We continued through the Tiergarten and noticed some statues that had been patched after the bombings in WW II. It truly started sinking in how you can learn about these conflicts in your high school history classes, but it becomes real when you are staring history's consequences in the face. As you continue on the outskirts of the Tiergarten, you come across one of the strongest and most impactful scenes in Germany - the Brandenburg Gate, emboldening the city with its might. Napoleon and his troops marched proudly through this gate, along with so many more figureheads during transitional times in this country.

Along the city line, stands the Reichstag proudly waving its German flag and upon closer inspection, the intricate beauty of its architecture began to speak for itself. Although a beautiful tourist attraction, we decided not to enter to save time for more exploring. We continued on to see the Soviet War Memorial and it was a grand sight.

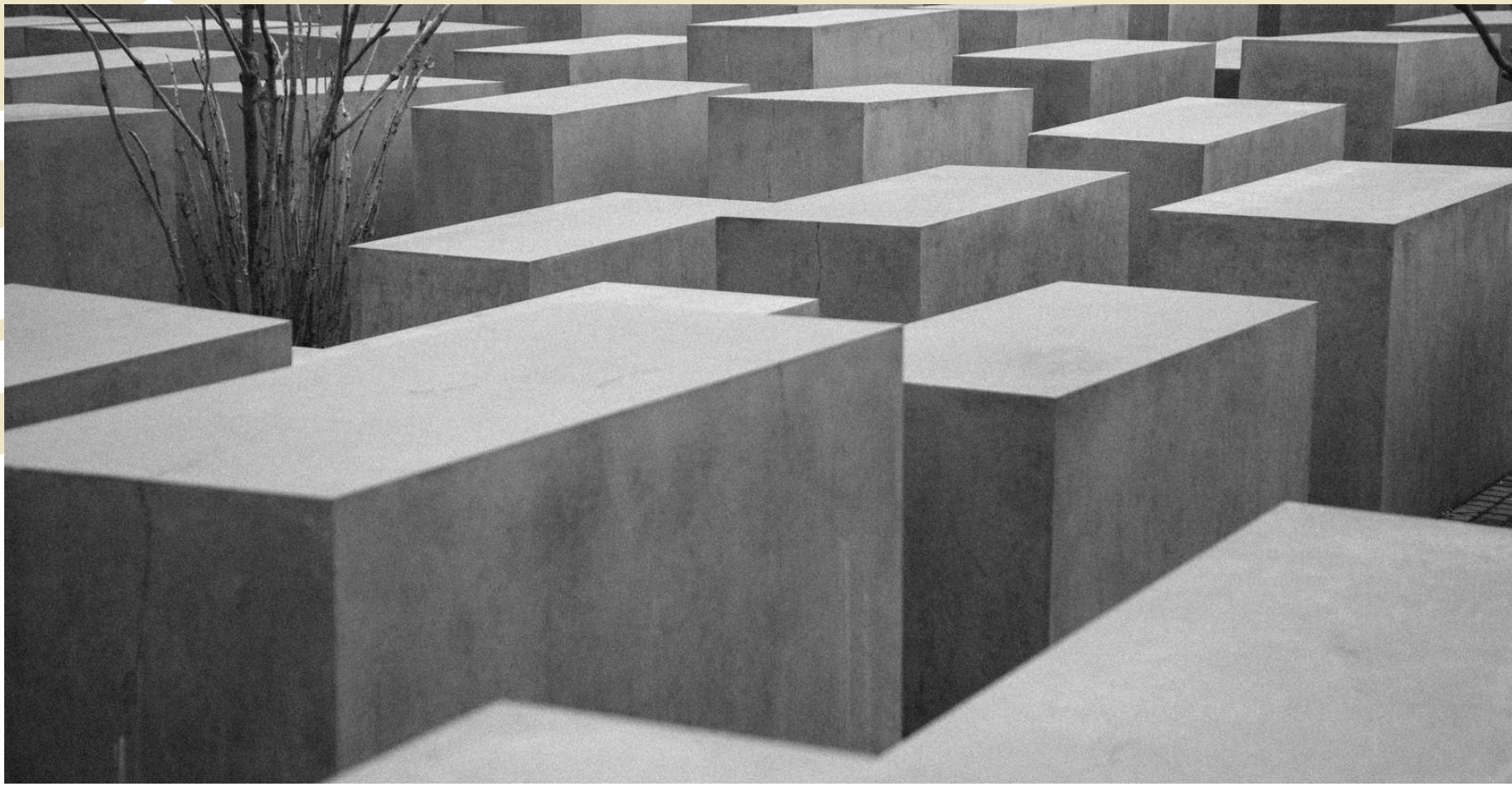
I have to admit - I had a moment of unsettling patriotism as a proud military descendant staring at statues on a land that less than a century ago, was up in arms with my home country. Not to mention, the horrors that were faced at the hands of some of the memorialized people in front of me. It was a humbling moment for me to understand and realize that I am on foreign soil, I am a visitor, and I should be respectful to their heritage- although I may have felt uncomfortable, I was there to learn and experience a different way of life. Shake it off and acknowledge those feelings as valid and biased.

We went back into the Tiergarten to find a lighter atmosphere and found statues that commemorated Beethoven and Mozart which I thought was a beautiful tribute in a stunning location. I opened my Apple Music on my iPhone and played some of their classics. We then boarded the S Train to enjoy a few outer areas of the city's edge. Stopping in for beers along the way, later finding out this was actually Friedrichshain. It was definitely a bit rough on the eyes at first, but the quaintness really shown through.

We ate sushi and got some great recommendations from our waitress who actually studied in Colorado! She gave us a fair warning that the bar she suggested we go to was not for the faint of heart. The bar was called Clash and it was very unique to say the least. To put it simply, it was an anti-fascist punk bar. The walls were covered in rock bands and posters everywhere that said, "Down with the Nazis." It was a crazy scene to walk into. Imagine - three Americans walking into a random alley bar in Berlin where the entire scene is goth, grunge, and anti-fascist. It was one of those moments that will forever stay with you. It was a good feeling though! It felt like the vibes were high and the energy represented justice.

A man named Pierre came up and asked if he could trade shots for stories so we could exchange conversation as he said it was very clear we were not locals. He was a very interesting man, completely fluent in English. We talked for hours about political positions, ideas, Trump's administration, and much more. We drank, ate, and enjoyed such starkly different company from our norm and I truly felt like I was getting to know the city. We took the very easy-to-navigate, Nightbus and made our way home.







HELPFUL LINKS

[Museum Island](#)

[Reichstag](#)

[Berlin Welcome Card](#)

[Hostels.com](#)

[Booking.com](#)

[Berlin Zoo](#)

[Jewish Museum](#)

[Berlin Television Tower](#)