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KINDL CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Galleries

Make a Call: +49308321591216

Visit Website: <http://www.kindl-berlin.com/>

Get Directions: Am Sudhaus 3, 12053 Berlin, Germany

Am Sudhaus 3 | Neukölln

Wednesday to Sunday from 12noon to 6pm

The KINDL Center for Contemporary Art has opened its doors at the end of 2016 to be amongst Berlin's experimental art spaces. Housed in an old brewery, with large brewing vats still part of the decor, the ample space is set to host one-of-a-kind exhibitions. With a cute café and a massive structure to awe and inspire, this is yet another of those must-see places for art-lovers in Berlin.

HOTEL ODERBERGER

CATEGORIES: Boutique, Hotels, Keep Fit, Spas

Make a Call: +4930780089760

Visit Website: <http://www.hotel-oderberger.berlin/?lang=en>

Get Directions: Oderberger Str. 57, 10435 Berlin, Germany

Oderbergerstrasse 57 | Prenzlauer Berg

The Hotel Oderberger is not only a beautifully appointed hotel in Prenzlauer Berg but also a magnet for swimmers as it has one of the most stunning pools in Berlin. I did not find any picture I could actually use to show the pool, but it is well worth paying the 6 euros for the privilege of being able to swim for two hours. Let me not forget to mention that the rooms are very comfortable and there is a bar and restaurant also worth passing by Oderbergerstrasse.

BERLIN FOOD STORIES

CATEGORIES: Eating, Insider Info, Social Media

Visit Website: <http://berlinfoodstories.com/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

[Berlin Food Stories](#) is one of the most reliable and independent sources of information when it comes to Berlin's food scene.

Per Meurling, the man behind the site, has been eating his way around the city since 2012 and knows how to write a good review. As an excellent and ethic critic, he visits restaurants unannounced, pays for his meals and only after visiting the place a few times will he talk to the owners for a profile. Berlin Food Stories makes your mouth water and highlights the diverse food scene in the German capital. If you want more, book one of Per's [Food Tours](#) so he can personally show you around and have a look at the Calendar on the website to see where and when there will be culinary events while you are in Berlin. Guten appetit!

FIVE ELEPHANT

CATEGORIES: Coffee & Sweets

Visit Website: <https://www.fiveelephant.com/>

Get Directions: Alte Schönhauser Str. 14, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Alte Schönhauser Strasse 14 | Mitte

Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm

Saturday from 10am to 8pm

Sunday from 10am to 5pm

Five Elephant Coffee has been in Kreuzberg for quite a while, brewing perfect espressos for the caffeine-addicted Berliners. Their new coffee shop in Mitte, on the trendy Alte Schönhauser Strasse makes it easier to get to know the brand and enjoy their coffee and cakes.

MONOCLE BERLIN GUIDE

CATEGORIES: Guides & Books, Insider Info

Visit Website: <https://monocle.com/travel/berlin/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

The superb collection of [Monocle travel guides](#) edited by the team behind the media brand is growing and Berlin is now on the list. The Monocle Berlin guide lists hotels, restaurants, shops and museums with essays and short stories to give you a better understanding of the city. One of the best travel companions for your Berlin days.

THE TREE

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Eating

Make a Call: +493067961848

Visit Website: <https://www.instagram.com/thetree.berlin/>

Get Directions: Brunnenstraße 167, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Brunnenstrasse 167 | Mitte | Asian

Monday to Friday from 12noon to 3pm and from 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Saturday closed

Sunday from 1pm to 9:30pm

The Tree restaurant has a very inconspicuous entrance. Once you walk in you will feel like having stepped into a garden or an actual tree, with branches, leaves and birds chirping away. The food is simple yet very inventive Chinese, focused on noodles, made in-house.

BUCK & BRECK

CATEGORIES: Cocktail Bars, Drinking

Visit Website: <http://www.buckandbreck.com/>

Get Directions: Brunnenstraße 177, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Brunnenstrasse 177 | Prenzlauer Berg

Daily from 8pm (from 7pm during Summer)

Yes, Buck & Breck is a great bar tucked into a small entrance by Doris Bistro. There is room for 14 patrons at the cozy bar and you may think the place is closed as you pass by. But do not be distraught, open the door and go in. Recommended by my friend [Tom Lisboa](#).

BAR SAINT JEAN

CATEGORIES: Cocktail Bars, Drinking

Visit Website: <https://www.facebook.com/barsaintjean/>

Get Directions: Steinstraße 21, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Steinstrasse 21 | Mitte

Tuesday to Thursday from 7pm to 2am

Friday and Saturday from 9pm to 3am

Sunday from 7pm to 2am

Berlin's gay scene is very varied and not concentrated in any one area. The Bar Saint Jean in Mitte is a lively small place, with great drinks and music and a good looking young crowd. The owner, Johann, from France, has brought a bit of French spirit to Berlin. Easy and relaxed. Recommended by my friend [Tom Lisboa](#).

JEWISH MUSEUM

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Museums

Make a Call: +493025993300

Visit Website: <http://www.jmberlin.de/main/EN/homepage-EN.php>

Get Directions: Lindenstraße 9, 10969 Berlin, Germany

Lindenstrasse 9-14 | Kreuzberg

Monday from 10am to 10pm

Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 8pm

The Jewish Museum in Kreuzberg is a collection of buildings with permanent and temporary exhibitions celebrating Jewish culture and, more importantly, remembering the Holocaust and its implications for the Jews and Germany. The traditional entrance building stands in contrast to the Daniel Libeskind structure in the shape of a destroyed David Cross. Some parts of the museum elicit quite strong emotions such as the entrance to the Holocaust Tower.

TADSHIKISCHE TEESTUBE

CATEGORIES: Coffee & Sweets

Make a Call: +49302041112

Visit Website: <http://www.tadshikische-teestube.de/>

Get Directions: Oranienburger Str. 27, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Oranienburgerstrasse 27 | Mitte | Tearoom and culture center

Monday to Friday from 4pm to 11pm

Saturday and Sunday from 12noon

How many times have you heard of Tadjikistan? The former Soviet Republic was part of the Silk Route and for centuries trade caravans have passed through its roads. The Tadjik Tearoom is not only a nice place to have tea and delicacies from the exotic country but it also a place to learn more about its history and culture. In some evenings there are music presentations and story-telling sessions. Recommended by my friend [Tom Lisboa](#).

HOUSE OF WEEKEND

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music, Drinking, Party places

Make a Call: +4915224293140

Visit Website: <http://www.houseofweekend.berlin/>

Get Directions: Alexanderstraße 7, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Alexanderstrasse 7 | Mitte

Rooftop daily from 7pm (in Summer)

Dancefloor daily from 11pm (check website to see which party is being hosted)

House of Weekend is not a new venue but does not seem to go away from most people's list of favorites drinking and dancing hangouts in Berlin. The rooftop view, at sunset, is second-to-none, with the panoramic sight of Alexanderplatz, the Fernsehturm and the rest of the iconic Berlin's skyline. It is a lively place to go for a drink and warm up for when the dancefloor opens underneath. There are parties almost every day and the dancing goes undisturbed for hours. It is a place to enjoy the sunset and the sunrise in one single unforgettable night out. Recommended by my friend [Tom Lisboa](#).

CHUTNIFY

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Eating

Make a Call: +493025893100

Visit Website: <http://www.chutnify.com/>

Get Directions: Pflügerstraße 25, 12047 Berlin, Germany

Pflügerstrasse 25 | Neukölln | Indian with the older branch in Prenzlauer Berg

Tuesday to Sunday from 11am to 11pm

Chutnify is by no means a new restaurant since it has been operating with huge acclaim in Sredzkistrasse 43 in Prenzlauer Berg for quite a while. But the venue in burgeoning Neukölln is rather new and shows the success of the South Indian recipes. On hot days, start with a glass of Nimbu Pani, the lime scented water, before heading to the food, which is served in three levels of spices. Very nice place, colorful, as if you had stepped into a gate to India. If you enjoy new tastes and spices, please

try it out!

BRLO BRWHOUSE

CATEGORIES: Drinking, Party places

Visit Website: <http://www.brlo.de/en/>

Get Directions: U Gleisdreieck (Berlin), 10963 Berlin, Germany

Schöneberger Strasse 16 | Gleisdreieck | Kreuzberg

Tuesday to Friday from 5pm to 12midnight

Saturday and Sunday from 12noon to 12midnight

BRLO brews great beer with a Berlin twist and you can find their bottles in many Berlin restaurants and shops. They have set up their own beer hall at Park am Gleisdreieck with several containers, making it a very cool place. You can sample their home-brewed beers and international labels either on tap or bottled.

BOCCI 79

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Galleries, Home & Design, Shopping

Visit Website: <http://bocci.ca/79/>

Get Directions: Kantstraße 79, 10627 Berlin, Germany

Kantstrasse 79 | Charlottenburg

Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 7pm

Bocci is a Vancouver-based design company focusing on light and furniture. Their creations can be found in hotels, restaurants and office spaces the world over. Here in Berlin Omer Arbel, the creative director, had free reign to show his installations and classic pieces of the company in a beautiful setting that feels like going to a contemporary art gallery. It is a showroom and archive for the brand.

Know more about Bocci with this [interview with Omer Arbel](#)

ORA

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Cocktail Bars, Drinking, Eating

Visit Website: <https://www.facebook.com/oraberlin/>

Get Directions: Oranienpl. 14, 10999 Berlin, Germany

Oranienplatz 14 | Kreuzberg

Daily from 9:30am to 1am

A beautifully restored old pharmacy is now Ora, a delicious joint open from breakfast to late night drinks in the heart of Kreuzberg. Not only beautiful is Ora, but its coffee, sandwiches, special dishes and drinks are made to taste delicious and look awesome. It is where the coolest of the cool Berliners meet. Recommended by my friend [Fernanda Viana Dias](#).

HUMBOLDT FORUM

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, City Areas, Exhibitions & Fairs, Sights

Make a Call: +493031805720

Visit Website: <http://www.humboldtforum.com/en>

Get Directions: Unter den Linden 3, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Museumsinsel | Mitte

Believe it or not, the city of Berlin is rebuilding a Prussian castle in full detail right in the middle of the city. The Schloss was partly destroyed during the Second World War and later razed to the ground by Communist East Germany to give place to one of the ugliest buildings Berlin ever had. Thanks to reunification and good taste, the asbestos infested Palast der Republik was razed and to fill the void left by it, one of Europe's largest cultural centers is being erected in its place. Nobody knows for sure what will the Humboldt Forum house, but the controversial construction site is there and soon a new old palace will emerge in the heart of Berlin.

BERLIN: IMAGINE A CITY

CATEGORIES: Guides & Books, Insider Info

Visit Website: <http://rorymaclean.com/books/berlin/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

"Berlin: imagine a city", written by Rory MacLean, is one of the nicest books about the history of the city. Easy to read and full of insights on how Berlin came to be Berlin, the book will help you better understand the city and look at sights, monuments and little corners with a different perspective.

Read the review on [The Guardian](#)

Read the review on [The Telegraph](#)

A KIND OF GUISE

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Shopping

Make a Call: +493028091725

Visit Website: <https://akindofguise.com/>

Get Directions: Mulackstraße 23, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Mulackstrasse 23 | Mitte

Monday to Friday from 12noon to 7pm

Saturday from 12noon to 6pm

AKOG, the acronym for A Kind of Guise is a "Made in Germany" brand that proves Deutschland's industry is not just made of cars, electric parts, heavy machinery and panzers. With very stylish yet trendy men's and women's wear, the brand has selected highly skilled manufactures in the land to produce with the best materials clothes Germans can wear with pride and style.

SCHÖNEBERG & CHARLOTTENBURG

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Neighborhoods**Get Directions:** Schöneberg, Berlin, Germany

Both are rather wealthy neighborhoods with a local feel because they have not changed as much as the East since reunification. Charlottenburg is more lively due to its commercial areas of Kurfürstendamm, or simply KuDamm, Fasanenstrasse and Savignyplatz. The [Schloss Charlottenburg](#) is a must see. Schöneberg feels more residential and was the chosen area of Marlene Dietrich and David Bowie. [bellevuehealthcare.com](#) Many gay bars are concentrated here, but cater to a mostly middle age demographic. Potsdamerstrasse is becoming a fashion hub.

Image by tichra |Shutterstock

PAULY SAAL

CATEGORIES: Drinking, Eating, Fine Dining, In Restaurants or Hotels**Make a Call:** +493033006070**Visit Website:** <http://paulysaal.com/en/>**Get Directions:** Auguststraße 11, 10117 Berlin, Germany*Auguststrasse 11-13 | Mitte | Contemporary German***Lunch***Tuesday to Saturday from 12noon to 2:30pm***Dinner***Tuesday to Saturday 6pm to 10pm**Bar opens daily from 6pm till late*

Pauly Saal is for a special occasion, even if this special occasion is just a special moment with a special meal on any given day. The main dining room is beautiful. The garden is a good choice for summer days and the bar makes you feel at home (a very nice home, needless to say). On the expensive side, the menu focuses on few but very well prepared dishes and you can choose how many courses you would like. One of my Berlin gems.

DÓTTIR

CATEGORIES: Eating, Fine Dining**Make a Call:** +4930330060760**Visit Website:** <http://www.dottirberlin.com/>**Get Directions:** Mittelstraße 40, 10117 Berlin, Germany*Mittelstrasse 40 | Mitte | Scandinavian**Tuesday to Saturday from 6pm to 11:30pm*

Iceland is trendy and Dóttir is a new representative of the island's culture in Berlin. The star-chef Victoria Eliassdóttir, the half-sister of superstar artist Olafur Eliasson, cooks beautifully presented dishes. The focus is on local ingredients and simplicity, the main focus being the food on the plate. Great for fish lovers who don't mind a short menu and are open to eating a bit of everything. Moreover, the restaurant, bar and ambiance are of extremely good taste. Book in advance.

BERLIN BY FERNANDA VIANA DIAS

CATEGORIES: Friends in Town

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

I am from Curitiba, Brazil, and Berlin, to me, means freedom in its purest form. I have lived here since 2012 and still totally I am completely in love with the city. In the capital of Germany I can do the things I love, I can have a cool, simple, unpretentious lifestyle and I feel safe – no matter what time of the day it is.

There are lots of amazing free music concerts throughout the year – even during (my lunchtime!) in Winter. My next attendance (I'm looking forward to it) will be at the [Berliner Philharmoniker](#).

I love to dance. Berlin is the capital of techno and (how very lucky!) I am a techno fan. No big surprise that [Berghain](#) is, of course, my favorite club. Although, I must say, that my favorite beach club will always be [Warung](#) in Southern Brazil.

Happy-hours: During Summer, Spring, Fall and on weekdays I like to go to [Club der Visionäre](#) – usually after work. It's where I catch up with friends and where I listen to good electronic music. It's a small venue that has two bars and a – little, but charming – dance floor by the canal in Kreuzberg. For good wine and tasty drinks I go to [ORA](#), an old pharmacy converted into a bar in Oranienplatz.

In Berlin you can enjoy nature and still be at Europe's hot-spot. During Summer I love to go for a swim by bike or by train in the lakes nearby. Liepnitzsee is one of my dearests.

Berlin is a beating heart.

Berlin is anarchy, Berlin is living History.

Another interesting tour – where I've already been twice – is the [Sammlung-Boros Bunker](#).

Another idea to discover some of Berlin's unique history is a tour to Teufelsberg.

Berlin is art.

I live in Mitte and whenever I have the chance I go for a walk along Auguststraße to see what's new in the many art galleries near my home. When it comes to bigger exhibitions I always check the [Hamburger Bahnhof](#) or the [Martin-Gropius-Bau](#) –, especially for Contemporary Art.

In multicultural Berlin you can eat incredible food from around the world and – what's best – for very reasonable and inviting prices.

My Lieblingsrestaurants are:

[Mädchenitaliener](#) – Divine Italian food.

[Dudu](#) – Delicious minimalist Japanese fusion cuisine. My tip is "Sushi for Two" – you can taste an interesting mix of the house's specialties, for two people.

[Altberliner](#) – Wonderful German food in a sweet location, the Arkonaplatz.

For a quick and lovely breakfast I usually go to [Oliv Cafe](#), in Mitte.

A must see in every Spring... The cherry blossoms at the ['Japanischer Garten' in the Erholungspark-Marzahn](#)...

I feel inspired.

When the sun comes up and when the sun goes down (and if I'm not working) you can find me at the [Volkspark am Weinberg](#), happily enjoying Berlin's blue skies and having an ice-cream from [Süße Sünde](#).

I am in love with movies and starting in May the Open-Air Cinemas like [Freiluftkino-Kreuzberg](#) are also on the list of my favorite programs.

Mit Liebe,

Fer

You can follow Fernanda on Instagram and enjoy her beautiful pics from Berlin during the different seasons of the year at [@fernandavd](#)

ST AGNES

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Galleries

Make a Call: +493026103080

Visit Website: <http://www.st-agnes.net/>

Get Directions: Alexandrinenstraße 118, 10969 Berlin, Germany

Alexandrinenstrasse 118-121 | Kreuzberg

Tuesday to Sunday from 11am to 6pm

This former church converted into an art gallery is a great place to see huge paintings in quiet surroundings. It is a bit off the beaten track in Kreuzberg, not too far from Checkpoint Charlie and the Jewish Museum.

25HOURS BIKINI

CATEGORIES: Hotels, Very Comfortable

Make a Call: +49301202210

Visit Website: <http://www.25hours-hotels.com/de/bikini/home/home.html>

Get Directions: Budapester Str. 40, 10787 Berlin, Germany

Budapesterstrasse 40 | Charlottenburg

[25Hours Hotels](#) is a fairly new chain with hotels in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. With very cool properties, it focuses on the urban tourist, interested in design, parties and good food. In Berlin, their first hotel is right in the new [Bikini Berlin](#), a place that has brought part of the avant-garde of East Berlin to the West side. Even if you are not staying there, go have a look. There is a nice lobby café and both [Neni](#) and [Monkey Bar](#) are on their rooftop.

ZITTY

CATEGORIES: Insider Info, Magazines

Visit Website: <http://www.zitty.de/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

Zitty is a weekly magazine covering all events happening in Berlin. It could be called Berlin's bible as you will find concerts, exhibitions, shows, movies, bars and lots of articles on the city's current issues. Yes, it is only in German. However, for the info on what to do, it is quite easy to figure out venues, timings and dates. As for the rest, I suggest you access their [website](#) and use [Google Translate](#) to navigate (or try learning German, *warum nicht?*).

Zitty also publishes many special editions throughout the year on Best Restaurants, Bicycle Tours, Lakes around Berlin and so on. You could live in Berlin and still not have enough time to do all that Zitty suggests and recommends. C'est la vie!

BAR BABETTE

CATEGORIES: Cocktail Bars, Drinking

Make a Call: +4017638388943

Visit Website: <http://www.barbabette.com/>

Get Directions: Karl-Marx-Allee 36, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Karl-Marx-Allee 36 | Mitte

Daily from 6pm onwards

Set in an incredible socialist-era glass building with rotating art exhibitions, the Bar Babette is perfect for a happy hour before

heading eastwards to Kreuzberg.

BERGHAIN

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Make a Call: +493029360210

Visit Website: <http://www.berghain.de/>

Get Directions: Am Wriezener Bahnhof, 10243 Berlin, Germany

Am Wriezener Bahnhof | Friedrichshain

The temple of techno is a destination in itself. Waiting in line for hours, getting through the strange door policy, being part of the human mass dancing the night away is one of the highlights of any trip to Berlin. Wear black, no labels, no groups, no selfies but be prepared for a night to remember. The music is amazing, the variety of people inside astonishing, just let go and you will leave transformed.

KREUZBERG

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Neighborhoods

Get Directions: Kreuzberg, Berlin, Germany

This is Berlin's happening neighborhood, where young crowds from all over the world come to have fun. The very trendy and multicultural area can be quite gritty at times, but once you get used, you start loving it. Known for its vast Turkish-descendant population (what explains the many kebab shops and Turkish supermarkets), it is quickly gentrifying. My favorite areas: Oranienstrasse, Paul-Linke-Ufer, Mariannenplatz and Arena (by the river).

ZEIT FÜR BROT

CATEGORIES: Coffee & Sweets

Make a Call: +493028046780

Visit Website: <http://www.zeitfuerbrot.com/>

Get Directions: Alte Schönhauser Str. 4, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Alte Schönhauser Strasse 4 | Mitte | Bakery

Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 8pm

Saturday from 8am to 8pm

Sunday from 8am to 6pm

Voted one of the best bakeries in Germany, this is the place to go for delicious Schneke, the snail-shaped cakes filled with apples and cinnamon. Everything they do tastes excellent and the place is nice, with the open baking area, long wooden tables on the sidewalk and a constant line of bread fanatics. The fresh cheese croissant with a large cappuccino was my staple breakfast while living in the city.

BERLIN NOW

CATEGORIES: Guides & Books, Insider Info

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

Berlin Now, by Peter Schneider, is an awesome book for those interested in knowing how the city functions, what are the themes on the Berliner's agendas, what makes the city tick. The chapters are relatively short but deal with varied topics and gives the reader a different perspective for the visit. By mixing history and current affairs, Peter Schneider will make you feel more intimate with Berlin.

You can read the book's review in the New York Times clicking [here](#).

OOOH, BERLIN!

CATEGORIES: Guides & Books, Insider Info, Social Media

Visit Website: <http://oohberlin.com/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

Oooh, Berlin! was created by two Berlin lovers, Anika Oehme and Chris Foster. They compile information on what is opening up around the city and transform all of it into beautifully appointed free maps. These maps are available around Berlin and online. Their aim is to pinpoint locations that are hip, not targeted on those boring tourist maps you get on those obvious tourist locations. It is information overload, but better too much than too little, isn't it?

POTSDAM

CATEGORIES: Out of Town

Visit Website: <http://www.potsdam-tourism.com/>

Get Directions: Potsdam, Germany

The city of Berlin is a Bundesland (a German state) in itself, much like Hamburg and Bremen. However, it sits in the middle of the Brandenburg Bundesland, therefore the area is generally referred to as Berlin-Brandenburg. The capital of Brandenburg is Potsdam, easily accessible via S-Bahn (make sure you have a travel card to zone C). The city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a sunny day, the visit to Potsdam is very nice. Best if you rent a bike at the station because all the castles and palaces are far from each other. Don't go if the weather is not nice or if you are tired.

To get there, simply take the S-Bahn. Just make sure your ticket is valid to zone C. The journey from Zoo Bahnhof takes around 30 minutes and trains depart regularly.

PIANO SALON CHRISTOPHORI

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Theatre, Concerts & More

Visit Website: <http://www.konzertfluegel.com/>

Get Directions: Uferstrasse 8 berlin

Uferstrasse 8 | Gesundbrunnen

The Piano Salon Christophori is a piano repair workshop where classical music concerts are held almost every day of the week. The owner of the place is friends with the world's top musicians, so when they come to Berlin for performances, they generally stop by his workshop for more informal events. You must book online to have a seat when you arrive. Your name will be on one of the chairs. There are free refreshments and a token of appreciation is custom before you leave. It is a great opportunity to be in a beautiful place only a few people know of.

VICTORIA

CATEGORIES: Films & Videos, Insider Info

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

One night in Berlin. The film is shot as a continuous scene, without cuts. (<http://rxreviewz.com/>) Quite an interesting story. If I were Victoria I would have gone home way before meeting those guys.

SOHO HOUSE BERLIN

CATEGORIES: Hotels, Splurge

Make a Call: +49304050440

Visit Website: <http://www.sohohouseberlin.com>

Get Directions: Torstraße 1, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Torstrasse 1 | Mitte

It can't get any cooler than staying in Mitte at the Soho House. An amazing historic building turned into an incredible place to stay. Creatives love it and the place's policies against mobile phones or selfies make it an oasis of privacy. To fully enjoy it, you must be a guest, or a member, but if you are just curious, like me, have a bite to eat at the Club Bar or the House Kitchen, serving great food and drinks all day long.

ARENA CLUB

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Make a Call: +493053320361

Visit Website: <http://www.arena.berlin/en/location/arena-club/>

Get Directions: Eichenstraße 4, 12435 Berlin, Germany

Eichenstrasse 4 | Kreuzberg

For timings, check the events page on [Arena's Facebook](#)

Arena Club, in a former boiler room near the Spree River in Kreuzberg, has a vast array of parties and events for a great night out (and days as well, as the dancing can go on for a whole weekend). It has kept the vibe of the early Berlin club culture, where techno was born, but has moved on to keep up with today's best DJs and music beats. Some of the parties held at Arena: [Dystopian](#), [Boiler Room](#), [Grounded Theory](#), [Ismus](#), [Liber Null](#) and [47](#).

After a full on night, you can soak up in a beach chair by [Badeschiff](#) to recover before heading home to sleep. Or just have a break at the pool before getting back into the club. All is possible in Berlin.

BERLINSTAGRAM

CATEGORIES: Insider Info, Social Media

Visit Website: <http://www.berlinstagram.com/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

[Michael Schulz](#) is the man behind the Instagram feed [@berlinstagram](#). A very talented photographer who now travels the world creating visual content for brands posts incredibly beautiful images from Berlin. Follow him to get to know the city from a very personal perspective on your Insta feed or check his pictures at [Berlinstagram.com](#).

THE NEEDLE

CATEGORIES: Insider Info, Social Media

Visit Website: <http://needleberlin.com/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

[The Needle](#) is an English language blog about Berlin. Written by Canadian Joseph Pearson since 2008, it has become one of the biggest online voices in the city. If you want to have a better perspective of Berlin, more than just tourist information, have a look at the blog.

SCHWUZ

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Make a Call: +493057702270

Visit Website: <http://www.schwuz.de/>

Get Directions: Rollbergstraße 26, 12053 Berlin, Germany

Rollbergstrasse 26 | Neukölln

Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11pm to early morning

Schwuz is one of the oldest gay clubs in Berlin and still a fantastic night out. Their history is legendary in promoting gay rights in the city since 1977. It has occupied a few locations across town and now you can find it at Neukölln. Check their [Facebook page](#) for an updated list of events happening every weekend and have fun! Recommended by my friend [Tom Lisboa](#).

MÖBEL OLFE

CATEGORIES: Drinking, Party places

Make a Call: +493023274690

Visit Website: <http://www.moebel-olfe.de/>

Get Directions: Kottbusser Tor, 10999 Berlin, Germany

Reichenbergerstrasse 177 am Kottbusser Tor | Kreuzberg

Tuesday to Sunday from 6pm onwards

Small and busy, Möbel Olfe is part of the traditional gay drinking and partying scene in Berlin. The entrance is at Dresdner Strasse. There are weekly events advertised on their [Facebook](#) page.

BERLIN, ICK LIEBE DIR

CATEGORIES: Insider Info, Social Media

Visit Website: http://www.instagram.com/berlin_ickliebedir/

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

“Berlin, ick liebe dir” is both an Instagram feed and an [online store](#) for Berlin lovers. I follow them on Instagram because they are always visiting nice places in the city and posting pictures with the geolocation, so you can build up a small guide just by following them.

KONK

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Shopping

Make a Call: +493028097839

Visit Website: <http://www.konk-berlin.de/>

Get Directions: Kleine Hamburger Str. 15, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Kleine Hamburger Strasse 15 | Mitte

Monday to Friday from 12noon to 7pm

Saturday from 12noon to 6pm

The concept store sells fashion, accessories and jewelry made in Berlin, by the city’s growing pool of talented designers. Buy local to support this great talent pool. Keep an eye on events held at the store to meet the in crowd rub arms with Berlin’s independent fashion world.

BADESCHIFF

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music, Drinking, Keep Fit, Party places

Make a Call: +49305332030

Visit Website: <http://www.arena.berlin/veranstaltungsort/badeschiff/>

Get Directions: Eichenstraße 4, 12435 Berlin, Germany

Eichenstrasse 4 | Kreuzberg

Daily from early till late (times vary according to the season)

Badeschiff is not just a swimming pool over the river Spree, where you can keep fit doing your laps. It is a party place where Berliners come to have a drink, soak up some sun and dance. The pool itself is open from May to September and for swimmers only, meaning, for those who want to swim laps, not just soak in the water. However, the area around the pool has

been set up as if it were a beach, with sand, beach chairs and a bar. The whole area is called [Arena](#) and if you enjoy parties and nightlife, you better check Arena's calendar of events.

HAUBENTAUCHER

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music, Drinking, Keep Fit, Party places

Visit Website: <http://haubentaucher.berlin/>

Get Directions: Revaler Str. 99, 10245 Berlin, Germany

Revalerstrasse 99 | RAW Gelände | Friedrichshain

Various opening times throughout the year. Check [Haubentaucher on Facebook](#) for updates.

A great place to have fun, much like the [Arena](#) on the Kreuzberg side of the Spree. The RAW Gelände is an old industrial area, with warehouses and free space for parties, restaurants and the Haubentaucher pool. It is slightly edgier than [Badeschiff](#). Make sure you put the area on your plans during your visit.

PRATER GARTEN

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Drinking, Eating, Party places

Make a Call: +49304485688

Visit Website: <https://www.pratergarten.de/en/>

Get Directions: Kastanienallee 7, 10435 Berlin, Germany

Kastanienallee 7-9 | Prenzlauer Berg | German-Biergarten

Restaurant

Monday to Saturday from 5pm

Sunday from 12noon

Beer Garden

Daily from 12noon (April to September, weather permitting)

The oldest and nicest Bier Garten in Berlin, with great beer, *natürlich*, and local specialties such as Wiener Schnitzel (breaded veal cutlet) and, when in season, fresh asparagus and chanterelle mushrooms. There is the restaurant indoors, where you can book a table, and the garden outside, where there is self-service and no reservations. Cash only for both. By the way, don't ride a bike if you are drunk.

THE DUDES DELIKATESSEN

CATEGORIES: Burger Joints, Eating

Make a Call: +493049081971

Visit Website: <http://www.dudesdeli.com/>

Get Directions: Schlesische Str. 19, 10997 Berlin, Germany

Schlesischestrasse 19 | Kreuzberg | Burger

Daily from 12noon until late

I put it on Burger Joints because their burger is simply amazing. However, they also serve cold cuts and cheeses, and the odd salad. Set in the middle of Berlin's party central, it is a great place to start your night, perhaps with a cold craft beer.

TOPOGRAPHY OF TERROR

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Exhibitions & Fairs

Make a Call: +493025450950

Visit Website: <http://www.topographie.de/en/>

Get Directions: Niederkirchnerstraße 8, 10963 Berlin, Germany

Niederkirchnerstrasse 8 | Kreuzberg, near [Martin-Gropius-Bau](#).

Daily, from 10am to 8pm

Free admission

All the horror of the Nazi time documented in a gruesome exhibition, that made me cry. Pictures of how Jews, gays or anyone against the regime was humiliated and how far the Nazi fever spread (Germany, Poland, Denmark, Italy...). The atmosphere is somber but well informative and worth the visit. On the outside, there is a large piece of the Berlin Wall and alongside it, another exhibit of the events that led to Hitler taking power.

In German, the place is called Topographie des Terrors. It sits on top of where the SS offices once stood. Incredible to think how so much horror could have been waged in Berlin.

BUNTE SCHOKOWELT

CATEGORIES: Gourmet & Food, Shopping

Make a Call: +493020095080

Visit Website: <http://www.ritter-sport.de/de/besuchen/berlin.html>

Get Directions: Franz. Str. 24, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Französische Strasse 24 | Mitte-near Gendarmenmarkt

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 10am to 7pm

Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10am to 8pm

Sunday from 10am to 6pm

The most iconic of German chocolate brands, Ritter Sport, has its concept store here. Colorful displays of its packagings, the new releases, chocolate fountains and a café. Germans love it. You can find the square envelopes in almost any newsstand or tobacco shop in the country, each color denotes a special flavor. So better get acquainted with the stuff. Each season there is a new release. The place is rather touristy and quite crowded at times. If you like the stuff, then go. The miniatures are delicious and you don't feel as guilty as having the whole thing.

SÜPER STORE

CATEGORIES: Gifts & Specialties, Home & Design, Shopping

Make a Call: +493098327944

Visit Website: <http://www.sueper-store.de/>

Get Directions: Dieffenbachstraße 12, 10967 Berlin, Germany

Dieffenbachstrasse 12 | Kreuzberg

Tuesday to Friday from 11am to 7pm

Saturday from 11am to 6pm

Sunday and Monday closed

Get inside and you may end up spending a few hours browsing the amazing selection of goods in store (and maybe another few euros on your credit card). Everything is beautiful and very well curated.

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Image from Süper Store on Instagram

(<https://www.newsoftwares.net/>)

GROBER UNFUG

CATEGORIES: Books & Magazines, Shopping

Make a Call: +49302817331

Visit Website: <http://www.groberunfug.de/>

Get Directions: Torstraße 75, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Torstrasse 75 | Mitte with another shop in Kreuzberg, at Zossenerstrasse 33

Monday to Friday from 11am to 7pm

Saturday from 11am to 6pm

Closed on Sunday

If you love comic books, you will love this shop. If you are not a fan, visit nevertheless so you can get to know the variety of themes and styles. You will be *überrascht* (surprised)!

WALTHER KÖNIG

CATEGORIES: Books & Magazines, Shopping

Make a Call: +493025760980

Visit Website: <https://www.buchhandlung-walther-koenig.de>

Get Directions: Burgstraße 27, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Burgstrasse 27 | Mitte and in various museums across town

Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm

Closed on Sunday

For art, photography and architecture book lovers, this is the address to visit while in Berlin. A vast array that can keep you busy for hours (come on a rainy or cold day). The magazine selection at the entrance is also excellent. Walther König is also a publisher of high-quality books and apart from Berlin, there are bookshops in other German cities as well as in Amsterdam, Milan, Vienna and London.

DUSSMANN DAS KULTURKAUFHAUS

CATEGORIES: Books & Magazines, Shopping

Make a Call: +492020251111

Visit Website: <http://www.kulturkaufhaus.de/>

Get Directions: Friedrichstraße 90, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Friedrichstrasse 90 | Mitte

Monday to Friday from 9am to 12midnight

Saturday from 9am to 11:30pm

Closed on Sunday

The “big mamma” of Berlin’s bookshops, with several floors and miles of bookshelves for you to peruse. Currently undergoing renovations (but still open for business). I like the Travel section, *natürlich*, and the section of books about Berlin. There are CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, maps, calendars and more on sale. The store also has a kiosk near the main entrance selling tickets for events such as musicals, opera, concerts, theatre and so on. The best thing is that it opens early and stays open late.

PAUL'S BOUTIQUE

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Shopping

Make a Call: +493044033737

Visit Website: <http://www.paulsboutiqueberlin.com/>

Get Directions: Oderberger Str. 47, 10435 Berlin, Germany

Oderbergerstrasse 47 | Prenzlauer Berg

Monday to Saturday from 12noon to 8pm

Paul opened his store in 2000 and it has become a cult destination for second-hand clothes’ lovers, specially sneakers. Visit with some time to dig into the shelves in order to find exactly what you were looking for from brands such as Adidas, Puma, Converse, Reebok and so on... *#inlovewithvintage*

YUU SHOP

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Shopping

Make a Call: +493053799393

Visit Website: <http://www.yuu-shop.de/>

Get Directions: Steinstraße 26, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Steinstrasse 26 | Mitte

Monday to Friday from 12noon to 7pm (closed on Tuesday)

Saturday from 12noon to 6pm

Closed on Sunday and Tuesday

Designer fashion from previous seasons. Great to grab that Dries Van Noten cardigan without breaking the bank.

DUDES FACTORY

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Gifts & Specialties, Shopping

Make a Call: +493040005899

Visit Website: <http://www.dudes-factory.com/>

Get Directions: Kastanienallee 87, 10435 Berlin, Germany

Kastanienallee 87 | Prenzlauer Berg

Monday to Saturday from 12noon to 8pm

This lifestyle shop for men is very much Berlin, with a mix of clothing, art, gifts and accessories designed and sold by a group of cool friends. Expect lots of tattoos and beards. Take advantage of your Spaziergang around Torstrasse to browse the many cool shops around.

UNIQLO

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Shopping

Make a Call: +493029028260

Visit Website: http://www.uniqlo.com/de/de/Stores_Landing_Germany.html

Get Directions: Tauentzienstraße 7, 10789 Berlin, Germany

Tauentzienstrasse 7 | Schöneberg and other 3 stores

Monday to Thursday from 10am to 8:30pm

Friday and Saturday from 10am to 9pm

Closed on Sunday

Uniqlo is Japan's answer to fast-fashion. With a vast array of t-shirts, chinos, jeans, pullovers, cardigans and you name it, all in several colors, to make you look trendy without spending a fortune. Best of all is that Uniqlo's stuff lasts for a long time. You will want to get rid of that purple t-shirt after a few years and it will still look fresh. ☐☐ There is another store at the [Mall of Berlin](#), in Potsdamer Platz, one in Hackescher Markt and a fourth one in Schloss Strasse. The brand is expanding fast.

MYKITA

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Shopping

Make a Call: +493067308715

Visit Website: <https://mykita.com/en>

Get Directions: Rosa-Luxemburg-Straße 6, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Rosa-Luxemburg-Strasse 6 | Mitte and another store at [Bikini Building](#)

Monday to Friday from 11am to 8pm

Saturday from 11am to 6pm

Mykita produces sunglasses and is one of Berlin's most famous fashion brands. Their stores feature regularly on design magazines for their amazing architecture and interior decoration. ([madisonavenuemalls](#)) The sunglasses are trendy, beautiful and can be the perfect souvenir from your stay in Berlin.

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Image from Mykita's website

KIT KAT CLUB

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Visit Website: <http://www.kitkatclub.org/Home/Club/Index.html>

Get Directions: Köpenicker Str. 76, 10997 Berlin, Germany

Köpenickerstrasse 76 | Kreuzberg

Friday, Saturday and Sunday with varied times

If you get past the door it means you have dressed accordingly and open to what may happen inside, after all, it is a place for "parties for civilized people". A very liberal place, for the very open minded. Fun like nowhere else. Check the website for

special events and parties (and tell me later how was it). By the way, you can spend the whole weekend in there, or wake up early on a Sunday for the 8am events, ☐☐

ps: you can also check directly the website of the many party organizers who hold events there

[GEGEN](#) | [REVOLVER](#) | [THE MYSTIC ROSE](#) | [PIEP-SHOW](#) | [NACHSPIEL](#)

ABOUT:BLANK

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Visit Website: <http://aboutblank.li/>

Get Directions: Markgrafendamm 24B, 10245 Berlin, Germany

Markgrafdamm 24c | Friedrichshain, near Ostkreuz S-Bahn and only a short walk to [Salon zur wilden Renate](#).

Check the website for the events calendar, updated monthly.

On an early June morning, I was jogging around the area and heard great music. On Google Maps I discovered it was coming from this place so I decided to check it out at the [Homopatik](#) party. It was good, not great, but maybe the other events are nicer. The place itself is interesting, with a huge garden to wander around. In case it is not your vibe, go to Salon zur wilden Renate, a 10-minute walk.

CLÄRCHENS BALLHAUS

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Dance & Music, Drinking, Eating, Party places

Make a Call: +49302829295

Visit Website: <http://www.ballhaus.de/de/startseite.html>

Get Directions: Auguststraße 24, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Auguststrasse 24 | Mitte | Beer Hall, German food & Pizzas

Daily from 11am until the last guest leaves

The garden is open until 11pm

The kitchen starts serving at 12:30pm and dance lessons generally begin at 7pm.

This is one of the best-kept secrets of Auguststrasse. If you like salsa, tango, foxtrot or any kind of dance style, this is your place. Get early to have a dance course before you hit the dance floor. Beware that many dancers look (and are) quite professional. It is a very fun place, ideal to go with friends. The food is very good, especially the pizzas. During the warm months, there are outdoor sitting where you can order German food and those huge beers. It is a really good vibe place.

If you get the chance to go up to the second floor (for an event) to visit the [Spiegelsaal](#), you will be amazed and wish you had those tap dancing shoes on!

COME BUY BUBBLE TEA

CATEGORIES: Coffee & Sweets

Make a Call: +493093624515

Visit Website: <http://www.comebuy2002.de/>

Get Directions: Rosenthaler Str. 31, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Rosenthalerstrasse 31 | Mitte | Tea, coffee, Asian sweets and another branch at Joachimstahler Strasse 14, Schöneberg.

Monday to Friday from 11am to 9pm

Saturday from 11am to 10pm

Sunday from 12noon to 8pm

From Taiwan to Berlin. Teas with semolina balls. I like the cold earl grey with milk, or the matcha with milk and bubbles. It is an acquired taste. It is all very Asian, with one machine for each step of the tea making art. Enjoy watching the girls preparing your beverage. Be careful when sticking the straw on the plastic cover for the first sip. Quite a lot of Asian students hanging around. Makes one feel far away from Deutschland but in a very good way. ([Alprazolam](#))

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Image from Come Buy Berlin on Instagram

THE BARN CAFÉ

CATEGORIES: Coffee & Sweets

Visit Website: <https://thebarn.de/>

Get Directions: Auguststraße 58, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Auguststrasse 58 | Mitte and the main Roastery in Prenzlauer Berg, at Schönhauser Allee, 8 (behind Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz).

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm

Seriously good coffee. The place is tiny, they don't encourage lingering, but stop by if all you need is a caffeine fix and a brownie. Take one of the stools by the sidewalk and watch the neighborhood move while sipping your flat white. At the Roastery they sell coffee and also give barista courses. (<https://tjc.org/>)

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Image from Barn's website

PRINCESS CHEESECAKE

CATEGORIES: Coffee & Sweets

Make a Call: +493028092760

Visit Website: <http://www.princess-cheesecake.de/>

Get Directions: Tucholskystraße 37, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Tucholskystrasse 37 | Mitte | Cakes & Sweets

Daily from 10am to 7pm

Beautifully presented cheesecakes and other delicacies for the sweet tooth. Very pinkish and girly, but worth the calories.

ST OBERHOLZ

CATEGORIES: Apartments, Coffee & Sweets, Hotels

Make a Call: +493024085586

Visit Website: <http://sanktoberholz.de/en/english/>

Get Directions: Rosenthaler Str. 72A, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Rosenthalerstrasse 72a | Mitte with two other branches in Helmholtz Platz and Zehdenicker.

Sunday to Monday from 8am to 12midnight

Friday and Saturday from 8am to 3am

St Oberholz is the Mecca of the freelancers and co-workers in Berlin. Not only a great spot for a coffee and sandwich but to network while connected to their wi-fi. It is (almost) always open so you can have breakfast, work and stay for happy hour. Their [Facebook page](#) is full of nice events and info on co-working in Berlin.

BOXHAGENER WOCHENMARKT

CATEGORIES: Eating, Food Markets, Gourmet & Food, Shopping

Visit Website: <http://boxhagenerplatz.org/>

Get Directions: Boxhagener Platz, Grünberger Str., 10245 Berlin, Germany

Boxhagener Platz | Friedrichshain

Saturdays from 9am to 3:30pm

Fruits, veggies, sausages, olive oil, honey and much more. Come socialize with the locals who do their weekly shopping here. A lot of focus on organics. The area around Boxhagener Platz is full of nice places to eat.

MONSIEUR VUONG

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Eating

Make a Call: +493099296924

Visit Website: <http://www.monsieurvuong.de/>

Get Directions: Alte Schönhauser Str. 46, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Alte Schönhauserstrasse 46 | Mitte | Vietnamese

Monday to Thursday from 12noon to 11pm

Friday to Sunday from 12noon to 12midnight

Monsieur Vuong is Mitte's most famous Vietnamese restaurant. Not only the food is excellent, but the place is cool and is always beaming with interesting people. Service is prompt, not überfriendly, but good enough to make us come back. Did you know that Vietnam is one of the world's biggest producers of coffee? Try their creamy espresso and check it out for yourself. Also Berlin has a very large Vietnamese population, many having come during the East German times.

VOLT

CATEGORIES: Delicious Bistros, Eating

Make a Call: +4930338402320

Visit Website: <http://www.restaurant-volt.de/>

Get Directions: Paul-Lincke-Ufer 21, 10999 Berlin, Germany

Paul-Lincke-Ufer 21 | Kreuzberg | Contemporary German

Monday to Saturday from 6pm to 12midnight

Restaurant Volt is located in a very nice area called Paul-Lincke-Ufer that gets very lively in the warm evenings. It is a canal with big trees on both shores. If you think that German cuisine is wurst and pumpernickel, you will be impressed with their very refined local dishes. There are vegetarian options as well.

KUCHI

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Eating

Make a Call: +493028386622

Visit Website: <http://kuchi.de/>

Get Directions: Gipsstraße 3, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Gipstrasse 3 | Mitte | Japanese

Monday to Saturday from 12noon to 12midnight

Sunday from 6pm to 12midnight

Kuchi is always busy and the food is enough to justify that. An izakaya style place, where you can enjoy a nice beer or glass of wine with some small dishes to accompany. I love aubergines and theirs is just perfect. But there is more than just aubergines in the menu, of course. There are lots of communal tables, so you may end up sharing with other people, something quite common in Berlin.

HOTEL AMANO

CATEGORIES: Great Location, Hotels

Make a Call: +49308094150

Visit Website: <http://www.amanogroup.de/en/hotels/amano/>

Get Directions: Auguststraße 43, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Auguststrasse 43 | Mitte

Amano is a well-priced option in the hot and happening part of Mitte. The Amano chain is quite reliable and you will find a comfortable place to stay. The luxury is to be close to the epicenter of Berlin.

HÜTTENPALAST

CATEGORIES: Budget, Hotels

Make a Call: +493037305806

Visit Website: <http://www.huettenpalast.de/?lang=en>

Get Directions: Hobrechtstraße 66, 12047 Berlin, Germany

Hobrechstrasse 66 | Neukölln

The Hüttenpalast is a good option if you want a hotel in crazy gentrifying Neukölln. It is an interesting hotel because there are some rooms inside caravans and wooden houses, as well as some spartan “normal” hotel rooms. Quite a creative space with a garden and a few events.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Theatre, Concerts & More

Visit Website: <http://festival-of-lights.de/en/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

Once a year, generally in October, a Festival of Lights sparkles the city's main buildings during the night. There are projections on the façades, music and much more. It is worth booking your trip according to the festival's schedule. Check out 2015's event:

CEE CEE BERLIN

CATEGORIES: Guides & Books, Insider Info

Visit Website: <http://ceecee.cc/en/>

Get Directions: Leipziger Str. 66, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Cee Cee is a creative agency based in Berlin focused on editorial projects and corporate publishing. They know what is best, hottest and newest in each and every corner of the city. Their weekly newsletters are famous and a good source of information for up-to-date tips. [Subscribe here.](#)

They teamed up with [Distanz Verlag](#), a Berlin-based publishing house owned by Angelika Taschen and created one of the most beautiful guides to the city. The Cee Cee Berlin is a big guide, not to be carried around while you visit Berlin. It is more of a coffee table book, but one that has to be checked before you head to Tegel or Schönefeld airport. The [second edition](#) was released in October 2016 with more up-to-date information. I love their map, much like a TravelVince map, but far more comprehensive. [Take a look here.](#)

36 HOURS IN BERLIN BY NEW YORK TIMES

CATEGORIES: Films & Videos, Insider Info, News & Articles

Visit Website: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/16/travel/what-to-do-in-36-hours-in-berlin.html>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

From the New York Times series of videos "36 Hours In", a portrait of Berlin. Read the [article](#) for even more travel tips and information. By the way, the "36 Hours In" series has also been published in book format. It is a beautiful collection of the world's greatest destinations.

CROSSFIT MITTE

CATEGORIES: CrossFit Boxes, Keep Fit

Make a Call: +493022052713

Visit Website: <http://www.crossfitmitte.de/>

Get Directions: Heidestraße 48, 10557 Berlin, Germany

Heidestrasse 48 | Mitte

WODs every day of the week

Book a Drop in for 15 euros

In June 2015 I spent a month in Berlin and wanted to keep on training. I chose CrossFit Mitte because it was the closest to where I was staying but also because Lars Runne, the owner, was really nice in replying my emails with questions about how to drop in, to attend classes and so on.

The vibe is very much like in most CrossFit boxes. CrossFit Mitte is in the middle of a warehouse area. The coaches are great, they organize lots of events and the crowd is a fun one. I had a really nice time training there. If you want to train at another box, just have a look at [CrossFit Map](#) to find one.

THE LIVES OF OTHERS

CATEGORIES: Films & Videos, Insider Info

How was life in East Berlin, where the State eavesdropped every citizen? The Lives of Others will show you, and soon you will realize not much has changed as big agencies listen and read all of our communications.

THE WAVE

CATEGORIES: Films & Videos, Insider Info

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

How does extremism grow? Is it possible to happen again in Germany? The Wave, or Die Welle in German, is a real story about a school in Berlin and a teacher's project to show how easy it is to have a good intentional project turn ugly.

SONNENALLEE

CATEGORIES: Films & Videos, Insider Info

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

How was life back in East Germany? Sonnenallee is a fascinating portrait of a time gone by. The movie has generated lots of University thesis and studies in Germany. Worth watching before your trip.

GOOD BYE LENIN

CATEGORIES: Films & Videos, Insider Info

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

The Berlin Wall falls while the main character's mother is ill. When she recovers, he is afraid she may suffer so instead of telling her the world has changed, he recreates East Germany inside their apartment. Quite a funny movie and one that has become a cult.

LONG MARCH CANTEEN

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Eating

Make a Call: +491788849599

Visit Website: <http://www.longmarchcanteen.com/>

Get Directions: Wrangelstraße 20, 10997 Berlin, Germany

Wrangelstrasse 20 | Kreuzberg | Chinese

Daily from 6pm to 12midnight

The Long March Canteen is a very cool Chinese restaurant in Kreuzberg with large communal tables and dumplings to die for. Try to book ahead as it is generally full.

MARKTHALLE NEUN

CATEGORIES: Eating, Food Markets, Street Food & Trucks

Make a Call: +493061073473

Visit Website: <http://www.markthalleneun.de/>

Get Directions: Eisenbahnstraße 42, 10997 Berlin, Germany

Eisenbahnstrasse 42-43 | Kreuzberg | Food Market-Street Food

Market days on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Street Food Thursday from 5pm to 10pm

Closed on some holidays, open during others

For food lovers, Markthalle Neun is a must-see destination in Berlin. In my opinion, it is the nicest food hall in the city. It not only sells vegetables, fruits and cheeses but has a great selection of food stalls. They also love special events at the Markthalle so it is always a good time to pass by. The Street Food Thursdays are fantastic! Have a look at [their website](#) for the most updated schedules as it varies along the year, depending on the seasons.

ALEX AM ALEX

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Eating

Make a Call: +49302404763

Visit Website: <https://www.dein-alex.de/dein-alex-berlin-alexanderplatz>

Get Directions: Panoramastraße 1A, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Panoramastrasse 1a | Mitte | American Diner

Sunday to Thursday and holidays from 9am to 1am

Friday and Saturday from 9am to 3am

My German friend Daniel Schwarz was the one who introduced me to Alex. We had the brunch buffet on a weekend and it was quite good. For a set price (EUR 12,20) you eat as much as you want from the buffet (eggs, bread, cheese, ham, jam, sausages, etc). Coffee and juice are ordered separately and not excellent, but ok for what you pay. The place is big, there is always a place to sit.

BÖTZOW-PRIVAT

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Eating

Make a Call: +493028095390

Visit Website: <http://boetzow-privat.de/>

Get Directions: Linienstraße 113, 10115 Berlin, Germany

Linienstrasse 113 | Mitte | German

Monday to Friday from 5:30pm onwards

Saturday and Sunday from 12noon onwards

At Bötzw-Privat you feel like in a time capsule. I don't know why, but when I had a meal there it felt as if I were back in the 1970's. Maybe because of the wooden tables and the dark walls. Or maybe because it looks like Bavaria! Anyway, the food is good, focused on Brandenburg specialties. The beer is also excellent and the location could not be better. Worth a pit stop.

LINNEN

CATEGORIES: Apartments, Hotels

Make a Call: +493047372440

Visit Website: <http://www.linnenberlin.com>

Get Directions: Eberswalder Str. 35, 10437 Berlin, Germany

Eberswalder Strasse 35 | Prenzlauer Berg

Linnen is part hotel, part Airbnb. It rents out beautifully appointed rooms and flats in Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg. ([Alprazolam](#)) If you want to feel more like a local and less like a tourist, not worrying about foregoing a hotel's pampering, have a look at their website.

Image from linnenberlin.com

HOTEL DE ROME

CATEGORIES: Hotels, Splurge

Make a Call: +49304606090

Visit Website: <https://www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/hotel-de-rome/>

Get Directions: Behrenstraße 37, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Behrenstrasse 37 | Mitte

Out of all of the 5-star hotels in Berlin, Hotel de Rome has, by far, the best location. There is a bit of construction going on nearby at the Schloss area, but you are right in front of the Berliner Dom, just a few steps to Museum Island. Their Rooftop Terrace is a great place for an apéritif, especially on a sunny day. If you want luxury with a superb location, go for it.

GORKI APARTMENTS

CATEGORIES: Apartments, Boutique, Hotels

Make a Call: +493048496480

Visit Website: <http://www.gorkiapartments.de/>

Get Directions: Weinbergsweg 25, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Weinbergsweg 25 | Prenzlauer Berg

Gorki Apartments is a mix of a boutique hotel and an apartment rental company. You can feel like a Berliner in one of their beautifully appointed flats and still have some service as you would in a boutique hotel. They have paired with other quality Berlin brands to offer an authentic experience for their guests. A true gem!

DO YOU READ ME?!

CATEGORIES: Books & Magazines, Shopping

Make a Call: +493069549695

Visit Website: <http://www.doyoureadme.de/>

Get Directions: Auguststraße 28, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Auguststrasse 28 | Mitte

Monday to Saturday from 10am to 7:30pm

Do you read me?! is like porn for magazine lovers. Imagine a store full of the world's most interesting publications. One can spend hours browsing the stacks of printed materials. I love it!

SODA MAGAZINES

CATEGORIES: Books & Magazines, Shopping

Make a Call: +498943733700

Visit Website: <http://www.sodabooks.com/>

Get Directions: Weinbergsweg 1, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Weinbergsweg 1 | Prenzlauer Berg

Monday to Friday from 11am to 7pm

Saturday from 12noon to 7pm

Soda, close to Rosenthalerplatz, just like [Do you read me?!](#), is a must for magazine lovers. The store is spacious, has some art exhibitions and great music playing. Magazines from all around the world, from the most varied subjects can be found here.

QUARTIER 206

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Shopping, Shopping Areas & Malls

Make a Call: +493020946500

Visit Website: <http://www.quartier206.com/>

Get Directions: Friedrichstraße 71, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Friedrichstrasse 71 | Mitte

Monday to Saturday from 10:30am to 7:30pm

Quartier 206 is a world-class department store with all of those famous labels fashion victims crave for in an area of Mitte where there's upmarket hotels, bars, restaurants and shops. It is impressive, in its size and architecture as much as in the selection of brands in-house.

Friedrichstrasse was the frontier between East and West Berlin and there was not much in the area during the Wall years. So most of what you see now has been rebuilt to look like it was before the war. There is still a little bit of soul missing in the area as everything is too shiny, too proper. However, it is nice to see all sides of Berlin and if you enjoy brands and luxury, this is your address.

KADEWE

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Shopping, Shopping Areas & Malls

Make a Call: +493021210

Visit Website: <http://www.kadewe.de/>

Get Directions: Tauentzienstraße 21, 10789 Berlin, Germany

Tauentzienstrasse 21-24 | Schöneberg

Monday to Thursday from 10am to 8pm

Friday from 10am to 9pm

Saturday from 9:30am to 8pm

KaDeWe is a Berlin institution and short for Kaufhaus des Westens, or West's Department Store. It opened in 1907 as the first of its kind in Germany, showcasing goods from all around the world. It belonged to a Jewish family who was forced to sell the business by the Nazis. When the Wall came down, many East Berliner's headed straight to KaDeWe to marvel at its window displays and, more than anything, to see what was available at the incredible food halls.

The store is always changing and there are plans to transform part of its façade and interiors with [a project by Rem Koolhaas architecture firm OMA](#). So there is always a good reason to visit. And remember, the food halls are still wonderful, even for those who did not live under Communism.

BIKINI BERLIN

CATEGORIES: Shopping, Shopping Areas & Malls

Make a Call: +493055496454

Visit Website: <https://www.bikiniberlin.de/>

Get Directions: Budapester Str. 38-50, 10787 Berlin, Germany

Budapesterstrasse 38-50 | Charlottenburg

Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm

The area is also open on Sunday from 1pm to 6pm, with certain shops closed.

Bikini Berlin calls itself a “concept mall”. Unlike a department store, Bikini goes more into fashion and creativity with some pop-up spaces along restaurants and stores such as [Mykita](#), Vans and Kusmi Tea. At the end it is more or less the same, but in a cooler package. True that Bikini Berlin is a great piece of architecture, having been remodeled from an old 1950's structure. There are cool brands, juice bars, cafés and one of Berlin's newest hip spots, the [25Hours Hotel](#), with [Neni Restaurant](#) and the [Monkey Bar](#).

The huge glass window that separates Bikini from the Zoo is quite fun because you can just sit down and observe the monkeys come and go. There is a very convenient [Kaiser's](#) supermarket on the basement (open Monday to Saturday from 8am to 12midnight). You can take nice selfies with the Gedächtniskirche from up there. ([Zolpidem](#)) The [Zoo Palast Cinema](#), where the Berlin Film Festival or Berlinale was held before it moved to Potsdamer Platz is also part of Bikini and if you have the chance to watch a movie there, do it, because it feels like going to an opera and not to the movies.

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Image by TravelVince

MALL OF BERLIN

CATEGORIES: Shopping, Shopping Areas & Malls

Make a Call: +493020621770

Visit Website: <http://www.mallofberlin.de/>

Get Directions: Leipziger Pl. 12, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Leipziger Platz 12 | Mitte, very close to Potsdamer Platz

Monday to Saturday from 10am to 9pm

Mall of Berlin is the city's largest shopping center, featuring over 270 stores and restaurants in a magnificent glass enclosed piazza. Most international brands can be found here so be prepared for an overload. Remember that tourists living outside of the European Union can enjoy a tax refund on their shopping. I don't really like the mall, as I much prefer shopping on a high street but once in a while going to the mall can be a fun experience. Think of a rainy or snowy day, when the last thing you want is to get your shoes wet. Also during the sweltering days in August the aircon can be a blessing.

VOO STORE

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Gifts & Specialties, Shopping

Make a Call: +493061651119

Visit Website: <http://www.vooberlin.com/>

Get Directions: Oranienstraße 24, 10999 Berlin, Germany

Oranienstrasse 24 | Kreuzberg

Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm

Voo Store has brought hipness to alternative Kreuzberg. The store sells selected high-end fashion, accessories plus books and other gadgets. It all looks very cool, but a bit too much. It is one of those places where the salespeople are also too cool and you must be über cool to be part of it. Got it? ☐☐

ANDREAS MURKUDIS

CATEGORIES: Fashion & Accessories, Gifts & Specialties, Home & Design, Shopping

Make a Call: +4930680798306

Visit Website: <http://www.andreasmurkudis.com/>

Get Directions: Potsdamer Straße 81, 10785 Berlin, Germany

Potsdamer Strasse 81e | Schöneberg

Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm

Andreas Murkudis' space could be compared to a design exhibition. It is not only beautiful, but with many items you will really want to own. Take your time to wander around the white room and discover beauty you can buy (well, not all of it). Murkudis has selected only brands and items he really likes to feature on his store. It is the crème de la crème of retail. Near the main store, a Postdamer Strasse 77, you can find the furniture store, also worth a few minutes of your Berlin day.

KATER BLAU

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Visit Website: <http://www.katerblau.de/>

Get Directions: Holzmarktstraße 25, 10243 Berlin, Germany

Holzmarktstrasse 25 | Friedrichshain

For a memorable night out. Check the website for party and event's timings. You can also [tune in their web radio](#) and listen to their DJs as a warm up for the night ahead. By the way, Kater in German means hangover, so watch out.

SO36

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Make a Call: +493061401306

Visit Website: <http://so36.de/>

Get Directions: Oranienstraße 190, 10999 Berlin, Germany

Oranienstrasse 190 | Kreuzberg

So36 is part of Berlin's music and nightlife history. It is a democratic place where everybody can have a great time. Have a drink at [Roses](#), another Berlin institution, a few doors away, before hitting SO36's dance floor. Check out what party is going on when you are in the city as events can be quite different. Many gay-themed nights like Gayhane attract a super fun crowd.

NINA QUEER

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Visit Website: <http://ninaqueer.com/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

Nina Queer is the grande dame of gay Berlin. She has a show on a radio, she is everywhere. Check her website and [Facebook](#) to know where the parties are. Enjoy, have fun!

BAR TAUSEND

CATEGORIES: Cocktail Bars, Drinking

Make a Call: +493027582070

Visit Website: <http://tausendberlin.com/>

Get Directions: Schiffbauerdamm 11, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Schiffbauerdamm 11 | Mitte

Tuesday to Saturday from 7:30pm till late

Bar Tausend's entrance is tucked under the bridge linking both sides of the Spree to Friedrichstrasse S and U-Bahn station in Mitte. It is a beautiful place with excellent cocktails and good music. There is great art on the walls as well. If you fancy, they also have a cantina with German/Asian menu. It is advisable to book ahead.

OTTORINK WEINBAR

CATEGORIES: Drinking, Wine Bars

Visit Website: <http://www.ottorink.de>

Get Directions: Dresdener Str. 124, 10999 Berlin, Germany

Dresdner Strasse 124 | Kreuzberg

Monday to Saturday from 6pm till late

Ottorink is a cozy wine bar in Kreuzberg where you can sip several wines by the glass and enjoy some cheese and cold cuts with it. It is a nice place to relax and strike up interesting conversations. Over there I read a really nice sentence about wine. In German it goes "Wein ist aufgelöste Sonnenlicht" which could be translated to something like wine is liquefied sunlight. Beautiful, isn't it? Cheers!

CORDOBAR

CATEGORIES: Drinking, Wine Bars

Make a Call: +4930275812

Visit Website: <http://www.cordobar.net/en/>

Get Directions: Große Hamburger Str. 32, 10115 Berlin, Germany

Grosse Hamburger Strasse 32 | Mitte

Tuesday to Saturday from 6pm to 2am

Cordobar focuses on local German and Austrian wines to fuel lively evenings. Most of their wines are organic, brought from winemakers the owners know personally. It is a good opportunity to try some unknown wines that would not be found in a store or even less so in a supermarket. However, if you really feel like Burgundy or Rioja, just ask. (<https://www.controleng.com/>) Their wine list is massive. Food is also very good.

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Image from cordobar.net

MONKEY BAR

CATEGORIES: Drinking, In Restaurants or Hotels

Make a Call: +4930120221210

Visit Website: <http://www.25hours-hotels.com/en/bikini/restaurant/monkey-bar.html>

Get Directions: Budapester Str. 40, 10787 Berlin, Germany

Budapesterstrasse 40 | Charlottenburg at the 25-Hours Hotel, Bikini Building

Daily from 12noon to 1am (2am on Friday and Saturday)

Monkey bar is one of the few cool venues in this area of West Berlin. At the top floor of the 25Hours Hotel, with panoramic views of the city, the place has a very nice vibe, good drinks and a very mixed crowd. The monkey in the name is to celebrate the apes you can see from the windows, down at the Berlin Zoo.

KULTURFORUM & PHILHARMONIKER

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Museums, Theatre, Concerts & More

Make a Call: +4930266424242

Visit Website: http://www.kulturforum-berlin.de/engl_index.html

Get Directions: Matthäikirchplatz, 10785 Berlin, Germany

Matthäikirchplatz | Mitte, near Potsdamer Platz

The Kulturforum, much like the Museum Island further East, is an amalgam of cultural institutions grouped in a single location. It is not as beautiful as the Berliner Dom or Schinkel's Altes Museum, but it represents the architectural style of the 1960's. In the same area you will find the [Philharmoniker](#), the [Gemäldegalerie](#), the [Kunstgewerbemuseum](#) and the [Neue Nationalgalerie](#) (under renovation), by Mies van der Rohe (the only true beautiful building in the area). Depending on the current calendar of exhibitions, you may end up spending quite some time visiting the area.

By the way, every Tuesday, at 1pm, there is a free concert at the Philharmoniker's atrium.

HAMBURGER BAHNHOF

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Museums

Make a Call: +4930266424242

Visit Website: <http://www.smb.museum/en/museums-institutions/hamburger-bahnhof/home.html>

Get Directions: Invalidenstraße 50, 10557 Berlin, Germany

Invalidenstrasse 50-51 | Mitte

Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm (8pm on Thursday)

The former train station has been transformed into a contemporary art museum holding a great collection of pieces and installations as well as having regular temporary exhibitions.

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Image by TravelVince

([Xanax](#))

MARTIN-GROPIUS-BAU

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Exhibitions & Fairs

Make a Call: +4930254860

Visit

Website:

http://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en/aktuell/festivals/gropiusbau/ueber_uns_mgb/aktuell_mgb/start.php

Get Directions: Niederkirchnerstraße 7, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Niederkirchnerstrasse 7 | Kreuzberg, near [Topography of Terror](#).

Wednesday to Monday from 10am to 7pm

The Martin-Gropius-Bau holds some of Berlin's best temporary exhibitions so keep an eye on their program during your visit.

MUSEUM ISLAND

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Museums

Visit Website: <http://www.museumsinsel-berlin.de/en/home/>

Get Directions: Museum Island berlin

Museumsinsel | Mitte

In the middle of Berlin there is an island. This island is filled with art and history. The Museum Island holds not only the Berliner Dom, the city's cathedral, but the following gems:

- [Altes Museum](#) for Greek, Etruscan and Roman art.
- [Neues Museum](#) with prehistoric and Egyptian art.
- [Bode Museum](#) for sculptures, Byzantine art, paintings and antique coins.
- [Alte Nationalgalerie](#) for paintings.
- [Pergamon Museum](#) one of the world's great museums with treasures from Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, Egypt and more. It is undergoing a huge renovation plan so some parts may be closed and off-limits.
- [Islamic Art Museum](#) where you can appreciate art from the Muslim world.
- [Humboldt Forum](#) at the rebuilt Berlin Castle.
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KUNST-WERKE CONTEMPORARY ART

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Galleries

Make a Call: +49302434590

Visit Website: <http://www.kw-berlin.de/en/>

Get Directions: Auguststraße 69, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Auguststrasse 69 | Mitte

Open daily, bar Tuesday, from 12noon to 7pm (9pm on Thursday)

The Institute for Contemporary Art holds fantastic temporary exhibitions. Check the program and do not miss their shows.

C|O BERLIN

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Galleries

Make a Call: +493028444160

Visit Website: <http://www.co-berlin.org/en>

Get Directions: Hardenbergstraße 22, 10623 Berlin, Germany

Hardenbergstrasse 22 | Charlottenburg

Daily from 11am to 8pm

C|O Berlin moved from East Berlin to its current location, near Zoo Bahnhof, where the Amerika Haus used to be. It has always been a space to showcase the world to Berliners. There are generally two to three different photo exhibitions with a nice bookshop and a café. It can be combined with a visit to [Helmut Newton Foundation](#).

BOROS COLLECTION

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Galleries

Make a Call: +4930240833300

Visit Website: <http://www.sammlung-boros.de/index.php?L=1>

Get Directions: Reinhardtstraße 20, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Reinhardtstrasse 20 | Mitte

Book in advance. Timings available throughout the day

Tours in German or English, pay attention while booking

New exhibition on show from 3 May 2017

One of the most interesting private collections of Contemporary Art is set in a former Berlin Nazi bunker. The solid construction was built to serve as an air-raid shelter and its thick walls are almost indestructible. It was occupied by the Red Army at the end of WWII and used as a warehouse for many years, especially for fruit and vegetables imported from Cuba since the temperature inside was kept to a minimum by its concrete walls. East Berliners used to call it the Banana Bunker. In the time of the German reunification, when parts of the city were no-man's-land, the bunker was used for techno parties and raves, like The Last Days of Saigon. Andreas Gurski started his photographic career taking pictures of the crazy nights at the bunker.

In 2003, Christian Boros purchases the bunker and converts it into his home and a gallery to showcase his massive collection of art. They have tried destroying a few of the internal walls but had a hard time. So setting up an exhibition at Boros Bunker

takes a very long time and the shows remain in place for years. Its first exhibition was from 2008 to 2012 and 120.000 visitors took 7.500 guided tours. The second show, from 2012 to 2016 attracted 200.000 people in 9.000 tours. A new collection is set to open in May 2017. (studybizz.com)

Make sure you book the guided tour in advance (in English or German). This is the only way to visit the collection and it is worth it because Contemporary Art does need some explaining and the eccentric history of the bunker is also told. Mr. and Mrs. Boros live on the top floor. If you are lucky enough you will meet them walking around. There are lots of works by artists currently living in Berlin, so it is a good place to get acquainted with the thriving local art scene and go visit the artist's studios thereafter.

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Image by TravelVince

CLUB DER VISIONÄRE

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music, Drinking, Party places

Make a Call: +493069518942

Visit Website: <http://clubdervisionaere.com/>

Get Directions: Am Flutgraben 1, 12435 Berlin, Germany

Am Flutgraben 1 | Kreuzberg

Monday to Friday from 2pm onwards

Saturday and Sunday from 12noon onwards

By the river, beautiful people, to see and be seen. It opens early, but it gets busy from sunset onwards. ([Zolpidem](#)) During winter it moves indoors, to a barge by the river. In the warm months it is one of the nicest bars in the city.

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Image taken from residentadvisor.net

LAB.ORATORY

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Make a Call: +493029360210

Visit Website: <http://www.lab-oratory.de/>

Get Directions: Am Wriezener Bahnhof, 10243 Berlin, Germany

Am Wriezener Bahnhof | Friedrichshain

Strictly for the open minded gay guy. Check the style of the party (suits, golden showers, all naked) and be happy. Can be quite hardcore.

HOMOPATIK

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music

Visit Website: <http://www.homopatik.com/>

Get Directions: Ostkreuz gGmbH, Sonntagstraße 11, 10245 Berlin, Germany

A moving gay party, mostly young boys, lots of cigarette smoking. Can be good, can be awful. You will have to check it out. Their [Facebook](#) page is the best source of info. Most parties are at [about:blank](#).

SALON ZUR WILDEN RENATE

CATEGORIES: Dance & Music, Drinking, Party places

Make a Call: +493025041426

Visit Website: <http://www.renate.cc/>

Get Directions: Alt-Stralau 70, 10245 Berlin, Germany

Alt-Stralau 70 | Friedrichshain

Check their website for update on parties and events.

A crazy house with many floors and rooms playing different styles of music. People – lots of people – and another great place to dance the night away. No reservations, no guest lists, no tables, just get in line and get in.

FATHER CARPENTER

CATEGORIES: Coffee & Sweets

Make a Call: +4930400440

Visit Website: <https://fathercarpenter.com/>

Get Directions: Münzstraße 21, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Münzstrasse 21 | Mitte | Coffee Shop

Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm

Saturday from 10am to 6pm

The best coffee I had while in Berlin, prepared by the most gorgeous baristas in town. Hidden inside a beautiful courtyard, where you can take a rest from Mitte's buzz.

ROSES

CATEGORIES: Drinking

Get Directions: Oranienstraße 187, 10999 Berlin, Germany

Oranienstrasse 187 | Kreuzberg

Daily from 9:30pm to 6am

Another Berlin institution, Roses is one of those bars you have to visit. Part of Berlin's gay destinations, it is as kitsch as it can get and serves both as a starting point for your night out or as a refueling in between parties. The inside is all plush and pink with all tribes mingling around the bar. Not to be missed!

NENI

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Eating, Nice Restaurants

Make a Call: +4930120221200

Visit Website: <http://www.neniberlin.de/>

Get Directions: Budapester Str. 40, 10787 Berlin, Germany

Budapesterstrasse 40 | Charlottenburg | Israeli-Middle Eastern

Monday to Friday from 12noon to 11pm

Saturday and Sunday from 12:30pm to 11pm

On the top floor of the [25Hours Hotel](#) at the Bikini Building, this Israeli restaurant offers not only the most amazing views of the Berliner skyline (feels like you are floating over Tiergarten) but great Middle Eastern food. The dishes are great for sharing with a hummus to die for!

3 SCHWESTERN

CATEGORIES: Eating, Nice Restaurants

Make a Call: +4930600318600

Visit Website: <http://3schwestern.com/>

Get Directions: Mariannenpl. 2, 10997 Berlin, Germany

Mariannenplatz 2 | Kreuzberg | German

Daily from 11am

Tucked inside a former convent that now houses the Kunstquartier Bethanien, this restaurant focusing on German fare could well be a monk's dining room, only that it does not look so austere. In fact, it is a rather lively place, especially on weekends.

KATZ ORANGE

CATEGORIES: Eating, Nice Restaurants

Make a Call: +4930983208430

Visit Website: <http://www.katzorange.com/en/>

Get Directions: Bergstraße 22, 10115 Berlin, Germany

Bergstrasse 22 | Mitte | International-Seasonal

Daily from 6pm

Hidden in an alley off Bergstrasse, this amazing piece of architecture is also a great place to eat. With an interesting menu (I loved the pork and the lamb) focused on seasonal ingredients and unpretentious service, it is one of my favorite places for dinner in the city. It is also a great place for a glass of wine or craft beer. Book ahead.

MOGG

CATEGORIES: Casual Dining, Eating

Make a Call: +4930330060770

Visit Website: <http://www.moggmogg.com/#deli>

Get Directions: Auguststraße 11, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Auguststrasse 11-13 | Mitte | Delikatessen

Monday to Friday from 11am to 10pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 10pm

In the recently renovated Jewish Girl's School Building, this New York-style deli has a condensed yet great menu. The Reuben sandwich with pastrami and lots of melted cheese could have been flown from New York's Lower East Side. (wbctx.com) Leave some space for the cheesecake. Small space, so it gets crowded easily. Share a table with others if you can.

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Image from Mogg on Facebook

SHISO BURGER

CATEGORIES: Burger Joints, Eating

Make a Call: +493088944687

Visit Website: <http://www.shisoburger.de/>

Get Directions: Auguststraße 29C, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Auguststrasse 29C | Mitte | Burger

Daily from 12noon to 12midnight

Always packed (specially the outside area in Spring/Summer), always good. The tuna burger is awesome, as well as the shiso burger.

Shiso is kind of a tasty Japanese leaf. The sandwiches are not very big, so if you are quite hungry, ask for two or have some of the fried sweet potato as a side dish. Wash it down with a beer or some Fritz Kola. Cash only.

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Image from shisoburger.de

MUST-SEE LANDMARKS

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Sights

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

Berlin's landmarks for your selfies

Gedächtniskirche

Fernsehturm

Brandenburger Tor

Reichstag

Berliner Dom

Neue Synagogue

East Side Gallery

Oberbaumbrücke
Siegessäule
Sowjetisches Ehrenmal
Rotes Rathaus
Gendarmenmarkt
Checkpoint Charlie

GETTING AROUND BERLIN

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Getting Around

Get Directions: Washingtonplatz/Hauptbahnhof (Berlin), 10557 Berlin, Germany

The whole city is very well connected via public transport be it bus, tram, U-Bahn (subway/underground), S-Bahn (suburban trains), bike lanes and boats. Make sure you buy a travelcard valid for your whole stay. Remember that you must validate the card before boarding. The BVG app is a good tool to have on your mobile.

— Renting a bike is probably the best way to fully enjoy Berlin. The city is flat, there are bikers everywhere (even on sidewalks) and you don't need helmets (unless you want to be on the safe side). The trams have special carriages for bikers.

Bus lines 100 and 200 are great for sightseeing, especially if you are lucky enough to board a double-decker and sit right in front, on the upper level.

Uber works and it is worth downloading a good taxi app as well.

The quickest way to cross the city is via S-Bahn. All of the metropolitan lines going East-West do the same itinerary in central Berlin, from Ostbahnhof to Savignyplatz and vice-versa.

AIRPORTS

Once upon a time, Berlin had three airports. Tempelhof was turned into a park because it was too central. Tegel (TXL) is the busiest one nowadays, hardly coping with added traffic and holding there just because the brand new Berlin Brandenburg (BER) airport has not opened yet. Schönefeld (SXF) is also busy, very close to the new airport and a hub for low-cost airlines. From Tegel, you get into Mitte in less than 20 minutes. There is a bus going all the way to Alexanderplatz. A taxi ride will not break the bank. From Schönefeld the best way is to take the S-Bahn until you are in central Berlin, then change to a bus, taxi or U-Bahn.

<http://www.berlin-airport.de/en/>

POTSDAMER PLATZ

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Neighborhoods

Get Directions: Potsdamer Platz, Berlin, Germany

In the booming 1920s and 1930s the area was the epicenter of the city. After the war and during the Wall years it was a no man's land. (<https://rentalsfloridakeys.com/>) This is where Berlin is quite artificial and the only reason to go there is to receive a Golden Bear at the [Berlin Film Festival](#) (well, you can also visit the [Kulturforum](#) or the [Philharmonic](#)). Every city has its Times Square or Piccadilly Circus where tourists flock "just because".

— Image by Radoslaw Maciejewski | Shutterstock

FRIEDRICHSHAIN

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Neighborhoods

Get Directions: Friedrichshain, Berlin, Germany

Amid train tracks, old warehouses and derelict homes (it was too close to the Wall) you find a big chunk of Berlin's nightlife, specially the ultra-famous Berghain. Karl-Marx-Allee is quite an attractive Soviet-style boulevard and makes one feel in Moscow. The area is still under development and rents tend to be cheaper than in other central parts of town, so there is a good mix of creatives, families and foreigners. Warschauer Strasse station in the evenings is quite an attraction, with live music performances, lots of beer around and the promise of an amazing night out. To burn calories or recover from the previous night, the Volkspark Friedrichshain is a good option.

My favorite areas: Oberbaumbrücke, Karl-Marx-Allee and the RAW Gelände area.

TIERGARTEN

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Sights

Get Directions: Tiergarten, Berlin, Germany

The huge green area in the middle of the city is where you can go jogging, picnicking, reading a book or sunbathing. There is no way around it once you go from one side of the city to the other. You get great views of the green canopy from the top of the Reichstag, Neni Restaurant or while riding the S-Bahn from Friedrichstrasse to Zoo Bahnhof. Much of Germany's ultra-modern government buildings as well as the glass-box of Hauptbahnhof are in the north of the park. The simple yet touching Gay Holocaust Memorial is right across the street from the impressive (yet sad and disturbing) Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe.

BERLIN WALL

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Sights

Get Directions: Berlin Wall Memorial, Bernauer Str. 111, 13355 Berlin, Germany

Berliners hated the Wall very much. They were quick to destroy almost all of it in order to forget. There is a line that goes around town marking the ground where the Wall once stood. Specially in the Potsdamer Platz/Brandenburger Gate area it is crazy to see how divided the whole place once was. (<https://www.cookwarejunkies.com/>) There are saved parts of it at the [Topographie des Terrors](#), [Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer](#) (Berlin Wall Memorial) and the [East-Side Gallery](#). It is very interesting to remember that the division was also underground, meaning a few U-bahn lines started in the West, went through the East, before reaching the West again. There were many stations with blocked access and the [Ghost Bahnhof](#) exhibition at the Nordbahnhof shows exactly that. Quite impressive.

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image by Ewais | Shutterstock

EAST VS WEST

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Getting Around**Get Directions:** Berlin, Germany

The city has been trying to erase the East-West divide since 1989, but you can still feel the difference. West Berlin is richer and more “German”, with wide avenues, clean sidewalks, bike lanes and a kind of “organized” feel. The East, in contrast, is more “messy”. There is more graffiti, more abandoned areas, more young people walking around, trams, and a cool vibe like nowhere else. However, Berlin is changing quickly with lots of Eastern areas being gentrified and maybe, in a few years, the divide will be less obvious.

Areas in the West: Schöneberg, Charlottenburg, Wilmersdorf, Kreuzberg, Neukölln, Tempelhof, Steglitz, Wedding, Spandau.

Areas in the East: Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain, Lichtenberg, Treptow, Weissensee.

PRENZLAUER BERG

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Neighborhoods**Get Directions:** Prenzlauer Berg, Berlin, Germany

Caught in between left-wing artists and young-preppy Bavarian families, this is a fast-changing neighborhood, where, among new home developments, you can still find alternative theaters and bookshops. There are some wide cobblestone streets with impressive façades, the Altbau, best explored by bike. Kastanienallee is worth walking up and down. Kollwitzplatz is a nice area for brunch (expect baby stroller bottlenecks on weekends). [Kulturbrauerei](#) has cinemas, events and food trucks. Mauerpark on weekends is a must, when there is the flea market.

My favorite areas: Volkspark am Weinbergsweg, Kastanienallee, Kulturbrauerei, Eberwalderstrasse U-Bahn.

MITTE

CATEGORIES: City Areas, Neighborhoods**Get Directions:** Mitte, Berlin, Germany

The Middle, that’s it. The heart of Berlin is where most of the sights are, so booking a hotel in the area is a good choice. Mitte, however, is rather vast and there are quite a variety of zones within it. From the super touristy Friedrichstrasse, where you find [Checkpoint Charlie](#), the [Brandenburger Gate](#) and fashionable stores, to trendy Auguststrasse and Torstrasse, at the Prenzlauer Berg border, to the always busy [Hackescher Markt](#) and, last but not least, to Soviet-style Alexanderplatz. The rule is, the further East you go, the better it gets.

My favorite areas: Alte and Neue Schönhauser Strasse, Auguststrasse + Tucholskystrasse, Torstrasse + Rosenthalerstrasse, Montbijoupark + Museum Island.

CIRCUS HOSTEL

CATEGORIES: Budget, Hotels**Make a Call:** +493020003939**Visit Website:** <https://www.circus-berlin.de/hostel/>**Get Directions:** Weinbergsweg 1A, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Weinbergsweg 1a | Prenzlauer Berg

Quite an unbeatable place to stay in the budget category for its location, a variety of options of rooms (dorms, private, suites) and social areas, with its own microbrewery and the all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet, perfect to binge on after a night of clubbing, or before heading to the city's main sights. Great place to socialize if you are traveling on your own. (boxmining.com) They organize several activities and tours of Berlin for guests and non-guests.

If you want a bit more comfort, try booking a room at their [Circus Hotel](#), a block away, at Rosenthalerstrasse 1. If you want a long-term place to stay, with apartments up to 6 people, try the [Circus Apartments](#), also in the area, at Chorinerstrasse 84.

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Image from Circus on Instagram

MICHELBERGER HOTEL

CATEGORIES: Drinking, Great Location, Hotels, In Restaurants or Hotels

Make a Call: +493029778590

Visit Website: <http://www.michelbergerhotel.com>

Get Directions: Warschauer Str. 39, 10243 Berlin, Germany

Warschauerstrasse 39-40 | Friedrichshain

Right at the nerve center of Berlin's nightlife and party area, the Michelberger offers comfy rooms, a nice restaurant and a cool lounge area within easy access to the hotspots in Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg. They also have a brand of coconut water with a little monkey logo. Good parties and great times await those who pass by.

CASA CAMPER

CATEGORIES: Great Location, Hotels

Make a Call: +493020003410

Visit Website: <http://www.casacamper.com/berlin/default-en.html>

Get Directions: Weinmeisterstraße 1, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Weinmeisterstrasse 1 | Mitte

Location, location, location. This small and beautiful hotel is at the epicenter of happening Mitte. All rooms have street view. The Dos Palillos restaurant on the ground floor is excellent and open to non-guests, however, the nice Tentempié, on the rooftop, is where guests, and guests only, enjoy complimentary breakfast, drinks and snacks 24-hours a day.

WALDORF ASTORIA

CATEGORIES: Hotels, Splurge

Make a Call: +49308140000

Visit

Website: <http://waldorfastoria3.hilton.com/en/hotels/berlin/waldorf-astoria-berlin-BERWAWA/index.html>

Get Directions: Hardenbergstraße 28, 10623 Berlin, Germany

Hardenbergstrasse 28 | Charlottenburg

Its location is not perfect (I much prefer East Berlin), but if you have to stay in West Berlin, this is the place to be. It is new and beautiful and because of its height, rooms have amazing views of the city's flat skyline. Good for shopping at [Bikini Berlin](#), [KaDeWe](#) and the famous Ku'damm. Zoo Bahnhof is just across the street, so in a few minutes with the S-Bahn you get to Alexanderplatz.

STUDIO BABELSBERG

CATEGORIES: Out of Town

Make a Call: +493317212066

Visit Website: <http://www.studiobabelsberg.com/en/>

Get Directions: August-Bebel-Str. 26, 14482 Potsdam, Germany

August-Bebel-Strasse 26-53 | Potsdam

It is possible to book a studio tour via tours@studiosbabelsberg.com however, they can only be in German. You can take someone who speaks German to act as a translator.

Berlin has always been an important center for movie production. In 2012 it celebrated 100 years. Many classic movies such as Metropolis were produced at the studios. Once the Nazis took power and the war began, a big chunk of the talent pool migrated to Hollywood but films were still produced as part of the war effort and propaganda.

Today Babelsberg and Hollywood have an agreement to co-produce movies keeping the industry as an important source for jobs in Berlin. You can visit the studios and the backstage areas.

For families, there is a theme park called [Filmpark Babelsberg](#) nearby with attractions, rides and fun.

SUPERGUIDE BERLIN

CATEGORIES: Guides & Books, Insider Info

Visit Website: <http://superfuture.com/supershop/berlin-superguide>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

If what you are looking for in Berlin is discovering the coolest and best stores, you need to carry around the Superguide Berlin. It is a pdf guide you buy online, download, print and assemble yourself with a stapler. ([Ultram](#)) It is updated regularly, has the city divided into neighborhoods focusing on shopping, but with some great restaurant and bar tips.

Image from Superfuture.com

BERLIN BÜHNEN

CATEGORIES: Arts & Culture, Theatre, Concerts & More

Visit Website: <http://www.berlin-buehnen.de/en/>

Get Directions: Berlin, Germany

Berlin Bühnen, or, in English, Stages of Berlin, concentrates in one website all of Berlin's cultural events. The offer is staggering. There are plays, workshops, musicals, dance, classical music, concerts, experimental theater, mainstream, you name it. However, at the site you can more or less organize all of that info and check what will be on stage during your stay in the city and even buy tickets online. Enjoy the show!
