

BERLIN

<L7>Basic Information

Documents Required: United States citizens need only a valid passport for stays less than three months. EC citizens need either a passport or national identity card.

American Consulate: 4-5 Neustadtische Kirchstrasse, Mitte; 30/ 238-5174

Currency: The unit of currency is the Deutschmark (DM). East German currency is no longer valid.

Banks: Banks in Germany are open Monday to Friday 8:30A.M.-1P.M. and 2:30-4 P.M

Customs: There are no limits on on the import or export of currency. Items intended for personal use may be imported and exported freely.

Climate: Northern Germany has a continental climate, with cold winters (average 35 degrees from November to February), hot summers (77 degrees in July). It rains throughout the year, but the best seasons to visit are spring and early summer.

Tipping: In restaurants and cafés, service charges are usually included in the check, and the sum is rounded up to the nearest DM. Taxi drivers expect 10 percent of the fare.

Getting Around: Public Transportation Office, BVG, 188 Potsdamerstrasse; 30/ 216-5088.

By Air:

Berlin-Schönefeld

30/ 6-0910

Formerly the airport of East Berlin. The Airport-Transfer bus, 30/ 216-5088, runs between Tegel and Schönefeld airports, stopping at Bahnhof Zoo and other central locations.

Berlin-Tegel

41/ 1-2306

Formerly the main airport of West Berlin. Most major international airlines use Tegel. Bus 109 links the airport with Budapester Strasse, stopping at Adenauerplatz, Uhlandstrasse, Kurfeurstendamm, and Zoologischer Garten station. Allow 30 minutes for the bus journey to central Berlin.

Berlin-Tempelhof

30/ 6-9510

A small city airport. The U-Bahn station Platz der Luftbreucke is opposite the airport terminal. Allow 10-15 minutes for the U-Bahn journey to central Berlin.

By U-Bahn: The U-Bahn (subway), founded in 1896, is the fastest means of getting around. Trains run from 4:30A.M.-1A.M., and lines U1 and U9 continue throughout the night. Stations are clean and well designed.

By S-Bahn: The S-Bahn (Stadtbahn) elevated railway network was begun in 1875. The main routes are the Ost-West-Nord-Süd lines, which intersect at Friedrichstrasse station. The S-Bahn is useful for getting to outlying districts such as Wannsee, Potsdam, and Köpenick. Trains normally run at 10-minute intervals from 4:30A.M.-1A.M., and the S3 line from Charlottenburg to Friedrichstrasse continues throughout the night.

By Bus: Buses are slower, but useful for reaching remote corners of the city. Night buses are indicated by a yellow number on a green background.

By Rail: There are four major Berlin stations:

Bahnhof Zoologischer Garten (known as Bahnhof Zoo). Linked to U-Bahn, S-Bahn, and bus routes. For destinations in the Tiergarten, Charlottenburg, and Kreuzberg districts.

Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse. Linked to U-Bahn, S-Bahn, and bus routes. For Mitte or Prenzlauer Berg addresses.

Berlin Hauptbahnhof. Linked to S-Bahn and bus routes, but not the U-Bahn.

Bahnhof-Lichtenberg. Linked to U-Bahn, S-Bahn, and bus routes. Some services from Dresden and Leipzig end here.

By Taxi: Taxis can be ordered by telephone or hailed at taxi stands.

By Car: To drive in Germany, you must have a valid national driver's license. The legal minimum driving age is 18. Rent cars at Tegel and Schönefeld airports, and in central Berlin. Payment is almost always by credit card, and you must show a passport and current driver's license. Some rental agencies do not allow their cars in Eastern Europe; check with the rental company before a trip to Prague or Warsaw.

Postal and Telephone Service: Post offices, labeled *postamt*, are open Monday to Friday 8A.M.-6P.M., Saturday 8A.M.-noon. To call Germany from the United States, dial 011, 49 for Germany, and then local number, leaving off the initial 0 in the area code. Public telephones are marked *fernsprecher*.

Public Holidays: January 1, Easter (Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Easter Monday), May Day, Ascension (sixth Thursday after Easter), Whit Sunday (second Sunday after Ascension), Whit Monday (second Monday after Ascension), Corpus Christi (first Thursday after Whit Sunday), Gesetzlicher Feiertag (June 17), Day of German Unity (October 3), All Saints' Day (November 1), Day of National Repentance (third Wednesday in November), Christmas Day, and December 26.

Electric Current: Plugs are standard European, with two round pins that carry 220V.

Time Line

Beginnings of the City

1244

First mention of Berlin in an official document.

1440

Frederick II of the the House of Hohenzollern reigns. Berlin is chosen as the seat of power.

1540

Hohenzollern Palace is built to signify Berlin's importance as a central court.

Rise to Prominence

1740-1786

Rule of Frederick the Great. Berlin is the seat of Prussian power. Under Frederick's influence an emphasis is put on learning and enlightenment.

1756

Seven year war with Austria and Russia. Berlin is invaded.

1806

Napoleon occupies Berlin.

1813-1848

Biedermeier Era and the rise of industrialism. Berlin architecture is dominated by buildings of Karl Friedrich Schinkel.

International Preeminence

1871

Unification of Germany under Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck.

1890

Berlin's population reaches 2 million.

1888-1918

Rule of Kaiser Wilhelm II.

1890-1914

Period of extreme growth and imperialism. By 1914, Berlin's population surpasses 4 million.

1914-1918

World War I.

1919-1933

Rule of the Weimar Republic. Sharp inflation caused by reparation payments.

Nazi Rule

1933

Burning of the Reichstag in February. Nazis seize power.

1936

Berlin hosts the Olympics.

1939-1945

World War II.

1945

April: Hitler attempts to defend Berlin against invading Russian troops. Berlin surrenders; British, American, and French troops occupy the western part of the city.

Cold War

1946-1947

Shortages of food and fuel.

1948

Russians cut off road, rail, and communication links to the western part of Berlin. Berlin Airlift begins, with food and supplies flown in by British and American planes. Russians abandon their claim to Berlin as capital of their sector.

1949

Founding of the Federal Republic of Germany. Capital is moved to Bonn.

1950-1960

Distinctions between West and East German economies are increasingly dramatic.

1961

Building of the Berlin Wall.

Today

1989

Fall of communist East Germany. Berlin Wall is torn down, signifying the collapse of communism.

1990-1995

Reunification of West and East Germany.

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<L6>Hotels

Schloss-hotel Vier Jahreszeiten \$\$\$

6-10 Brahmsstrasse

30/895-840

Designed by Karl Lagerfeld, who stays here when in Berlin.

Bristol Kempinski \$\$\$

27 Kurfeurstendamm

30/ 884-340, fax 30/ 883-6075

Berlin's most famous hotel, located in the heart of the city.

Charlot \$\$

17 Giesebrechtstrasse

30/ 323-4051

A family-run establishment near trendy shops and cafés.

Merkur \$\$

17 Torstrasse

30/ 282-8297

Comfortable and close to many night spots.

Berliner Bar \$

124 Freidrichstrasse

30/ 282-9352

Appealing and efficient.

Kastanienhof \$

65-66 Kastanienalle

30/ 281-9246

Clean rooms and close to the nightlife at Kreuzberg.

Restaurants

Bamberger Reiter \$\$\$

7 Regensburgerstrasse

30/ 244-282

Distinctive nouvelle German cuisine, jacket and tie required.

Restauration 1900 \$\$\$

1 Husemannstrasse

30/ 442-2494

Mediterranean in East Berlin.

Exil \$\$

44 Paul-Linke-Ufer

30/ 612-7037

Authentic Viennese food at moderate prices.

Merhaba \$\$

39 Hasenheide

30/ 692-1713

Traditional Turkish, crowded with locals.

Tiergarten Qülle \$

482 Stadtbahnbogen

Hearty German fare in huge portions.

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<L1>Sites

Botanischer Garten

6 Königin-Luisestrasse

Berlin's botanical gardens are among the most romantic spots in the city.

Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate)

Pariser Platz, Tiergarten

Built as an imposing entrance to the city.

Gedenkstätte Plötzensee

Heutigpfad, Charlottenburg

30/ 344-3226

The infamous prison, where thousands were killed between 1933-45. A harrowing glimpse of the Nazi period.

Haus Am Checkpoint Charlie

Friedrichstrasse 44

30/ 251-1031

Checkpoint Charlie was the most volatile of the border posts during the Cold War.

Museumsinsel

Mitte

Conceived as an island devoted to the arts and sciences. Occupying the western tip of the Spree island, the complex is comprised of five buildings, the Altes Museum among them.

Reichstag

Platz der Republik, Tiergarten

30/ 3-9770

Built in 1884-94 as a parliament for the second German Empire. Guted by fire in 1933, it has been renovated and houses the reunited German parliament.

Schloss Charlottenburg

Luisenplatz, Charlottenburg

The palace was built in 1695 as a summer residence for Sophie Charlotte.

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<L2>Museums and Culture

Museums in Germany are normally open Tuesday to Sunday 9A.M.-5P.M..

Agyptisches Museum (Egyptian Museum)

70 Schlossstrasse, Charlottenburg

30/ 320-91261

An exemplary collection of Egyptian art.

Altes Museum

Lustgarten, Mitte

30/ 203-550

Berlin's oldest museum, built in 1824 by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The main attraction is a collection of postwar international art.

Bauhaus-Archiv

13-14 Klingelhöferstrasse, Tiergarten

Bauhaus teapots from the 1920s, sleek steel chairs, architectural plans, paintings, and models.

Gemaldegalerie (Picture Gallery)

23 Arnimallee, Dahlem

30/ 8-3011

Included in the enviable collection are Medieval works from by Holbein and Durer.

Kultur-Forum

south of Tiergarten

The group of museums and concert halls on the southern edge of the Tiergarten was planned as a center of the arts. Among the most prominent is Philharmonie concert hall.

Skulpturengalerie

23-27 Arnimallee, Dahlem

30/ 83011

Modern sculpture gallery at the Dahlem museum complex.

Pergamon

1-3 Bodestrasse, Mitte

30/ 2035-5444

One of the world's most significant architecture archives.</L2>

<L5>Shopping

Stores are open Monday to Friday 9A.M.-6P.M., Saturday 9A.M.-1P.M. and, often, Thursday until 8.30P.M. Visitors are exempt from paying tax (*mehrwertsteuer*) on purchases of more than \$400; present your passport at the store and fill out a simple form. To validate the refund, which is sent to your home address, you must present the paperwork and goods to customs.

Shop the Kurfeurstendamm (KuÖdamm) for a high concentration of designer boutiques, including Escada, Esprit, Jil Sander, and Gianni Versace.

Berliner Antiqu and Flea Market

Under the S-Bahn tracks of Friederichstrasse

Everything is used, everything is a bargain, and everything, in its own way, is a work of art.

Berliner Zinnfiguren

88 Knesebeckstrasse

Miniature toy soldiers.

KaDeWe (Kaufhaus des Westens)

21-24 Taüntienstrasse

Berlin's largest and best department store.

Staatliche Porzellan Manufaktur Berlin

26a Kurfurstendamm

Beautiful, delicately designed china.

Marga Schöller Beucherstube

33 Knesebeckstrasse, Charlottenburg

30/ 881-1112

General bookstore with English titles.

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<L3>Children**Zoologischer Garten**

8 Hardenbergplatz, or 26 Budapester Strasse, Tiergarten

One of the world's biggest and best-kept zoos.

Zitadelle Spandau

Juliusturm, Spandau

30/ 3-3911

One of Berlin's Baroque moated palaces.

Museum Feuer Verkehr und Technik

9 Trebbinerstrasse, Kreuzberg

30/ 254-840

For older children on a rainy day. Hands-on exhibits.

Museum Feuer Naturkunde

34 Invalidenstrasse, Mitte

30/ 2897-2540

Dinosaur skeletons and precious minerals.

Rent boats at the **Tiergarten**. **Viktoria Park** has a waterfall and a small zoo.

Night Spots**Schwarzes CafŽ**

148 Kantstrasse

See and be seen in this hip bar.

Estoril

11 Vorbergstrasse

A tapas bar.

Metropol

5 Nollendorfplatz
30/ 216-4122
Contemporary music.

Quasimodo

12a Kantstrasse
30/ 312-8086
International jazz talent.

Hebbel Theater

29 Stresemanstrasse, Kreuzberg
30/ 251-0144
Avant-garde theater and dance.
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<L4>Excursions**Volkspark Gleinicke**

north of Königstrasse, Zehlendorf
30/ 805-3041

On the old road from Berlin to Potsdam, the Volkspark at Schloss Glienicke is one of the most tranquil spots on the Havel River. Glienicke is landscaped with English gardens and vast lawns.

Wannsee

Zehlendorf

An inlet of the Havel river, the Wannsee was famous as a resort area in the 1800s. Berliners flock to the Wannsee to sun on the longest inland beach in Europe, the Strandbad Wannsee.

Meuggelsee

Köpenick, southeast Berlin

Lakes and forests lie just beyond the old town of Köpenick. East Berlin's answer to the Wannsee in the west.

Pfäüninsel

Wannsee
30/ 805-3042

A ferry will take you across the narrow strait to Pfäüninsel (Peacock Island), where English landscapes by Peter Joseph LennŽ and mock ruins are set among wandering peacocks and sheep.

Potsdam

Park Sanssouci (331/ 969-4202) is this suburb's main attraction. Take a guided tour of the palace and adjoining follies built for Berlin's royalty, or wander the French-style gardens. Also visit Schinkel's St. Nikolaikirche and the Filmmuseum, which documents German cinema from 1895 to the present.

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<L8>Sunshine Guide to Berlin, Germany

SEASONS: Berlin has the same four-season year that most of us are familiar with. Spring (April and May) is the season when the annual plants start to sprout and the deciduous trees leaf out. Spring weather alternates between wintry conditions and promises of warmth. Summer (June through mid-September) is the season of long warm days and full vegetative growth. Autumn (mid-September through mid-November) is the season when the annuals die, the deciduous trees drop their leaves, and the first frosts appear. Winter (mid-November through March) is the season of vegetative rest, snow, and cold.

SUNNIEST MONTHS: May through August. This is when you can expect to get the sunniest weather of the year. In general, only 38% of the year's daylight hours will be sunny--from a high of 49% in June, to a low of 14% in December. Spring and Autumn get the most clear days, about one day in six or seven. More than half the days in December and January never see the sun at all.

The long summer days are made even longer by about fifty minutes of twilight before sunrise and the same after sunset.

WARMEST MONTHS: Early June through August. Berlin summers usually feature warm days (rather than hot) and cool nights. The hottest actual temperature of the year will be around 91ø, and will probably occur in July.

Only occasionally during this period will the nights be hot enough that you will sleep better with some sort of room-cooling.

COOLEST MONTHS: January and February. At this time of year, you can expect frosty mornings on about two-thirds of the days. On two days out of five, be ready for afternoon temperatures to remain below freezing the whole day. The coldest temperature of the year will be around 4ø, and will probably occur in February.

Snowfalls will usually total about twenty inches for the season, and the ground is often snow-covered for days at a time.

DRIEST MONTHS: March and September. Some 44% of the year's days will get no measurable precipitation; that is, they will get less than a hundredth of an inch. March and September will have 63% such days, whereas November and January will get only 48%. A "dry day" in the table, however, is one with less than a tenth of an inch--a more useful measure. It takes at least that much to wet the ground under the trees.

The summer thundershowers seem to prefer the late afternoon and early evening, but the rest of the precipitation seems to have no preferred time of day. In addition, most summer rainstorms are brief. In contrast, many winter storms--both snow and rain--may persist for several days.

THINGS TO KNOW: Berlin will often have a distinct "urban heat island" effect. Under windless and rainless conditions (or near), the city center will be many degrees warmer than the outlying suburbs. This is especially noticeable at night and in the winter. Precipitation of any

kind diminishes this effect, and a strong wind will eliminate it completely. Snow is typically much lighter in the city center, and melts more quickly.

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