



Introduction

Take a walk on the wild side

Berlin on foot is no joke! This is a book for the walkers, the flâneurs and city wanderers, which will guide you through the city in all its facets, in a simple yet comprehensive way. At times, when the route got too long, the authors occasionally switched to bicycles or covered parts of the route by public transport. The routes vary in length – from extended walks on the outskirts of the city, to shorter, more compact walks in the central areas; the book includes walks for all levels of endurance.

This city guide presents the districts according to the historical demarcations of Greater Berlin in 1920. Three districts were added later: Marzahn (1979), Hohen-schönhausen (1985) and Hellersdorf (1986). During the district reform in 2001, the 23 districts with 3.4 million inhabitants at the time became twelve large districts. But the „old“ districts live on in the hearts and minds of Berliners and their visitors.

The decision to present Berlin based on the historical structure, rather than on the modern division established by the administration, aims to show the city in a more authentic manner while giving a clear overview and context.

Going for a city walk means heading for the capital's famous sights, right? But going for a walk can also mean passing those landmarks by and instead encountering the gems hidden in plain sight amongst everyday life. Because everyday life and living are as much a part of Berlin as the pompous and the dramatic.

Berlin's origins lie around the Spree Island. This is where the villages of Alt-Berlin (Old Berlin) and Cölln were located. In 1307, the two towns merged to form the city of Berlin and became the preeminent urban core of the greater Berlin area. However, in the context of the current city limits, Spandau on the Havel is actually the oldest settlement (first mentioned in 1197). Documents dating as far back as 1209 were also found in the suburb of Köpenick.

From the beginning of the 15th century, the Hohenzollerns ruled the city without interruption, at first as electors of the Margraviate of Brandenburg, then as Prussian kings and finally as emperors.

In 1709, Friedrich I, King of Prussia, merged the cities of Berlin, Cölln, Friedrichswerder, Dorotheenstadt and Friedrichstadt to form the royal capital and residence city of Berlin. At that time, Berlin had 55,000 inhabitants; by 1755 it already had 100,000, 26,000 of whom were soldiers.

With the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century, Berlin's population boomed. By 1850, 400,000 people lived here and Berlin became the fourth largest city in Europe. In 1861, Wedding, Moabit and the Tempelhof and Schöneberg suburbs were incorporated. From 1862 onward, the large Wilhelminian style districts were built according to the Hobrecht Plan.

When Berlin became the capital of the newly founded German Empire in 1871, it had a population of 800,000. Shortly afterwards, the city grew to a metropolis of over a million inhabitants. The sewer system was finally built between 1873–93 and the first subway and suburban trains were ready for use by 1896. Large tenement towns were built around the city center and villa colonies in the southwest.

In 1920, the Greater Berlin Act incorporated new territories and created the districts that we still know today. That district structure was not changed even during the destruction of the city in the Second World War and over 40 years of the East-West divide. Today, around 3.9 million people live here. Berlin is characterized both by monuments and village greens, by Wilhelminian style villas and apartment blocks, by old scars and new beginnings. This book contains all this (and much more), written from the perspectives of the diverse city walking authors, who will be introduced on page 258.

Berlin is constantly changing. This can be seen in the large construction projects, but also in the many small changes in daily life and affairs. *JULIA BRODAUF*

A heartfelt thank you

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A spring day in Bötzw quarter

Mitte

Profile

Mitte (City Centre)



Inhabitants

107,875

Aged 27–45 years

38 %

Over 65 years old

13 %

Listed buildings

685

Mitte's endless vastness, wide streets and spacious squares define the heart of Berlin. But just behind them you can find narrow alleyways and puzzle-like courtyards. Between Alexanderplatz and the Brandenburg Gate, Rosenthaler Platz and Leipziger Straße lie the origins of the city ever since the 13th century. Today this old Berlin exists more as an idea – it used to stand where the Nikolai Quarter is now (► page 19). Directly opposite, on the other side of the Spree river, is located its sister town Cölln.

Here in Mitte, the former electoral palace stood, and stands again (newly rebuilt), where the emblematic buildings of Museum Island, the boulevard Unter den Linden and Friedrichstadt are located. During different historical times the government buildings would always be located here: in the Kingdom of Prussia, in the German Empire, in the Weimar Republic and under National Socialism. Berlin Mitte has always been the capital city of Germany, even during the GDR era. The city's unmistakable landmark, the television tower, is a reminder of this. It stands on a spacious square near the Red Town Hall and the Marienkirche. Once there used to be a densely populated old town district at this place. However, it fell victim to the bombing and the restructuring of the post-war period. Today, people still live around the town hall, the church, and "Alex" (Alexanderplatz), albeit in six, seven, eight and multi-story apartment blocks from the prefabricated housing era.

In contrast to this lifestyle the Scheunenviertel begins northwest of Alexanderplatz. In the 17th century, what is now known as "Alex" used to be an animal market, so barns for animal feed were built here in the Scheunenviertel, which was then located outside the city walls. The district later became a Jewish ghetto. The entire Spandauer Vorstadt, which back then stretched to Friedrichstraße, had a strong Jewish influence as well. In the GDR years this area had an insignificant presence in the city despite being centrally located.



Once the heart of subcultures, the Spandauer Vorstadt is now stylishly renovated

After the reunification, the legendary art, music and subculture scene of Berlin flourished here, making the city a magnet for creatives worldwide. What began in squatted houses, self-organized clubs and small bars flourished into highly sophisticated culinary establishments over the course of three decades. The artists' example was followed by companies that renovated the run-down charm into smart, energy-optimized Wilhelminian-style buildings that kept with the preservation order. Young people have long moved on to other alternative neighborhoods, while the experimental art scene wanders through the entire city in a tedious search of affordable spaces. Though with the plans for the Haus der Statistik and the Alte Münze, perhaps a part of it will return, supported and managed by the municipality. *JULIA BRODAUF*

Map page 13

Start

Bus station Lustgarten,
lines 100, 245, 300

End

S/U Brandenburger Tor

Length

2 km

All information about the
Berlin City Palace is available
at www.humboldtforum.de

Restaurant Baret

On the rooftop of the Hum-
boldtforums
(01 76) 72 89 45 00
www.baret.berlin
Every day, except Tuesdays
11am–12am
Coffee or dining with a view

Equastrian statue of Fried-
rich II. Unter den Linden



Unter den Linden

The splendor of historic Berlin

Start at the **Lustgarten** ❶ for a walk along the capital's most important tourist axis: **Unter den Linden**. The multi-lane boulevard was originally a bridle path and connected the City Palace with the Tiergarten. Today's **Stadtschloss (City Palace)** ❷ is a new building, officially called the **Humboldt Forum** and was completed in 2020. Italian architect Francesco Stella reconstructed the baroque façade, dome and inner courtyard. From the outside, you can only recognize the modernity of the building on the east façade. As you stroll through the inner courtyards, you can expect a mixture of retro architecture and modern city windows. Inside the huge building complex, the baroque building elements form a framework for contemporary architecture and, above all, the contemporary interior.

Top-class museums such as the **Ethnological Collections and Asian Art** have moved into the Humboldt Forum. Spectacular technical equipment and event rooms aim to convey Berlin's cultural heritage in a spectacular way, as in the permanent exhibition **Berlin Global**.

Andreas Schlüter converted the historic city palace into a baroque residence around 1700. The foundation stone was laid in 1441 by Elector Friedrich II, right in the middle between Old Berlin and Cölln. It was more of a castle, even reviled as a „Zwingburg“ (a fortress from which the elector could control and stay protected at the same time) by angry citizens. Outraged, they carried stones from the building site and blocked the construction work. The enraged elector even threatened the city with war.

This trend continued as the late building made by Schlüter did not please its inhabitants either. Victoria, mother of the last German Emperor Wilhelm II, found it draughty and cold and missed the baths and water closets of her English home palace. The palace was badly damaged in the Second World War and was demolished by the GDR government in 1950. Instead, the **Palast der Republik (Palace of the Republic)** was built here, a main cultural center of the GDR, where the powerless parliament, the so called „Volkskammer“ (People's Chamber), also met. The building was asbestos treated

after the reunification and finally demolished between 2006 and 2008 (and partly built into a high-rise building in Dubai). An art-in-architecture project by artist Tim Trantenroth has restaged the palace façade in the palace stairwell.

There is currently a lot of cold stony space around the castle. It remains to be seen whether this will become a lively urban space, once the monument to German unity called „Bürger in Bewegung“ (Citizens in Motion) in front of the Humboldt Forum has been completed: the walk-in, self-rocking „Unity seesaw“.

Behind the palace is the former **Staatsratsgebäude** of the GDR (**State Council Building**) ❸, with a portal from the old city palace built into it. Cross the Spree bridge on the right to reach Werderscher Markt and pass the site where **Schinkelsche Bauakademie (Schinkel's Building Academy)** is also to be reconstructed, marked by scaffolding. Opposite is the building of the new **Auswärtiges Amt (Foreign Office)** ❹, which adjoins the historic building on Werderscher Markt, which was built for the Reichsbank („Bank of the Reich“) in 1913. During the GDR era, the Central Committee of the SED (the Socialist Unity Party of Germany) resided here. On this square also stands the

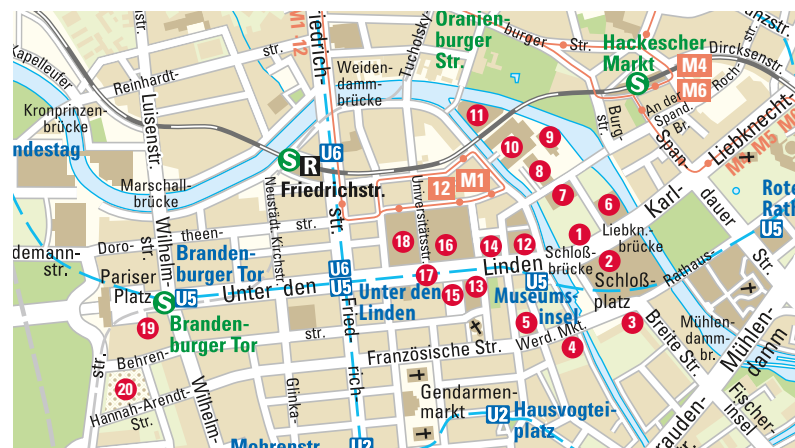
Friedrichswerdersche Kirche ❺, the city's first neo-Gothic church, which was built by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. It serves the National Gallery as an exhibition space

Schinkel Pavillon

Oberwallstraße 1
(030) 20 88 64 44
www.schinkelpavillon.de
Thu and Fri 2pm–7pm
Sat/Sun 11am–7pm
Contemporary art

Friedrichswerdersche Kirche

Information at
www.smb.museum
Wed–Fri 10am–5pm
Sat/Sun 10am–6pm



Information
Museumsinsel
www.smb.museum
 (030) 2 66 42 42 42

James-Simon-Galerie
 Visitor center of Museum Island
 Tue to Sun 10am–6pm
 Some museums have additional opening hours in the summer months

for sculptures. Let's go back to Karl-Liebknecht-Straße on Schlossplatz.

To the right, the reconstruction of the historic center is almost complete: The Lustgarten forms the prelude to the **Museumsinsel (Museum Island)**. From the will expressed by Friedrich Wilhelm III and his architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel, the island became a group of temple-like buildings based on the Acropolis. The museum ensemble is rich in art treasures from antiquity to the 19th century and can keep art history enthusiasts busy for many days.

Schinkel began planning and building the Museum Island in the 1820s, and Peter Joseph Lenné designed the lawns to match the classical austerity. The original Lustgarten (pleasure garden) dates back to the gardens of the first electoral castle. On its eastern side towers the **Berliner Dom (Berlin Cathedral)** 6. Its history is just as long as that of the palace; the previous buildings were initially replaced by Schinkel. But the cathedral was to become even more magnificent and was redesigned by Schinkel's pupil August Stüler. Construction work came to a standstill in the meantime and was only completed in 1904 by Julius Raschdorff in an even more breath-

taking style. The coffins of numerous members of the House of Hohenzollern can be visited in the cathedral crypt.

Opposite, the mighty row of columns of the **Altes Museum (Old Museum)** 7 is impressive. In front of it stands a granite bowl with a diameter of almost seven meters, made from a huge Brandenburg boulder. It was supposed to be exhibited in the museum but did not fit through the portal. The Altes Museum has housed the collection of antiquities and a selection of the coin collection since 1904.

To the left of it, a flight of steps leads to the new visitor center of the Museum Island, the **James-Simon-Galerie** with its impressive columned hall.

From here you enter the **Neues Museum (New Museum)** 8. Architecturally designed by David Chipperfield, it completes the Museum Island with the Egyptian Museum and the collections of antiquities. Berlin's most famous art treasure, Nefertiti, can be seen here, as well as the „Berliner Goldhut“ (Berlin Gold Hat) from the Bronze Age.

Next to it is the **Alte Nationalgalerie (Old National Gallery)** 9, which is modeled on a Roman temple

Altes Museum
 At Lustgarten
 Wed–Fri 10am–5pm
 Sat/Sun until 6pm

Alte Nationalgalerie
 Bodestraße 1–3
 Daily except Mo
 10am–6pm

Pergamonmuseum
 Am Kupfergraben 5
 Tue to Sun 10am–6pm
 (Closed until 2027)

Bode-Museum
 Monbijoubücke
 Wed–Fri 10am–5pm
 Sat/Sun 10am–6pm

Neues Museum
 Bodestraße 1–3
 Tue–Sun 10am–6pm

New old façade: the reconstruction of the Berlin City Palace remains controversial





Wilhelm von Humboldt, founder of the Humboldt university in front of the aforementioned

and exhibits art from the 19th century: Masterpieces by Caspar David Friedrich, Adolph Menzel and Max Liebermann illustrate the transition from classicism and romanticism to the beginning of modernism.

To the north, a particularly impressive museum site awaits: the 36-metre-wide and 34-metre-deep Pergamon Altar came to Berlin in the 19th century. The **Pergamonmuseum** 10, originally the youngest building on Museum Island, was built especially for the altar and today also houses the Vorderasiatisches Museum (Museum of the Ancient Near East) and the Museum of Islamic Art. However, the building is being renovated until 2027 and the Pergamon Altar is not accessible. Instead, it can be admired in a panoramic installation by artist Yadegar Asisi.

The **Bode-Museum** 11 on the northern tip of the island was opened as an art museum in 1904. Compared to its neoclassical neighbors, it is a lively, neo-baroque mix of styles. It protrudes like a ship into the Spree and presents the sculpture collection and the Museum of Byzantine Art.

Going back towards the south, after crossing the Schlossbrücke (castle bridge), those interested in history can visit the **Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum)** 12 in the pink Zeughaus (arsenal). It was built around 1700, making it the oldest building on the boulevard Unter den Linden. Its original function was as an armory, as its façade decoration reminds us: legionary helmets on the south side, mask-like faces of martyred warriors in the inner courtyard.

Opposite the armory is the **Kommandantenhaus (Commandant's House)**. The historicising façade is deceptive: the building was only rebuilt by Bertelsmann AG in 2003 based on vague findings about the original construction. It is a modern office building on the inside. We stay on the street side of the armory and view the **Kronprinzenpalais (Crown Prince Palace)** and **Prinzessinnenpalais (Princess Palace)** from here. The Deutsche Bank art museum with the snappy name „Palais Populaire“ is located here, and the **Staatsoper Unter den Linden (State Opera House Unter den Linden)** 13, built by G. W. von Knobelsdorff for Frederick II, is adjoining.

We continue along the north side of Unter den Lin-

den. The small, temple-like building next to the armory is the **Neue Wache (New Watchhouse)** 14. It was designed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel in 1816 as a royal guardhouse and is now the central memorial of the Federal Republic of Germany. Behind it is the **Maxim Gorki Theater** and, attached to it, the **Palais am Festungsgraben (Palace on the Moat)**. The latter was a gift from Friedrich II to his valet and was the only building in the area to survive the Second World War unscathed. It awaits with a whole range of different, magnificent halls – a place for festivities, but also for culture: the **Theater im Palais (Theater of the Palace)** has been staging plays with a literary focus since 1990. However, the building is in grave need of renovation, which is why its future use is currently being discussed.

Now we cross the street to take a look at the window carved on the floor of **Bebelplatz** 15. It is a **memorial** by Israeli artist Micha Ullmann and commemorates the Nazi book burnings. In 1933, on the orders of Goebbels, students threw 20,000 „un-German“ books into the fire on this spot.

Bebelplatz is also home to the **Sankt-Hedwigs-Kathedrale**, the cathedral of the Diocese of Berlin, and the former **Königliche Bibliothek (Royal Library)**, now the law faculty of the **Humboldt University** 16. Its main building is located opposite on the north side of the boulevard. Unter den Linden is lined with statues of the brothers Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt, the latter founder of the time-honoured university.

At the **equestrian statue of Friedrich II** 17, the tree-lined central strip that gives the street its name finally begins: We are now walking under lime (more commonly known as Linden in the US) trees. On the right is the **Staatsbibliothek (State Library)** 18 with its cosy inner courtyard, which crosses Friedrichstraße.

Maxim Gorki Theater
Am Festungsgraben 2
(030) 20 22 11 15
www.gorki.de

Theater im Palais
Am Festungsgraben 1
(030) 2 01 06 93
www.theater-im-palais.de

Café Einstein
Unter den Linden 42
(030) 2 04 36 32
Mon–Fri from 8am
Sat/Sun from 10am
www.einstein-udl.com
Renowned café and a celebrity meeting place on the sunny side of the boulevard

Since 1990, the Brandenburg Gate has been a symbol of German unity



Deutsches Historisches Museum

Unter den Linden 2
(030) 20 30 40
Daily 10am–6pm
www.dhm.de
The arsenal will be in renovation until at least 2026, the Pei-Bau shows special exhibitions

Prinzessinnenpalais – Palais Populaire

Unter den Linden 5
Daily except Tue 11am–6pm,
Tue 11am–9pm
palaispopulaire.db.com

Akademie der Künste

Pariser Platz 4
(030) 2 00 57 10 00
Daily 10am–8pm
Café Tue–Sun 11am–6pm
www.adk.de

Max-Liebermann-Haus

Pariser Platz 7
(030) 22 63 30 30
www.stiftungbrandenburgertor.de
Thu–Sun 11am–6pm

On the left-hand side of the street, the defiant building of the Russian Embassy comes into view, two houses further on, the British residence in Wilhelmstraße. At the end of the boulevard, Pariser Platz opens up at the **Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate)**, Berlin's landmark. Originally, a city gate stood here, separating the city from the Tiergarten and Brandenburg, which began behind it. Today's neoclassical building made of Elbe sandstone was erected in 1788–91 by Carl Gotthard Langhans. The six Doric columns, each 15 meters high, have a diameter of 1.75 meters at the base. The sculptures of Mars and Minerva in the gatehouses were designed by Johann Gottfried Schadow, as was the quadriga on the roof. The charioteer, the goddess of victory Victoria, was taken to Paris by Napoleon in 1806 as a prize of war. Eight years later, Field Marshal Blücher brought her back.

Pariser Platz was destroyed during the war and was a border area in divided Germany. Nothing stood here until the fall of the Berlin Wall, only the Wall ran directly past the Brandenburg Gate. The square was then rebuilt on the old ground plan. The Adlon, Berlin's luxury hotel, can be found here, as well as the new building of the **Akademie der Künste 19**, the DZ Bank and the Embassy of the United States of America.

The painter Max Liebermann once described the way to his house on Pariser Platz as follows: „When you come into Berlin, turn left immediately“

– coming from Tiergarten. This is where the house stands today once more. The original building by Stüler was reconstructed by Josef Paul Kleihues and houses the Brandenburg Gate Foundation. The neighboring buildings are the Dresdner Bank and the French Embassy.

Behind the Brandenburg Gate, this historic

part of Berlin ends abruptly. The former princely hunting grounds are now a huge park, the Tiergarten. To the north is the government district, to the south you can already see the brightly colored dome of the Center at Potsdamer Platz. We are now taking one last detour to the **Holocaust Memorial** going behind the Adlon and the Academy of Arts.

This architecturally unique **memorial dedicated to the murdered Jews of Europe 20** was completed in 2005 to a design by Peter Eisenman. 2,711 slightly inclined concrete blocks of different heights form a sea of stone in which every visitor feels isolated. A documentation center complements the sensory impression of abandonment with historical facts. The **memorial to the homosexuals persecuted under National Socialism** opposite in the Tiergarten, and the **memorial to the Sinti and Roma murdered under National Socialism** (inaugurated in 2012 in Scheidemannstraße between the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag), also memorialize the victims of the crimes of that era.

JULIA BRODAUF

Alexanderplatz & Nikolaiviertel

Between Disneyland and the Bärenzwinger

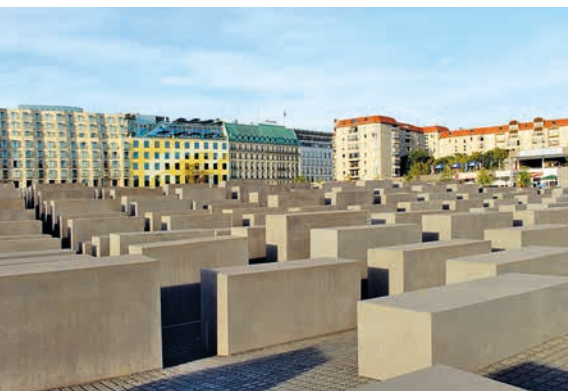
Berlin's origins The place where Berlin was founded is now an urban planning oddity: the Nikolai Quarter is an artificial old town, newly built in the 1980s. It is within walking distance of Berlin's central sights. The original center of the city is a strangely rough place. An impressive one though – where traces and scars of old and new are firmly intertwined.

This walk takes us from Alexanderplatz past the TV tower, St. Mary's Church and the Red Town Hall to the aforementioned Nikolai Quarter. Meanwhile at the Franciscan monastery church we find romantic traces of history. An interesting detour leads us to the Märkisches Ufer (a dock which serves at the starting point for city boat tours).

Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas

(030) 2 00 57 10 00
Tue–Sun 10am–6pm
Memorial open 24 hours
www.stiftung-denkmal.de
Information point under the memorial

The Holocaust memorial commemorates the murdered Jews of Europe

**Map page 20**

Start
S/U Alexanderplatz
End
U Märkisches Museum
Length
2 km

Haus der Statistik

Alexanderplatz 1
The former headquarters of the State Central Administration of Statistics (SZS) of the GDR is currently being converted for a new use in an open workshop process.
www.hausderstatistik.org



Some Berliners would be lost without it



We start at **Alexanderplatz**, which today covers 80,000 square meters and oversees 300,000 passers-by every day. Originally, it was simply the square in front of the northern city gate, the Georgentor, and was used for cattle trading. Wool factories were built around it. However, the southern part of the square became a parade ground in the 18th century, which is how it got its name: In honor of Tsar Alexander I, who was received by Frederick William III on the parade ground in 1805. Heavily damaged in the Second World War, the complex that we know today was built in the 1960s with the Fernsehturm (Television Tower), the Haus des Lehrers (Teachers' House), the Haus des Reisens (Travelers' House), the department store, the **Weltzeituhr (World Time Clock)** and the Brunnen der Völkerfreundschaft (fountain of friendship between nations).

The elegant buildings **Alexanderhaus** and **Berolinahaus** by Peter Behrens in the center of the square date from the early 1930s. Two newer department stores are a nod to the initially designed architecture, but neither the Alexa shopping center nor the snack stands support the original elegance of the planning.

It helps to hotfoot it up to the revolving restaurant in the **Fernsehturm** ①, the landmark of (East) Berlin and Germany's tallest building at 368.03 meters. From up here you can also see the extensive square to the west of the city railway, which doesn't actually have a name of its own. Originally, the New Market was located here, surrounded by an old town district that no longer exists. Today, the open space is also home to the **Neptunbrunnen (Neptune Fountain)** ②, which made the sculptor Reinhold Begas famous in 1891. Neptune, whose trident rises to a height of 10 meters, is flanked by female figures allegorically representing the rivers Rhine, Vistula, Oder and Elbe. Originally, the fountain stood in front of the city palace – in such a way that Neptune's gaze fell directly into the imperial bedchamber. Auguste Victoria, wife of Wilhelm II, felt disturbed by it

and had the fountain turned the other way.

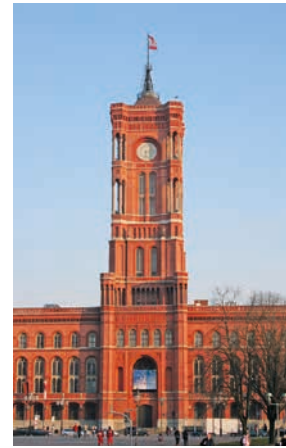
The tower of **St. Marienkirche** ③ rises within sight of the fountain. It is the second oldest church in inner-city Berlin and was first documented in 1292 as the “parish church on The New Market”. The neo-Gothic tower was designed by Carl Gotthard Langhans. The alabaster pulpit by palace builder and sculptor Andreas Schlüter is another architectural and historical sight nearby.

In the vestibule of the church, a Dance of Death frieze and an accompanying poem depict the plague in the year 1484; the fresco is one of Berlin's most important medieval art treasures.

The other tall tower on the square is unmistakably part of Berlin's town hall. It is called the **Rotes Rathaus (Red Town Hall)** ④ due to its red brick façade. It is the seat of the Governing Mayor and the Senate of Berlin. Before it was built in the 1870s, the medieval courthouse still stood here. The architect Herrmann Friedrich Waesemann based the building design both on a West Prussian town hall and a French cathedral. On the second floor, a frieze illustrates the history of Berlin and Brandenburg.

On the other side of Spandauer Strasse is the **Marx-Engels-Forum** – a green space, the preservation of which is as hotly debated as that of the Palace of the Republic. The centerpiece is a double sculpture of the communist icons Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. We walk through the small park to the Spree. The **Berliner Dom (Berlin Cathedral)** rises imposingly on the right (► page 14), but we turn left and walk towards the **Nikolaiviertel (Nikolai Quarter)** ⑤. To reach it, we cross Rathausstraße and continue on our way to a small square on which the bronze sculpture “St. George fighting the dragon” from 1853 is enthroned. It originally stood in the courtyard of the Berlin City Palace. Around it, you can dine in various restaurants and look across the river to the pretty rear of the stables.

We are now in the middle of the Nikolaiviertel, which is grouped around the **Nikolaikirche** in almost picturesque, cobbled streets. But the old town is not original: Historic Berlin buildings have been rebuilt or reconstructed here, right next to new, plain undeco-



Berlin is governed in the Rotes Rathaus

Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst

Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 11/13, 1. floor (escalator, elevator at Tedi)
Tue–Sun 12pm–6pm
Fri 12pm–8pm
www.ngbk.de
Artists' association with exhibitions

Fernsehturm (TV Tower)

Panoramastraße 1a
Daily 9am–11pm
www.tv-turm.de

Park Inn Rooftop Terrace

Apr.–Sep. 12pm–10pm,
Oct.–March 12pm–6pm
www.parkinn-berlin.de
With Europe's highest swing

Illuseum Berlin

Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 9
Daily 10am–8pm
www.illuseum-berlin.de
Lots of fun with optical illusions



Eat and drink like Zille once did – at the historic Zum Nußbaum inn

rated buildings. Here you have neither a city feeling nor the feeling of being in Berlin, and yet you are at the oldest point of the city, where Old Berlin and Cölln grew together to form Berlin.

The church and quarter have their origins in the 13th century and were first intended to be converted into a prestigious “Old Town Forum” to mark Berlin’s 700th anniversary in 1937. However, due to the war this project could only just start before getting destroyed again. But when Berlin’s 750th anniversary was due in 1987, the idea was taken up again and implemented. The result is the visible mixture of prefabricated buildings and ornamentation.

We take a stroll through the manageably-sized area: the church has been rebuilt, surrounded by a row of smaller town houses. The **Ephraim-Palais** on Mühlendamm, which was demolished in 1936, was rebuilt 12 meters away – the rococo building now stands at the corner of Poststraße and houses the Berlin City Museum Foundation, which presents

historical and art exhibitions. The original **Gasthaus Zum Nußbaum (Inn “To the Walnut Tree”)** stood on the neighboring Fischerinsel in 1571 and was frequented by Heinrich Zille, Otto Nagel and Claire Waldoff. It was recreated in the Nikolaiviertel along with its tree. A visit to the nearby **Zille-Museum** illustrates the spirit of the city that comes to life in this quarter. Another copy is the **Gerichtslaube (courthouse)** of the old Berlin town hall, which houses a restaurant.

The way back to Alexanderplatz can go directly through the **Molkenmarkt (Whey Market)** 6, formerly one of Berlin’s oldest market squares, now a large intersection with the Altes Stadthaus (Old Town House) and Spandauer Straße. However, it is definitely worth taking a detour to the other side of the busy Grunerstrasse to an unexpected gem – the Klosterstraße quarter. The **Franziskaner Klosterkirche (Franciscan Monastery Church)** 7, now an impressive ruin,

was Berlin’s oldest Gothic church. The first fieldstone church stood here in 1250 and the building still visible today dates from the 15th century. From as early as the 16th century, the students of the Berlin Gymnasium zum Grauen Kloster (Grey Monastery Highschool) lived here instead of the Franciscan monks. Amongst its graduates were K. F. Schinkel and Otto von Bismarck.

You will get an impressive view of the **courthouse** on Littenstraße next door, which around 1900 was the largest building in Berlin after the City Palace. The magnificent entrance hall is open to the public. There are still some remains of the Berlin wall along this street. Following them onto the Waisenstraße leads to a cozy corner with four preserved town houses from the 16th century. One of them is the Zur letzten Instanz inn, which owes its name to the nearby court. Ornate, charming and bourgeois – so much so that even Napoleon is said to have sat by its tiled stove.

Opposite is the **Parochialkirche** 8. It was designed at the end of the 17th century by Johann Arnold Nering, who also built the centerpiece of the Charlottenburg Palace, combining Italian and Dutch Baroque styles. It was badly damaged during the Second World War and lost its representative tower with its famous carillon. The tower was only restored in 2016. The church is mainly used for events and only occasionally for services.

Even more traces of old Berlin can be found on the opposite side of the Spree. If you don’t want to take the detour over the next bridge, take the subway to Märkisches Museum. On Märkisches Ufer, the sparkling clean, white façade of the **Ermelerhaus** 9 shines brightly. It dates back to the 16th century but was polished up with rococo elements in the 18th century. The house was only moved here from Breite Straße 40 years ago.

Now it stands elegantly on Friedrichsgracht, and guests of the in-house restaurant are served in a romantic atmosphere on a boat on the water. More ships and barges are floating on the shore after the Roßstraßenbrücke bridge: they are part of the collection of the **Historischer Hafen (Historic Port)** 10, where several associations keep historic ships in running order.

But old iron doesn’t rust – in the coming years, the

Zur letzten Instanz

Waisenstraße 14–16
(030) 2 42 55 28
www.zurletztinstanz.de
Tue–Sat 12pm–3pm and from 5.30pm, Mon only in the evenings
Traditional restaurant in the Klosterviertel

Märkisches Museum

Am Köllnischen Park 5
(030) 24 00 21 62
www.stadtmuseum.de
Closed over several years due to renovation

Alte Münze

Culture and Exhibition Centre
Am Krögel 2
Open during events
www.alte-muenze-berlin.de
Inside:
The Greens – Coffee & Plants
Daily 10am–6pm

Nikolaikirche
Nikolaikirchplatz
Daily 10am–6pm
www.stadtmuseum.de/nikolaikirche

Museum Ephraim-Palais
Poststraße 16
(030) 24 00 21 62
Tue–Sun 10am–6pm
www.stadtmuseum.de

Heinrich-Zille-Museum
Propststraße 11
(030) 24 63 25 00
Wed–Sun 11am–6pm
www.zillemuseum-berlin.com

At the historic port



Historischer Hafen Berlin

At Märkisches Ufer
Spree-Fumée
www.spree-fumee.de
Sun–Wed 12pm–12am
Thu–Sat until 2am
Restaurant and bar on the
museum boat “Renate-
Angelika”

Bärenzwinger

In Kölnischen Park
(030) 9 01 83 74 61
Tue–Sun 11am–7pm
www.baerenzwinger.berlin

museum ships are due to move to the Osthafen, but that’s not yet the case. The **Märkisches Museum 11**, which presents exhibitions on Berlin’s culture and history but will also be closed for several years for renovation, is located along the riverbank. Behind the building lies Kölnischer Park, the home of Berlin’s heraldic animal. Since the last bear named “Schnute” died in 2015, there are no more bears living in the **Bärenzwinger (Bear Kennel)**. Instead, you can now enter the kennel yourself: the Kulturstadt Mitte organizes exhibitions of site-specific art here. *JULIA BRODAUF*

Friedrichstraße**Friedrich down, Wilhelm up****Map page 27****Start**

S/U Friedrichstraße

End

S/U Brandenburger Tor

Length

4 km

Friedrichstraße “Friedrichstraße, which stretches from Oranienburger to Hallesches Tor, is not distinguished by its beauty as much as by its length, as it takes a mediocre pedestrian a good hour to get from one end to the other.” The publicist Georg Friedrich Rebmann (1768–1824) in his “Kosmopolitische Wanderungen durch einen Teil Deutschlands” (roughly “Cosmopolitan walks through a part of Germany”).

Dussmann

Das KulturKaufhaus
Friedrichstraße 90
Mon–Fri 9am–12am
Sat until 11.30pm
www.kulturkaufhaus.de
Large bookshop with an
English department

Of all the Friedrichs and Friedrich-Wilhelms of Berlin’s history, it was Elector Friedrich III of Brandenburg who gave the street its name. He crowned himself king in 1701 and called himself Friedrich I, King of Prussia. In doing so, he laid the foundations for the Prussian unified state and its subsequent rise to great power status. The surrounding district was also named Friedrichstadt (city of Friedrich) after him.

Friedrichstraße is a lively shopping street and is always on the move. Local politicians and residents are debating whether the southern section should be a pedestrian zone. The future of the existing luxury shopping malls Q 205, 206 and 207, which are connected by an underground passageway, at Friedrichstrasse 67–81 is also uncertain. The Berlin City Library may move in where the branch of the French department store



Gendarmenmarkt exhibits a spacious and elegant neo-baroque ambience

Galleries Lafayette moved out at the end of July 2024.

Start your shopping spree at **Friedrichstraße S-Bahn and U-Bahn station 1** (more about the station ► page 31). If you manage to not get caught up in the Dussmann culture department store along the way, you will soon cross the boulevard Unter den Linden and find a long row of clothing stores across all price ranges.

A detour to the east, for example into Französische Straße or Jägerstraße, leads to the magnificent **Gendarmenmarkt (market of the “Gens d’armes”) 2** with the German and French Cathedrals and a spacious and elegant neo-baroque ambience. The square got its name from the Soldier King, Friedrich-Wilhelm I, who had the stables for the 10th cuirassier regiment of the Prussian cavalry, the “Gens d’armes”, built here. Later, his son Friedrich II had the stables torn down and towers added to the two almost identical churches. This is how they became, at least in name, the French and German cathedrals – both simply churches in terms of function; the term cathedral refers to the two domes. Today, both churches house historical museums: in the German Cathedral, the Bundestag exhibits the

Historic exhibition of the German Bundestag

Gendarmenmarkt,
Deutscher Dom
Tue–Sun 10am–6pm
(Mai–Sep. until 7pm)
www.bundestag.de

KPM Store & Outlet-Store

Royal Porcelain Manufactory
of Berlin
Friedrichstraße 158
Mon–Sat 10am–7pm
www.kpm-berlin.com



One arrives with a limousine here: the Quartier 206

Kommunikationsmuseum

Leipziger Straße 16
www.mfk-berlin.de
Tue–Fri 9am–5pm, Sat/Sun
10am–6pm, on the 3rd Wed
of the month 9am–8pm

Rausch Schokoladenhaus

Charlottenstraße 60
Mon–Sat 10am–8pm
Sat/Sun 12am–8pm
www.rausch.de
The chocolate paradise of
the fine chocolate brand;
with a café

Museum am Checkpoint Charlie

Friedrichstraße 43–45
(030) 2 53 72 50
Daily 10am–8pm
www.mauer-museum.de

Mauer-Panorama

am Checkpoint Charlie
Daily 10am–6pm
(03 41) 3 55 53 40
www.asisi.de
The 360° panorama by
Yadegar Asisi shows the view
from Kreuzberg to Mitte on a
fictitious fall day in the 1980s

development of parliamentary democracy in Germany on five floors. The exhibition on the history of the Huguenots in the French Cathedral will be reopened for visiting after the renovation work is complete.

From here, Taubenstraße leads to **Hausvogteiplatz** ③ – a square with a bubbling water fountain in the middle. Berlin's ready-

to-wear industry flourished here in the 19th century – over 40 companies based in this part of town produced fashionable clothing. Many were Jewish – hence the Hausvogteiplatz fashion center memorial, which commemorates 4,000 murdered Jews from the clothing industry. Ultra-modern townhouses have been built around the central yet quiet square in recent years.

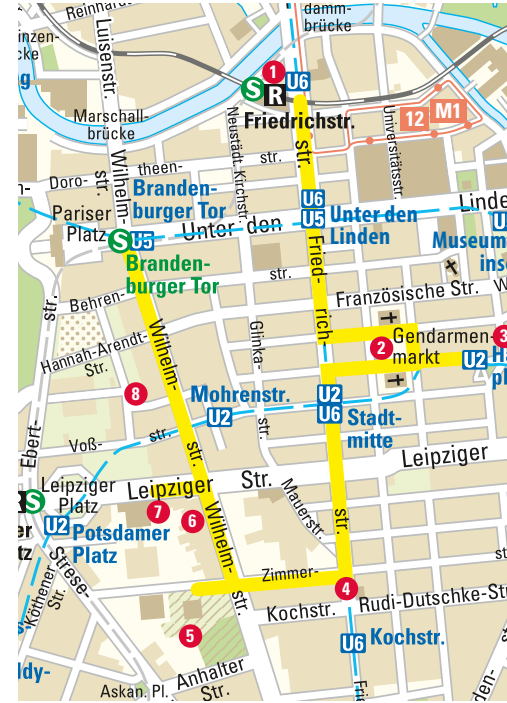
Seen enough? Had a coffee break? Taubenstraße leads back to Friedrichstraße. The south of the Friedrichstadt, the former **Checkpoint Charlie** ④ border, is busy with galavanting tourists. In the days of the Berlin Wall when the city was divided, this was the border crossing between West and East Berlin for foreigners and diplomats. Today there is a replica of the former US checkpoint here. The adjacent museum provides information about the Berlin Wall.

Zimmerstraße, which crosses here, leads to another tourist attraction: “Trabi-World”, which is located on the corner of Wilhelmstraße. This is where the spruced-up Trabants that you can take on a “Trabi Safari” tour of the city are parked. Various scooter rentals and the “leashed” helium balloon **Weltballon (World Balloon)** are a tempting option for those who no longer want to walk. On the other side of the intersection, things get serious again: the **Topographie des Terrors (Topography of Terror)** ⑤ exhibition is located here. This was the location of the Gestapo headquarters and its torture chambers. The SD and SS headquarters (Si-

cherheitsdienst des Reichsführers-SS – „Security Service of the Reichsführer-SS“ – an intelligence agency of the Nazi Party in Nazi Germany) in Prinz-Albrecht-Palais at Wilhelmstraße 102 were also located in the neighborhood.

Wilhelmstraße was the seat of important government offices in Prussia and the German Reich. It was destroyed during the Second World War. Yet, a monumental Nazi government building survived the war: The **Bundesministerium für Finanzen (Federal Ministry of Finance)** moved into the former **Reichsluftfahrtministerium (Ministry of Aviation during Nazi Germany)** ⑥ (Wilhelmstraße 97). Around the corner, at Leipziger Straße 3–4, the **Bundesrat (Federal Council)** ⑦ meets in a late baroque palace complex dating from 1899.

A little further north on Wilhelmstraße, behind the junction with Voßstraße, was Adolf Hitler's **Neue Reichskanzlei (New Chancellery of the Reich)** ⑧. Hitler committed suicide in the “Führerbunker” (literally meaning “shelter of the leader”) behind the Reich Chancellery in April 1945. Today, a high-end prefabricated building settlement from the 1980s stands here. Only plaques (on the corner of Voßstraße and Gertrud-Kolmar-Straße/In den Ministergärten) remind us of the historical sites. Nearby, at the junction of Wilhelmstraße/ An der Kolonnade, a 17-metre-high steel sculpture commemorates the assassin of Hitler, Georg Elser, since 2011. *JULIA BRODAUF*



Topographie des Terrors

Niederkirchnerstraße 8
Daily 10am–8pm
Free admission
www.topographie.de

Fesselballon Weltballon

Zimmerstraße/Ecke
Wilhelmstraße
Daily from 10am
(Nov.–March until 6pm)
Wind hotline:
(030) 2 26 67 88 11
www.air-service-berlin.de

Map page 29

Start
S/U Friedrichstraße

End
S/U Friedrichstraße

Length
4 km

Berliner Ensemble
Theater am Schiffbauerdamm
Bertolt-Brecht-Platz 1
(030) 28 40 81 55
www.berliner-ensemble.de

Ständige Vertretung
Schiffbauerdamm 8
10117 Berlin-Mitte
(030) 2 82 39 65
Daily 11am–1am
www.staev.de
Dining with meals typical for Berlin and the Rhineland

Friedrich-Wilhelm-Stadt Drama, Drama, Drama!

You can also leave Friedrichstraße station via the rear exit. The **pedestrian bridge** ① that crosses the Spree under the S-Bahn tracks leads directly to Schiffbauerdamm. From the stairs, you can stumble straight into the restaurant “Ständige Vertretung” (the literal translation of the restaurant’s name is “permanent representation”) to fortify yourself for your walk through the city with “Kölsch” beer (beer from Cologne) and Rhenish cuisine – the pub followed its regulars when the capital moved from the Rhine to the Spree. From here, a beautiful tour leads through Friedrich-Wilhelm-Stadt (Friedrich Wilhelm City), past various historic theaters, the Charité hospital and always in the footsteps of Bertolt Brecht. The epochal playwright’s place of work was the Theater am Schiffbauerdamm, the home of the **Berliner Ensemble** ②. It was founded by Bertolt Brecht and Helene Weigel in 1949 and continued to be run by Weigel after Brecht’s death in 1956 until her own death in 1971. Brecht’s plays are still a focal point of the repertoire today. And if you need some refreshment on the way, the canteen in the basement is a pleasantly peaceful place.

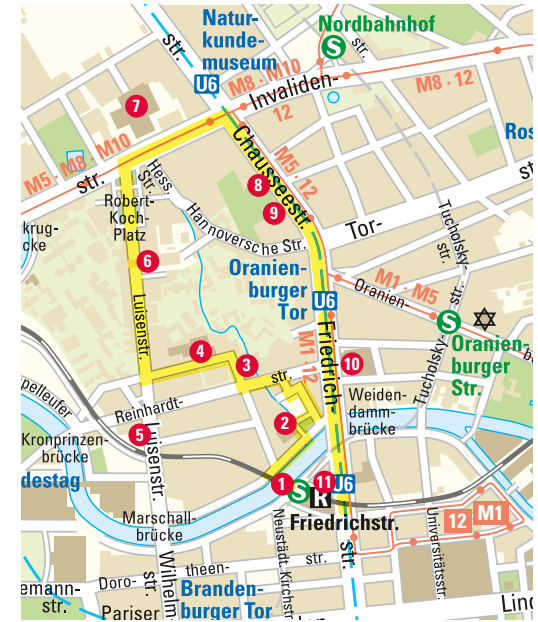
We cross the front yard with the Brecht sculpture and follow the street Am Zirkus to Reinhardtstraße.

This street is named after the director Max Reinhardt (1873–1943), who ran the Theater am Schiffbauerdamm when it was still called “Neues Theater” (new theater). Reinhardt also temporarily held the reins at the Friedrichstadtpalast (Palace of the City of Friedrich) and the Deutsches Theater (German Theater). We’ll get to the latter in a moment, but first there’s the large **bunker** ③ along the way, built in 1942, where up to

3,000 people sought shelter from bombs of the Allied during the nights of World War 2. After the war, the square building was initially used as a Red Army prison and later as a storage area for VEB Südfrüchte (popularly known as the pre-Christmas bunker). After the reunification, techno and fetish parties, theater and art were held here. Today it has undergone a sophisticated and award-winning conversion and is home to the Boros art collection and can be visited by appointment – highly recommended!

Around the corner, in Schumannstraße, you can see the “Verweile doch” („Stay a while”) sculpture in front of the **Deutsches Theater** ④. Its history dates back to 1850 with a popular repertoire and is now one of the four most important theaters in Berlin. We follow Schumannstraße until we reach Luisenstraße. Here we take another detour to the left to house number 18: Bertolt Brecht and Helene Weigel lived in this house after their return from the USA to the GDR, called the **Palais Bülow** ⑤, as the artists’ club “Die Möwe” (“The Seagull”) resided here. Hans Albers, Hanns Eisler, Gustav Gründgens, Erich Kästner, Klaus Kinski, Sophia Loren, Yves Montand and Carl Zuckmayer are also said to have been guests there.

Today, the building is the Federal State Representation of Saxony-Anhalt, while artists and their works are more likely to be found next door in the Künstlerhotel Luise (Artist’s Hotel). But now we turn around and follow Luisenstraße northwards. It leads past the **Charité** ⑥ campus on the right and at one point even passes under the hospital building. At the beginning of the 18th century, these were “plague houses” built



Deutsches Theater
Schumannstraße 13a
(030) 28 44 12 25
www.deutschestheater.de

Sammlung Boros
Reinhardtstraße 20
Guided tours Thu–Sun from 10am by prior registration
www.sammlung-boros.de

Medizinhistorisches Museum
Campus Charité Mitte
Charitéplatz 1
(030) 45 05 36 15 6
Tue/Thu/Fri/Sun 10am–5pm,
Wed/Sat 10am–7pm
www.bmm-charite.de

One of Berlin’s most famous theaters: Deutsches Theater with the Kammerspiele





Friedrichstadtpalast is Berlin's big revue theater

Brecht-Weigel-Gedenkstätte

Chausseestraße 125
(030) 2 00 57 18 44
Guided tours every half hour:
Tue/Sat 10am–3.30pm
Wed–Fri 10am–11.30am
Thu also 5pm–6.30pm
Sun 11am–6pm
www.brecht-weigel-museum.de

Museum für Naturkunde

Invalidenstraße 43
(030) 20 93 85 91
Tue–Fri 9.30am–6pm
Sat/Sun 10am–6pm
www.museumfuernaturkunde.berlin

Ca Doro

Chausseestraße 126
Fri–Sun 12pm–7pm
Café on the enclosure of the Dorotheenstädtischer Friedhof

outside the city and were soon extended to become military hospitals. As early as 1729, they turned into a bourgeois hospital, and over the centuries it has been the place of work and research for many famous doctors, including Rudolf Virchow, Robert Koch and Ferdinand Sauerbruch.

On Invalidenstraße, we take a look to the left at the generously named **Invalidenpark** with its “Sinking Wall” monument and come across the building of the **Naturkundemuseum (Natural History Museum)** 7 on the right – from here you can already admire the giant Brachiosaurus in the entrance hall. It is the largest dinosaur skeleton in the world. Then head towards Chausseestraße, turn right and visit the **Wohnhaus von Brecht und Weigel (Brecht and Weigel's Home)** 8 at number 125.

The playwright couple are buried next door in the **Dorotheenstädtischer Friedhof (cemetery)** 9. It is a protected monument because of its artistic grave-stones. Famous people buried here include professors Fichte and Hegel, writers Heinrich Mann and Anna

Seghers, composer Hanns Eisler, resistance fighters Dietrich and Klaus Bonhoeffer, German President Johannes Rau and playwright Heiner Müller. The grave of the latter can be recognized by the cigars that usually lie on the edge of the grave. A map at the entrance to the cemetery provides orientation.

On the way back to Friedrichstraße, we take a look to the right into Hannoversche Straße, where the permanent representation of the FRG in the GDR was located at numbers 28–30. Today, the **Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung (Federal Ministry of Education and Research)** is based here. After passing the Oranienburger Tor intersection, we see Oranienburger Straße with the Kunsthau Tacheles on the left (► page 36) and continue to **Friedrichstadtpalast** 10. The revue theater is based on circus traditions, and the current location, opened in 1984, was previously home to a GDR state circus. Famous handprints can be seen on the pavement in front of the entrance – Liza Minelli, Louis Armstrong. The Quatsch Comedy Club hosts performances in the basement.

Now two more reverent moments: once on the Weidendammer Brücke, because it is the place where Erich Kästner had Pünktchen sell matches and Anton sell shoelaces. And once in front of the **Tränenpalast (Palace of Tears)** 11 in the shadow of the new high-rise building at Friedrichstraße S-Bahn station, the former Inner German border crossing, named as such to commemorate the many painful farewells at this location. In the pavilion the permanent exhibition “Border Experiences. Everyday life during the division of Germany” uses interviews with contemporary witnesses and objects to illustrate life in the face of division and the border. It gives visitors the chance to witness the pain and its history.

JULIA BRODAUF

Friedrichstadtpalast Berlin

Friedrichstraße 107
www.friedrichstadtpalast.de
Tickets (030) 23 26 23 26
Quatsch Comedy Club
Tickets (01805) 9 69 00 09 69
www.quatsch-comedy-club.de

Tränenpalast

Foundation House of the History of the FRG
Reichstagsufer 17
Tue–Fri 9am–6pm
Sat/Sun 10am–6pm
(030) 46 77 77 90
www.hdg.de
Exhibition on everyday life during the division of Germany

Grill Royal

Friedrichstraße 105b
(030) 28 87 92 88
Daily from 5 pm
www.grillroyal.de
Trendy steak restaurant on the Spree

During GDR times, the Tränenpalast was the departure point for West Berliners who got to enter East Berlin for a short time



Spandauer Vorstadt and Scheunenviertel

The center of Jewish life in Berlin was located around **Hackescher Markt** (Market of Hacke – named after Prussian General and Commandant of Berlin von Hacke). It began in 1671: the reform-minded Great Elector took in (not disinterestedly) the wealthiest of the Jews who had previously been expelled from Vienna. They founded a new community and inaugurated a first synagogue in Heidereutergasse in 1714.

It was also Friedrich Wilhelm who had 27 barns built northwest of the Viehmarkt (cattle market, later Alexanderplatz). Two generations later – the barns had become a poor district – the Soldier King Friedrich Wilhelm I ordered all Jews to move to the **Scheunenviertel** (Barn Quarter). When many Eastern European Jews fled to Berlin from pogroms at the end of the 19th century, they also settled here. Around 1930, there were up to 300 Jewish establishments in the Spandauer Vorstadt (suburb of Spandau) and the Scheunenviertel. This diverse Jewish life was destroyed after the National Socialists seized power.

The district also lost its buildings – the ones that were not torn down by the Second World War fell into disrepair during the GDR era. Only the Sophienstraße was spruced up for Berlin's 750th anniversary celebrations in 1987. After the reunification, the Spandau suburb became home to the art and party scene. Young and colourful people flocked to the often empty houses, occupied them, organized exhibitions, founded bands, opened bars – and thus established Berlin's reputation as a subculture metropolis. Investors followed closely behind. Today, the district is largely pretty and renovated and exudes an almost small-town charm with its narrow, low-traffic streets, residential buildings over hundred years old and commercial courtyards with workshops, galleries and cafés. If you see a gate opening on to a courtyard don't hesitate to indulge your curiosity – peer inside and perhaps you will find a hidden gallery or simply a beautifully restored building.

Spandauer Vorstadt & Scheunenviertel Art and domes

We roam the Spandau suburb from Hackesche Höfe (Courtyards of Hacke) in a loop to Oranienburger Tor. An inner-city tour on which you can discover numerous courtyards, stores, pubs and galleries.

Hackescher Markt is named after the Prussian General Hacke, who had the Spandauer Tor and the city walls standing on this site torn down in 1750 to make room for a new residential district. Here, near Alexanderplatz, wool manufacturers settled and a flourishing clothing industry developed all around.

You enter the **Hackesche Höfe 1** directly at the chaotic intersection with Rosenthaler Straße. The beautifully renovated, partially colorfully tiled Art Nouveau courtyards were built in 1906 according to the concepts of the Lebensreform movement: combining quiet living, commerce, trade and culture into one ensemble was revolutionary. August Endell's design has been partially preserved, and even today, a theater, a cinema, an art gallery, restaurants, stores and apartments coexist peacefully in the courtyards.

The rear exit leads to the idyllic **Sophienstraße**. Here stands the Sophienkirche, adorned with the only baroque church tower in the city. At house number 18, you can look through the entrance decorated with columns into a busy courtyard. A plaque commemorates the property's history as the seat of the craftsmen's association. It is home to the **Sophiensaele**, a venue for ambitious and award-winning theater and dance productions.

Last but not least on the street, house number 21; it is worth turning into the **Sophie-Gips-Höfe 2**, which lead to Gipsstraße. Once home to a medical equipment factory, the restructuring of the property bears the signature of the new owner: passageways and open spaces are decorated with modern light installations, garden art and murals. This is thanks to the **Sammlung Hoffmann (Hoffmann Collection)**, which is housed on the upper floors. The private art collection can still be viewed on guided tours and will later be donated to the city of Dresden.

Sophienstraße crosses Große Hamburger Straße.

Map page 34

Start
S Hackescher Markt
End
U Oranienburger Tor
Length
2,5 km

Exhibitions on National Socialism and resistance within the estate
Rosenthaler Straße 39:

Museum Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt

First courtyard, left staircase
(030) 28 59 94 07
Mon–Fri 9am–6pm
Sat/Sun 10am–6pm
www.museum-blindenwerkstatt.de

Anne-Frank-Zentrum

(030) 2 88 86 56–10
Tue–Sun 10am–6pm
www.annefrank.de

neurotitan shop & gallery

in Haus Schwarzenberg
Rosenthaler Straße 39
(030) 30 87 25 76
www.neurotitan.de
Mon–Sat 12pm–8pm
Gallery & bookstore for street art and comics

Sammlung Hoffmann

Sophienstraße 21
Sat 10am–4pm only with prior registration
(030) 28 49 91 20
www.sammlung-hoffmann.de



Clärchens Ballhaus

(030) 5 55 78 54 40
www.claerchensball.haus
 Historic dance palace

Strandbad Mitte

Kleine Hamburger Straße 16
 (030) 24 62 89 63
 Daily 10am–10pm
 Sun until 4pm
www.strandbad-mitte.de
 Café-bar in a dead-end street, right next to a soccer pitch surrounded by houses

Al Contadino Sotto Le Stelle

Auguststraße 36
 (030) 2 81 90 23
www.alcontadino.eu
 Fine Italian cuisine from the Basilicata region

Berlin's original 17th century **Jewish cemetery** ③ was recently reopened here. The remains of 10,000 Berlin Jews and victims of the Second World War lie on the almost 6,000 square meter site next to St. Sophia's Church. The foundation walls of the former Jewish retirement home, which was used by the Nazis as a collection point for deportation, are also visible. The only individual grave is that of Moses Mendelssohn, the Jewish philosopher and pioneer of the Enlightenment.

If you walk along Große Hamburger Straße in the other direction, you will cross Auguststraße. One street corner further, you come to **Koppenplatz**. An oversized bronze table with an overturned chair has stood in the middle of the square since 1997 – a memorial honouring the flight and deportation of Jewish residents.

In **Auguststraße** and the parallel **Linienstrasse**, galleries are clustered close together. On **Linienstrasse** in particular, however, the shop windows are not enough; the galleries are located in the inner courtyards, for example in house numbers 155 (neugerriemschneider) or 158 (Kuckei & Kuckei).

The headquarters of the art scene is the Kunst-Werke Berlin e. V., or **KW** for short, located at number 69 Auguststraße, a former margarine factory. A venue for modern art exhibitions that is now actively involved in international events and is the headquarters of the Berlin Biennale. In the inner courtyard is a beautiful

café in an airy cube designed by light artist Dan Flavin. In the neighboring building, "Europe's first samurai museum" has just opened – traditional Japan presented in a modern way.

At the end of Auguststraße, we turn left into Tucholskystraße – if you feel like it, first visit some of the galleries on the right – but then head towards Oranienburger Straße. Alternatively, you can turn left from Auguststraße through **Heckmann-Höfe** ④ and stop for a bite to eat in one of the cozy restaurants or bars. The former Kaiserliche **Postfuhramt (Imperial Post Office)** is located on the corner of Tucholskystraße and Oranienburger Straße.

The post office and the post horse stables were built between 1875 and 1881 on the site of a postilion house and are crowned by a dome. The building was considered to be one of the most elaborate office buildings of its time and, after a cultural interlude (which has now ended), is to become a company representative office again.

Oranienburger Straße is one of the most important tourist streets in Mitte, and walking along it means

KW

Institute for Contemporary Art
 Auguststraße 69
 (030) 2 43 45 90
 Wed–Mon 11am–7pm
 Thu until 9pm
www.kw-berlin.de

Heckmann-Höfe

Access from Auguststraße 10
 or Oranienburger Str. 32

Samurai Museum Berlin

Auguststraße 68
 (030) 62 97 56 35
 Daily 11am–7pm
www.samuraimuseum.de

Hackesche Höfe reveal a colorfully tiled Art Nouveau ensemble inside





The New Synagogue on the Oranienburger Straße

Neue Synagoge

Oranienburger Straße 28/30
(030) 88 02 83 00
Daily from 10am
www.cjudaicum.de

Tadshikische Teestube

in KunstHof
Oranienburger Straße 27
(030) 2 04 11 12
Mon–Fri from 4pm,
Sat/Sun from 12pm
www.tadshikische-teestube.de
Tea and Russian specialties;
inside you sit on cushions at
flat tables.

Fotografiska Berlin

Oranienburger Str. 54
Daily 10am–11pm
www.berlin.fotografiska.com

(for those who are susceptible) spending time in bric-a-brac stores and shoe shops.

At the same time, it is also one of the streets richest in tradition: Alexander von Humboldt lived at number 67 from 1842 to 1859, and Bettina von Arnim ran her salon not far away. The most representative building in Oranienburger Straße is the **Neue Synagoge (New Synagogue)** 5 with its gleaming golden dome. Around 1860, the Jewish community had around 28,000 members and urgently needed a second synagogue.

Eduard Knoblauch began planning it in the “Moorish style”, but fell seriously ill, whereupon the Prussian court architect Friedrich August Stüler took over the project and designed the interior. The synagogue at Oranienburger Straße 28/30 was inaugurated in 1866. Heavily damaged during the Second World War, the synagogue was partially rebuilt after 1988. Today it houses the **Centrum Judaicum**, a permanent exhibition providing information about Jewish life in Berlin. The dome can also be visited.

At the north-western end of Oranienstraße, countless tables await hungry city strollers. Their gaze rests on the weathered façade of the **Tacheles** 6, a remnant of a failed artists’ colony due to commercialism in the former “Friedrichstraßen-Passage”, built in 1907. In the large archway, headless rests of the sculptures that depicted allegories of global trade can be seen. Here customers once strolled through the bright arcades of the department store with the novel concept of a retail community, then AEG moved in.

In GDR times there used to be a cinema here and at one end there was an open-air sculptor’s workshop until September 2012. Now all of this is embedded in a new high-end inner-city quarter. The Aaron-Bernstein-Platz, which commemorates the area’s Jewish past, is open to the public. The private photo museum Fotografiska has also moved into the new quarter with bars and restaurants.

JULIA BRODAUF

Rosenthaler Vorstadt

A lively centre

When Berlin was still fortified with a city wall, **Rosenthaler Platz** 1 was simply the square in front of Rosenthaler Tor (Rosenthal Gate). This was the only access to the city for Jewish travelers.

Today the square – the starting point for a tour of the northern part of the center, is actually just a crossroads. And a noisy one at that: Rosenthaler Straße leads to Hackescher Markt, opposite Weinbergsweg up to Kastanienallee. Torstraße crosses the square and is crossed by trendy people on their way to the various clubs of the street. The fifth street on Rosenthaler Platz, **Brunnenstraße**, stretches up the hill into Wedding. We follow it.

In recent years, young galleries, squatters and investors have left their visible mark on the Brunnenstraße. “This house used to be in another country” is written in huge letters on a façade – a private memorial by advertiser Jean-Remy van Matt to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. A few meters further on lies the small **Volkspark am Weinberg (People’s Park at Weinberg)** and on its slopes – many residents on blankets – the small park actually dates back to vine cultivation.

Brunnenstraße leads to **Rosenthaler Vorstadt**, a central yet quiet area between Prenzlauer Berg, Wedding and Mitte. The hustle and bustle of life seems to rush past the area between Ackerstraße and Arkonaplatz. The small houses of the Frederician colony “Neu-Voigtland” were replaced by late neoclassical tenements and, from 1870, by Wilhelminian-style buildings.

During the industrialization, one of the most densely populated areas of Berlin emerged. Brunnen-

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Start
U Rosenthaler Platz

End
U Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz

Length
3 km

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straße became a lively shopping street, as evidenced by the former **Kaufhaus Jandorf (Jandorf department store)** from 1904, now the global headquarters of the car-sharing provider Share Now.

In front of it Invalidenstraße branches off to the left. Following it, we come across the **St. Elisabeth church** ② complex on the next corner. It was the starting point for the intensive urban development of the Rosenthaler Vorstadt when it was built between 1832 and 1834 according to plans by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. The church and the neighboring parish hall “Villa Elisabeth” are venues for cultural projects, and the small church park is a garden monument. Opposite the church is the entrance to the **Ackerhalle**, a historic market hall from the 19th century. Its exterior is still in its original state, while the interior now houses a supermarket.

Detour: Ackerstraße leads to the nearby Bernauer Strasse. The former death strip is home to the **Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer (Berlin Wall Memorial)** ③ with a documentation center and remains of the border fortifications.

Behind the Elisabethkirche, Strelitzer Straße leads to Anklamer Straße, which we follow to Arkonaplatz. On the way, we pass house number 38/40. The white-painted building and the courtyards behind it have been renovated to high ecological standards and are entirely in female hands: the **Weiberwirtschaft** women’s start-up center houses numerous commercial spaces, offices, practices and a daycare center.

Arkonaplatz ④, a beautifully decorated square from the Wilhelmine era, was restored in GDR times and is now a friendly green space with a playground and a flea market on Sundays. Swinemünder Straße runs across the square, which we follow south to Zionskirchplatz. Its uniform façades conceal residential quarters with large, connected gardens.

The **Zionskirche (Zion Church)** ⑤ was built out of gratitude: in 1861, the first of a total of four assassination attempts on Kaiser Wilhelm I failed, so he donated 10,000 marks for the construction of the neo-Romantic church designed by August Orth. From 1931 onwards, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who campaigned against the National Socialists and was executed for this in 1945, was a vicar here. In the 1980s, opposition groups formed in the church, and in 1987 a concert by the western band Element of Crime was attacked by skinheads under the watchful eyes of the Volkspolizei.

Zionskirchstraße crosses Kastanienallee, we follow it to Christinenstraße and turn right at the back of Pfefferberg. Over cobblestones we reach Torstraße, keep left and take the next right: Alte Schönhäuser Straße, which becomes Neue Schönhäuser Straße at Münzstraße, leads into the heart of Spandauer Vorstadt. Theater lovers should make a detour to the **Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz** ⑥. It was built around 1910 by the workers’ movement “Freie Volksbühne” (Free People’s Theater). It was the theater of the trade union federation in GDR times and regularly made headlines with non-conformist productions under the direction of Frank Castorf.

JULIA BRODAUF

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