

Popular Student and Tourist Districts and Neighbourhoods of Berlin

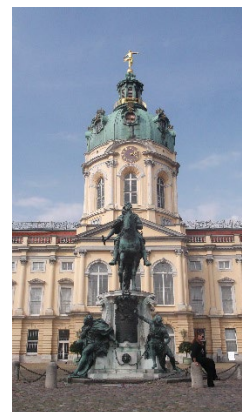


Source: <http://www.berlin.de/berlin-im-ueberblick/politik/bezirke.en.html>

Charlottenburg

Charlottenburg has little to offer in nightlife – if we do not include the oldest privately owned bar in Berlin the “Rum Trader”- but it definitely makes up for it in culture, with many historical sights such as the Memorial Church and Charlottenburg Palace, and interesting museums, such as the Berggruen Collection. The gardens behind the palace are a favourite walking spot for both Charlottenburg residents and tourists.

If you enjoy shopping, there is the famous Kurfürstendamm boulevard plus the adjacent Tauentzienstraße with KaDeWe (Kaufhaus des Westens), the largest department store in continental Europe.



Friedrichshain

If you want to find all the students in Berlin, Friedrichshain is where they are. They are slowly migrating here due to the increase in rents in Prenzlauer Berg because of its growing attraction.

Friedrichshain also has some of the coolest, cheapest bars in Berlin. It's really where the young people hang out. You will never fail to find a place to hang-out on Simon-Dach-Straße and the surrounding streets, although if you go later in the evening, your search might take a while.

Karl-Marx-Allee is also slowly developing a nightlife of its own. This avenue formerly known as Stalinallee still shows the best examples of the achievements of the Socialist architecture, when the idea was to build "palaces for the working class."



Kreuzberg

Kreuzberg has something for everyone. On Bergmannstraße and the side streets connecting to it you can buy just about anything: second-hand clothing, Asian groceries, all-natural cosmetics, oriental pillows, CD's, and so on. So if you're still not sure what to buy your friend for their birthday, you'll definitely find the perfect gift here.

After some shopping go relax in one of the many cafes, flip through a magazine and improve your German skills. But if you're more interested in getting some fresh air then why not check out the *Berg* (translates to "mountain" but no worries it's not that big) and see where this area got its name from. Viktoria Park (or Kreuzberg) is actually a small hill, but from the top you can enjoy a beautiful view of the entire city.

Nights in Kreuzberg aren't quite as exciting as they used to be because much of the nightlife has relocated itself to areas in East Berlin, but Kreuzberg still has an abundance of clubs and bars, mostly on Oranienstraße and Bergmannstraße. After partying you can eat the famous "Mustafas Gemüse-Kebab" and currysauages (from Curry36) at Merhingdamm.

Mitte

Since reunification, Mitte has returned to be the true middle of Berlin. There is so much to do there, from museums to shopping to learning about Berlin's history.

Friedrichstraße and Hackescher Markt are by far two of the best places for shopping in Berlin, although the shops tend to be on the more expensive side. If nothing else, you can have an amazing time window shopping.

The area around the S-Bahn station Hackescher Markt is especially an enjoyable experience because its historical charm was quickly restored after reunification.

Unter den Linden is perhaps the best walk in Berlin, combining a Paris-like boulevard with historical sights like the Neue Wache, Humboldt-Universität and the Brandenburger Tor.

The nightlife in Mitte is centered at Hackescher Markt and Oranienburger Straße, with many clubs and cocktail bars in both locations. They tend to be very Yuppie oriented, however, and some of the most expensive places to hang out in Berlin.



Neukölln

With a dense population of immigrants and people of low income, some parts of the district Neukölln aren't looked upon favourably, but this part of the city is by no means a cultural wasteland, with the beautifully restored Passage movie theatre for example and the Neukölln Opera next door.

On Tuesdays and Fridays it's worth visiting the legendary Turkish market at Maybachufer, near the U-Bahn station Kottbusser Tor. Here you'll find truly the freshest groceries, from vegetables to bread, and lots of other surprises that won't cost you an arm and a leg!

Prenzlauer Berg

Another center for young people in Berlin is Prenzlauer Berg. Walking around, especially on Schönhauser Allee and its neighboring streets, you will find many cafés and ethnic restaurants, not to mention some of the coolest selections of independent shops in Berlin; you just need to do some exploring. A good place to orient yourself by in this is Kollwitzplatz, a quieter part of Prenzlauer Berg with many cafés and restaurants around it. Prenzlauer Berg became a very "in" part of Berlin during the last years - that's why prices especially here increased a lot...

The nightlife centers around the U-Bahn stops Schönhauser Allee and Eberswalder Straße on the U2 line. There you can find plenty of bars where you can drink delicious cocktails and places to dance the night away. Important to note is the Kulturbrauerei, near the Eberswalder Straße stop. It's an old brewery turned into a night spot with clubs, bars and a movie theatre.

Schöneberg

Schöneberg is definitely one of the quieter parts of Berlin, with plenty of laid back cafes and restaurants in the area just south of the U-Bahn station Nollendorfplatz. The bars on Motzstraße are aimed almost exclusively at the gay scene.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays you can find an amazing produce market at Winterfeldtplatz. After successful veggie-shopping, locals veg out in one of the many cafés around the square and sip their Latte Macchiato. A wonderful atmosphere in summer!

Tiergarten

Tiergarten isn't quite the place to go to get down at night, but it offers plenty of attractions during the daylight hours. It consists of the huge public park sporting the same name as the area, old and new government buildings on its outskirts, and Potsdamer Platz. During the day, you can stroll through the park and visit the Zoo and Aquarium or walk up the cupola at the Reichstag and get a (free) view of Berlin from above.

Potsdamer Platz has quickly become a must see in Berlin. During the Roaring Twenties one of the busiest junctions, it was badly destroyed during World War II. When the wall was build, it cut right through the area. Soon it turned into a wasteland, hosting flea markets on the Western side, while suspiciously eyed by armed GDR-border guards. Since reunification, the square has turned again into a major attraction in Berlin.

The mall called Potsdamer Platz Arkaden offers much in the line of shopping and one of the most popular ice cream parlors in town.

