

BERLIN!!!

Transportation

No one checks your ticket on the trains, but once in a while, there are undercover checkers dressed in street clothes who will ask for tickets, and if you don't have one, it's an INSANE fine (like 200 euros of something). So make sure to buy a pass!!! Shouldn't be expensive at all.

There are buses, underground subways (u bahn), above ground subway (s bahn) and tram. Subways run from 5am- 1 am Sun-Thurs and ALL NIGHT Fri and Sat.

Attire

It's a very different style—nightlife especially is not about getting super dressed up (some clubs are but most are not). It's all about kind of owning your style and wearing what you want (not to be cliché). Girls don't wear heels unless you're going to a club like 40 seconds or asphalt **see below**. Boys don't really wear button downs or dress up to go out either. It's very casual and grunge and hipster! But rock whatever you wear and you'll be fine.

Sightseeing

Brandenburger Tor and Warschauer Strasse are going to be the two main stops/sightseeing must-dos.

Warschauer Strasse (UBahn Stop/SBahn Stop): Home to the *East Side Gallery*; The ESG runs along the Spree River—there are two sides to it—the street facing side are mural panels that change pretty frequently except for the very iconic ones. The river facing side of the wall is “real world” walls and barriers.

→ After you walk along the ESG, if you walk back towards where you came from—there's a red bridge that crosses the river; I recommend walking down that bridge and if you turn left at the corner after the bridge, there's a pretty cool communal living thing (sounds and is weird) with Blu murals which are super awesome and huge.

The area past the bridge that you're now in has some really cool streets, food places, etc. and if you walk away from the river—(turning right at the corner after the bridge) and walk that way, you'll eventually get to Schlesisches Tor, which is a cool area, as well!

Brandenburger Tor (SBahn Stop): This area is where you'll find the *Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe*—the iconic gray blocks; there's also a really heavy but interesting museum underneath these gray blocks that has free entrance and a great exhibit. It's at the end of the blocks away from the side of the Brandenburger Gate, but if you walk the perimeter of it, you'll find the entrance. If you're going to do a museum, I recommend this one.

This is also the stop of *Unter Den Linden*; a long, wide street. There is the *Brandenburg Gate* (great iconic photo stop), and the victory column (you can

climb to the top but it's at least a 15 minute walk from the gate and a LOT of steps to the top).

Tiergarten is the forest behind the gate—pretty cool to explore if you have time!
Humboldt University—if you walk down Unter Den Linden away from the gate, you'll pass Humboldt; really beautiful buildings!

The Bundestag—you can visit the transparent, dome shaped Bundestag; it's a government building and pretty cool; entry is free but you need to make an appointment ahead of time (really easy) on bundestag.de.

Museums

Topography of Terror is located where the headquarters of the Gestapo formerly was. I'm not a huge museum person, but this is definitely one that is worth it and easy to get in & out and also free. It's right by Checkpoint Charlie (which you can go walk by—it's where people had to go through to get from East to West and vice versa).

If you're really into museums or are trying to get artsy, I'd recommend going to **Museum Island**—it's a cluster of museums close to Friedrichstrasse (a really big street and station).

Nightlife

Clubs!

Most famous clubs are Berghain, Sisyphus, Kater Holzig ~the coolest one in my opinion~, Watergate. There are other clubs, especially in the Warschauer area! Watch out—they can have really tough bouncers; my advice: do not speak in English in line within earshot of the bouncer; do not look like you're trying super hard, just look like you're kind of bored but also like you dig the music coming out of the club. Make sure you have your ID or Passport with you—a lot of places require you to have evidence that you're 21. Lines can be as long as an hour or more for some of the really popular ones like Berghain and cover can be around 15Euros. If you want the hype and edginess of Berlin clubs, you can check out Magdalena (you pay as much as you think the experience is worth). Most clubs are open Friday night to Monday morning so you might have a better chance getting in/shorter wait time if you show up on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning.

Renate is cool too if you like electronic music. It's in an old apartment building with many stories.

>>non-techno music clubs below

Matrix is fun (top hits if you want to escape the techno), but super touristy with American music. Asphalt is cool and you can dress up for this club. 40 seconds is another pretty fun and more dressed up club – 40 seconds because that's how long the elevator to the club is. Another one, Cookies, is also pretty swanky and fun.

White Trash (has good food too and is a tattoo parlor and club). It's one of my favorites! They play Arctic Monkeys and MIA and throwbacks and it's really cool and

hip and Berlin-esque!! They have food for dinner, too, but I really like the club and cover usually isn't too expensive! It's also an alternative to the hardcore techno music!

BARS!

Favorite places were bars and everything I mention below is at the Rosenthaler Platz u-bahn stop u2 I think. **Mein Haus Am See** in Prenzlauerberg (across the street from circus hostel) it's a bar and then club downstairs, full of locals and you can meet them and chat and get good drinks.

Weinerei. YOU MUST GO HERE. It's at the Rosenthaler Platz station but a short walk. You pay 2 euros for a wine glass and it's unlimited wine tasting and dinner and you pay on the honor system at the end. So good and fun, also tons of locals. It's open every night starting at 8 pm. I'd try to get there early to get a good seat upstairs!! Great place to pregame and there's a photobooth (fotoautomat) down the street for 2 euros, which always turns out to be hilarious. Great Schwarma place down the street also!

Schmittz at Rosa Luxembourg Platz (really close to White Trash) is also really fun! It's a bar bar and also a pingpong bar that is really great!

Cake is also a fun bar—there's one on Kotbusser Tor; but smoking is allowed inside so you'll reek afterwards. They have an awesome DJ on some of the nights!

Ankerklause at Kotbusser Tor stop is also really fun!!

Food

DONER

This is A MUST!!! The two best doner places are **Cebo's Doner Kebap** at Rathaus Steglitz—it's a small outside stand and it's next to a shoe store semi near Starbucks. The most popular doner kebab place is **Mustafa's** at UBahn Mehringdamm Platz. Watch out because Mustafa's will have a really long line at prime eating times, but it's really great!!! *the meat at both of these places is chicken and not sketchy

Meisterstuck at UBahn Hausvogteiplatz is a great German place for food and craft beer if you're feeling like having a non-street food dinner. It's not too expensive and the décor and food and beer is all great!

Burgermeister at UBahn Schlesisches Tor is a burger joint (great drunchy) that stays open really late; it's right at the exit of the UBahn station and was once a city toilette—really cool and great burgers and fries!

There's a **CAKE shop** over by Kotbusser tor—If you go to where the river is on the right (across the street from the Turkischer Markt (see markets)) and cross over it there's a street called Grimmstrasse and there's literally the best cake place in the whole world there (cant remember what its called) but walking on grimmstrasse away from kottbusser tor its on your left hand side and kind of lower (like it goes underground a bit) SO SO SO SO GOOD!!! Highly recommend the chocolate cake.

→Grimmstrasse is also a really cool street, different scenery than the rest of Berlin.

St. Oberholz Café at Rosenthaler Platz was one of my favorite cafes if you're looking for wifi or a chance to research things to do, get a coffee, etc. They have great carrot cake and it's cool and turns into a bar for part of the night.

Markets

Mauerpark: THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD!! SUNDAYS ONLY! Mauerpark on Sundays at Eberswalder UBahn on the u3 (and then a few block walk—google directions but pretty easy). Or you can get there from Nordbahnhof and taking a tram up the hill. It's a flea market/street food/live music/trinkets/everything and it's the epitome of Berlin. Go through all the rows and see what people are selling and get food. There's a food truck thing called QUARK and it's amazing! It's like yogurt but better!!! It just looks kind of like ice cream but I'd recommend trying it



and getting some toppings on it.

QUARK is pictured above.

Around 4 pm, Mauerpark turns into a huge Karaoke thing! It's stadium seating and super legitimate and fun!! Definitely recommend checking it out!! LOVE MAUER PARK!!!

AFTER MAUER PARK, If you walk down the street with the trams, away from how you walked in if you went to Eberswalder or just back towards Nordbahnhof, you'll reach this whole wall memorial that's much more realistic to how the wall looked in practice; you can climb to the top of the building on the right hand side (recommend) and get a better view of it all. One of my favorite historical places in Berlin. It's right out of Nordbahnhof, all along the street and way underrated in my opinion.

Turkischer Markt: Tuesdays and Fridays at Kotbusser Tor UBahn (but a walk towards the river, easy to get there); the market takes up one whole street and has great food, veggies, hummus, quark, etc. and some random shit. They also have these Turkish things called Gozleme—it's like dough and cheese and spinach and it tastes so good and they're warm and really cheap!

It's pretty cool and you can just stop by for lunch. Afterwards (if you go on a Friday, you should go to the cake place!!!) (see under food).

Shopping

Kurfurstendamm—the nicest shopping area; my favorite store was Pull & Bear but they have a ton!

Friedrichstrasse—there's an ice cream place/café here called Wonderpots right by the SBahn station that has wifi and GREAT FROYO!!! So good!

Rathaus Steglitz—also the home of Cebo's doner kebab

Hostels

I've heard that Circus Hostel is great! I've never stayed at a hostel there, but apparently it has a cool bar and it's near Rosa Luxembourg Platz, which is one of my favorite areas.

Random Cool Stuff!!

Liquidrome: at SBahn Anhalter Bahnhof; SO COOL! <http://www.liquidrom-berlin.de/de/> it's this weird spa, pool thing but I've never seen anything like it in the United States; I went with my mom and Anna and they loved it too—caveat is that the steam rooms and saunas are predominantly naked which is a little uncomfortable at first, but everyone does it there; bring a bathing suit for the other areas; Pretty much—you can float on noodles in a lightshow pool that plays music underwater; also have sparties (spa+parties)? A little expensive but definitely cool!

Badeschiff an der Spree: SO COOL! It's a pool and party area on the river—yes, the pool is in the river but separate because the river is pretty gross. Entry is pretty cheap!



Viktorija Park it's an awesome park near Mehringdamm Platz—there's a closer UBahn Station, though! The streets near the park are awesome too for bars, food, shopping. There's a biergarten in Viktorija Park that I really liked also!

TIP: Rent bikes for one of the days; it's around 10 euros to rent a bike for the day and it's a great way to get around Berlin, especially if you have a map/sense of direction!! A lot of the UBahn and SBahn stops that seem so far away are actually really walkable/bikeable and it's a great way to get a better feel for the city!

Don't worry too much about theft—it's not as large of an issue and crime in general is rare.

Don't be loud on the public transportation if you don't want the Germans to hate you!

Keep your eyes open—look at the ground to see occasionally a trace of where the wall used to run or to see plaques and memorials dedicated to victims of WWII. History is literally everywhere in Berlin.

My favorite areas: Kotbusser Tor, Rosa Luxembourg Platz, Schleisches Tor, Rosenthaler Platz, but everywhere has so many cool places!!!

I hope I'm not missing too much else—but this should be a good start! HAVE SO MUCH FUN, IT'S SUCH AN AMAZING CITY!

Ask around about new cool clubs and bars—they change pretty frequently; when I was leaving, there was a really cool club that was an emptied swimming pool.

DAY TRIPS

Potsdam and Sachsenhausen are two really great daytrips. Really easy to get to both using public transportation, but you need to buy an additional ticket to add on to your public transportation pass. It's like 2 euros more but it allows you to travel to zone C. Most regular passes just cover zones A and zones B.

Sachsenhausen is the site of a former concentration camp, so you can walk around and see the barracks, etc. Really heavy but very worthwhile. It's pretty cold up there, though. About an hour journey via the SBahn.

Potsdam is very picturesque Germany with a castle, I believe. Very beautiful and also really easy to get to.

DEFINITELY DO THE MARKETS & DONER KEBAP, everything else is great too but you have to do mauer park and get either a cebo's or mustafas doner.

Hope this helps! You should also download Berlin Transportation app so you can easily navigate the UBahns and SBahns, but it's pretty easy either way. The app just shows you transfers, etc. and you can plug in start and end. So easy.