

Berlin 2021: City of reinvention

Berlin, 17 May 2021 Berlin is looking forward to welcoming visitors from all over the world just as soon as travel becomes possible again – and at any time of the year, the German capital is well worth a visit. Here, over **6000 years of cultural heritage meet trendy neighbourhoods** and a start-up mentality. Now with a population of nearly four million, Berlin is as diverse as its residents. This is a city with something new to discover on every corner, space for free spirits, and a fascinating mix of heritage and innovation. Over the years, this once divided city has constantly **reinvented itself**. Like no other city, Berlin is poised for yet another new start – off into the future.

2021 – a year full of highlights

This year Berlin has realised a number of landmark **projects**. In the reconstructed city palace, the prestigious **Humboldt Forum** is now open, creating a new cultural centre and a forum for art, culture, science, and education. This summer, one of Berlin's leading art addresses is reopening – the **Neue Nationalgalerie at the Kulturforum**. Architecturally complementing the modern city centre around Potsdamer Platz, this renowned gallery is showing major twentieth-century art from Cubism and Surrealism to American colour field painting.

A major public transport project has also been completed. The **U5 metro line** in the heart of Berlin now has a new section connecting Berlin's many cultural attractions between Alexanderplatz and the Brandenburg Gate. With three new stations, the line offers a convenient and exciting way to experience the city.

The new international **Berlin airport (BER)** is also now open, a positive signal for improved international connections at a difficult time for the tourism and congress industry. As a modern hub for air traffic, the BER will connect Berlin in future with all Europe's main hub airports. With an initial capacity of around 40 million passengers per year, the BER will greatly benefit Berlin once the corona pandemic is over.

City of Freedom

Berlin has more to offer than its new cultural city centre. From there, **many paths lead to the outskirts** and a stunning array of green spaces, beautiful parks, gardens, forests, and bathing lakes. In the many varied neighbourhoods of Berlin's 12 boroughs, you can discover a wealth of architectural and cultural treasures, including 440 galleries, 180 museums, and no less than three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Berlin is packed with exciting experiences for all ages and one of the most family-friendly cities in Europe. Berlin offers so much to enjoy – including over 1,850 playgrounds, Germany's largest trampoline hall, Europe's most modern planetarium, and the zoo with the most species anywhere in the world!

In Berlin, there is always space to grow. The city's mix of open spaces and ambitious plans, creative minds, scientific innovation, and business-minded entrepreneurship is simply perfect to nourish and realise new ideas. So in the years to come, you may still find cranes and construction sites in the cityscape as signs of Berlin busily working on some exciting new project. Yet this only underlines the

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intriguing nature of this ever-changing city, always ready to reinvent itself and shape the future for generations to come.

Yet whatever the changes, Berlin always retains an irresistible fascination and a multitude of possibilities – from big city thrills to unwinding, from adventures to relaxation. Germany's capital city also has its surprising sides, an appealing mix of spectacular new buildings and historical treasures, tempting places to shop, enjoy and relax. Berlin remains Berlin – and yet continues to reinvent itself every day.

Berlin is a vibrant cosmopolitan city. Here, you can explore living history, internationally renowned museums, unique galleries, UNESCO sites and major historical buildings. And Berlin still has more to offer – not just lifestyle, shopping, and upscale international cuisine, but also space for waterside activities and beautiful countryside to discover around the city.

Berlin ranks among the world's best food cities

Berlin's creative culinary scene is widely regarded as one of the **world's go-to destinations for food lovers**. From established star chefs to edgy culinary newcomers, avant-garde inspiration to traditional flavours, local fresh vegetables to dry aged meat – Berlin's food trends guarantee a diverse and inspiring culinary adventure! Berlin currently has 25 restaurants with a total of **32 Michelin stars** – so no wonder the 2021 Michelin restaurant guide has yet again named Berlin as Germany's gourmet capital.

Berlin Health Excellence – 'Made in Berlin' expertise and cutting-edge medical services

Every year, approximately 17,000 to 21,000 international patients choose Berlin for their medical care and treatment. The city's success as a health capital is built on a 300-year tradition as a healthcare and scientific centre. Today, Berlin is one of the cities in Germany with the highest numbers of doctors. The medical landscape here boasts over 90 hospitals with around 22,000 beds and 9,900 physicians and consultants. In addition, there are a further 9,200 doctors in outpatient care. Berlin is also home to the Charité hospital, one of Germany's leading hospitals and Europe's largest university hospital, as well as the renowned German Heart Centre specialised in high-quality cardiac medicine. The Vivantes, Germany's largest municipal hospital group, also has nine clinics and numerous rehabilitation centres in the city offering a range of medical services from one-day check-ups to outpatient or inpatient treatment, rehabilitation and much more. Since early 2020, the Berlin Health Excellence Initiative launched by *visitBerlin* has been bringing together partners from the medical care sector (clinics and doctors' practices) and the hotel industry. For comprehensive information on medical facilities in Berlin, see the medical tourism website: www.berlin-health-excellence.com/ar

More information: visitBerlin.com & more research texts: press.visitBerlin.de.

visitBerlin

"Inspiring the world for Berlin." With this mission, Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH promotes Berlin's destination management as well as the city's tourism and congress marketing. Under the *visitBerlin* brand, the company is a partner, actor, source of creative ideas, and networker. Its remit is focused on sustainable product development and marketing city-compatible tourism services in all twelve Berlin boroughs with the aim of maintaining the life quality of local residents and harmoniously increasing experience value for visitors. As a tour operator, *visitBerlin* also issues the *Berlin WelcomeCard*, the city's official tourist ticket. The company also operates the Berlin Tourist Info Centres. On visitBerlin.de, Berlin's official tourism website, visitors can find all the information they need on every aspect of their trip to the city. Find out more about *visitBerlin* on about.visitBerlin.de

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