



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

The new splendour of City West

A district proud of its traditions – green spaces, culture and the arts



Schaubühne Berlin – the largest theatre of the spoken word in the west of Berlin
Under artistic director Thomas Ostermeier, the theatre presents at least ten premieres every season. The repertoire comprises over 30 productions, and every year the ensemble also gives approx. 100 performances outside Germany. schaubuehne.de

Around **Kurfürstendamm boulevard**, you can find a wealth of attractive new shops and eateries, galleries and exhibition venues. The heart of the quarter is the landmark **Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church** on Breitscheidplatz. The legendary **Zoo Palast cinema** and adjacent **Bikini Berlin shopping mall** fuse new architecture with the formal vocabulary of the 1950s. For luxury shopping, just stroll down **Kudamm**, as Berliners say, past one exclusive brand outlet after another. The **Renaissance Theater** in its heritage art-deco building draws the crowds with modern international plays. This borough also boasts great art across the ages – surrealism in the **Scharf-Gerstenberg Collection**, modern art in the **Berggruen Museum** and art nouveau in the **Bröhan-Museum**.

The **Grunewald** district, with its magnificent mansions, has always been an oasis of tranquillity, renowned for relaxing walks and wonderful views. Enjoy the vista from the charming **Lindwerder island** or climb **Grunewaldturm** tower for panoramic views across the magnificent countryside – and don't miss **Teufelsberg** hill, topped by the remains of a former US listening station. For more history, **Berlin's Olympic Stadium** is a must-see sight. The Olympic site's **history trail** has 45 panels (also in English) offering a fascinating insight into the complex's origins and development down the years.



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke

Pankow

Urban life to the power of three!

A fascinating three-in-one mix – with trendy Prenzlauer Berg, Pankow's Prussian architectural heritage and a bustling young art scene in Weissensee.



Berlin on Bike – A cycling tour of Berlin's districts
Seven fascinating routes: Berlin Wall, Oases of Berlin, Berlin's Best, Alternative Berlin, East Unplugged... Over 60 tours on offer every week! Private tours also available. Comfortable hire bikes – with or without a tour. berlinonbike.de

Even far beyond Berlin's borders, Prenzlauer Berg is famed for its special lifestyle: cool, creative and cosmopolitan! Locals meet for a leisurely breakfast in the coffee houses around **Helmholtzplatz** and **Köllwitzplatz**, or out and about in the many small boutiques and quirky shops. **Oderberger Straße** and **Kastanienallee** boulevard offer a treasure trove of Berlin designer fashion and labels. At the nearby **Kulturbrauerei**, you can explore "Everyday Life in the GDR" in the eponymous exhibition.

The original borough of Pankow was solidly respectable, attracting many well-known figures in German life present and past, such as writers **Hans Fallada** and **Christa Wolf**. **Schönhausen Palace** near Pankow's **Schlosspark**, the old palace gardens, is a real insider tip taking you back in time over three centuries. A cabinet exhibition in the palace gatehouse offers an insight into the area after 1945 when many top East German government functionaries lived here and on the nearby **Majakowski Ring** villa estate. Botanical **Volkspark Blankenfelde** started out life in 1909 as a school garden. Nowadays, it is a heritage site showcasing architecture and landscaping, and surrounded by valuable natural meadows and woodland.

The **Weißensee** locality is home to Europe's largest surviving **Jewish cemetery**. With over 115,000 graves, this is a unique monument of cultural history. The prestigious **Weißensee School of Art and Design**, directly in the vicinity, has become the centre of a lively gallery scene.

Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg

A special zest for life

A vibrant cultural mix – and famed for its creativity and alternative lifestyles



Computer Games Museum – Where Pac-Man lives
Berlin boasts the world's first museum of computer games. At the **Computerspielemuseum**, the entire family can enjoy a fun journey through 60 years of computer games. Just five minutes from **Alexanderplatz**. computerspielemuseum.de

Kreuzberg is a trailblazer – organic cotton jeans, upcycled clothing, outdoor wear from recycled polyester, fair trade trainers and lots more. Check out **Supermarché** in **Wiener Straße** for all kinds of fair trade and organic fashion. Directly next door, you can find the little zero waste supermarket **Original Unverpackt** with a wide range of organic, natural and sustainable products – all packaging free.

Originally consecrated in 1908, the impressive **Zwingli Church** was once a military hospital, then a store for books and spare parts for organs. Today, still in its original condition, it is an unusual cultural and arts centre. With its wonderful acoustics, this is a popular venue for concerts as well as screenings and exhibitions. Don't miss the chance to view the interior attractive and decorative detail.

Berlin's start-up scene is buzzing around **Moritzplatz** square, renowned for its mix of culture, design and creativity. Here, you can find firm local favourites such as the **Prince Charles Club**, **Theater TAK** and the **Kai Dikhas Gallery** showing Roma and Sinti artists. And just when you think it can't get more creative, it does – with **Planet Modulor** and the **Imago 1:1**, the world's only walk-in self-portrait camera.



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke

Reinickendorf

Where opposites attract

Reinickendorf offers something for everyone, from nature lovers to architecture buffs, and sport fans to families



Hannah Höch House
A leading figure in the Dada movement, the precursor of pop art, **Hannah Höch** lived here for many years inspired by her idyllic garden and surroundings.

When the 1920 land reform created this borough from six villages, it paved the way for today's vibrant Reinickendorf. Since the 19th century, the green **Tegel** district has attracted day trippers to its forests, the **Tegeler See** lake, idyllic bathing beaches, attractive harbour and the manor house of the famous **Humboldt brothers**. Visiting **Lübars** with its charming farms, village school and baroque church is like travelling back in time to a rural past.

Wittenau combines grand 19th-century town houses and modern high-rise estates, such as the modern **Märkisches Viertel** quarter. In bustling Reinickendorf, the **Weißer Stadt** is well worth a visit – a 1920s modernist housing estate inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage in 2008.

The **Frohnau** suburb, with its elegant villas and stylish houses, was founded in 1910 in the wake of the garden city movement. Neighbouring **Hermsdorf** was famous for its brickworks, and donated bricks for **Berlin's Rote Rathaus** town hall. **Artist Max Beckmann** had a studio house set slightly back from the road in **Ringstraße**. In the Cold War, the Wall oddly enclosed a narrow East German street nicknamed the **"Entenschnebel"** (duck's beak) which protruded into West Berlin.



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke



Marzahn-Hellersdorf

A village green with a capital view

Functional high rises, attractive landscaped parks – and the romance of a wooden windmill



The cable car at Berlin's Gardens of the World
64 cabins, six fitted with a glass floor, offer spectacular 360° panoramic views out across the **Gardens of the World** and on to Berlin's city centre. seilbahn.berlin

Set among Berlin's largest estate of prefabricated slab-concrete high-rises, **Marzahn village green** and church, and the **KulturGut** arts centre and **Tierhof animal farm** testify to the borough's long history. In the old village, don't miss the highlight fully-functional **wooden windmill** with its wind monitoring station – and try some delicious "Marzahnener Mühlenkruste" bread!

For sheer relaxation, explore the site of the previous **International Garden Show (IGA)** and the **Gardens of the World** with its many styles of landscaped gardens. **Biesdorf Palace**, set in a beautiful park and grounds, is also a communal gallery space presenting temporary exhibitions of contemporary art and shows dedicated to art from the former GDR. This arts venue also regularly hosts concerts, lectures and readings.

The spreading green landscapes contrast with the former GDR high-rise residential estates, today linked by a vibrant network of new art locations including the **Acrobats** balancing act by **Hubertus van der Goltz** and the **Flower Tower's** colourful façades. And whether artist or visitor, you're sure to find the charming brick buildings, open spaces and old trees at **Alte Böse Marzahn** a source of inspiration!



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke

Lichtenberg

Up-and-coming, diverse and family friendly

Fascinating architecture and idyllic green spaces – and a rich mix of sports activities



Mies van der Rohe House
This was the last building in Germany designed by famous Bauhaus architect **Ludwig Mies van der Rohe** before he fled from the Nazis to the USA. Set in an attractively landscaped garden, the house now serves as a gallery for modern art. miesvanderrohehaus.de

The cutting-edge architecture here has always caused waves – even back in the 1870s with **Türschmidt's pre-cast concrete houses**. In the 1920s, the **Splanemann Housing Estate** was Germany's first residential estate using prefabricated concrete slab construction. The **Neues Bauen** movement was also active here, with such renowned avant-garde architects as **Max Taut**, **Erwin Gutkind**, **Paul Emmerich** and **Pauls Mebes** creating modernist schools and social residential developments with communal greened courtyards and facilities.

When it comes to green spaces, **Lichtenberg** has a band of parks, gardens, meadows and lakes running from **Karlhorst** across the banks of the **Rummelsburger** bike paths and hiking trails in **Barnimer Feldmark Regional park**.

The **Alt-Hohenschönhausen** district is home to the 13th-century **Tabor Church**, said to be the city's oldest and most attractive village church. Music lovers can hear Berlin's oldest church organ, the **Princess Amalia Organ**, in the "Zur frohen Botschaft" Church.

A visit to the **German-Russian Museum** takes you to a major historic site – here on 8 May 1945, representatives of the German Reich unconditionally surrendered. The permanent exhibition recalls the Second World War from the perspective of both Germany and Russia.



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke

Spandau

Charmingly traditional

Founded in the 1200s as a medieval fortress town, Spandau has seen many changes down the centuries.



Little Venice
Reeds, water birds and the picturesque banks of the waterways – explore the dreamy Little Venice on a paddle boat or stand-up paddle board tour.

The oldest settlement in **Spandau Old Town** is the **Behnitz** quarter, mentioned in written records in the thirteenth century. Walking into the quarter down the **Hoher Steinweg** street, you pass the last surviving stretch of the original six-metre-high Spandau city wall. Down little alleyways and past attractive half-timbered houses, you then reach **St. Nicholas Church**, a building steeped in history. The **Old Town** is also the site of Berlin's oldest annual Christmas market.

To explore the south of Spandau, be sure to plan in a day out in the enchanting park-land at **Gutspark Neukladow**. From 1800 to 1805, the neo-classical manor house here was home to the mother of **Otto von Bismarck**, Germany's "Iron Chancellor". After a stroll along the waterfront, take a seat in the **Café at Gutshaus Neukladow** and enjoy the spreading beer garden and stunning views out over the **Wannsee** lake.

On the nearby former **Gateow airfield**, the **Bundeswehr Museum of Military History** showcases the history of military aviation from 1884 to today. The exhibition offers a fascinating insight into how planes and helicopters have developed over the course of the years, while the outdoor display area presents over 100 helicopters and airplanes, including a **MiG-17** high-subsonic fighter aircraft. Other exhibits include military trucks, uniforms and personal equipment.

Steglitz-Zehlendorf

Palaces, lakes and green spaces

The Zehlendorf district has no less than three of Berlin's best-loved bathing lakes – Wannsee, Krumme Lanke and Schlachtensee



Glienicke Palace and Grounds – Welcome to Italy!
Romantically set on the banks of the River Havel, the charming Italianate **Glienicke Palace** designed by **K.F. Schinkel** for **Prince Carl of Prussia** stands in a beautiful landscaped park. Well worth a visit! spsg.de

The **Wannsee** lake also has many popular sights, including **Pfaueninsel** (Peacock Island) and, on the western bank, the summer home of German Expressionist artist **Max Liebermann**. The house shows exhibitions of Liebermann's works, while the terrace is ideal to enjoy a view of the beautiful garden and lake over a coffee and snack from the in-house **Café Max**.

A sea of flowers in summer and tropical nights in winter – Berlin's beautiful **Botanic Garden and museum** are home to over 22,000 species from all continents. The adjoining **Königliche Gartenakademie** (Royal Garden Academy) has a cosy café in the conservatory. To travel back in time, don't miss the **Domäne Dahlem**, once a knight's manorial estate. Today, this unique open-air museum combines displays of craft skills with an exhibition in the **Culinarium** on food down the centuries.

The **House of the Wannsee Conference**, today a memorial and educational site, presents a dark chapter in German history. Art lovers will be sure to visit the **Brücke-Museum** with works by German Expressionists and the **Kunsthau Dahlem** showcasing post-war modernist sculptures by German artists – while the whole family will love the **Düppel Museum Village**, a reconstruction of a medieval village.



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke



Mitte

Right at the heart of things!

Once the Berlin Wall ran through the Mitte district and the Rosenthaler Vorstadt residential estate.



nineties berlin – multimedia exhibition
Welcome to the legendary Berlin of the 1990s, the turbulent years after the fall of the Wall. This multimedia extravaganza on 1,500 sq. metres showcases the major events in a decade in Berlin that was the height of cool. nineties.berlin

Today, you can find remnants of the Wall at **Bernaauer Straße's Berlin Wall Memorial**. The large open-air exhibition on the former border strip comprises historical audio-visual material, a visitor's centre and a viewing tower.

The charm of old Berlin is very much alive in the idyllic **Nikolai Quarter** where you can discover Berlin as it once was. This is the city's oldest residential area, a place of small, cosy houses and medieval-style alleyways. The **Ephraim-Palais**, a masterpiece of eighteenth-century mansion architecture, presents special exhibitions on Berlin's history and culture. With its exquisite furniture and furnishings, the baroque **Knoblauchhaus** from 1760 offers a fascinating glimpse into the world of a well-to-do family of that time. Follow the **Historic Path** through the **Nikolai Quarter** to discover fascinating facts and oddities. Explore the small shops and enjoy the regional specialities and Berlin ambience in one of the many restaurants, cafés and bars.

In Mitte, the two streets of **Auguststraße** and **Gerichtstraße** have developed into new and exciting art venues. The former **Jewish School for Girls** is now home to renowned galleries, while the **KW Institute for Contemporary Art** opposite organises the **Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art**. The nearby **me Collectors Room** shows classic and new art from the **Olbricht Collection**.



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke

Tempelhof-Schöneberg

Proud of its diversity!

From shopping paradise to spreading parks, tranquil corners to LGBT* party – a borough as diverse as its residents!



Winterfeldtplatz Farmers' Market
Berlin's largest and oldest weekly market – held every Saturday, and a popular place for anyone looking for that special something. winterfeldtplatz.10781.berlin

The **Nollendorfplatz** area was already renowned for its **night life** in the 1920s. Today, with its lively mix of cafés, discos, nightclubs, hotels, hair salons and bookshops, it is the hub of Berlin's gay and lesbian scene. With its delicious dishes and changing art exhibitions, **Café Berio** has become something of a neighbourhood institution. To escape the madding crowd, head for the unspoiled green spaces of **Schöneberg's Südgelände** nature park.

On 26 June 1963, US President **John F. Kennedy** gave his famous speech "Ich bin ein Berliner" at **Schöneberg Town Hall** – a moment gone down in history. Today, the **Freedom Bell** – a historic gift from the US to Berlin – is still rung there daily at noon. Other historical sites include the **Schwerbelastungskörper** – "heavy load-bearing body" – a memorial to the Nazis' architectural megalomania. On a **Berlin Underworlds Association** tour, you can find out all about its history.

The area around **Akazienstraße** is home to antique stores and a unique range of boutiques and small shops. Here, you can buy old office furniture from **Das alte Bureau**, and all manner of hats and caps in the **Panama Hutgalerie**. For historical clothing and accessories, look no further than "Mimi-Textile Antiquitäten" – also the place for a custom-made historical costume. **Mamsell** offers the finest artisan chocolate and a selection of elegant accessories. And if you prefer macaroons to chocolate, heaven is just a short walk away at the "Makrönchen Manufaktur"!

Neukölln

Vibrant cosmopolitan diversity

Parks and architecture – and a fascinating insight into Berlin's history.



Berlin? We! Love! You! – The Drag Show

Events, the arts and a vibrant creative scene – for years now, Neukölln has developed a diverse cultural mix of galleries, coffee houses, bars and small shops. The **48 Stunden Neukölln** arts and culture festival was founded as early as 1999, while the **Neuköllner Oper** has been showing fun modern musical theatre since the late 1980s.

The fascinating **Hufeisensiedlung**, built from 1925 to 1933, belongs to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of six Berlin Modernism estates. Designed by **Bruno Taut** and **Martin Wagner**, this residential estate on the former **Britz** manor grounds used a style of construction pioneering at that time.

For relaxing green spaces, locals head for **Britzer Garten**, one of Germany's most attractive parks, or **Schloss Britz manor house** and its romantic grounds, also home to the local **Neukölln history museum**. In the north of Neukölln, the neo-baroque **Körner Park**, inspired by French palace gardens, is also a popular place to unwind.

The nearby **Richardplatz** square still boasts historic houses built by the original settlers from **Bohemia**. Here, you can also find winding streets, small shops, a **historic carriage** shed and the traditional **Rixdorfer Schmiede smithy!**



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke

Treptow-Köpenick

A paradise for nature and water sports

Anything goes in the green heart of Berlin



Theatre, museum, space travel & Berlin's best holiday venue – Explore the **FEZ leisure centre** in its anniversary year!

As evening falls, the cool and hip gather at riverside event locations such as the **Arena**, the **Else**, the **Hoppetosse** club ship, or in the green **Treptow Park**. The heart of the spreading park grounds is the impressive **Soviet War Memorial**, a complex built from 1946 to 1948. The largest of its kind in Germany, the complex also serves as a cemetery for 5,000 Soviet soldiers. The nearby historic **Archenhold Observatory** with the world's longest pointable refracting telescope offers a fascinating insight into the moon and stars.

In the **Industrieband**, an industrial heritage complex around three kilometres long at **Schöneeweide**, exhibitions, events and tours recount the history of Berlin's electrical industry – an aim also being supported since January 2013 by the **Schöneeweide Industrial Museum**.

The nineteenth-century heritage buildings lining **Bölschestraße** in **Friedrichshagen** are home to an array of traditional shops and galleries. **Köpenick Old Town** is renowned for its **palace on an island**, while the **Town Hall** gained fame as the historical site of the exploits of an impostor known as the "Captain of Köpenick", later immortalised in a play by **Carl Zuckmayer**.



Photo: Dagmar Schwilke