

Did you know that...

Surprising facts and figures about the capital

Berlin, December 2018 Berlin sets trends: Whether it's sightseeing or hip neighbourhoods, galleries or gastronomy, music or fashion, there is always something new to discover in the German capital. Yet what is it exactly that makes Berlin so attractive? It is the capital's diversity, contrasts and its virtually inexhaustible possibilities that excite visitors from all around the world. Did you know that...

- ... Berlin is Germany's number one city destination? Almost *thirteen* million visitors travelled to Berlin in 2017. They spent *31.1* million nights in booked accommodation.
- ... Berlin is one of the few cities that has *three* UNESCO World Heritage sites? In addition to the famous Museum Island and the Prussian palaces and gardens, the Berlin Modernist housing estates are also among them. Furthermore, the German capital has also been bestowed the title of UNESCO City of Design and is thus included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.
- ... Berlin is the only city in the world that has *three* opera houses holding performances? The Deutsche Oper, the Staatsoper Unter den Linden and the Komische Oper offer more than *4,400* seats to their audiences. Berlin also has more than *150* theatres and live show stages catering to all genres.
- ... Berlin is the only European city that has more museums than rainy days? On average there are *99* rainy days a year, and there are around *170* museums. In 2017, Berlin's museums and memorials registered *16.5* million visitors.
- ... the Gemäldegalerie (portrait gallery) at the Kulturforum, which opened in 1998, unites the collections of the Bode Museum (in the former East) and the Gemäldegalerie in Dahlem (in the former West) that were separated when the city was divided?
- ... on average, almost *500,000* guests stay in Berlin every day? This corresponds to approximately the population of Nuremberg. Every year visitors spend *178.4* million days in Berlin.
- ... Berlin with its roughly *300* galleries for classical modernism and contemporary art has the largest gallery scene in Europe?
- ... the world's largest universal museum has been established in Berlin's centre? The *€1.5 billion* refurbishment and redesign of Museum Island, with its five monumental buildings, and which has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999, is the most ambitious cultural project in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Alte Nationalgalerie (Old National Gallery), the Bode Museum, the Altes Museum (Old Museum) and the Neues Museum (New Museum), with the world-famous bust of Nefertiti, have already been renovated.

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- ... based on the model of the Paris Louvre, the Hermitage in Saint Petersburg and the British Museum in London, four of the buildings on Museum Island will be connected via an underground promenade?
- ... the Pergamon Museum is for the most part staying open during its renovation? The exception to this is the Pergamon Altar itself. Since November 2018 however, 80 masterworks from Pergamon as well as a 360° panorama of the antique city of Yadegar Asisi have been on display for visitors to marvel at in the Pergamon Museum's Das Panorama temporary exhibition building opposite the Bode Museum.
- ... the central entrance building of Berlin's Museum Island, which was completed in 2018 and will be opened to the public in summer 2019, was named after the patron of the arts James Simon? The Neues Museum has him to thank for the famous bust of Nefertiti. The historical entrances of the five individual museums will, by the way, also be retained.
- ... the Jewish Museum has attracted around 700,000 visitors annually to its exhibitions since opening on 13 September 2001? This is three times more than initially expected. The building was designed by Daniel Libeskind and its shape is reminiscent of a destroyed Star of David. It is one of the most important examples of contemporary architecture.
- ... the East Side Gallery is the longest open-air art gallery in the world, and at a length of 1,316 metres is also the longest preserved part of the Berlin Wall? In 1990, 118 artists from 21 countries painted the section of wall with 106 artworks. Many of the artists returned to Berlin in 2009 to refresh their works of art. In April 2014, artists, Berliners and visitors to the city removed graffiti from the wall paintings (which are listed historic works) during a communal clean up campaign.
- ... in addition to the world famous collections, Berlin also has more unusual museums such as the Lippenstift Museum (lipstick museum), the Schwules Museum (gay museum), the Hanf Museum (hemp museum) and Urban Nation, the museum for urban contemporary art?
- ... the Berlinale, one of the most popular film festivals in Europe, will already be 68 years old in 2019? As one of the top media events for the film industry, it attracts over 21,000 industry visitors and journalists from almost 130 countries each year. Berlin distinguishes itself from other film festivals by the large participation of the general public. Some 100,000 film lovers from Germany and abroad purchased 334,000 cinema tickets in 2018 (this does not include industry visitors).
- ... the Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (Berlin Transport Company) transported around 1.2 billion passengers in 2017? Of these, 563 million rode the underground, 197 million travelled by tram and 442 million took buses or ferries.
- ... for the 2018/19 winter semester a total of around 190,000 students are enrolled at the four universities, four universities of applied sciences and 30 private higher education institutions in Berlin?

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- ... Berlin organises the largest trade fair for the travel industry, the International Tourism Convention (ITB), every March? There are also other world-class trade fairs, such as International Green Week in January. This is the world's largest and most important trade fair for the food, agriculture and gardening industries. The International Radio Exhibition Berlin (IFA) in September is the leading trade fair for consumer electronics and home appliances. The ILA Berlin Air Show is one of the most important aerospace exhibitions in the world. It takes place every even-numbered year in early summer.
- ... Berlin is not only the largest but also the greenest city in Germany? Around 30 percent of the entire 892 square kilometres is green space and woodlands. The streets are lined with some 440,000 trees. 2,500 parks and green areas offer Berlin residents and visitors space to rest and relax. Furthermore, there are 890 allotment gardens with over 71,000 gardens in the city.
- ... the Berlin TV tower, at a height of 368 metres, is the highest building in Germany?
- ... the city had its highest number of residents in 1942? At that time 4,478,102 people lived in Berlin. Today there are more than 3.7 million.
- ... as a consequence of the former division of the city, Berlin has *two* zoos: Tierpark Berlin in Friedrichsfelde, with beautiful outdoor enclosures, and Zoologischer Garten with its adjoining aquarium? Both of the capital's zoos are good at setting records. With over 29,000 animals, together they possess a population unrivalled anywhere else in the world for its diversity and rareness. Berlin's Zoologischer Garten was established about 175 years ago and is the oldest surviving zoo in Germany, the third-oldest in Europe and also the zoo with the most diversity of species in the world. The neighbouring aquarium has also won the distinction of being among the largest in the world. Another record: Tierpark Friedrichsfelde is the largest parkland zoo in Europe, with a surface area of 160 hectares.
- ... with the building of Berlin Hauptbahnhof the city got the first real central station in its history – and indeed the largest in Europe? Around 300,000 travellers board 1,300 regional and long-distance trains here every day.
- ... *four* Germans set a Guinness World Record in November 2014? They travelled to all 173 Berlin underground stations in just 7 hours, 33 minutes and 15 seconds.
- ... Berlin's landmarks – such as the TV tower, the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Cathedral, the Victory Column and many other buildings – appear in a completely different light once a year? At the annual Berlin Illuminated and Festival of Lights events held in October, they are transformed into huge projection surfaces for original light installations. And how could it be otherwise: both events are of course among the largest light festivals in the world.
- ... with an area of 892 square kilometres Berlin is almost nine times larger than Paris?
- ... the largest Chinese garden in Europe is situated in Berlin? It is part of Marzahn's leisure park and has an ensemble of ten 'gardens of the world'. Visitors can take part in a tea

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ceremony in the Japanese garden. There are also Balinese, Korean and Middle Eastern gardens as well as an Italian Renaissance garden, shrub garden, Christian garden, English landscape garden and a maze. The gardens of the world were one of the main exhibition areas during the International Garden Exhibition (IGA) Berlin in 2017.

- ...the first traffic lights in Europe were put into operation at Potsdamer Platz in 1924? A replica of the traffic light tower can still be admired there today.
- ... Berlin is the most multicultural city in Germany? Of the approximately 3.7 million residents, 725,500 possess a foreign passport. People from 190 countries live in the city, of them around 57,000 are Polish and 98,000 are Turkish citizens.
- ... Berlin's Kaufhaus des Westens, founded in 1907 and better known as KaDeWe, is the largest department store in continental Europe? There are 60,000 square metres of retail space over its six floors - this is the equivalent of eight football fields. 64 escalators and 26 lifts transport over 50,000 visitors every day, 40% of who are tourists. The gourmet food department is famous. It comprises 7,000 square metres of space, offers around 34,000 different products and is the largest food department in Europe.
- ... there are more döner shops in Berlin than in Istanbul, 1,600 of them in total, selling around 400,000 döners a day? According to legend, the döner in its most well known and popular form (strips of meat from a spit served with salad and sauce in flat bread) was invented in Berlin at the start of the 1970s. However, two restaurateurs – Kadim Numan and Mehmet Aygün – both claim ownership of it.
- ... Berlin, with its 2,100 bridges, 564 of which cross over water, easily beats even Venice in this regard? The oldest bridge is the Jungfernbrücke, built in 1798 and to a large extent preserved in its original form.
- ... Berlin's city border is 234 kilometres long? The longest stretch from East to West is 45 kilometres, and from North to South 38 kilometres.
- ... Berlin's cemeteries are often landscaped like parks and many of them are worth taking a walk around? The Jewish Cemetery in Berlin-Weißensee has over 115,000 graves and is the largest surviving Jewish cemetery in Europe. The Dorotheenstadt Cemetery on Chausseestraße is especially worth a visit as Brecht, Weigel, Fichte, Hegel and Schinkel are buried there. The graves of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Adelbert von Chamisso and Carl von Siemens are located in the idyllic cemeteries by Hallesches Tor. The Brothers Grimm and Rio Reiser are buried at the Alter St.-Matthäus-Kirchhof cemetery in Schöneberg.
- ... there are more than 180 kilometres of navigable waterways in Berlin's urban area? With a length of 45 kilometres, the Spree is the longest river in the city and the Teltow Canal is the longest canal in the urban area, at a length of 29 kilometres. Visitors can also discover Berlin on a pleasure boat; the selection of tours on offer ranges from short cruises to boat trips which are several hours long.

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- ... there are also *five* ferries in the Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (Berlin Transport Company) network? One of these travels all year round from the Wannsee train station to Alt-Kladow, another travels from Müggelheim to Rahnsdorf in the warmer months of the year.
- ... the longest ferry route in Berlin, the F10, travels over the Großer Wannsee (Great Wannsee lake)? The journey is 4.4 kilometres long.
- ... the highest tree in Berlin is a European larch that was planted in the Tegel Forest in 1795? It has reached a height of 45 metres over the centuries. The oldest tree is also in Tegel, a 900 year-old English oak. It is 26 metres high and the circumference of its trunk is 6.65 metres. It was apparently given the name Dicke Marie (fat Marie) by Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt.
- ... there are *five* different types of lime trees along the Unter den Linden boulevard in Berlin-Mitte? These are the silver lime, small-leaved lime, Greenspire lime, common lime and Pallida lime.
- ... Berlin has the approximately the same width of London and the same length of Naples in Italy?
- ... the German capital's public road network is 5,452 kilometres long?
- ... eight American presidents have visited Berlin since WWII? John F. Kennedy's utterance "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner", 1963) and Ronald Reagan's emphatic exclamation "Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" (1987) are unforgettable.
- ... visitors from West Berlin had to change at least 25 Deutsche Marks per day into East German Marks at an exchange rate of 1:1 when they visited the Eastern part of the city during the era of the Berlin Wall? Money not spent could not be exchanged back again. It could however be deposited at the border branch of the GDR state bank and withdrawn at the next visit. A visa cost *five* Deutsche Marks for tourists from West Germany, for West Berliners it was free of charge.
- ... the largest lake in the city is the Großer Müggelsee, which has a surface area of almost 7.4 square kilometres? The smallest lake, the Pechsee in the Grunewald forest, only covers 3,000 square metres.
- ... Berlin's second highest elevation, the 120 metre-high Teufelsberg, consists of rubble? After the war, 26 million cubic metres of rubble were heaped here.
- ... around 80,000 vegans live in Berlin? In addition to the approximately 90 vegan restaurants, cafés and ice cream parlours, there are also supermarkets selling only animal-free products, a vegan butcher and even a vegan sex shop.
- ... there is a restaurant on the rooftop of the German Bundestag? It is the only restaurant in the world situated in a parliamentary building that is open to the public. Advance registration is however required.

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- ... in the olden days, Berlin already ended at the Brandenburg Gate? The historical city border can still be recognised in the street names, such as Wallstraße, Mauerstraße, Linienstraße and Palisadenstraße. The former city gates are now predominantly preserved in the form of underground station names – Schlesisches, Kottbusser, Hallesches and Oranienburger Tor.
- ... the longest street in the city is the Adlergestell which stretches 11.9 kilometres from Adlershof to Schmöckwitz? And the shortest lane is the Eiergasse in the Nikolai quarter, which is only 16 metres long? The widest is not Breite Straße as the name ‘wide street’ suggests, but rather Straße des 17. Juni, which is 85.2 metres wide.
- ... Berliners are devoted dog lovers? More than 105,000 dogs were registered in the city at the end of 2017.
- ... Berlin’s oldest pub is almost 400 years old and is still operating today? Zur letzten Instanz has been situated on Waisenstraße since 1621, once had Napoleon as a guest and is now also visited by numerous celebrities.
- ... the quadriga chariot on top of the Brandenburg Gate was stolen by Napoleon and taken to France in 1806? He transported the Berlin landmark there as a symbol of his victory over Prussia in the Battle of Jena-Auerstedt. It was brought back to Berlin after the victory of the European allies over Napoleon in 1814. Since then the quadriga has been nicknamed the tit-for-tat carriage. Despite rumours to the contrary, the quadriga has always pointed eastwards – towards the old city of Berlin.
- ... the most famous bakery treat in Berlin is a fist-sized doughnut filled with jam? It is known throughout Germany as a Berliner, only in Berlin would you search in vain for this item under this name. That’s because here it is simply called a Pfannkuchen (pancake). And what is called a Pfannkuchen elsewhere in Germany (an actual pancake) is known as an Eierkuchen (egg cake) in Berlin.
- ... the New Year’s Eve party between the Victory Column and the Brandenburg Gate now enjoys cult status and the event attracts around *one* million visitors from all over the world at the turn of the year?
- ... many names in the city have their origins in the days of Prussian kings and the House of Hohenzollern, for who only a few first names were in fashion over the last 300 years? These include Friedrichstadt and Friedrichstraße, Friedrichstadt-Palast and Friedrichswerder, Friedrichshain, Friedrichsfelde, Friedrichshagen, Wilhelmstraße and Wilhelmshagen.
- ...there are over 250 weekly markets spread out across Berlin’s urban area? The Turkish Market on Neukölln’s Maybachufer is especially popular. Every Tuesday and Friday it offers an eclectic assortment of fruit and vegetables, Turkish specialities and colourful fabrics. On Saturdays, many market goers are drawn to Winterfeldtplatz in Schöneberg and Kollwitzplatz in Prenzlauer Berg. The products on offer range from organic produce and specialities from many countries, to felt shoes, handicrafts and natural cosmetics.

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- ... the International Berlin Beer Festival is a record holder? Sprawling 2.2 km down Karl-Marx-Allee, it is “the longest beer garden in the world”. Over 350 breweries from 90 countries offer 2,400 beer specialities on the stretch between Straußberger Platz and Frankfurter Tor.
- ... the centuries-old tradition of viticulture has been taken up again in Berlin over the last few decades? Of the 10 vineyards in the urban area, the one in Kreuzberg is the most famous, but grapes are also grown in Wilmersdorf, Schöneberg, Mitte, Neukölln and Prenzlauer Berg. The largest vineyard is approximately 5,000 square metres and is located in Britz in the district of Neukölln. The most northern vineyard is situated in Humboldthain in the Gesundbrunnen area. Grapes from this vineyard are pressed to make Berlin's only sparkling wine.
- ... the Berlin dialect was particularly influenced by the Huguenots from the late 17th century? Some words have French origins: Budike (pub or shop), Boulette (meatball), Roulade (*rolled* cuts of meat) and Destille (pub). But other linguistic influences have left audible traces, such as from Hebrew (via Yiddish), in expressions such as Malochen (hard work), Schlamassel (misfortune) and Moos (money).
- ... Berlin has its own beer speciality? Berliner Weiße is a bubbly, slightly bitter beer that is produced from a mix of wheat and barley malt and is fermented in the bottle. Served with a shot of raspberry or woodruff syrup, it is a refreshing summer drink.
- ... 779 accommodation facilities with 143,272 beds were registered in Berlin at the end of 2017?
- ... there are on average 1,500 events on offer to Berlin locals and visitors every day?
- ... the Berlin WelcomeCard, one of *visitBerlin's* most popular products, is the most-purchased tourist ticket in town? The Berlin WelcomeCard is available in *thirteen* variants. It offers 48 and 72 hours and *four, five or six* days of free travel on *public transport* in Berlin and Potsdam. Around 200 tourist partners grant discounts for tourist services, events and cultural institutions, where visitors can save between 25 and 50 percent on the price of admission. The all-inclusive version even offers free entrance to up to 30 attractions.
- ... figuratively, all of Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe's vehicles put together circumnavigate the globe 316 times a day? The underground covers 2.56 billion kilometres a year, buses 1.47 billion kilometres and trams 606 million kilometres. This is the equivalent of 115,500 journeys around the globe a year.
- ... there is always a public transport stop within a radius of 500 metres?
- ... the *visitBerlin* website is available in 5 languages? These are German, English, French, Italian and Spanish.
- ... the international SOS emergency signal was agreed on at the World Radiocommunication Conference in Berlin in 1906?

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| Research Text



- ... the Berlin football club Hertha BSC, which was founded in 1892, was named after a pleasure boat that one of the co-founders took a trip on with his father?
- ... Berlin is the capital of the German craft beer scene? Almost 30 breweries now have aromatic varieties from Pale Ale to IPA on tap.

On the visitBerlin.de website there are 10,000 pages of further information on Berlin tourism – from A for arrival to Z for zoo.

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