

Press Release

“Pride Weeks” in Berlin: Events throughout the city

With the *pink pillow Berlin Collection*, *visitBerlin* is participating in a series of events for the Christopher Street Day celebrations

Berlin, 27 June 2016 Over the next few weeks, Berlin will be sparkling in rainbow colours once again. This year, the city’s Pride Weeks will extend for three weeks. From 2 to 24 July, lesbians, gays, transgender, bisexual, intersexual, and heterosexual people will gather in Berlin to celebrate and advocate a tolerant and open-minded society. Christopher Street Day (CSD) on 23 July is considered the highlight of the Pride Weeks, but more than 200 additional cultural, political, and sporting events are excellent occasions to celebrate and demonstrate together. The *pink pillow Berlin Collection* initiative from *visitBerlin* will participate in this array of events.

The Pride Weeks will be launched on 1 July at Nollendorfplatz, with the rainbow flag hoisted again this year as a symbol against homophobia and transphobia. Berlin’s governing mayor, Michael Müller, will officially open the series of events.

Use hashtag #PinkPillowBerlin – win a hotel voucher

Have you ever given an open-air hotel bed a whirl? At the Lesbian-Gay City Festival, visitors are very welcome to rest a little at the *pink pillow Berlin Collection* stand and to make themselves comfortable on a mountain of pink-coloured cushions. There are also prizes to be had – if you take a selfie and share the image on Twitter under the #PinkPillowBerlin hashtag, you have a good chance of winning a hotel or breakfast voucher or other prizes!

Ship ahoy! A whole rainbow fleet is set to sail for the “CSD on the Spree” on 21 July. Ten boats will be sailing down the Spree under the motto of “dance, flirt, demonstrate”. The *pink pillow Berlin Collection* will add its own boat to the flotilla. Remaining tickets are available at: shop.csd-auf-der-spree.de.

Berlin hotels join the fun with *pink pillow Berlin Collection*

A hotel network for gay and lesbian guests: Founded in 2013, the *pink pillow Berlin Collection* is a globally unique network of Berlin hotels with 58 LGBTI-friendly establishments. The collection unites hotels that have one thing very close to their hearts: that all guests be free to be themselves and that all guests feel safe and welcome. This unique project makes Berlin the first major city in the world with a sustainable LGBTI programme in the hotel industry. If you haven’t yet booked a room for the Pride Weeks, take a look at the *pink pillow* [homepage](#) for great places to stay.

For more information, stories and photos about “gay Berlin”, visit gay.visitBerlin.com and press.visitBerlin.de/en/news-release/Berlin---Europe's-Queer-Capital, plus the #PinkPillowBerlin hashtag.

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2016 “Pride Weeks” Events:

- **Respect Gaymes – 2 July** – 60 football teams will play matches here, and there will also be beach volleyball, breakdance battles, concerts, display areas and workshops.
www.berlin.de/kultur-und-tickets/gay/events/2808082-2808158-respect-gaymes.html
- **Lesbian-Gay City Festival – 16 and 17 July** – Europe’s largest LGBTI street festival takes place in the Schöneberg neighbourhood around Nollendorfplatz.
www.stadtfest.berlin
- **CSD on the Spree – 21 July** – The Thursday before the annual CSD parade is dedicated to this event: A rainbow fleet of colourful boats will sail the Spree under the motto of “dance, flirt, demonstrate.”
shop.csd-auf-der-spree.de
- **Dyke* March – 22 July** – This walking demonstration of lesbian visibility and joie de vivre traditionally takes place one day before the official CSD parade.
www.berlin.de/tickets/suche/detail.php?id=1250125
- **Gay Night at the Zoo – 22 July** – This is the 11th annual lesbian and gay open-air swing party held at the Berlin Zoo.
www.berlin.de/kultur-und-tickets/gay/events/3052262-2808158-gay-night-at-the-zoo.html
- **Christopher Street Day – 23 July** – The main event is the parade: It runs from Kurfürstendamm along Straße des 17. Juni to Brandenburg Gate.
www.visitBerlin.de/en/event/07-23-2016/csd-berlin-christopher-street-day
- **District Pride – official CSD Berlin farewell party – 23 July** – The official farewell party will take place on the grounds of the Arena Berlin and on the Badeschiff, starting at 5pm.
<http://www.arena.berlin/programm/district-pride-official-csd-berlin-closing-party/?lang=de>

visitBerlin

“We know Berlin.” This is the slogan that Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH, operating under the trade name *visitBerlin*, has been using since 1993 to advertise Berlin globally as a travel destination. *visitBerlin*’s Berlin Convention Office markets the city as an event location for meetings and conventions of all sizes. Berlin’s popularity as a tourist destination continues to grow: with more than 30 million overnight stays in 2015, the German capital is as busy as ever. The city’s also in great demand as a place to hold meetings: Berlin is currently the #1 destination for conferences and conventions organised by international associations. As provider of tourism services, the company offers a wide range of travel packages and also issues the city’s official tourist ticket, the Berlin WelcomeCard. *visitBerlin* also operates six Berlin Tourist Information Offices across the city. The Berlin Service Center (Tel. +49(0)30-25 00 25) provides information on the complete range of tourist offerings in Berlin. The website [visitBerlin.de](http://www.visitBerlin.de) provides information about the capital in 14 languages.

visitBerlin / Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH

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