

Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Honigmond Garden Hotel (p268)
- Hotel Art Nouveau (p270)
- Hotel Askanischer Hof (p271)
- Hotel de Rome (p265)
- Louisa's Place (p269)
- Mandala Hotel (p269)
- Meininger City Hostel & Hotel Prenzlauer Berg (p275)
- Propeller Island City Lodge (p273)
- Wombat's City Hostel Berlin (p269)

SLEEPING

Berlin's ever-growing stream of visitors has almost 100,000 beds to accommodate them, with more big hotels scheduled to open in the next two years. You can sleep in a former bank, boat or factory, in the home of a silent movie diva, in a 'flying bed' and even a coffin. Standards have improved dramatically while fierce competition has kept prices mercifully low compared to other capital cities. So no matter whether you're a cash-strapped student, a penny-wise family or a high-flying business exec, you're likely to find a place to your liking.

Accommodation listings in this chapter are organised by neighbourhood and then by budget in declining order. Most of our recommendations are midrange options which generally offer the best value for money. Expect clean, comfortable and decent-sized rooms with at least a modicum of style, a private bathroom, TV and telephone. Our selection also includes a few top-end hotels, which have an international standard of amenities and perhaps a scenic location, special décor or historical ambience. Budget places are generally hostels and other simple establishments where bathrooms may be shared.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

Berlin offers the full gamut of places to unpack your suitcase. Of course, if you enjoy the anonymity and predictability of an international chain (or simply want to use up those frequent flyer miles), you'll find just about all of them – from Holiday Inn Express to Ritz-Carlton – in the German capital. But, quite frankly, that would be a shame for Berlin has a wonderful range of lodging options that reflect the city's verve and spirit.



Design-savvy travellers, for instance can pick from an ever-growing crop of lifestyle and boutique hotels decked out with such Zeitgeist-capturing features as in-room bathtubs, lobby lounges and custom furniture. A popular sub-group are the so-called *Kunsthoteles* (art hotels), which are either designed by artists and/or liberally sprinkled with original art.

Nostalgic types seeking a unique 'Old Berlin' flavour, meanwhile, should check into a charismatic B&B, called *Hotel-Pensions* or simply *Pensions*, which are especially prevalent in the western district of Charlottenburg. They typically occupy one or several floors of a historic residential building and offer local colour and personal attention by the bucketful. Amenities, room size and décor vary widely, although many have been updated and now feature wi-fi, cable TV and other mod cons.

Berlin's hostel scene is as vibrant as ever. With new places popping up all the time, competition is fierce and prices rock-bottom: the cheapest beds cost just €9! Spend a little more (say €15) and standards get quite high, making hostels worth considering even if you're more 'flashpacker' than backpacker. Most now offer private rooms, often with en suites, and

even small apartments with kitchens, alongside traditional dorm accommodation. Of late, hostels have been getting competition from a new breed of lodging: budget designer hotels, such as the Motel One chain. In response several hostel owners are planning on opening their own versions. The Circus Hotel opened in late 2008, and Meininger is also building a new house near the Hauptbahnhof for late 2009.

Also increasingly popular among short-term visitors are stays in furnished flats that give you the benefit of space, privacy and independence, making them especially attractive to families and budget-conscious self-caterers.

Many properties set aside rooms or entire floors for nonsmokers; these are identified with the nonsmoking icon  in this book. Those offering a guest terminal for public internet access are indicated by the internet icon .

WHERE TO STAY

Berlin's public transportation system puts you within easy reach of everything, so you don't have to be too fussy about where to base yourself. However, if you enjoy being within walking distance of the trophy sights, find a place in Mitte or around Potsdamer Platz, although you'll pay a premium for the privilege. The high-end international chains cluster around Gendarmenmarkt and Potsdamer Platz, while their smaller arty cousins prefer the quiet side streets north of Unter den Linden and in the Scheunenviertel.

Charlottenburg and Wilmersdorf generally offer better value and the greatest concentration of midrange abodes. This is where traditional Old Berlin pensions rub shoulders with urban-hipster temples, with a good number of

four-star business hotels catering for the trade-show crowd thrown in. Kreuzberg, Friedrichshain (where your euro will stretch furthest) and lovely and fairly central Prenzlauer Berg are all good places to pitch yourself if you want to be close to nightlife (as is Mitte).

RESERVATIONS

Berlin has lots of beds but the best ones often sell out, so make reservations if you've got your eye on a particular hotel, especially in July and August and around major holidays (p304), cultural events (p16) and trade shows. Most properties accept reservations by phone, fax and the internet. Quite a few of those reviewed in this chapter can be booked via Lonely Planet's website (see boxed text, p263). Local options include **Berlin Tourism** (☎ 250 025; www.visitberlin.de), which makes reservations for rooms for free and with a best-price guarantee, but only at its partner hotels. Last-minute bargains can often be found at www.hrs.de. For hostels, try www.gomio.com, www.hostels.com and www.hostelworld.com. For last-minute availability, see www.hostel-berlin.de.

ROOM RATES

Berlin's room rates are low compared to other European capitals. A night in a four- or five-star hotel averages €150 compared to €380 in London and €360 in Paris. Unless noted, we've quoted the price range for a standard double room with private bathroom to give you an idea of cost. Reviews also indicate whether breakfast is included in the rate or whether an extra (optional) per-person charge applies.

Different prices apply to single or family rooms, where available. We do not – in fact cannot – take into account seasonal fluctuations, promotional discounts, jacked-up rates during high-demand periods, rates available through online booking engines and so on. Many hostels give slight discounts in the winter months (November to February).

PRICE GUIDE

The following breakdown is a rough guide and refers to one night in a double room with private bathroom, outside of major events, holidays or trade-show periods.

€€€	over €160
€€	€60 to €160
€	under €60

LONGER-TERM RENTALS

If you're planning to stay in Berlin for a month or longer, renting a room or an apartment might be the most sensible option (see also **Holiday Flats**, p276). Agencies to try include: **Exberliner Flat Rental** (☎ 4737 2964; www.exberliner.net) English-speaking flat-finding service affiliated with the expat-oriented *Exberliner* magazine.

HomeCompany (Map pp128; ☎ 194 45; www.homecompany.de; Joachimstaler Strasse 17, Charlottenburg; ☎ Kurfürstendamm) Long-term apartment rentals and flat-shares throughout Berlin.

HISTORIC MITTE

ADINA APARTMENT HOTEL BERLIN

Map pp76–7 Apartment Hotel €€

☎ 200 7670; www.adina.eu; Krausenstrasse 35-36; apt €145-425; Ⓞ Stadtmittel, Spittelmarkt; 📞 📠 🚶 🚲 🚿

This relative newcomer made an instant splash with its tasteful, modern design and 125 roomy studios and apartments with good-sized kitchens, making this a good choice for families, anyone in need of elbow room, and self-caterers. (There's a super-market just a minute's walk away). Staff are warm and the pool and sauna are perfect for soothing sore muscles at the end of the day.

HOTEL DE ROME Map pp76–7 Hotel €€€

☎ 460 6090; www.hotelderome.com; Behrensstrasse 37; d €395-495, breakfast €26; Ⓞ Hausvogteiplatz, 📞 100, 200, TXL; 📞 📠 🚶 🚲 🚿

If you have coin, set up shop at this delightful alchemy of historic and contemporary flair. A Rocco Forte property, it was originally a 19th-century bank HQ where the former vault is now the pool/spa area and the directors' rooms (still with wartime-era shrapnel wounds in the wainscoting) are now the luxury suites. Tommaso Ziffer did the edgy design throughout. Great cocktails in the **Bebel Bar** (p218). Kids under 12 stay free.

ADLON KEMPINSKI Map pp76–7 Hotel €€€

☎ 226 10; www.hotel-adlon.de; Unter den Linden 77; d €380-520, breakfast €39; 📞 Unter den Linden; 📞 📠 🚶 🚲 🚿

Close to embassies, the government quarter and just about everything else, the Adlon has been Berlin's most high-profile defender of the grand tradition since 1907 and sets the bar for all other five-star properties in town. The recent additions of the Adlon Day Spa, the Felix club-restaurant and Tim Raue's