

Museumsinsel & Alexanderplatz

ALEXANDERPLATZ | SCHLOSSPLATZ | NIKOLAIVIERTEL

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Pergamonmuseum

(p97) Time-travelling through ancient Greece and Babylon to the Middle East at this glorious museum.

2 Neues Museum (p101)

Making a date with Nefertiti and her royal entourage at the stunningly rebuilt repository.

3 Berlin by Boat (p112)

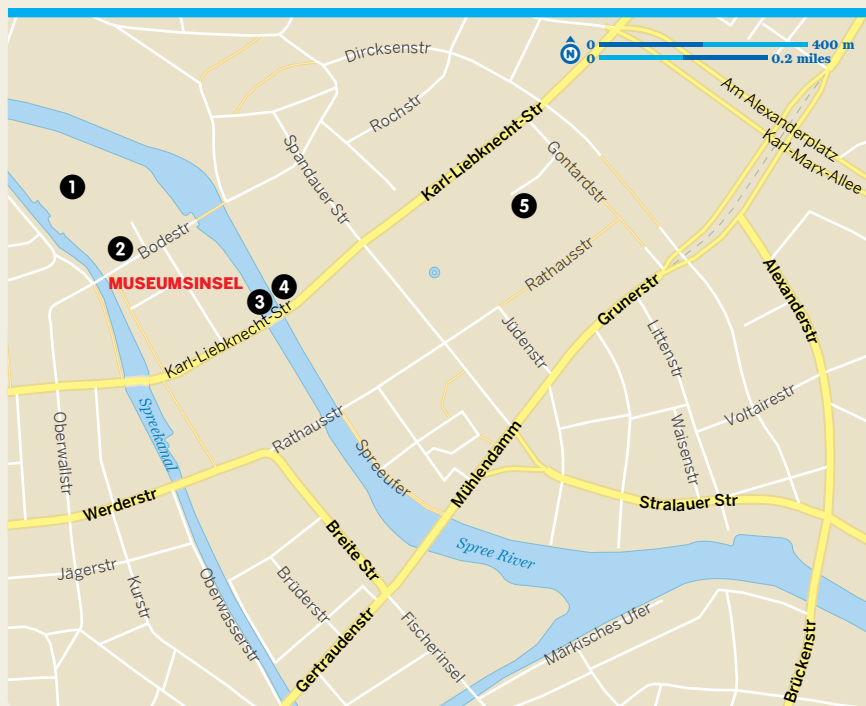
Letting the sights drift by while enjoying cold drinks on the deck of a Spree River tour boat.

4 DDR Museum (p108)

Dipping behind the Iron Curtain at this interactive exhibit.

5 Fernsehturm (p106)

Getting high on the knock-out views from the top of Germany's tallest structure.



For more detail of this area see Map p300 →

Explore: Museumsinsel & Alexanderplatz

This historic area packs most of eastern Berlin's trophy sights into a compact frame and is best explored on foot in the daytime when museums and shops are open. A good place to start is on vast and amorphous Alexanderplatz, a mainstream shopping hub and home to Germany's most prominent landmark, the 368m-high Fernsehturm (TV Tower). In clear weather it's well worth taking the speedy lift to the viewing platform to get your bearings.

The open area west of the TV Tower links up with the Nikolaiviertel, Berlin's medieval birthplace, which was first torn down, then rebuilt by the East German government. The surrealism of this pseudo-quaint quarter can be a hoot, but don't expect to find too many Berliners patronising the pricey cafes and souvenir shops.

Better save your energy for the stunning treasures of the five museums on Museumsinsel (Museum Island). If you only have time for one or two, focus on the Pergamonmuseum with its monumental antiquities or the Egyptian collection at the Neues Museum. For more recent – and local – history, take a spin around the DDR Museum, which playfully captures the contradictions of daily life in East Germany.

Local Life

➔ **Late-night openings** Clued-up locals know that the best time to see the Museumsinsel collections without the crowds is on Thursday evening, when all five museums stay open until 8pm.

➔ **Shopping** Big shopping centres are scarce in central Berlin, which probably explains the enormous local popularity of the Alexa (p112) megamall. It harbours practically every chain under the sun and stays open until 9pm.

➔ **Drinks with a view** There are few better places for summertime sunset cocktails than the rooftop terrace of the House of Weekend (p112) club, with the entire glittering city at your feet.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** M48 and 200 link Alexanderplatz with Potsdamer Platz; bus 247 goes to the Nikolaiviertel.

➔ **S-Bahn** S5, S7/75 and S9 all converge at Alexanderplatz.

➔ **U-Bahn** U2, U5 and U8 stop at Alexanderplatz. Other main stops are Klosterstrasse and Märkisches Museum (U2) and Jannowitzbrücke (U8).

➔ **Tram** M4, M5 and M6 connect Alexanderplatz with Marienkirche and Hackescher Markt.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

It would take superhuman stamina to visit all five museums on Museumsinsel in one day, so don't even try; concentrate your energy on those that interest you most. Skip the worst crowds by arriving first thing in the morning, late in the afternoon or on Thursdays, when all museums stay open until 8pm.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Udon Kobo Ishin (p110)
- ➔ Dolores (p110)
- ➔ Brauhaus Georgbräu (p112)
- ➔ Zur Letzten Instanz (p110)

For reviews, see p110. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ House of Weekend (p112)
- ➔ Club Avenue (p112)

For reviews, see p112. ➔

Best Non-Museum Sights

- ➔ Berliner Dom (p108)
- ➔ Humboldt-Box (p109)
- ➔ Fernsehturm (p106)
- ➔ Marienkirche (p107)
- ➔ Nikolaiviertel (p108)

For reviews, see p107. ➔