

Scheunenviertel

HACKESCHER MARKT AREA | HAUPTBAHNHOF & ORANIENBURGER TOR | TORSTRASSE

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Sammlung Boros (p133) Glimpsing high drama, abstract mind-benders and glowing colour among the contemporary artworks at this bunker-turned-art museum.

2 Hackesche Höfe (p135) Exploring fashion boutiques, shops, galleries and

cafes in this charismatic courtyard maze.

3 Clärchens Ballhaus (p138) Strutting your stuff to salsa, tango, ballroom, waltz and swing at this funky retro ballroom.

4 Neue Synagoge (p132) Admiring the exotic architecture and studying up on

the quarter's Jewish history at this local landmark.

5 Museum für Naturkunde (p134) Sizing yourself up next to giant dinos at Berlin's mini Jurassic Park in the city's Museum of Natural History.



For more detail of this area see Map p302 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you can't make it on to *Dancing with the Stars*, at least you can dance *under* the stars in Berlin. From May to September, riverside Strandbar Mitte (p140) invites you to tango, swing or waltz on a wooden dance floor while the Spree courses past and lights bathe the ornamented facade of the Bode-Museum in a romantic glow. There's no charge, but a €4 donation for the DJ is requested. Check the website for dance lessons and foul-weather cancellations.



Best Jewish History Sites

- ➔ Neue Synagoge (p132)
- ➔ Museum Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt (p141)
- ➔ Gedenkstätte Stille Helden (p141)
- ➔ Friedhof Grosse Hamburger Strasse (p139)

For reviews, see p132. ➔



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Einsunternull (p138)
- ➔ Katz Orange (p138)
- ➔ Pauly Saal (p137)
- ➔ Chèn Chèn (p136)

For reviews, see p136. ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Clärchens Ballhaus (p138)
- ➔ Strandbar Mitte (p140)
- ➔ Buck and Breck (p140)
- ➔ Cordobar (p140)

For reviews, see p138. ➔

Explore: Scheunenviertel

Scheunenviertel packs bunches of charisma into its relatively compact size and is a joy to explore by day and night. Don't expect any blockbuster sights staring you in the face, though: its greatest charms reveal themselves in the labyrinth of quiet lanes fanning out from its main drags, Oranienburger Strasse and Rosenthaler Strasse.

Embark on an aimless wander and you'll constantly stumble upon the unexpected here: an idyllic courtyard or boundary-pushing gallery, a fashion-forward boutique, a fancy wine bar or a glam belle époque ballroom. A distinctive feature of the quarter is its *Höfe* – interlinked courtyards filled with cafes, shops and drinking temples.

Since the 1990s, the Scheunenviertel has also reprised its historic role as Berlin's main Jewish quarter, with the Neue Synagoge as its shining beacon. Gritty Torstrasse, meanwhile, delivers a roll call of trendy restaurants, bars and boutiques that lure a cashed-up creative crowd of locals, expats and visitors.

The area between the Hauptbahnhof and Friedrichstrasse harbours two of Berlin's contemporary arts highlights: the Hamburger Bahnhof and the Sammlung Boros. North of the Hauptbahnhof itself, a new city quarter called Europa-City is slowly getting off the drawing board.

Local Life

➔ **Shopping** Find out what keeps Berlin designers' sewing machines humming by prowling the backstreets for the shops of fashion-forward local-labels.

➔ **Bar-hopping** Play it cool when joining hotties and hopefuls for a classy buzz in Torstrasse's doorstaff-guarded booze burrows.

➔ **Monbijoupark** Set out a picnic, sip a beer in Strandbar Mitte (p140) – Berlin's first beach bar – or catch a play at the **Monbijou Theater** (Map p302; ☎030-288 866 999; www.monbijou-theater.de; Monbijoustrasse 3b; tickets €14-22; ☀May-Sep; ♿M1, ♿Oranienburger Strasse, Hackescher Markt) in this riverfront park.

Getting There & Away

➔ **U-Bahn** Weinmeisterstrasse (U8) is the most central station. Rosenthaler Platz (U8), Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz (U2) and Oranienburger Tor (U6) are closer to Torstrasse and the northern Scheunenviertel.

➔ **S-Bahn** Hackescher Markt (S5, S7 and S9) and Oranienburger Strasse (S2) stations are both good jumping-off points.

➔ **Tram** M1 runs from Museumsinsel (Museum Island) to Prenzlauer Berg and stops throughout the Scheunenviertel.

➔ **Bus** No 142 runs along Torstrasse.