



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 and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- **Honigmond Garden Hotel** (p270)
- **Hotel Art Nouveau** (p274)
- **Hotel Askanischer Hof** (p273)
- **Hotel de Rome** (p268)
- **Mandala Hotel** (p272)
- **Meininger Hotel Prenzlauer Berg** (p278)
- **Propeller Island City Lodge** (p274)
- **Hotel Amano** (p271)
- **Wombat's City Hostel Berlin** (p272)
- **Circus Hotel** (p271)

SLEEPING

Berlin boasts around 110,000 beds and more are scheduled to come online. 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 are high, and fierce competition keeps prices low compared with other capital cities.

Accommodation listings in this chapter are organised by neighbourhood and then by budget, from most to least expensive. 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 and TV. Our selection also includes a few top-end hotels, which have an international standard of amenities and perhaps a scenic location, special decor 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 to Ritz-Carlton – in the German capital. But, quite frankly, that would be a shame, because Berlin has a wonderful range of lodging options that better reflect the city's verve and spirit.

Berlin's hostel scene is as vibrant as ever and consists of both classic backie hostels with

alternative flair and modern 'flashpacker' hostels catering to lifestyle-savvy city-breakers. The cheapest beds in big dorms cost just €9, but spending a little more may get you a smaller dorm or even a private room, often with ensuite, or even a small apartment with a kitchen.

Of late, hostels have been facing competition from budget designer hotels, which feature contemporary design and minimal amenities at low prices. The fast-growing Motel One chain is the best known contender in town. In response, several hostel owners,

HOLIDAY FLATS

For self-caterers, indie types, families and anyone in need of extra privacy, a short-term furnished-flat rental may well be the cat's pyjamas. We only have space to list a few candidates, but you'll find lots more at www.be-my-guest.com, or www.homeaway.com, a no-fee searchable platform that lets you communicate directly with the owner to ask questions and/or make a reservation.

- **Berlin Lofts** (Map pp72-3; ☎ 0151 2121 9126; www.berlinlofts.com; Stephanstrasse 60, Tiergarten; apt €120-200, three-night minimum; 📍 Westhafen, 📍 Birkenstrasse) Rents huge lofts in handsomely converted historic buildings (including an old smithy and a bi-level horse barn) near the Hauptbahnhof (main train station). Kommune 1, the first politically-motivated student commune, formed in 1967, once lived in one of the apartments.
- **Brilliant Apartments** (☎ 8061 4796; www.brilliant-apartments.de; apt from €86) Seven stylish and modern units (named for precious stones) with full kitchens that sleep up to six and are located on Oderberger Strasse or Rykestrasse, both hip drags in Prenzlauer Berg that put you close to everything.
- **IMA Loft Apartments** (Map pp140-1; ☎ 6162 8913; www.imalofts.com; Ritterstrasse 12-14, Kreuzberg; apt €55-170; 📍 Moritzplatz) These uncluttered, contemporary apartments are part of the IMA Design Village, an old factory shared by design studios and a dance and theatre academy. They sleep from one to four and include free wi-fi.
- **Miniloft Berlin** (Map pp102-3; ☎ 847 1090; www.miniloft.de; Hessische Strasse 5; apt from €90; 📍 Naturkundemuseum) Eight stunning lofts in an architect-converted building, some with south-facing panorama windows, others with cosy alcoves, all outfitted with modern designer furniture and kitchenettes. Near the Natural History Museum and across from the national headquarters of the Green Party.
- **Roof Apartments** (☎ 6951 8833, 0173 542 3607; www.roof-berlin.com; 1-/2-bedroom apt from €80/105, two-night minimum) Three quiet, darling apartments, in historic buildings on leafy Christburger Strasse and off Greifswalder Strasse, mix classic and modern features (retro radio, acrylic chairs) and come with lots of imaginative design touches and thoughtful amenities such as an orange press or fluffy robes.