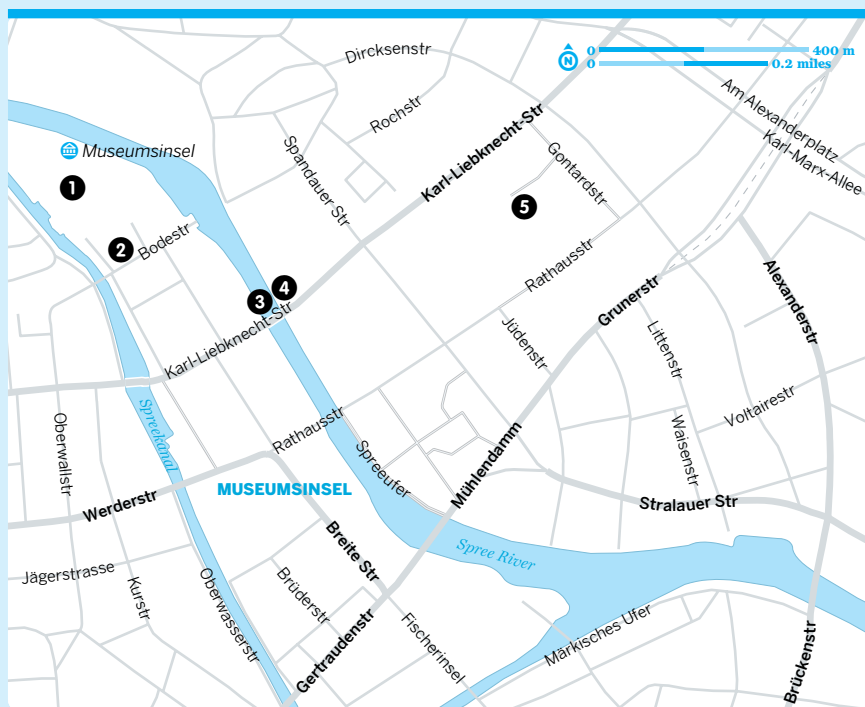


Museumsinsel & Alexanderplatz

ALEXANDERPLATZ | NIKOLAIQUIERT | SCHLOSSPLATZ

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Time-travelling through ancient Greece and Babylon to the Middle East at the glorious **Pergamonmuseum** (p96).
- ❷ Making a date with Nefertiti and her royal entourage at the stunningly rebuilt **Neues Museum** (p98).
- ❸ Letting the sights drift by while enjoying cold drinks on a riverboat deck (p109).
- ❹ Finding out about life across the Berlin Wall at the interactive **DDR Museum** (p104).
- ❺ Getting high from the knock-out views from the top of the **Fernsehturm** (p103), Germany's tallest structure.



For more detail of this area, see Map p318 ➔

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 on Museumsinsel by arriving first thing in the morning, late in the afternoon or on Thursdays, when all museums stay open later than usual.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Brooklyn Beef Club (p109)
- ➔ .HBC (p107)
- ➔ Dolores (p107)
- ➔ Zur Letzten Instanz (p107)

For reviews, see p107 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Weekend (p109)
- ➔ .HBC (p109)

For reviews, see p109 ➔



Best Non-Museums Sights

- ➔ Berliner Dom (p106)
- ➔ Fernsehturm (p103)
- ➔ Humboldt-Box (p106)
- ➔ Marienkirche (p103)
- ➔ Nikolaiviertel (p109)

For reviews, see p103 ➔

Explore: Museumsinsel – Alexanderplatz Area

Noisy and chaotic, Alexanderplatz (Alex for short) was the transport and commercial hub of East Berlin and not the place to linger. Despite attempts to temper the 1960s socialist look, it remains an oddly cluttered, soulless, concrete square. Confusingly cut by roads, train and tram tracks and traffic, its main redeeming feature is the soaring TV Tower, which delivers great views from the top and is handy for orientation from below.

Fans of antique treasures and fine art, meanwhile, will feel as though they've hit the jackpot at nearby Museumsinsel (Museum Island), the main attraction in these parts. Opposite the museums, the rebuilding of the Berlin City Palace is set to begin in 2014. An information centre called Humboldt-Box provides historical perspective and a preview of what will be inside. They're big on reconstruction in this part of town, another example being the nearby Nikolaiviertel, a medieval-looking quarter built in 1987 that seeks to replicate Berlin's medieval birthplace. For an original remnant of the 13th-century town wall, head to the historic area around Klosterstrasse U-Bahn station.

Local Life

➔ **Late-night Openings** Clued-in locals know that the best time to see the Museumsinsel collections without the crowds is on Thursday night when all five of them stay open as late as 10pm.

➔ **Shopping** Big shopping centres are scarce in central Berlin, which probably explains the enormous local popularity of the Alexa mega-mall, which harbours practically every franchise 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 Weekend (p109) club with the entire glittering city at your feet.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** M48 links Alexanderplatz with Potsdamer Platz; bus 248 goes to the Märkisches Museum via Nikolaiviertel.

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

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

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