

Kreuzberg & Neukölln

BERGMANNKIEZ | KOTTBUSSE TOR | THE LANDWEHRKANAL | NEUKÖLLN | SCHLESISCHES TOR | THE SPREE

Neighbourhood Top Five

① Challenging your party stamina by catching tomorrow's headliners at **Magnet Club** (p169), then dancing till breakfast at **Watergate** (p167) and wrapping up with a chill session at **Club der Visionäre** (p167).

② Stepping back into the long, tumultuous and fascinating history of Jews in

Germany at the **Jüdisches Museum** (p153).

③ Soaking up the punky-funky alt feel of eastern Kreuzberg or northern Neukölln in search of your favourite **drinking den** (p160) around Kottbusser Tor.

④ Foraging for unusual gifts for you and yours in the charming boutiques along **Bergmannstrasse** (p169).

⑤ Immersing yourself in multicultural bounty on a crawl through the bustling **Türkenmarkt** (p169).



For more detail of this area, see Map p332 and p336 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

For the ultimate 'Turkish Delight', head for **Sultan Hamam** (☎030-2175 3375; www.sultanhamamberlin.de; Bülowstrasse 57; 3/5hr session €16/21; ☀noon-11pm; 🗺Yorckstrasse, 🗺Yorckstrasse), where a traditional Turkish bath house meets modern spa culture. Relax in the richly tiled sauna and steam room, then treat yourself to a soapy scrub and *kese* (full body peeling with silken gloves). It's mostly for women, although men are welcome on Sundays and Mondays.



Best Places to Eat

- Café Jacques (p158)
- Defne (p159)
- Volt (p162)
- Henne (p159)

For reviews, see p157 ➡



Best Places to Drink

- Schwarze Traube (p165)
- Club der Visionäre (p167)
- Locke Müller (p165)
- Möbel Olfe (p160)
- Otto Rink (p160)

For reviews, see p164 ➡



Best Places to Dance

- Watergate (p167)
- Prince Charles (p165)
- Chalet (p167)
- Fuchs & Elster (p166)

For reviews, see p164 ➡

Explore: Kreuzberg & Neukölln

Kreuzberg gets its street cred from being delightfully edgy, bipolar, wacky and, most of all, unpredictable. While the western half, around Bergmannstrasse, has an upmarket, genteel air, eastern Kreuzberg (still nicknamed SO36, after its prereunification postal code) is a multicultural mosaic, a bubbly hodgepodge of tousled students, aspiring creatives, *shisha*-smoking Turks and Arabs, and international life artists. Spend a day tracking down fabulous street art, scarfing a *shawarma*, browsing vintage stores and hanging by the canal, then find out why Kreuzberg is also known as a night-crawler's paradise.

All that hipness has spilled across the Landwehrkanal to the northern part of Neukölln, sometimes also called Kreuzkölln. Once making headlines for its crime and poor schools, the district has catapulted from ghetto-gritty to funkytown-hip in no time. At least partly thanks to an influx of young, creative neo-Berliners (including many from Italy, Spain and Australia), the quarter sees trash-trendy bars, performance spaces and galleries coming online almost daily. If you need a break from all that hipness, head over to the vast Tempelhofer Park.

Local Life

➤ **Bar-hopping** Kreuzberg and Kreuzkölln deliver some of the city's most happening night-time action, especially around Kottbusser Tor, along Schlesische Strasse and on Weserstrasse.

➤ **Shopping** Delightfully devoid of high-street chains, shopping in Kreuzberg is all about individual style. Join locals in putting together that inimitable outfit from vintage shops, local designers and streetwear boutiques.

➤ **Chilling** The locals don't live to work. Heck, they may not work at all, which is why they have plenty of time to chill in green oases like Tempelhofer Park, Viktoriapark or Görlitzer Park or to count the boats floating by on the Landwehrkanal or Spree River.

Getting There & Away

➤ **Bus** M29 links Potsdamer Platz with Oranienstrasse via Checkpoint Charlie; the M41 hits the Bergmannkiez before trudging down to Neukölln via Hermannplatz.

➤ **S-Bahn** The Ringbahn (Circle Line) S41/S42 stops at Treptower Park, Sonnenallee, Neukölln and Hermannstrasse.

➤ **U-Bahn** Getting off at Kottbusser Tor puts you in the thick of eastern Kreuzberg, although Görlitzer Bahnhof and Schlesisches Tor are also handy. For northern Neukölln, Schönleinstrasse, Hermannplatz and Rathaus Neukölln are key stops. For the Bergmannkiez area, head to Mehringdamm or Gneisenaustrasse.