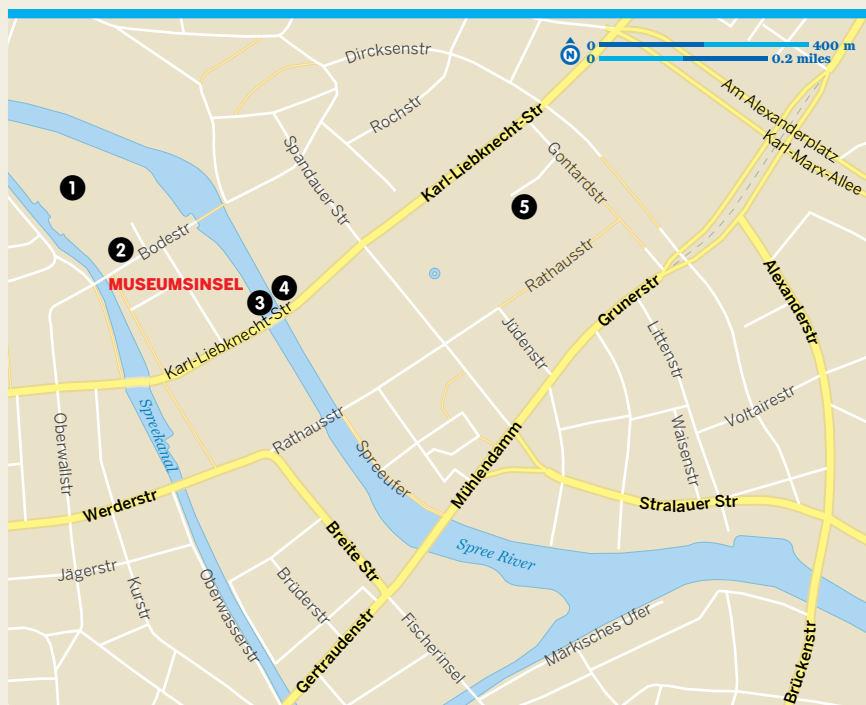


Museumsinsel & Alexanderplatz

ALEXANDERPLATZ | NIKOLAIVIERTEL | SCHLOSSPLATZ

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ❶ Time-travelling through ancient Greece and Babylon to the Middle East at the glorious **Pergamon-museum** (p101).
- ❷ Making a date with Nefertiti and her royal entourage at the stunningly rebuilt **Neues Museum** (p105).
- ❸ Letting the sights drift by while enjoying cold drinks on the deck of a **Spree River tour boat** (p111).
- ❹ Dipping behind the 'iron curtain' at the interactive **DDR Museum** (p112).
- ❺ Getting high on the knockout views from the top of the **Fernsehturm** (p110), Germany's tallest structure.



For more detail of this area, see Map p320 ➔

Explore: Museumsinsel & Alexanderplatz

Noisy and hectic, Alexanderplatz (Alex for short) is the transport and commercial hub of the eastern city centre but not really the kind of square that invites lingering. Despite post-reunification attempts to temper the 1960s socialist look, it remains an oddly cluttered, soulless jumble that's all concrete, no trees. Confusingly bifurcated by roads, train and tram tracks, its main redeeming feature is the soaring TV Tower, which sticks out of the city skyline like the tall kid in your school picture. It 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, construction of the historic Berlin City Palace has been under way since mid-2013. The adjacent Humboldt-Box provides a preview of the massive building that will house a cultural centre called Humboldt-Forum. They're big on reconstruction in this part of town and another example is the nearby Nikolaiviertel, a medieval-looking quarter built in 1987 atop Berlin's original settlement. Nearby, the U-Bahn extension has created another big construction site.

Local Life

- ➔ **Late-night openings** Clued-in locals know that the best time to see the Museumsinsel collections without the crowds is on Thursday evening when all five of them stay open until 8pm.
- ➔ **Shopping** Big shopping centres are scarce in central Berlin, which probably explains the enormous local popularity of the Alexa (p117) 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 House of Weekend (p117) club, with the entire glittering city at your feet.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** M48 links Alexanderplatz with Potsdamer Platz; bus 248 goes to Märkisches Museum and 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).

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

- ➔ Dolores (p116)
- ➔ Zur Letzten Instanz (p116)

For reviews, see p116 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ House of Weekend (p117)
- ➔ Club Avenue @ Café Moskau (p117)
- ➔ Brauhaus Georgbräu (p117)

For reviews, see p117 ➔

Best Non-Museum Sights

- ➔ Berliner Dom (p115)
- ➔ Fernsehturm (p110)
- ➔ Humboldt-Box (p115)
- ➔ Marienkirche (p111)
- ➔ Nikolaiviertel (p114)

For reviews, see p110 ➔