

Potsdamer Platz & Tiergarten

POTSDAMER PLATZ | KULTURFORUM | TIERGARTEN | DIPLOMATENVIERTEL

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Feeling your spirit soar while perusing an Aladdin's cave of Old Masters at the magnificent **Gemäldegalerie** (p123).

2 Getting lost amid the lawns, trees and leafy paths of the **Tiergarten** (p129) park, then guzzling

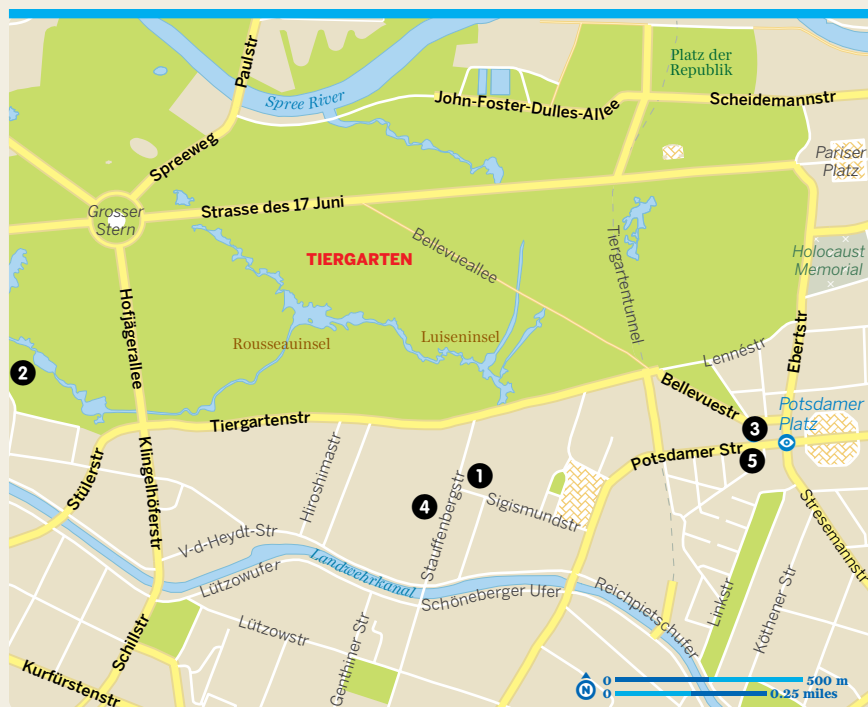
a cold one at **Café am Neuen See** (p132).

3 Stopping for coffee and people-watching beneath the magnificent canopy of the svelte glass-and-steel **Sony Center** (p120).

4 Admiring the brave people who stood up to the Nazis and often paid

the ultimate price at the **Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand** (p127).

5 Catching Europe's fastest lift to the **Panoramapunkt** (p121) to take in Berlin's impressive cityscape.



For more detail of this area, see Map p318 →

Explore: Potsdamer Platz & Tiergarten

Despite the name, Potsdamer Platz is not really a square but Berlin's newest quarter, forged in the '90s from terrain once bifurcated by the Berlin Wall. A collaborative effort by the world's finest architects, it is a vibrant showcase of urban renewal. The area itself is rather compact and quickly explored – unless you choose to linger in the shopping mall, have a restorative coffee in the Sony Center plaza, see Berlin from above from the Panoramapunkt or dive into German film history at the Museum für Film und Fernsehen.

At the nearby Kulturforum complex, you can mingle with masters old and modern in several museums, then head south to the up-and-coming gallery strip on Potsdamer Strasse. Further west, black limousines are a common sight in the Diplomatenviertel (Diplomatic Quarter), which doubles as a showcase of contemporary architecture, while a bit east Leipziger Platz has sprouted the huge and fancy LP12 Mall of Berlin. If your head is spinning after all that stimuli, the leafy paths of the vast Tiergarten, Berlin's equivalent of New York's Central Park, should provide a restorative antidote.

Local Life

➔ **Concerts** Empty seats are a rare sight at the Berliner Philharmonie (p133), especially when Sir Simon Rattle swings the baton. The free Tuesday lunchtime concerts lure the gamut of music fans, from students to tourists and desk-jockeys.

➔ **Tiergarten** When the sun is out, Berliners just want to get outdoors to the sweeping lawns, shady paths and romantic corners of the Tiergarten (p129) park, followed by a cold beer and pizza at the beer garden of Café am Neuen See (p132).

➔ **Traffic light** The clock-tower-shaped replica of Europe's first traffic light, from 1924, at the corner of Potsdamer Platz and Stresemannstrasse is a popular meeting point.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** No 200 comes through from Zoologischer Garten and Alexanderplatz, M41 links the Hauptbahnhof with Kreuzberg and Neukölln via Potsdamer Platz, and the M29 comes in from Checkpoint Charlie.

➔ **S-Bahn** S1 and S2 link Potsdamer Platz with Unter den Linden and the Scheunenviertel.

➔ **U-Bahn** U2 stops at Potsdamer Platz and Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Platz.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

From July to September, the lovely Teehaus im Englischen Garten (p132) presents free concerts in its beer garden at 4pm and 7pm every Saturday and Sunday.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Facil (p132)
- ➔ Vapiano (p131)
- ➔ Joseph-Roth-Diele (p131)
- ➔ Restaurant Gropius (p131)

For reviews, see p131 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Solar (p132)
- ➔ Kumpelnest 3000 (p133)
- ➔ Stue Bar (p133)
- ➔ Victoria Bar (p132)

For reviews, see p132 ➔

Best for Architecture

- ➔ Philharmonie (p126)
- ➔ Bauhaus Archiv (p129)
- ➔ Sony Center (p120)

For reviews, see p120 ➔