

INTRODUCING BERLIN



The dramatic canopy of the Sony Center (p111)

Berlin ‘must be the newest city I have ever encountered’, observed Mark Twain in 1891, and a modern-day visitor might well echo the sentiment.

In the 20th year of its post-Wall rebirth, Berlin is a city throbbing with vitality, spunk and libido, still struggling for an identity, yet poised for a great future. Head-spinning museums to eclectic galleries, grand opera to guerrilla clubs, gourmet temples to ethnic snack shacks – no matter whether your tastes run to posh or punk, you can sate them in the German capital.

Chronic fiscal woes aside, when it comes to fashion, art, design and music, Berlin is the city to watch. A global influx of creative spirits has turned it into a cauldron of cultural cool on par with New York in the '80s. What draws them is an experimental climate infused with an urban grit that gives this ‘eternally unfinished’ city its street cred.

All this trendiness is a triumph for a town that’s long been in the crosshairs of history: Berlin staged a revolution, headquartered fascists, was bombed to bits, ripped in half and finally reunited – and that was just in the 20th century!

Perhaps it’s because of its heavy historical burden that Berlin is throwing itself into tomorrow with such manic abandon. Cafés are jammed at all hours, drinking is a religious rite and clubs host their scenes of frenzy and hedonism until the wee hours. Sleep? Waaaay overrated.

Come and join the party!

BERLIN LIFE

Compared to other world capitals, daily life in Berlin functions on an exquisitely human scale. Traffic flows freely, public transportation is brilliant, you can walk without fear at night, your restaurant bill would only buy an appetizer elsewhere and getting into a club doesn't require hustling your way onto the VIP list.

Berliners are refreshingly attitude-free and egalitarian, less impressed by Armani suits and Gucci bags than personal, individualistic style. Striving for material wealth and social status takes a back seat to living well, spending time with friends and enjoying the city's myriad cultural and natural offerings. Many locals embrace life to the fullest, drinking a lot, smoking too much, partying late (and often), and harbouring a laissez-faire attitude towards sex and sexual orientation.

Yet there are also signs that times are a-changing. Two decades after the rejoining of the city halves, Berlin is reaching a watershed moment. Districts like Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg, once pioneers of progressiveness, are now firmly in the grip of gentrification and boho-bourgeois pram-pushers. Global developers are building up the banks of the Spree River, investors from Denmark to Ireland to America are snapping up bargain-priced apartments, and international chains are replacing homespun businesses.

All this begs the question: can Berlin remain the homeland of social freedom and experimentation while increasingly becoming a more corporate-driven, 'normal' metropolis? Governing mayor Klaus Wowereit famously called Berlin 'poor but sexy'. In 10 years it may no longer be poor. But will it still be sexy?



Enjoy the outdoors at Mauerpark (p156), with dining, drinking, entertainment and Berlin's best flea market

GETTING STARTED

No matter whether you're a backpacker, a three-button suit, a cocky jetsetter, a trendy urban nomad or travelling with the tots, you'll find all your needs and expectations met in Berlin. Room and travel reservations are a good idea between June and early September and around major holidays and trade fairs year-round, but otherwise you can keep your advance planning to a minimum (but do have a look at the boxed text on p21). Whatever you do, don't overbook yourself. Berlin is definitely a city that rewards spontaneity.

WHEN TO GO

Berlin has a continental climate, which generally translates into scorching summers and freezing winters, although in recent years global warming has turned such time-tested rules on their heads. In other words: the weather is unpredictable. So whenever you visit, check the forecast and pack accordingly. Rain or shine, May, June, September and October are generally the months to see the city at its best and sop up local colour by the bucketful. That's when festivals, street fairs and cultural events of all stripes are in full swing and temps are pleasant enough for chilling in outdoor cafés and beer gardens or for skipping around Berlin's many parks, forests and other natural assets.

Summers essentially bring a major population exchange: Berliners leave town for hotter climes, while tourists, especially from south-

ern Europe, flock to Berlin to escape the heat. This is the time of outdoor anything: concerts, plays, opera, parties, beach bars, cinema and so on.

In winter, days are short (the December sun, if there is any, sets around 3.30pm) and the entire city is often gloomy and cold, so life moves pretty much indoors. This is the time to slow down and make an in-depth study of museums and galleries, attend concerts and plays or warm up for a couple of hours over hot latte in a cosy café. The best winter month by far is December, when the city is bathed in a decorative sea of lights and the air is redolent of mulled wine and gingerbread scents wafting from the city's many Christmas markets. Hotel rates are pretty much constant year-round.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Berlin is very much a party town with a busy year-round calendar of concerts, street parties, sports events, trade shows and festivals celebrating everything from film to fetish, music to fashion, porn to travel. Major events such as Christopher Street Day (p260), Karneval der Kulturen (Carnival of Cultures) and New Year's Eve bring hundreds of thousands of revellers to town, filling hotels, restaurants and venues to capacity. Berlin's **tourist office** (www.visitberlin.de) has an events calendar and can also help you book tickets. The listings magazines *Tip* (www.tip-berlin.de, in German) and *Zitty* (www.zitty.de, in German) are the best sources for up-to-the-minute events listings. For events primarily geared towards the GLBT community, see the Gay & Lesbian Berlin chapter, p259.

January

BERLIN FASHION WEEK

☎ 6290 0850; www.berlin-fashionweek.de

Premium, Ideal, Spirit of Fashion and Bread & Butter fashion fairs present progressive

BASIC ETIQUETTE

DOS

- Say 'Guten Tag' when entering a business.
- State your name at the start of a phone call.
- Keep your hands above the table when eating.
- Carry some form of picture ID, an identity card or a passport – it's the law.
- Bring a small gift or flowers when invited to a meal.
- Bag your own groceries in supermarkets. And quickly!

DON'TS

- Talk about WWII with a victor's mentality.
- Be late for meetings and dinner invitations.
- Expect the bill to arrive automatically in a restaurant; you have to ask for it.
- Assume you can pay by credit card, especially when eating out.
- Immediately call people by their first name.

streetwear, clubwear and avant-garde designs to buyers and the public.

INTERNATIONALE GRÜNE WOCHE

☎ 303 80; www.gruenewoche.de; ICC Messe
The week-long International Green Week, which is a consumer fair for food, agriculture and gardening, is a great excuse for gorging on exotic morsels from around the world.

LANGE NACHT DER MUSEEN

☎ 283 973; www.lange-nacht-der-museen.de
Culture meets entertainment on the last Saturday of January when up to 100 museums keep their doors open until at least midnight. Shuttle buses ferry people between venues. It's a truly sociable affair and fun for the entire family.

TRANSMEDIALE

☎ 2474 9761; www.transmediale.de
Digital media art gets full bandwidth at this progressive festival that also investigates how digital technologies shape today's society and artistic endeavours.

February

BERLINALE

☎ 259 200; www.berlinale.de
Berlin's international film festival draws stars, starlets, directors, critics and the world's A-to-Z-list celebrities for two weeks of screenings and glamour parties around town. The lucky ones go home with a Golden or Silver Bear, while top lesbian flicks are awarded the Teddy. Screenings often sell out, so book early.

March

INTERNATIONALE TOURISMUS BÖRSE

☎ 303 80; www.itb-berlin.de; ICC Messe
Take a virtual trip around the globe at the world's largest international travel expo (more than 10,000 exhibitors); it's trade only during the week but open to the public at the weekend.

MAERZMUSIK

☎ 2548 9100; www.maerzmusik.de
'Music' or 'soundscapes'? You decide after a day at March Music, a contemporary festival celebrating a boundary-pushing palette

top picks

BEST FESTIVALS

- Art Forum Berlin (p19)
- Berlinale (left)
- Christopher Street Day (p260)
- Karneval der Kulturen (below)
- PopKOMM Festival (p19)

of sounds, from full orchestral symphonies to experimental recitals, many of them new or commissioned.

April

FESTTAGE

☎ 2035 4555; www.staatsoper-berlin.org;
Philharmonie/Staatsoper Unter den Linden
Staatsoper boss Daniel Barenboim brings the world's finest conductors, soloists and orchestras to Berlin for this 10-day, highbrow hoe-down of gala concerts and operas, with an emphasis on that brilliant 'bad boy' composer Richard Wagner.

SEHSÜCHTE

☎ 0331-620 2780; www.sehsuechte.de
Berlin's international student film festival, now based in Potsdam (p278), provides five days of the most random, experimental, alternative and occasionally pretentious cinematic efforts around.

May

BRITSPOTTING

www.britspotting.de
It's hard to imagine the Brits returning the compliment, but this small festival of Brit flicks that never made it into the multiplexes is a huge hit with Berlin art-house buffs. Check listings magazines for participating venues.

KARNEVAL DER KULTUREN

☎ 6097 7022; www.karneval-berlin.de
The streets of Kreuzberg erupt in raucous revelry for the long Pentecost weekend during this colourful festival of tolerance. People from over 100 nations party together with music, exotic nosh and ethnic crafts, culminating in an exuberant parade of costumed dancers, singers, DJs and musicians on Sunday.

MAIFEIERTAG

1 May

Not for those of a nervous disposition, May Day sees Berlin's central districts (Kreuzberg especially) become the venue of large-scale anti-capitalist, anti-globalisation, anti-what-ever demonstrations. Traditionally, right-wing groups schedule their marches for the same day, the police turn out in force and within a couple of hours there's chaos. That means violence, vandalism and burning vehicles – we only mention this at all so you can stay out of the way.

THEATERTREFFEN BERLIN

☎ 2548 9269; www.theatertreffen-berlin.de

The Berlin Theatre Gathering is a three-week showcase of new productions by emerging and established German-language ensembles from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

June**ALL NATIONS FESTIVAL**

☎ 250 025; www.allnationsfestival.de, in German

Take a trip around the world on a single day when a dozen or so Berlin-based foreign embassies open their doors to promote their respective countries with food, drink, music and talks.

BERLIN AIR SHOW (ILA)

☎ 3038 6006; www.ila-berlin.com

Zeppelins to fighter planes, gliders to balloons and jet liners – if it flies, it'll probably be at this huge international aerospace exhibition and air show held every two years (next time in 2010).

FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE

21 Jun

☎ 4171 5289; www.lafetedelamusique.com, in German

Summer starts with good vibrations thanks to hundreds of free concerts during this global music festival, which began in Paris in 1982 and has since conquered the world.

SANDSATION

☎ 0176-9688 6279; www.sandsation.de

A fantasy world built from sand takes shape for eight summer weeks starting in early June. At more than 6m high, these ain't your little brother's sandcastles! Music, cocktails, a palm garden and children's events keep things dynamic.

July**BERLIN FASHION WEEK**

☎ 6290 0850; www.berlin-fashionweek.de

International designers present next year's spring fashions during the summer edition of Berlin's new fashion fair.

CLASSIC OPEN AIR GENDARMENMARKT

☎ 3157 5413; www.classicopenair.de, in German

Five days, five alfresco concerts – from opera to pop – delight an adoring crowd hunkered on bleachers before the regal backdrop of the Konzerthaus. No ticket? No problem. Just bring a beer and eavesdrop with the penniless masses outside the flimsy canvas enclosure.

August**BERLINER GAUKLERFEST**

☎ 206 2673; www.gauklerfest.de, in German

Comedians, magicians, puppeteers, artistes, clowns, dancers, jugglers and other *Gaukler* (cabaret-type artists) take over the area around the State Opera House for 10 merry days in early August.

FOTOMARATHON

www.fotomarathon.de

Putting art photography firmly in the public domain, this inspired event calls on keen snappers to take 24 pictures in 12 hours on 24 separate themes. Online registration required.

FUCKPARADE

☎ 069-9435 9090; www.fuckparade.org

Relax! It's not what you think but simply your average anti-fascist, anti-capitalist, anti-anti demonstration. Make sure to wear black and dark mascara or you won't fit in.

INTERNATIONALE FUNKAUSSTELLUNG

☎ 3069 6924; www.ifa-berlin.de; ICC Messe

Find out what gadgets everyone will want for Christmas at this huge international consumer electronics fair.

LANGE NACHT DER MUSEEN

☎ 283 973; www.lange-nacht-der-museen.de

The summer edition of the January event; see p17.

POPDEUROPE

☎ 533 2030; <http://popdeurope.arena-berlin.de>, in German

Europe's latest pop acts come to the Spree River for three weekends of energetic partying at Arena and chilling to unplugged encores at the Badeschiff before the party moves to the Hoppetosse boat.

TANZ IM AUGUST

☎ 2474 9777; www.tanzimaugust.de, in German

Step out gracefully to this international dance festival that attracts loose-limbed talent and highly experimental choreography from around the globe.

September & October

ART FORUM BERLIN

☎ 303 80; www.art-forum-berlin.com

Find out what's hot in art at this well-established international contemporary art fair that brings together leading galleries, collectors and the merely curious.

BERLINER LISTE

☎ 2809 6115; www.berliner-liste.org

Held around the same time as the Art Forum (below), the Berliner Liste brings together young galleries and emerging artists with the hot shots of the international scene.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

☎ 3267 9887; www.city-stiftung-berlin.eu

For two weeks during October, Berlin isn't only about sightseeing but also about 'lightseeing'. Historical landmarks such as the TV Tower, the Berliner Dom and the Brandenburg Gate sparkle with illuminations, projections and fireworks.

INTERNATIONALES LITERATURFESTIVAL

☎ 2787 8620; www.literaturfestival.com

Dozens of authors from all corners of the world celebrate the power of the pen with the literary public through readings, workshops and events.

JAZZ IN DEN MINISTERGÄRTEN

www.jazzland.de, in German

Once a year, in late September, the permanent representations (offices) of five German Länder (states) in the Ministerial

Gardens area near Potsdamer Platz open their doors to the public for a night of jazz.

POPKOMM FESTIVAL

☎ 3038 3009; www.popkomm.de

Catch tomorrow's headliners during this edgy three-day festival capping Europe's biggest indie music trade fair. Bring serious stamina for *Clubnacht* (Club Night) when a few euros buys entry to 32 dance clubs.

PORN FILM FESTIVAL

☎ 6950 5602; www.pornfilmfestivalberlin.de

Vintage porn, Japanese porn, indie porn, sci-fi porn – the 'Berlinale' of sex brings alternative skin flicks out of the smut corner and onto the big screen.

TAG DER DEUTSCHEN EINHEIT

Raise a toast to German reunification on this national holiday celebrated with street parties across town – the Brandenburg Gate to the Rotes Rathaus (town hall).

YOU BERLIN

☎ 303 80; www.you.de, in German

Stay ahead of the fashion, sports, beauty and lifestyle curves at Europe's largest youth fair, complete with concerts, live TV tapings and roving casting agents.

November & December

BERLIN BIENNALE

☎ 2434 5970; www.berlinbiennale.de

Presenting new art in unusual sites around town, this biennial exhibition of contemporary art was launched in 1997 by the nonprofit Kunst-Werke Berlin (p105).

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

www.visitberlin.de

Pick up shimmering ornaments or get smashed on mulled wine at dozens of Yuletide markets held throughout December in such locales as Breitscheidplatz (Map pp122–3) and Alexanderplatz (Map p96).

JAZZFEST BERLIN

☎ 2548 9100; www.jazzfest-berlin.de

This top-rated jazz festival has doo-wopped in Berlin since 1964 and presents fresh and big-time talent in dozens of performances all over town.

NIKOLAUS

6 Dec

On St Nicholas' Day children leave their shoes outside their door to receive sweets if they've been nice, and a stone if they've been naughty. Eventually this custom developed into Father Christmas' more international yearly rounds, but in Germany they seem pretty attached to the original – all kinds of clubs hold Nikolaus parties, complete with costumed St Nicks.

SILVESTER

31 Dec

Ring in the new year hugging complete strangers, cooing at fireworks, guzzling cheap *Sekt* (sparkling wine) straight from the bottle and generally misbehaving. The main action is at Brandenburg Gate, but pros and purists may prefer watching the city light up from atop the Kreuzberg hill in Viktoriapark.

COSTS & MONEY

If you're used to £5 pints, \$12 glasses of cabernet or €8 lattes, you're in for a pleasant surprise when visiting Berlin, the Western European capital where you can get the most bang for your euro. A night in a four- or five-star hotel averages €150 compared to €380 in London and €360 in Paris. In restaurants, the price of a main course would merely buy an appetizer in Dublin or Vienna. And getting around is a snap with the excellent and easy-to-understand public transportation system and cheap and plentiful cabs.

Best of all, perhaps, many things are completely free: the historic beauty of Unter den Linden, bleeding-edge architecture by the world's masters, seminal sites like the Reichstag or the Berlin Wall, headline-grabbing monuments like the Holocaust Memorial, scores of world-class museums, vibrant street festivals, leisurely park strolls, trendy gallery openings, even concerts and some club nights. And there are ways to stretch your budget even further by taking advantage of discounts, happy hours, low-priced business lunches, half-price theatre tickets, *Kinotag* at cinemas (see p242) and killer sales racks at chi-chi boutiques – see Discounts on p303 as well as tips in the Eating (p196), Arts (p240), Drinking (p218) and Shopping (p180) chapters.

Of course, how much you end up spending very much depends on what kind of traveller you are and what experiences you wish to have. The daily tab for a stay in a midrange hotel, two sit-down meals, using

HOW MUCH?

Bottle of water (0.5L) at kiosk €1

Bottle of water at supermarket €0.40

Cinema ticket €6-8

Currywurst €1.20-1.50

Döner €1.50-2.50

Glass of beer (0.3L) €2.50

Latte macchiato €2.50-3

Nightclub entry €5-15

Public-transport day pass €6.10

Souvenir T-shirt €10

Vodka Red Bull €6-7

public transportation, spending some money on sightseeing and going to bars and clubs should be somewhere between €90 and €140 (per person, travelling as an adult couple). For mere survival, you'll need to budget €30 to €60 per day, but this will have you sleeping in hostel dorms, eating in cafés or at fast-food stands or preparing your own meals, and limiting your entertainment. Of course, if you're a high roller, Berlin has no shortage of luxury hotels, Michelin-starred restaurants and fancy bars to help you part with your money.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Do your homework and check out these sites so you can hit the ground running when you get to Berlin. Websites with events listings are covered on p228.

3D Stadtmodell (www.3d-stadtmodell-berlin.de) Take a virtual journey through central Berlin with this Google Earth–powered 3-D model of 44,000 buildings; the top 40 are covered in greater detail and four of them (the Reichstag, main train station, Sony Center and Olympic Stadium) can even be 'entered'.

Berlin Hidden Places (www.berlin-hidden-places.com) Ideas for getting off the tourist track.

Berlin Tourism (www.visitberlin.com) Excellent, jam-packed, official tourist-office site; also lets you make room and ticket reservations in all major languages.

Berlin Unlike (<http://berlin.unlike.net>) Hip guide with up-to-the-minute reviews and happenings; sign up for a free weekly newsletter.

City of Berlin (www.berlin.de) Official government site with information on culture, transport, the economy and politics.

ADVANCE PLANNING

About two or three months ahead, check the website of Berlin's [tourist office](http://www.visitberlin.com) (www.visitberlin.com), which comes with a searchable database of major upcoming special events and also gives you the option of buying tickets using a credit card. Performing-arts venues usually have their own online calendars and booking facilities.

Tickets to the Berliner Philharmonie (p241), the Staatsoper Unter den Linden (p244) and for major musical touring acts often sell out and should be booked as early as possible. The same is true for key soccer games such as the German soccer league final in late May or classic Bundesliga (Germany's premier league) derbies, eg between local club Hertha BSC and arch rival FC Bayern. Tickets to regular season matches, though, are usually available on game day.

One week before you go, check the online versions of the listings magazines *Tip* (www.tip-berlin.de, in German) and *Zitty* (www.zitty.de, in German) for the latest openings, festivals and events in Berlin. One week should also be enough time for weekend dinner reservations at trendy or upmarket restaurants such as Weinbar Rutz (p201), Facil (p203) or MA (p198). For other nosherias, calling a day ahead or even earlier in the day is usually sufficient.

ExBerliner (www.exberliner.net) Online version of Berlin's savvy English-language mag to help you get plugged right into the scene.

Gridskipper (www.gridskipper.com/travel/berlin) Urban travel guide to the useful, offbeat, naughty and nice.

Museumsportal Berlin (www.museumsportal-berlin.de) Awesome searchable site that lists every museum in town along with handy lists on which ones are open on Monday, which are free and which are open late.

SUSTAINABLE BERLIN

Since our inception in 1973, Lonely Planet has encouraged readers to tread lightly, travel responsibly and enjoy the magic of independent travel. Travel is growing at a jaw-dropping rate, and we still firmly believe in the benefits it can bring. But we also encourage you to consider the impact of your visit on both the global environment and local economies, cultures and ecosystems.

There are few major cities with as many green and open spaces as Berlin. Parks, gardens, lakes, rivers, nature reserves, and forests characterise its landscape and contribute to the high quality of life. Keeping Berlin green isn't just about sorting your trash or refilling that water bottle (the tap water here is perfectly fine); there are plenty of ways to make your entire visit more sustainable. For suggestions on how to get to Berlin without hopping on an airplane, check out the boxed text on p301.

Getting around Berlin is a snap thanks to the city's well-developed and comprehensive public transportation system, which is cheap, efficient and clean. So don't even think about coming here by car, especially since parking is expensive and scarce. Since 1 January 2008 you also need a special sticker to prove that your car is not a polluting klunker (see p299 for

more). Even better, if in Berlin, do as Berliners do and get around by bicycle. Double brownie points: it's good for your heart *and* the environment. Turn to p298 to get the lowdown on renting two-wheelers.

When it comes to sightseeing, build your itinerary around more than the major sites and impacted hot spots. Get out into the leafy suburbs, swim in a lake, cycle the course of the Berlin Wall, hit the trail in a forest or pack a picnic and head to a park. There are also several attractions with an eco-angle. The southwestern suburb of Dahlem, for instance, has the Freilichtmuseum Domäne Dahlem (p161), a working farm that grows only organic produce. Nearby is the Museumsdorf Düppel (p162), a recreated medieval village where staff breed endangered sheep and pig species and grow historic strains of rye. In the Grunewald Forest is the Ökowerk (p132), a nature conservation and educational centre. This book is full of such ideas to get you off the beaten path. You might even want to put it away sometimes and simply get lost. (Tell us if you find a great new place.)

When it comes to food, Berlin offers several approaches to eating more sustainably. The German word for organic is *bio* and you'll see it everywhere these days. In fact, *bio* food stores have of late been proliferating faster than hothouse mushrooms. Heck, even budget supermarket chains like Plus and Aldi sell *bio* fruit and vegetables, albeit at slightly higher prices. Nearly every *Kiez* (neighbourhood) has its own weekly farmers markets with a growing number of vendors specialising in pesticide-free produce (see p210). Cafés and restaurants too have jumped on the green bandwagon and reviews in our Eating chapter often point out if chefs are putting organic veggies or fish, seafood and meats from sustainable sources onto the plates. In fact, the

most aware chefs try to go locavore whenever possible, meaning they'll buy their lamb, asparagus, berries and other ingredients from small regional farms rather than importing them from goodness-knows-where. Fair-trade products have also been catching on fast, especially when it comes to tea and coffee, so get your java jolt from an ethical-minded local café and not a global fast-food outlet.

Speaking of global chains, they're surprisingly, and refreshingly, thin on the ground

in this city. Berliners tend to be fiercely loyal to their local purveyors who often pour their heart and soul into the very coffee they serve. In fact, when one fast-food chain opened a branch in alternative Kreuzberg a while ago, protesters shouted themselves all the way into the overseas newspapers. It opened anyway, but we bet the Kreuzberg branch is not the highest-grossing outlet. There are a few franchise chains around, but skip 'em and support local businesses.

THE AUTHORS

Andrea Schulte-Peevers



Andrea will forever cherish the memory of the unencumbered view of the TV Tower from the temporary Berlin apartment she rented while working on this book. She has logged countless miles travelling in nearly 60 countries and carries

her dog-eared passport like a badge of honour. Born and raised in Germany, Andrea now divides her time between Berlin and Los Angeles, where she graduated from UCLA. Her fascination with the city's mystique goes back to her first visit in the summer of 1989, a few months shy of the Wall's collapse. During many return visits she has watched Berlin shed its Cold War-era brooding and blossom into an exciting, cosmopolitan and confident metropolis. Andrea has authored or contributed to about 40 Lonely Planet titles, including all five previous editions of this guide, the *Germany* guide and the first edition of *Berlin Encounter*. She again coordinated this book and wrote and updated everything but Shopping, The Arts and Excursions.

LONELY PLANET AUTHORS

Why is our travel information the best in the world? It's simple: our authors are passionate, dedicated travellers. They don't take freebies in exchange for positive coverage so you can be sure the advice you're given is impartial. They travel widely to all the popular spots, and off the beaten track. They don't research using just the internet or phone. They discover new places not included in any other guidebook. They personally visit thousands of hotels, restaurants, palaces, trails, galleries, temples and more. They speak with dozens of locals every day to make sure you get the kind of insider knowledge only a local could tell you. They take pride in getting all the details right, and in telling it how it is. Think you can do it? Find out how at lonelyplanet.com.

Anthony Haywood



Anthony was born in the port city of Fremantle, Western Australia, and pulled anchor in his teens to travel Europe and the US, mostly hitchhiking in those days. Aberystwyth in Wales and Ealing in London were his winter-

ing grounds at that time. He later studied comparative literature in Perth and Russian language in Melbourne. In the 1990s, fresh from a spell in post-Soviet, pre-anything Moscow, he moved to Germany, which was when he first began exploring the corners of the crumbling 'Wild East'. Today he works as a German-based freelance writer and journalist and divides his time between Göttingen (Lower Saxony) and Kreuzberg in Berlin. Anthony updated the Excursions chapter of this edition.

Sally O'Brien



Sally first visited Berlin in the 1990s and promptly added it to her list of favourite places. Subsequent visits only made her more determined to spend as much time there as possible, traipsing between great shops and brilliant galleries, fortified by huge breakfasts and rejuvenated by pit stops in parks. She is based in Lausanne, Switzerland, where she helps out in a nearby gallery and bookbinding atelier, and makes plans to continue her Masters in Cultural Materials Conservation (if travelling didn't keep getting in the way). Sally updated the Shopping and The Arts chapters and contributed to the Background chapter and Berlin Art Attack.

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