BERLIN(ER)
The ECLA of Bard student's guide to Berlin

www.ecla.de
Platanenstrasse, 24, 13156, Berlin
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword

Culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Museums</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage &amp; Screen</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Nights of Berlin</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Views</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Dance</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berliner Experience</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenz'l Berg</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Food</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desserts</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Directory</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shopping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bookshops</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauerpark Market</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring and Summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Botanical Garden</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peacock Island</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes and Pools</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palaces</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festivals</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wannsee</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berlin Underground</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Winter                   | 39   |
M1 map                   | 40   |
Impressum                |      |
WILKOMMEN IN BERLIN!

The little handbook you are holding in your hands is the collective effort of students, professors and friends of ECLA of Bard to help you make your stay in Berlin memorable, diverse and meaningful. Drawing from our experience of studying at ECLA of Bard and living in Berlin, we would like to recommend our favourite places and things to do. Berlin is one of the culturally richest, most historically layered and artistically vibrant European cities. It embraces its visitors and newcomers warmly, even if you are on a student budget.

In the twentieth century, Berlin witnessed a staged revolution, saw the rise of a fascist regime, was bombed to the ground in the Second World War, was behind the Iron Curtain for four decades and then became the capital of a re-united Germany and symbol for a re-unified Europe in 1990. A global arrival of creatives, attracted to this erratic but somewhat glowing city and its people, has turned Berlin into a cultural metropolis with an atmosphere of openness, tolerance and inspiration.

This handbook is the beginning of a continuous project to share experiences and pass on our findings to future ECLA of Bard students. You have come from all over the world to study at ECLA of Bard and live in Berlin. To unite living and studying successfully, we present you a catalogue of our favourite museums, theatres, concert halls, cafés, bars, clubs, restaurants, galleries, libraries, shops, markets, parks, lakes and lots more.

We wish you a wonderful time in this city that is “doomed to never be but always to become”! (Karl Scheffler, Berlin. Ein Stadtschicksal)
CULTURE

experience

museums · great views

performances
Museumsinsel
BERLIN’S TREASURE ISLAND

BODE MUSEUM

The Bode Museum maintains its original architectural form from the time of its construction in 1904 by Ernst von Ihne. Originally named the Kaiser-Friedrich-Museum after Emperor Frederick III, it was then renamed in 1956 in honour of its first curator Wilhelm von Bode.

Display rooms are made to look like rooms from the period. The Italian Renaissance collection features not only works of art, but more common day-to-day pieces such as a choir stall from the Veneto with remarkable wooden inlays.

The Museum houses a first rate collection of European sculpture, ranging from the Christian Orient to the Middle Ages, Gothic and Renaissance from both Italy and the North, leading up to Baroque.

After a visit to the Bode, you might feel a need to relax and contemplate the pieces. Right beside the museum is a beach bar, where you can enjoy a view of the “floating museum” at its finest.

Museumsinsel (Museum Island) is Berlin’s renowned art and cultural hub. The island consists of 5 state museums that were constructed in the 19th century, then heavily damaged in the Second World War. Restoration work began in the 1990s, after Germany’s reunification.

You can purchase an annual pass (Jahreskarte) for 20 € which gives you access to all (Berlin) state museums.

OPENING HOURS
Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00
Thu 10:00-22:00

TRANSPORTATION
S+U Bahn:
· S1, S2, S25
Friedrichstraße
· S3, S5, S7, S75
Hackescher Markt
· U6 Friedrichstraße
Bus:
· TXL Staatsoper
· 100, 200 Lustgarten
· 147 Friedrichstraße
Straßenbahn:
· M1, 12
Am Kupfergraben
· M4, M5, M6
Hackescher Markt

TICKET PRICES
8-10 € (regular)
4-5 € (student)

(top right: Bode Museum)
**PERGAMON MUSEUM**

The Pergamon Museum lies at the heart of Museuminsel, and is its most visited museum. The Pergamon houses important excavation finds, the most notable among them being the Pergamon Altar and the Ishtar Gate from Babylon.

Started in 1909 under the leadership of Alfred Messel, the building finally opened its doors in 1930, after taking over 20 years to complete. At that time, just as it is now, it was divided into three main wings: the Classical Antiquities, the Museum of the Ancient Near East and the Museum of Islamic Art.

The Pergamon Altar dates back to the second century BC, lifted from the acropolis of the ancient city of Pergamon in Asia Minor. Excavation for the 35.64 meters wide and 33.4 meters deep structure was started in 1878 by German engineer Carl Humann.

The altar is divided into two parts. First is the base, decorated with a frieze in high relief depicting the battle between the Olympian Gods and the Giants. Second is the high relief frieze on the inner court walls, which depicts the events from the life of Telephus, the legendary founder of the city of Pergamon. It also depicts the son of Heracles and one of King Aleus’s daughters.

*(top to bottom: Sarcophagus in Altes Museum, Pergamon Altar, Egyptian Sculpture in Neues Museum)*

**ALTES MUSEUM**

The Altes Museum is, not surprisingly, the oldest museum on the Island. Construction began in 1823 and was completed in 1830.

What was originally meant to house the royal family’s antique collection for exclusive use by scholars developed into one of Europe’s first public museums built specifically for mass art education and appreciation.

The museum’s neoclassical design by Karl Friedrich Schinkel features a portico with 18 Ionic columns, and inside, a rotunda with skylight.

The Altes Museum is now home to the collection of Classical Antiquities.

**NEUES MUSEUM**

Originally designed by Friedrich August Stüler, the museum has undergone extensive restoration under the guidance of British architect David Chipperfield.

The museum that now houses Egyptian art, including the famous bust of Nefertiti, is itself ostensibly historical, since bullet holes, shrapnel and damaged murals remain visible on museum walls.
ALTE NATIONALGALERIE

If you have a predilection for 19th century art, visit the Alte Nationalgalerie’s collection of paintings and sculptures dating between the French Revolution and the First World War.

On the museum’s upper level the collection ranges from the art of Goethe’s time to Romanticism. There you can admire Biedermeier portraits and landscape paintings. A must-see is the French Impressionist masterworks by Manet, Monet and Cézanne, and the sculptures by Rodin.

Whatever you do, do not miss Caspar David Friedrich’s “Monk by the Sea” on the top floor, Arnold Böcklin’s “Toteninsel” and Edouard Manet’s “Greenhouse,” as well as Adolph Menzel’s “extreme realism” on the ground floor of this majestic building.

The museum opened in 1876, five years after Germany’s unification, and was dedicated to “German” art from the nineteenth century. The temple-like architecture and lavish decorations illustrate the important purpose of this building in the construction of a national identity.

For more information about Museumsinsel and other state museums, visit http://www.smb.museum/smb/home/index.php

(top: Adolph Menzel’s “The Artist’s Foot” in Alte Nationalgalerie)
ART & TIME
FROM ANTIQUITY TO ART OF RECENT DECADES

NEUE NATIONALGALERIE

Potsdamer Straße 50
S1, S2, U2 Potsdamer Platz
Tue-Fri 10:00-18:00
Thu 10:00-22:00
Sat, Sun 11:00-18:00
8€ (regular), 4€ (student)

The Neue Nationalgalerie plays host to works ranging from early modern art to the 1960s. Mies van der Rohe’s building design used the biggest unsupported steel plate in the world, enabling art pieces to be presented in a pavilion flooded with light.

Look at Kirchner’s painting of Potsdamer Platz (if on display), then go to the actual Potsdamer Platz, which is only a couple of meters away from the museum, and be fascinated by what has become a historic look at Berlin.

Expressionists, Surrealists and Bauhaus instructors find company in American color-field painters Frank Stella, Mark Rothko and Barnett Newman.

At the moment, only works from 1945-1968 are on display due to lack of space.

MUSEUM BERGGRUEN*,
SCHARF-GERSTENBERG COLLECTION

Schloßstraße 1, 70
S41, S42, S46 Westend
Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00
*Berggruen is temporarily closed.
8€ (regular), 4€ (student)

The Collection Scharf-Gestenberg and the Museum Berggruen are two museums right across from the Schloss Charlottenburg. The museums host a permanent exhibition of classic Modernists and Surrealists of the 20th century.

Scharf-Gerstenberg is the prime surrealist collection of Berlin. The visitor walks through an Ancient Egyptian gate into a view of the bizarre worlds of Surrealism with works by Max Ernst, Salvador Dali, Jean Arp, 19th century Symbolist Max Klinger and many more.

The curators of Scharf-Gerstenberg have masterfully managed to span a great arc from early inspirations of the movement in the mid 18th century to contemporaries like Horst Janssen. This contextualisation can also be found in the Museum Berggruen, where the collection’s focus is on Picasso and the Cubists.

In an intimate setting of small rooms throughout three floors of a previous casino for Prussian officers, the visitor can establish close contact with a wonderful selection of over 100 works of Picasso, pieces by Matisse, Klee and Giacometti, the four protagonists of Museum Berggruen.

(from left: Neue Nationalgalerie, Warhol in Hamburger Bahnhof, Klinger in the Scharf-Gerstenberg Collection)
HAMBURGER BAHNHOF
Invalidenstraße 50-51, U6 Naturkundemuseum, S3, S5, S7, S75 Hauptbahnhof
Tue-Fri 10:00-18:00, Sat, Sun 11:00-18:00
12€ (regular), 6€ (student)

If you are seeking a contemporary art museum in Berlin, Hamburger Bhf houses a huge collection of works from the late 20th century.

As a former train station, the museum’s expansive halls hold giant masterpieces from Pop artists such as Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Cy Twombly and Roy Lichtenstein, as well as mammoth installations by German artists Anselm Kiefer and Joseph Beuys. The collection is engaged with art’s development from Modernism on, through a selection of works reflecting changes within the span of each artist’s career.

The displays also provide a survey of artistic trends in the 60s and 70s with works by - among others - American artists like Bruce Nauman, Donald Judd and Cindy Sherman.

Bargain-price books can be found in the museum shop.

BERLINISCHE GALERIE
Alte Jakobstraße 124 (Kreuzberg)
U1, U6 Hallesches Tor
Mon, Wed-Sun 10:00-18:00
8€ (regular), 5€ (student)

Berlinische Galerie’s permanent collection showcases art created in Berlin from the 1870s to the present day. A tour through the minimalist exhibition space located in a former glass factory will often give you the impression that you are looking at works of art and simultaneously at an alternative history of the city, as “made” by painters, photographers and architects. Perhaps one of the main motivations of the curators is to prove that the connection between Berlin and its artistic milieu has always been an organic one. In the 20th century, the city was not only an effervescent backdrop for artistic activity, but artists from various countries shaped the city’s climate and influenced its evolution through their creativity.

Highlights include paintings and drawings by Otto Dix, George Grosz, Georg Baselitz, an outstanding installation of Dada pieces, photographic panoramas of urban architecture in East Berlin in the 1950s, and architectural projects for key structures rejected by Berlin’s administration throughout the years.

SAMMLUNG HOFFMANN
Sophienstraße 21
M1 S Hackescher Markt, U8 Weinmeisterstraße
Sat 11:00-16:00
10€
sammlung-hoffmann.de

The Hoffmann gallery is a private collection of contemporary art built up by Erika & Rolf Hoffmann. The gallery occupies two floors of a former factory building with brick exteriors in Sophie-Gips-Höfe. The gallery itself is a space with offices and dining rooms, where Mrs. Hoffmann works and entertains her guests. This living environment provides a stark contrast to the rigid displays of larger museums.

The collection consists of works from artists of varying popularity. Among the more famous ones are Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Cy Twombly. The collection is re-organized every summer, ensuring a good turnover of works from lesser known artists.

You need to make a reservation, and you must show up on time for a guided tour that lasts for about 90 minutes. A visit is highly recommended as a complement to Hamburger Bahnhof.
**MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Jebenstraße 2  
S+U Zoologischer Garten  
Mon-Sun 10:00-18:00  
Thu 10:00-22:00  
8€ (regular), 4€ (student)

This museum is shared by two organizers: the Helmut Newton Foundation and the Art Library. The first two floors of the museum, occupied by the Helmut Newton Foundation, show works by the artist and his contemporaries. The permanent exhibition “Helmut Newton’s Private Property” exhibits much of the equipment Newton used, as well as his library and reconstruction of parts of his office.

Changing exhibitions of Newton’s work are also organized such as “Us and Them” (an exhibition of the photographic diary Newton and his wife Jane produced) or “Sex and Landscape” (a showing of Newton’s studies of the sensuality of landscape and the female body).

Meanwhile, the Art Library runs varying photography exhibitions showing the vast collections of Berlin’s national museums, thus outlining important themes of the last 200 years in the history of photography and its relation to other media.

**KUNSTWERKE**

Auguststraße 69  
M1, U8 Rosenthaler Platz  
Tue-Sun 12:00-19:00  
Thu 12:00-21:00  
6€ (regular), 4€ (student)

KW Institute for Contemporary Art is a complex in Mitte that hosts exhibits about movements and artists in the world of contemporary art. KW views itself as a “laboratory for communicating and advancing contemporary cultural development in Germany and abroad.” Every second year in April/May KW launches the Berlin Biennale, transforming itself into a festival site for a month-long celebration and discussion forum of contemporary art.

Highly recommended is also KW’s Café Bravo, designed by artist Dan Graham, and situated in the beautiful courtyard, perfect for a quiet summer drink.

**DAHLEM MUSEUMS**

Lansstraße 8  
U3 Dahlem-Dorf  
Tue-Fri 10:00-18:00  
Sat, Sun 11:00-18:00  
6€ (regular), 3€ (student)

The Dahlem museums present artefacts from non-European cultures, thus giving a glimpse into human civilisation before the advent of globalisation. You can wander through the outstanding collections of Asian, African, Mexican or Oceanic art. Many of the objects were brought to Berlin as part of colonial expeditions.

Chalk it up to the city’s special ability to turn an afternoon trip into a meditation on cultures, but that is part of the quintessential Berliner experience.
MUSEUMS OF WONDER
HAVEN FOR THE CHILD-AT-HEART

The tour starts in the dinosaur hall, the museum's marketing gemstone, since it showcases the largest mounted dinosaur skeleton in the world. The Wet Collection will leave you in a state of stupefaction among more than 250,000 vials with various specimens. The museum also features a behind-the-scenes section, where you can learn more about preservation techniques and the arduous work of the scientific personnel.

It is advisable to visit the museum on weekdays and outside holiday season, otherwise you’ll find yourself fighting with kids over buttons, touch screens or jurascopes (virtual reconstructions of dinosaurs).

MUSEUM FÜR VERKEHR UND TECHNIK

Situated in an old industrial area and a former railway station, the main building is arguably one of the most remarkable in Berlin, having a lifesize airplane mounted on its roof. It’s impossible to miss it.

Aside from the traditional transport collections—a definite must—highlights include capturing secret war transmissions, playing with various old and new cinematography devices, visiting a real brewery, seeing a space module, or taking pictures of your friends with their hair blown by a wind-maker.

If you plan a visit, you might want to decide upon your priorities beforehand, as it is easy to lose track of time and miss some of the exhibits that you are really interested in.

Audio guides in English are available.
JEWISH MUSEUM
Lindenstraße 9-14
U1, U6 Hallesches Tor
Mon 10:00-22:00
Tue-Sun 10:00-20:00
5€ (regular), 2.5€ (student)

Since its opening in 2001, the Jewish Museum has attracted many diverse visitors. In an old building alongside the spectacular post-modern construction by architect Daniel Libeskind the museum informs visitors about the history of Jewish life in Germany from Roman times up until the community's current renaissance in Berlin. The Jewish Museum is most famous for its architecture and interior design.

The entrance to the museum is located in an old building built in 1735 by Friedrich Wilhelm I. Libeskind masterfully connected to the baroque structure a post-modern tin façade building in the shape of a broken star of David. In this structure, five “voids”, high horizontal cave-like rooms, disrupt the narrative of the museum to underline the loss and emptiness the Holocaust has left in Jewish life in Germany and Europe. In the underground corridors, three axes cross each other, following the paths of German Jews in the Weimar Republic and Hitler’s Germany.

The “Axis of Continuity” leads up the staircase to the main exhibition, the “Axis of Emigration” leads into the garden of exile, a confusing garden labyrinth with an uneven floor, while the “Axis of the Holocaust” leads to a disturbing dead end, the Holocaust Tower. Libeskind’s conceptual goal was to make the building share the narrative of the museum and thereby add a physical, primordial connection to Jewish realities in Germany, especially Hitler’s Germany.

Plan in some time for security checks at the entrance of the museum.

Only 2 U-Bahn stops away from the Jewish Museum, you will find the HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL. Take U6 Französische Straße or S2 Brandenburger Tor.

In a 19,000 m² field, 2,771 concrete slabs of different heights form a labyrinth grid that often causes visitors to temporarily get lost in the field. The underground information centre exhibits all known names of Holocaust victims.

A complementary visit to the TOPOGRAPHIE DES TERRORS in Niederkirchnerstraße 8 is highly recommended. The location was once the headquarters of the Secret State Police in the 30s, and now serves as a historical documentation centre of World War II activities. Admission is free.
Berlin Cathedral
Reichstag Cupola
TV Tower
Brandenburg Gate &
Straße des 17. Juni
Berlin has three opera houses, each of which is worth at least one visit. Komische Oper has red plush seats and cheesy (in the coolest way) stucco ceilings. It derives its name from the French “opéra comique,” referring to a modern music theatre in which the music and action are equally important, which is why all productions are in German (but they have subtitles in many different languages).

Deutsche Oper is the biggest concert hall in Berlin and the second biggest concert house in the whole of Germany. This is where you can hear all the greats: Wagner, Verdi, Puccini, Strauss, etc. Since it’s so big, it doesn’t really matter where you sit, you’ll have a good view from pretty much any seat. So if you want to see La Traviata, Swan Lake or The Nutcracker performed by great people (as great as world-famous conductor Lorin Mazel), this is the place to go.

Staatsoper is, without a doubt, the nicest of the Berlin operas. Unter den Linden is as nice as it gets, location-wise in Berlin, and the rather posh audience is always very, very dressed up. Due to construction, Staatsoper will be performing in the Schillertheater until 2015, but that is not a reason to miss seeing Daniel Barenboim conduct!

If you are interested in classical music, go to the Philharmonie and hear one of the world’s best orchestras conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. You can go on guided tours through the Philharmonie, which will take you to the roof and you will learn how the audience is provided with fresh air from outside during concerts.

On Tuesday during the lunch hours, there’s always a free concert in the foyer, for about 40 minutes - there’s also cheap lunch! So if you ever feel like spending lunchtime with Mozart, Beethoven and one of the most amazing orchestras in a world-famous concert house, you’re lucky you’re in Berlin!

The concerts in the evening are about as good as it gets, tickets are sold well in advance, but if you go about an hour early, maybe you’ll be lucky enough to get a cheap last-minute ticket.
KONZERTHAUS

Gendarmenmarkt
U2 Stadtmitte

The Konzerthaus, an oft-cited example of German neo-classical design, was built by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. When you enter the Großer Saal for the first time, all the busts of great composers will take your breath away, just as the general atmosphere which is often more old fashioned than in the Philharmonie. This is where Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony* and Goethe’s *Faust I* premiered.

DEUTSCHES THEATER

Schumannstraße 13a
S+U Friedrichstraße
U Oranienburger Tor

Deutsches Theater has a repertoire that includes both classics and modern classics, but that doesn’t exclude collaborations with contemporary writers. Plays change daily and new productions are staged each season.

For other theaters, check out VOLKSBÜHNE and SCHAUBÜHNE on the next page.

CENTRAL-KINO BERLIN

Rosenthalerstraße 39
M1 Hackescher Markt

This little gem is carefully tucked away deep in Hackescher Markt. It may not have the futuristic exterior that most Berlin movie theatres have, but the experience that Central-Kino has to offer is top-notch.

Their program is always filled with films focused to a lesser extent on the work’s ‘blockbuster’ value and more on quality and content, so don’t be surprised if the films on offer are a couple of years old. In return you are guaranteed an intimate viewer experience. It will be as if your living room was transformed into a movie theatre.

BERLINALE

This Berlin event is the one you should be most excited about. Founded in 1951, Berlinale is one of the world’s most renowned film festivals. In addition to attracting professionals from various fields involved in the film industry, it is also a must-see for avid movie goers looking for the best of what the silver screen has to offer.

The festival is multifaceted, with its seven-section programme, making room for various types of works. It takes place in mid-February, be sure to mark your calendars and book your tickets as soon as they are available.
VOLKSBÜHNE
Linienstraße 227
U2 Rosa-Luxemburg
€ 6 - 30

Volksbühne (the People’s Stage) is a vibrant centre for unique theatre in Berlin. Famous for its Brechtian, socialist look on the world, Volksbühne does not want to entertain its audience by making them forget about the world around them, instead it wants to bring issues to the audience’s attention.

What Bertolt Brecht called the “alienation effect” is lived by the theatre’s actors and further supported by the incorporation of live video, adding yet another layer of confusion to the play. If “alienation effect” does not tickle your fancy, then a living horse, a camouflage trampoline or a constantly rotating stage are just some of the many surprises you’ll find in their plays.

Volksbühne also runs very good poetry slams.

SCHAUBÜHNE
Kurfürstendamm 153
U9 Kurfürsten-damm
M19, M29 Lehniner Pl.
€ 7 - 43

Schaubühne is a well-established theatre with a wide repertoire ranging from premieres of contemporary German playwrights to adaptations of classics like Antigone. Thomas Ostermeier, the theatre’s artistic director, stages a variety of plays re-interpreted and set in 21st century Berlin.

Productions are compact with all elements cohesively supporting the play, including post-modern stage designs.

LONG NIGHTS OF... IN BERLIN

During this event, visitors have the chance to explore a specific topic beyond normal hours (usually well into the night, until 3 am). There is one collective ticket you can buy for all venues (around 10 €), with shuttle buses connecting the different sites, throughout the whole evening.

For more information, visit: lange-nacht-der-museen.de langenachtderwissenschaften.de langenacht.berlin-buehnen.de

*The dates of the Long Nights change every year, so make sure to check online so that you won’t miss an event. The Long Nights are also advertised on the screens in BVG stations.

GETTING AROUND

From Pankow, M1 to Mitte am Kupfergraben is the easiest connection you have to the city center. It will also take you to S+U Pankow where you will find more connecting trains via U2, S2, S8, and S9.
HUMBOLDT BOX
Schlossplatz 5
M1 Hackescher Markt
€ 4

The box is located where the City Palace once stood. It gives a great view of Altes Museum and Lustgarten, as well as of the ongoing excavation of the Palace ruins. There is a café on the upper level.

BERLIN TV TOWER
Panoramastraße 1A
U Alexanderplatz
€ 12

A product of the Cold War, the Berliner TV tower still stands as a landmark of technological achievement. It offers a 360° view of the city, with a restaurant in the middle of the sphere that rotates every half hour.

VIKTORIAPARK
Katzbachstr. 21 (Kreuzberg)
U Platz der Luftbrücke, U Mehringdamm

From this park on a hill, your view is instantly surrounded by greenery. You will find Karl Friedrich Schinkel’s Prussian National Monument from which a waterfall flows downhill. After the hike, you can sit down in one of the many cafes on nearby Bergmannstr.

REICHSTAG
Platz der Republik 1
S2 Brandenburger Tor
08:00-23:00

The building was erected after the unification of Germany as the seat of the parliament under imperial rule and, to this day, remains the parliamentary building of the Federal Republic.

Renovation was undertaken by British architect Norman Foster, who, among other things, crowned the building with its recognizable glass cupola.

The visit to Reichstag is free, but you will need to register online days in advance. You can also sign up for a tour of the entire building, or head straight for the cupola, where there are audio guides available in English and in German.

You will need to bring along identification (i.e. passport), and you will also have to go through security checks before entering the building. In order to register, go to: http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/visits/kupp.html

SIEGESSÄULE
Straße des 17. Juni/Großer Stern
3 € (regular), 2,50 € (student)
opening hours depend on season

285 steps to a great view of Tiergarten and the surrounding areas
“Coming to Berlin from a much less culturally active location, the city felt slightly overwhelming at first. Soon after, I realized that one of the most important things is to be aware of your interests and focus on your choice of activities and places, otherwise it will be much easier to get lost in the variety of cultural experiences Berlin has to offer. I mainly limited my list to dance & theater, with a few exceptions for music concerts and art exhibitions.”

**RADIALSYSTEM** is a great contemporary dance space in Friedrichshain, as well as a centre for Baroque and Old Music. The elegant atmosphere together with high quality performances makes Radialsystem a premier dance stage.

**DOCK 11** is situated much closer to ECLA, in the center of Prenzlauer Berg. It is a rehearsal space but they also host alternative contemporary dance performances. The place feels a bit more relaxed and the audience is a bit younger, which is reflected in the slightly more experimental shows.

The place you should not miss in Berlin if you’re interested in contemporary dance is **SOPHIENSÄLE** in Mitte. A beautiful yet seemingly unfinished room is one of the main venues where dance festivals with local and foreign participants take place. The audience is generally young and tickets have discounts upon presentation of a student card (this is true for the previous two locations as well).

Similar in content and audience is **UFERSTUDIOS** in Wedding - a huge factory hosting both rehearsals and performances.

When planning your evening, websites like [exberliner.com](http://exberliner.com) (in English) and [zitty.com](http://zitty.com) (in German) might be helpful. Sign up to all the newsletters, pick up flyers and promotions from the stands in bars and cultural venues, and sure enough, there won’t be a free evening for you to stay reading books in the ECLA dorms.

**SOPHIENSÄLE**
Sophienstraße 18
U8 Weinmeisterstraße, M1 Hackescher Markt, S2 Oranienburger Straße
sophiensaele.com

**UFERSTUDIOS**
Badstraße 41a (Tor 1)
U9 Nauener Platz
S1, S2 Gesundbrunnen
uferstudios.com

**TANZFABRIK**
Möckernstr. 68
S Yorckstraße
tanzfabrik-berlin.de

**K77**
Kastanienallee 77
M1 Eberswalder Str.
k77studio.blogspot.com

( below: entrance to Sophiensäle)
EXPLORE MORE

DEUTSCHES HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

Unter den Linden 2
M1 am Kupfergraben
Daily 10:00-18:00
8€ (regular), 4€ (student)
dhm.de

The museum is an exhaustive introduction to the socio-political and cultural history of Germany. From Roman times to Imperial Germany as well as the Weimar Republic and National Socialism, Deutsches Historisches Museum presents a nation's narrative that is both historicised and critical.

The architecture brings together old and new, including a covered courtyard and a glass spiral staircase at the modern back entrance, designed by I.M. Pei.

(above: exhibit and courtyard of the Deutsches Historisches Museum)

SCHWULES MUSEUM (LGBT)

Mehringdamm 61
U Mehringdamm
Mon, Wed-Sun 14:00-18:00
schwulesmuseum.de

KÄTHE KOLLWITZ MUSEUM

Fasanenstraße 24
U9 Kurfürstendamm
Daily 11:00-18:00
€ 3 - 6

DEUTSCHE KINEMATHEK (FILM MUSEUM)

Potsdamer Str. 2
U2 Potsdamer Platz
Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00
€ 3 - 6

FRIERICHSWERDERSCHE KIRCHE

Werderscher Markt 1
U2 Hausvogteiplatz
10:00-18:00 Daily
Free admission

HELPFUL PHRASES

Sprechen Sie Englisch?
Entschuldigung.
Wie bitte?
Wo ist...?

Wo kann ich Karten (für) ... kaufen?
Ich möchte eine Führung auf Englisch.

Wie viel kostet eine Fahrkarte nach... (ort)?

Do you speak English?
Excuse me.
What? (Polite)
Where is...?

Where can I buy tickets for...?
I would like a tour in English.

How much does a ticket to... (place) cost?
2

satiate

cafés · restaurants · bars

food
WURST

If you eat pork, you definitely should not miss Berlin's speciality: “Currywurst”. It's typically a steamed and then fried white sausage, cut into slices and seasoned with a curry ketchup sauce - a mixture of ketchup, tomato sauce, spices and curry powder. We recommend asking for an extra Brötchen (bread roll) because of the amount of sauce that usually accompanies the dish.

One of the best spots to try Currywurst is at Konnopke’s Imbiss, established in 1930, and offering Currywurst since 1960, this place is a real institution in Prenzlauer Berg and very popular among not only East-Berliners, but also tourists and immigrants. It’s located on Schönhauser Allee, under the metro tracks next to U-Bahnhof Eberswalder Straße and to the M1 stop with the same name.

Another famous place for Currywurst is Curry 36 in Kreuzberg, Mehringdamm 36, just a few steps from one of the entrances to the U-Bahnhof Mehringdamm; there is always a long line of people there, so you can’t miss it.

We also recommend trying “Rostbratwurst” and especially the “Thüringer Rostbratwurst” - a grilled sausage, made mostly of pork. You can get these everywhere in Berlin, even from “grillwalkers” - street vendors with a portable sausage grill, who are found mainly in the Alexanderplatz area or at Bahnhof Friedrichstraße. Many Berliners prefer to eat these sausages with Senf (mustard).

BIERGARTEN

Also next to the U-Bahnhof Eberswalder Straße, right next to the M1 tram stop, on Kastanienallee 7-9, you’ll find Berlin’s oldest beer garden, the Prater Garten, in business since 1837. In the summer you can sit under the chestnut trees with friends and have a fresh beer from the tap. It’s also a good place to go if you want to watch an important soccer game on a big screen during European or World Cups. Germans use the English expression “public viewing” for this activity, although it usually has another meaning in English-speaking countries. The Prater’s indoor restaurant with homemade Berlin cuisine is open year-round.

Another famous Biergarten is Loretta at S-Bahnhof Wannsee.
San Marco, with its quaint interiors, is a staple for pizza-loving ECLA of Bard students who are tired of grocery variants. San Marco offers a wide selection of pizzas, served to you right off the oven. For seafood lovers, try Pizza Gamberetti. The place also serves good and affordable cocktails, so for a little under €6, you can get a complete meal.

When blessed with good weather, San Marco’s spot is the perfect balance of Prenzlauer Berg’s urban activity and laidback assembly of people.

When entering Oberholz one could mistake the café for a vintage store that Apple has hijacked to advertise its newest products. Some people love this atmosphere while others, like most “real” Berliners, hate it.

Hopefully, these two antagonistic groups agree on the good quality and variety of tartes, cakes, lemonades, coffees and teas served to customers who comfortably share big working tables over two floors.

The prices are high but fair. Don’t miss what is arguably the greatest pizza to go (La Pausa) right across the street.
WEINEREI
Veteranenstraße 14
MI Zionskirchplatz

The Weinerei’s ("winery" and/or "cryery") owner is a lover of wine. With great trust in his customers, every customer pays 2 € upon entrance to get a glass that s/he can refill with the various wines from the bar. The comfortable atmosphere is created by random colourful furniture and decorations of the café. Customers leave a donation that they find appropriate for their wine consumption (normally calculating 2 €/glass) in one of the big glass bowls next to the bar. The Weinerei is also a very nice café during the day with a great lunch and afternoon buffet.

COCKTAIL X BAR
Raumerstraße 17a
18:00-04:00
€ 5 up
cocktailxbar.de

You can choose from more than 300 different cocktails grouped into categories, like films or different kinds of fruit (their apple cocktails are great). The place is comfy, tastefully designed and they show random films on a big screen. You get nibbles, but you can also order tapas - or a chocolate fountain!

ZU MIR ODER ZU DIR
Lychener Straße 15
20:00-till whenever (really)
€ 3 - 10

this smoker-friendly bar is a foreign hipster favourite to grab a few drinks before a more exciting night out in the town. It is awesome if you are looking to meet new people. The interior is quite comfortable and laid back with couches and chairs placed randomly around the space, giving you the freedom to make your own furniture setting if you are a big crowd. Expect a lot of electro music.

BUBBLE TEA IN BERLIN
Everywhere
€ 3 - 4
(Recommended by Yulia Babenko, AY’12)

Best for Winter: Black mango tea & orange bubbles (hot)
Best for Summer: Caramel yogurt drink & aloe vera jelly (cold)
Widespread Franchise: BoboQ, TeaOne
Nearest Café to ECLA: BoboQ Pankow, Berliner Str. 11
Best Café in Berlin: COMEBUY, Rosenthaler Str. 31
Goes well with: Frozen yogurt and cupcakes
Worst Café in Berlin-Brandenburg: Potsdam Bhf. Never again!
Equipment needed: A huge wide straw
LUCKY STAR
Friedrichstraße 127
This restaurant serves quite authentic food and tries to use the kitsch decoration as tastefully as possible. Their hotpots and dumplings are great. They also serve curries and other dishes that are “Asian” in one way or the other. Prices are average and the staff is friendly.

JUST DIMSUM
Ansbacherstraße 8
U1, U2, U3 Wittenbergplatz
Daily 12:00-23:00
€3 - 10
Be sure to try in this restaurant their savory dimsum offerings priced between €3 and €5, served steaming hot. They have a cheap lunch menu of about €6 from 12:00 to 16:00, which includes a variety of dishes with rice and soup.

LON MEN’S NOODLE HOUSE
Kantstraße 33
S Savignyplatz
Daily 12:00-23:30
€2 - 10
Let’s be honest, many “Asian” places in Berlin are pretty much the same. But Lon Men’s is different, in that it offers proper Taiwanese food which is actually good. It is fresh, cheap and authentic.

The place itself is unpretentious, sparing you the supposedly Asian kitsch or the pan flute music that most German “Chinese” restaurants like to sedate their guests with, along with copious amounts of MSG. You won’t get any of that in this modest place in Kantstraße where you can watch your noodles and dumplings being prepared and cooked right in front of you.

The good-humoured staff is very patient, always up for a chat and happy to speak English, German or Chinese.

Unfortunately, the ride to Charlottenburg takes about 40 minutes from Pankow, but if you are partial to real, delicious, homemade Asian food, it is definitely worth the trip.

ASIAN DELI
Lychener Straße 28
M1, U2 Eberswalder Str.
12:00-23:00 Daily
€2 - 8
The ultimate pan-Asian kitchen for students on a budget, it offers amazing dishes from Southeast Asia. Try the pad-thai, tom kha and mango lassi. Vegetarian options are also available. It takes less than half an hour to get there by M1, which makes the deli an appealing option after a long day of seminars.
**TABE-YO SUSHI**  
Danziger Straße 12  
M1, U2 Eberswalder Str.  
Daily 12:00-23:00  
€ 2 - 15

Tabe-yo Sushi is one of the cheapest places you’ll find in Berlin to eat good sushi. If you do not mind East Asian pop as background music, the place makes for a relaxing, bang-for-the-buck meal with friends.

**TRANSIT**  
Rosenthaler Straße 68  
M1 Rosenthaler Platz  
Daily 11:00-01:00  
€ 3 - 10  
transit-restaurants.com

This place adds an original and modern touch to traditional Thai cuisine, and is certainly worth a visit if you are a fan of good Thai cooking. Everything about Transit oozes its ultra-modern “big city” character, from its interiors, service, to its dining concept. Transit has a rather interesting dining concept: most dishes come in a very small portion for 3 Euros, no doubt a pragmatic and economic approach. But this also means you can try more than one dish per meal, with a side order of rice or noodles. Service is very friendly and quick, with an average of 15 minutes till you get your food, from the moment you place your order. Must try “My Favourite Duck” and “Smokey Sate”.

**DÖNER KEBAB**  
Everywhere  
€ 3

The choice fast food of many Berliners, döner kebab is a dangerously delicious combination of flat bread, roasted meat, salad vegetables and a sauce of your own choosing (yogurt, garlic, and hot chili are the most common). Open 24 hours, these kebab shops have sustained many ECLA students pulling all-nighters.

Nearest kebab place: Café Genial (beside REWE)  
Variants: Durum, Falafel sandwich  
Equipment: napkin (can get messy), Tictacs (think onions and garlic sauce)
KUCHENRAUSCH  
Simon-Dach-Straße 1  
Mon-Thu, Sun 09:00-24:00  
Fri, Sat 09:00-02:00  
€ 5 - 10  
kuchenrausch.de

This beautiful café, located in Friedrichshain, truly lives up to what you expect of a Berlin Sunday brunch experience. Kuchenrausch is the place for quality cake and coffee indulgence time. Seats are quite comfortable with a big area outside, perfect for Berlin’s sunny days. Big groups, however, might not experience the most comfort. For breakfast try their omelets or exquisite cheese platters, and remember to always leave room for cake!

CAFÉ FLEURY  
Weinbergsweg 20  
Mon-Fri 08:00-22:00  
Sat, Sun 10:00-20:00

Think cushions and French-style cosiness. Despite the flowery wallpaper, the place is nice. So are the staff and the comfy armchairs. The café offers breakfasts, tartes and savoury food, different kinds of quiche, soups and French cheese. The café au lait comes in a huge bowl without a handle, which is fun to drink.

This is where you should take your Balzac and spend a lovely Sunday afternoon!

RITTER SPORT SCHOKOWELT  
Französische Straße 24  
U6 Französische Straße  
Mon-Sat 10:00-19:00  
Sun 10:00-18:00  
ritter-sport.de

Ritter Sport meant it when they said chocolate world. You can make your own chocolate bar, shop for premium Ritter Sport variants, look through the store’s mini-exhibit or just sit and relax in the café above the shop. Definitely try the fondue which costs about €7. Worth it!

SMYRNA KURUYEMIS  
Oranienstraße 28  
U1, U8 Kottbusser Tor  
cerezci.de  
€ 1 up

This shop sells a wide variety of nuts, seeds, snacks and pastries, perfect for nibbling as you make your way to Görlitzer Park. Visit Melek Pastanesi, a bakery right beside this shop.

ALDEMIR EIS  
Falckensteinstraße 7  
U1 Schlesisches Tor  
Daily 10:00-24:00  
€ 1 - 4.5

This ice cream shop offers tons of flavors, toppings and combinations that you will surely crave for even during the freezing Berlin winter.

A scoop only costs 1,10 euro, so just give in to the temptation for more!

KAUF DICH GLÜCKLICH  
Oderberger Straße 44  
M1 Eberswalder Str.  
Mon-Fri 11:00-02:00  
Sat, Sun 10:00-14:00  
€ 2 - 5  
(recommended by Una Blagojevic, BA’13)

‘Twas an awesome first Berlin experience with this shop and its interiors. And who can forget their tasty waffles and crepes? Amazing breakfast food.
FOOD DIRECTORY

PRENZLAUER BERG

MAHARADSCHA
Schönhauser Allee 142
Indian food,
2 for 1 Sundays

CAFÉ KRONE
Oderberger Straße 38

FLEISCHMÖBEL
Oderberger Straße 2

WOHNZIMMER
Lettestraße 6

MEIN HAUS AM SEE
Brunnenstraße 197
Chic bar with bleachers

YUMCHA HEROES
Weinbergsweg 8
Homemade Dumplings
€ 6 - 12

CAFÉ-GALÃO
Weinbergsweg 8
Egg tarts!

AN EINEM SONNTAG IM AUGUST
Kastanienallee 103

KREUZBERG/ NEUKÖLLN

LE BATEAU IVRE
Oranienstraße 18

CAFÉ KOTTI
Adalbertstr. 96

MAROUSH
Adalbertstr. 93
Lebanese takeaway

SAMEHEADS BAR
Richardstraße 10
Distinctly English,
Pub Quiz

CAFÉ BISTRO HORUS
Hasenheide 16
Egyptian food
€ 3 - 8

BETAHAUS CAFÉ
Prinzessinnenstr. 19-20

SÜDBLOCK
Admiralstr. 1-2
Bar in a glass box

MITTE

B-FLAT
Rosenthaler Straße 13
Jazz Bar

MONSTERKABINETT
Rosenthaler Straße 39
Bar with moving metal monsters

FASSBENDER & RAUSCH
Charlottenstraße 60
Premium chocolates,
Café

LOUISIANA KID
Alte Schönhauser Str. 2
Cajun food

CHARLOTTENBURG

A-TRANE JAZZ CLUB
Bleibtreustraße 1

TAPAS BAR
Grolmanstraße 52

HELPFUL PHRASES

Ich möchte...
I would like...

Ich nehme...
I’ll have...

Könnten wir bitte noch einen/eine/ein... haben?
Can we have another... please?

Könnten Sie das bitte zurück geben lassen?
Can you take this back?

Die Rechnung, bitte.
Check, please.

Stimmt so.
Keep the change.
MARKETS

bar·gain
markets · thrift stores
book shops
If you need a break from all those required readings, here is a list of bookshops from fellow ECLA of Bard bookworms.

Bargain hunting for books is a favourite pastime for students. You might even come across books previously owned by ECLA of Bard students and professors.

DUSSMANN DAS KULTURKAUFHAUS
Friedrichstraße 90

A mainstream shop where you can find both German and English books. Its 5-storey structure houses a mix of printed media, audio books and CDs & DVDs. Though it’s not as cozy as some of the smaller bookshops in town, Dussmann has a huge selection. You’re sure to find what you’re looking for.

ST. GEORGE’S BOOKSHOP
Wörther Straße 27
M1 Eberswalder Str.
Mon-Fri 11:00-20:00
Sat 11:00-19:00

The ECLA student’s go-to bookshop, St. George offers second hand books in good condition and at a fair price.

The shop has a wide selection of books, from literature to natural sciences, old encyclopedias, children’s literature and graphic novels.

Take advantage of the shop’s comfy couch and leaf through the pages of books which interest you. Not a bad way to spend an afternoon. (photo above)

ANOTHER COUNTRY
Riemannstr. 7
U7 Gneisenaustr.
Tue-Fri 11:00-20:00
Sat, Sun 12:00-16:00

English language second hand bookshop

BERLIN STORY
Unter den Linden 26
A bookshop dedicated to Berlin with a section of books in English

FAIR EXCHANGE
Dieffenbachstr. 58
Berlin’s first bookshop for used English books

ENGLISH BOOKS
Unter den Eichen 96
S1 Lichterfelde West
New & used books in English
The market offers **great bargains** for pretty much everything (**especially 2 hours before closing time**), so you may end up preparing guacamole or mango smoothies for a whole dorm at the end of the day. Bring plenty of bags and plenty of jokes, those sellers have a sharp sense of humour. Lecker-lecker-lecker!

**Tue&Fri 10.30-18:30**
U8 Schönleinstr. and a 5-minute walk toward Kottbusser Tor.

**GROCERY SHOPPING IN WEDDING**

Take the S/U Bahn or your bike to **Gesundbrunnen** in Wedding. There is a fruit and vegetable market on the square near the station exit.

If you start walking down **Badstraße** (turning right from the exit of the S Bahn), you will pass many Turkish food stores. They are all recommendable, especially the first one called **Eurogida**.

A number of stores are located at the **intersection Badstr./Prinzenallee**. Groceries there are cheaper than in REWE or Kaiser’s and often better in quality. The vegetables and fruits are ripe, but the assortment of goods changes according to delivery and season. In more permanent stands, the prices are fixed (but are reduced later in the day).

Haggling is common practice at these stores. In these streets there are also many little restaurants serving good Turkish and Arab food as there is a big Turkish and Arab community living and eating out in Wedding. Just follow your nose. If you’re into sweets and cakes, check out the bakeries. The most delightful calories are waiting inside.

**KREUZBERG TURKISH MARKET**

If you’re longing for a large selection of fresh fruit and vegetables, or need some real flavour and diversity in the dorm’s kitchen, then the Turkish Market at Maybachufer will feel like a culinary paradise. Besides the cornucopia of vegetables, fruit, spices and cheese, you can also find delicious Turkish and Arab food products, bio-eggs, bread in all shapes and textures, or even beads, sandals and beautiful fabrics. The market is also a magnet for singers, street performers and even open-air hairdressers! So be ready for a surprising bombardment of smells, colours and sounds, that will make you return to Pankow a new person.

**ALTERNATIVES TO NEIGHBORHOOD SUPERMARKETS**

Niederschönhausen may have supermarkets clustered in one place, but these weekend markets offer fresh produce and crops, among other food products, at a bargain price.

**KOLLWITZPLATZ**

Fresh, organic produce in Prenzlauer Berg every weekend. Note that some products can be pricey, but if you are craving organic fruits and don’t mind making a longer trip, then Kollwitzplatz is a good compromise.

**Thu 12:00-19:00**
**Sat 09:00-16:00**
M1 Eberswalder Str.
Every Sunday, the former death strip in Mauerpark turns into a festive and buzzing labyrinth of shop stalls and tables. It can get crowded and you might find it difficult to navigate, but (believe it or not) that is perhaps the second greatest part of the experience—next to finding a really good deal—which adds charm to this unusual park.

You can find almost anything in Mauerpark’s flea market, such as cheap used clothing. If you are lucky, you can buy pieces for €1 each. Shirts designed and printed by local artists are also commonly sold in the market. Before deciding to shop at H&M or other retail stores, you might be pleasantly surprised by the high-quality vintage clothing in Mauerpark (including winter coats).

Furniture, old cameras, and leather bags abound. Stalls selling clearly aged comic books, various items of ephemera and vinyl records can be found at almost every turn, making the park feel like a giant, open-air curio shop.

Do not shy away from haggling, but also do not be too pushy.

Be prepared to spend an entire day in the area, where you might catch a karaoke show late in the afternoon at the park’s own amphitheatre. Take a break by lying down on the park’s grassy area where you will likely find people having picnics on a good sunny day.
4 SPRING, SUMMER
Botanischer Garten Berlin is an all-season must-see if you are predisposed to contemplation and philosophical meandering, if you seek a silent and beautiful refuge in the middle of the city, or if you are simply passionate about the life of plants.

This oasis of greenery is home to 22,000 species of plants and hosts the largest greenhouse in the world.

One of the most fascinating features of the garden is the way in which it changes with the passing of seasons. While, of course, all nature changes its appearance, the Botanical Garden is different in that, being human-made, it is purposefully designed to offer diverse visual and olfactory experiences in different parts of the year, much like a canvas in time, albeit a gigantic one.

In light of this, the place is a fine example of the frequently underrated arts of garden design and landscape architecture. As the seasons pass, the blooming plants and trees form colourful juxtapositions and patterns that make every visit unique. At the entrance to the garden, you will receive a guide that is tailored according to the season.

The garden also has a large complex of greenhouses, where you can find begonias, orchids, azaleas, bromeliads, insectivorous and carnivorous plants, Mediterranean, South American or Australian plants, as well as an impressive collection of cacti and fossil-plants.

The Main Pavilion has a mesmerizing combination of tropical plants, including a small bamboo forest. At the end of the tour, you may want to visit the local shop, where you can find all sorts of things plant-related, and buy some original objects to adorn your room or for personal use.

Opening hours vary according to the month
6 € (adult), 3 € (student)

S1 Botanischer Garten and a 10-minute walk; or
U9 Rathaus Steglitz and M48 Botanischer Garten
PEACOCK ISLAND

At the end of a winding bus-drive through the woods, followed by a ferry ride over a stretch of water, Pfaueninsel (the Peacock Island) is an astounding destination for a day trip. Designated a nature reserve in 1990, the island is situated on the river Havel, in Wannsee, at the edge of Berlin, and belongs to the Potsdam World Heritage Site.

The island’s main attraction, as the name suggests, is its peacocks. Expect to walk through the forest and to spot a peacock searching for some seeds in the bushes or sitting in the middle of a path, lavishly showing off its tail to peahens and passersby. If, however, for some highly unlikely reason, you fail to see the peacocks in the wild, you can always find some of them bred in captivity, in the island’s menagerie, along with other exotic birds.

Peacock Island also features a ‘pleasure’ castle in the shape of an artificial ruin, built in 1793 by Friedrich Wilhelm II for adventures with his mistress. A number of other constructions, from statues to small factories (that can still be seen today), add charm to this romantic setting. The exotic touch culminated in the century that followed with a collection of non-indigenous animals (the first one in Germany). The lions, kangaroos, camels, monkeys and other animals soon elicited so much public attention, that the royal family, unable to cope with such enthusiasm, decided to donate them to what later became Berlin’s Zoological Garden.

The island’s tranquility is best enjoyed on sunny days in mid-spring or mid-autumn, but it is open all-year round.

S1 Wannsee, Bus 218 Pfaueninsel & Ferry (6 € roundtrip); you will need to pay a fee to visit the castle.
LAKES
Berlin is surrounded by many beautiful lakes; some are easily accessible with the S-bahn. One word about naked people: Berlin is a centre of German nudist culture (German: Freikörperkultur/FKK), so don’t be disturbed by naked people hopping around, it is very common and if you also prefer to swim and tan naked, feel free to do so!

The most famous lake is probably Wannsee, a big lake in the south-west that is accessible with S1. Wannsee’s water may have a green-brown color, but it is definitely clean enough for swimming; there is a natural swimming pool run by the city called “Strandbad Wannsee,” which you can walk to from S1 station Nikolassee. A smaller lake is Schlachtensee, also accessible with S1. The water is clean and you can find a private place at the shore to have a picnic.

There is also Weissensee easily reachable by bus from S+U Pankow. It’s a smaller lake that is quite nice to swim in at the beginning of the season. On sunny weekends, it can be very crowded at all of these lakes. Less crowded lakes are more difficult to reach with public transport, but you could make a day trip on a bike from Pankow.

One lake about 25km away from campus is called Liepnitzsee, it has very clear water and a big island in the middle. Check out the Tarzan ropes from which you can jump directly into the water - so much fun! In the area around Lipnitzsee there are more lakes in close proximity, for example the Wandlitzsee (that offers more sport facilities, but is also more crowded) and the Stolzenhagener See, a small and more hidden one that has a private beach (2-3 € entrance fee).

Whichever lake you decide to go to, always take mosquito spray!

POOLS
The closest outdoor swimming pool to Pankow is situated in Wolfshagener Str. behind the Schlosspark, it’s about 5-10mins by bike. Entrance is 2.5 €, but only if you present a valid student ID. It is a big area with a big meadow, yet a comparably small swimming pool. If you want to use a locker, you’ll need to take your own little lock. It is a very nice place for a workout in the morning or later at night, when the weather is very good and the kids have returned from school, since people-watching is an added bonus. The pool is opened between May-September.

POOL GLOSSARY
“Freibad” is the most basic type of swimming pool, often connected to the water of a lake or a river. “Sommerbad” is an outdoor swimming pool opened only in summer. “Hallenbad” is an indoor swimming pool. “Kombibad” has both outdoor and indoor facilities.
PARKS

What Pankow may lack compared to Berlin-Mitte’s excitement and glamour, it makes up for in beautiful and serene scenery. On a sunny day, Bürgerpark Pankow is ideal for a relaxing picnic as it is close to the ECLA of Bard campus. Located on Wilhelm-Kuhr-Straße, the park was built in 1856 and emerged from the unrest of the early 20th century virtually untouched.

There is a café with an array of homemade delicacies to choose from and a library where you can borrow books and board games for your day out.

If you like wild greenery surrounded by swans, then head to Volkspark Friedrichshain via M10. It is the oldest Volkspark in Berlin and was planned by Gustav Meyer, a student of Lenné. The park has one of the most beautiful fountains in the city, which features characters from Brothers Grimm fairytales.

There is a café in the middle of the park where you can sit and relax on a lazy summer day.

Other notable parks in Berlin:
Treptower Park (Treptow-Köpenick)
Görlitzer Park (Kreuzberg)
Hasenheide (Neukölln)
Park am Gleisdreieck (Kreuzberg)
Gärten der Welt (Marzahn)

For more information and more parks see the city’s official park website: www.gruen-berlin.de

BERLIN ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN
Hardenbergplatz 8
Daily 09:00-19:00
S+U Zoologischer Garten
Zoo €13 (regular), €10 (student)
Zoo & Aquarium €20 (regular), €15 (student)
zoo-berlin.de

Located in Tiergarten, the Berlin Zoo received animals from Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV and opened its doors to the public in 1844. Since its opening, the zoo has continuously increased in its animal population, as well as amount of visitors.

Though hardly a place for quiet time, walking around the zoo is enjoyable not only for the animals but also because of the various landscape designs of the zoo enclosures meant to mimic the animals’ natural habitats.

(Above: Treptower Park, Hippos napping in their special habitat at Berlin Zoo)
A former residential palace for German monarchs, Schloss Charlottenburg is now a major tourist attraction in Berlin. Built in 1695, the Old Palace had baroque style rooms. Later on, Friedrich the Great added a New Wing where most rooms were designed to the king’s affinity for Rococo.

The palace is surrounded by a garden which can make you feel like you’re in a fairy tale. The first German baroque garden by Siméon Godeau, it was built in 1697 for Sophie Charlotte, wife of Elector and later King Friedrich I.

If you want to spend a day in a postcard motif world, visit the Schlosspark on a sunny day and lie on the grass. Sit right by the Spree and take in all the lovely views of the castle, swans and flowers.

Sanssouci means “without worry,” which is apt for the palace’s function as a summer residence for Friedrich the Great, who spent a great deal of time there instead at the City Palace.

Park Sanssouci has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which opened up the formerly exclusive royal estate to a curious and enthusiastic public.

The park itself is a dreamy maze of verdure that encompasses many different structures, such as Schloss Charlottenhof, the Roman Baths, the Chinese Tea House, the Royal Orangerie and, of course, Schloss Sanssouci, each created in a different style, which reflected the tastes of the respective patrons.

It takes more than an hour to get to Potsdam via S-Bahn, but the sights more than make up for the long journey.
KARNEVAL DER KULTUREN

The Carnival of Cultures is an annual street event in Kreuzberg where Berlin celebrates intercultural exchange.

The festival happens in May and lasts for three days, during which workshops, concerts, film screenings are offered for free.

The Carnival culminates on the last day with a great parade through Kreuzberg. Everyone is free to join the parade, dance in the streets, shake it out and be colourful.

The event is organized by Werkstatt der Kulturen, a non-profit organization located at Wissmannstr. 32 in Neukölln.

The organization’s main focus is the promotion of trans-culturalism in Berlin through performance art, supplemented by talks on current affairs and visual art exhibitions.

BERLIN HOLI
€ 15
holi-openair.de

Berlin had its first ever Holi in July 2012, organized through Berlin Open Air.

Holi is a Hindu spring festival where people throw colored powder (even water) at each other in celebration of the season.

Say what you will about cultural appropriation, but Berlin is a city that always finds an occasion to celebrate.

CHRISTOPHER STREET DAY
csd-berlin.de

The annual event, usually held in June, is dedicated to the promotion of LGBT rights and in commemoration of the Stonewall riots in New York City in 1969.

FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE
fetedelamusique.de

This music festival is usually held in late June, organized by Fête Company and partly financed by the Senate Chancellery of Cultural Affairs.

Music programs are held in different venues around the city, and bring together musicians from around the globe, playing various genres of music.

INTERNATIONALES BERLINER BIERFESTIVAL
bierfestival-berlin.de

The festival is held yearly in August with about 2000 different types of beers from over 80 countries.

Admission is free, but pints are not.
DAYTRIP TO WANNSEE
Recommended by Dirk Deichfuß

The beautiful lake Wannsee, surrounded by magnificent forests, is a lovely place to go for a swim (see page 32) or take a stroll along the shore. You can also take a boat tour to Potsdam and to many other lakes linked to Wannsee. The cheapest boat tour is actually with the ferry boat F 10 to Alt-Kladow, and, since this is a BVG ferry, it’s a form of public transportation included with your Monatskarte. However, the Wannsee areas offers much more than just natural beauty.

HAUS DER WANNSEE KONFERENZ
Am Großen Wannsee 56-58
Daily 10.00-18.00
S1 to S-Bahnhof Wannsee, then Bus 114 or a 30 minute-walk

Wannsee (which is also the name of the whole borough) has always attracted all kinds of Berliners and guests, and the wealthy built large villas in the area. It was in one of these villas, at Am Großen Wannsee 56-58, that the Nazis held the “Wannseekonferenz” in 1942 where they planned the “final solution to the Jewish question” – the extermination of the Jews of Europe. Today it’s a museum and memorial site, entrance is free, but you have to ring a bell outside at the large metal garden gates. You’ll enter a small park that leads you to the villa and the front door.

LIEBERMANN-VILLA AM WANNSEE
Colomierstr. 3
Wed-Mon 11.00-17.00 (Oct-Mar)
Wed-Mon 10.00-18.00 (Apr-Sep)
€ 6 (regular). € 4 (students)

The same street, Am Großen Wannsee, is intersected by a smaller street called Colomierstraße, which leads to the Liebermann Villa. Max Liebermann (1847-1935) was a German-Jewish painter and one of the leading supporters of Impressionism in Germany. Many of his paintings depict the villa’s beautiful garden, which has been restored to Liebermann’s original design, and you can see many of his works in the museum.

Not far from there, on Bismarckstraße 2-4 at Kleiner Wannsee, are the graves of Heinrich von Kleist and Henriette Vogel. Kleist, a German Romantic poet, dramatist, novelist, short story writer and author of philosophical essays committed suicide there with his friend Henriette Vogel in November 1811.
HIDDEN BERLIN

Berlin is changing fast. The city is growing. New businesses and people constantly move in, but underneath Berlin’s seemingly unimpeded path to progress is a strong awareness of history among more established residents.

To explore the sites, particularly abandoned buildings, where history has left scars that have yet to be covered is perhaps an experience that will slowly erode with time and urban development. Just think of the ECLA of Bard dorms which were once embassies to the GDR.

It is difficult to advise where to find these places since they often become inaccessible without notice.

Here is a list of lesser known historical spots in Berlin, for those seeking to travel off the beaten path.

TEUFELSBERG
S Messe Sud
An artificial hill made from World War II rubble that offers a great view of the city. You will find an old US listening station from the Cold War.

ANTI-WAR MUSEUM
anti-kriegs-museum.de
Brüsseler Str. 2 (Wedding)

BERLINER UNTERWELTEN e.V.
€ 8-13 for 90-120 minutes
berliner-unterwelten.de
A club founded by historians who aim to preserve and inform the public about underground historical sites in the city.

They offer tours of World War II and Cold War bunkers in Berlin, as well as escape tunnels that were used to breach the Berlin Wall.

Filming and photographs are prohibited during the tours. For more information about tours, visit the club’s webpage.

SPREEPARK
Kiehnwerderallee 1-3
S Treptower Park
An abandoned amusement park located in Plänterwald, it is now gaining popularity since the owners opened up the place and started offering tours for € 15 every Saturday and Sunday.

HUMBOLDTHAIN
COMBAT FLAK TOWER
S Humboldthain
Volkspark Humboldthain, apart from a garden and an open air pool, has an artificial hill made from the remnants of one of the 2 Flak towers that stood in the area. One remains standing and many still enter and climb it to get a good view of the city.
5 WINTER
CHRISTMAS MARKETS
‘Weihnachtsmärkte’

One of the best cures to a long Berlin winter is to visit these lively markets set up in parks and open spaces.

You will find the narrow pathways of these seasonal shops packed with people and filled with sights and aromas of roasted nuts, pastries and Glühwein.

Try some of Germany’s popular holiday pastries, such as Spekulatius cookies, Lebkuchen, and Stollen cake.

Market locations:
Schloss Charlottenburg
Kulturbrauerei
Unter den Linden
Alexanderplatz
Gendarmenmarkt

ICE SKATING

Walking around town in the winter will always lead you either to a Christmas market or to an ice rink. Just visit one of the bigger markets like Alexanderplatz or Potsdamer Platz. Dance your heart out on the ice accompanied by cheesy music, which is always more charming this time of year.

Horst-Dohm-Eisstadion in Wilmersdorf offers a bigger space for those seeking a more adventurous skating experience. You can borrow skates for a couple of euros.

SKIING & SLEDGING

The hill at Tempelhofer Feld (access from Tempelhofer Damm) is good for a long sledge ride, while Teufelsberg also has routes to offer. Potsdamer Platz’s Winterwelt and Park Humboldthain also have accessible toboggan routes.

To go skiing or snowboarding, you will need to travel out of the city. The closest resort is Eisenhüttenstadt, which is nearby the Polish border and accessible via a 2-hour journey by train.

NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATION

New Year parties abound in the city. Brandenburg Gate has a massive fireworks show at midnight, followed by a public party.

Remember to dress warmly and to take it easy on the Glühwein.
M1 Mitte am Kupfergraben
THE ECLA STUDENT'S BEST FRIEND

M1 is the 24-hour transport of ECLA students to city life beyond the comforts of Pankow. Whether you are seeking to work, to hang out or to have a change of scenery, just step into that big yellow box running down Waldstraße. Marked on this M1 route map are the places highly recommended and frequented by generations of ECLA students.
IMPRESSUM

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