A student’s guide to Berlin

Bard College Berlin
A LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Foreword**

**Culture**
- Museums
- Music
- Stage & Screen
- Long Nights of Berlin
- Great Views
- Contemporary Dance

**Food**
- Berliner Experience I
- Prenz'l Berg
- Kreuzberg Specialty
- Asian Food
- Berliner Experience II
- Desserts
- Food Directory

**Shopping**
- Bookshops
- Groceries
- Mauerpark Flea Market

**Spring and Summer**
- Botanical Garden
- Peacock Island
- Lakes and Pools
- Parks
- Palaces
- Summer Events
- Wannsee

**Autumn**
- Hidden Berlin
- Festival of Lights

**Winter**
- M1 map

**Impressum**
WILKOMMEN IN BERLIN!

The little handbook you are holding in your hands is the collective effort of students, professors and friends of Bard College Berlin to help you make your stay in Berlin memorable, diverse and meaningful. Drawing from our experience of studying at Bard College Berlin 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 Bard College Berlin students. You have come from all over the world to study at Bard College Berlin 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 Stadtgeschicksal)
Museums · Great Views
Performances

**Culture**

**Ex·peri·ence**

You can purchase an annual pass (Jahreskarte) for 25 € which gives you access to all (Berlin) state museums.

**Bode Museum**

Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00
Thu 10:00-20:00

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.

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.

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.
PERGAMON MUSEUM
Mon-Sun 10:00-18:00
Thu 10:00-20:00

The Pergamon Museum lies at the heart of Museumsinsel, 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.

ALTES MUSEUM
Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00
Thu 10:00-20:00

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

NEUES MUSEUM
Mon-Sun 10:00-18:00
Thu 10:00-20:00

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 Neferetiti, is itself ostensibly historical, since bullet holes, shrapnel and damaged murals remain visible on museum walls.

ALTE NATIONALGALERIE
Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00
Thu 10:00-20:00

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 to bottom: Sarcophagus in the Altes Museum, the Pergamon Altar, Egyptian sculpture in the Neues Museum)
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.

The Collection Scharf-Gerstenberg 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 surrealistic collection of Berlin. 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. 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’s shop.

If you are seeking a contemporary art museum in Berlin, the Hamburger Bahnhof 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 through 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.

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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.

KW Institute for Contemporary Art is a complex in Mitte that hosts exhibitions 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.

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.

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). 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 exhibitions that you are really interested in.

Audio guides in English are available.
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.
MUSIC
SPECTACULAR NIGHTS IN THE CITY

CONCERTS
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 like the general atmosphere, which is often more old fashioned than in the Philharmonie. This is where Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony premiered.

DEUTSCHE OPER
Bismarckstraße 35
U2 Deutsche Oper

STAATSOPER
Bismarckstraße 110
U2 Ernst-Reuter-Platz

KOMISCHE OPER
Behrenstraße 55
U6 Französische Straße

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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.

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!

DEUTSCHE THEATER
Schumannstraße 13a
S+U Friedrichstraße

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.

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.

SCHAUBÜHNE
Kurfürstendamm 153
M1, M29 Lehninger 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.

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 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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

BERLINALE

Schlossplatz 5
M1 Hackescher Markt
€ 4

The box is located where the City Palace once stood. It gives a great view of the 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 360º view of the city, with a restaurant in the middle of the sphere that rotates every half hour.

VIKTORIA PARK

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
8:00–23:00

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.

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

ZIONS Kirche

Zionskirchplatz (Prenzlauer Berg)
M1 and M12 Zionskirchplatz
Sun 12:00–17:00 (tower climbing)
2 € (regular), 1.50 € (student)

Climb the 22-meter high tower of the neo-romantic Zionskirche for a three-directional view of Mitte and its surroundings.
“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 Bard College Berlin, 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.

When planning your evening, websites like exberliner.com (in English) and 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 Bard College Berlin dorms.

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.

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.

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

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

HELPFUL PHRASES

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

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

Wo kann ich Karten (für) ... kaufen?
Ich möchte eine Führung auf Englisch.
Wie viel kostet eine Fahrkarte nach... (ort)?

Where can I buy tickets for...?
I would like a tour in English.
How much does a ticket to... (place) cost?
FOOD

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).

BERLINER EXPERIENCE I
RECOMMENDATIONS BY DIRK DEICHFUSS

WURST

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 Bard College Berlin 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.

The restaurant serves a wide selection of vegetarian specialties and traditional meat dishes, so food preferences are not an issue. Every order at Babel is individually prepared with attention to detail, from fresh herbs such as mint and basil, to spicy sauces (our recommendation: exotic mango sauce refined with pomegranate).
**ST. GAUDY CAFÉ**
Gaudystr. 1
U2 Schönhauser Allee
Daily 8:00-20:00

This café is nicely located at the corner of Gaudystraße and Schönhauser Allee in Prenzlauer Berg. There are lots of events happening here, like language exchange evenings, German-English quizzes, music nights, poetry readings and other such things.

The place is cozy, the prices more than fair and the friendly staff is always up for a chat. You won’t feel any of the Berlin stress in this café, especially if you meet their fluffy pooch and have one of their great smoothies or coffees.

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**THE BARN**
Auguststraße 58
M1 Rosenthaler Platz
UB Weinmeisterstraße
Mon-Thu 8:00-17:00
Fri 8:00-18:00
Sat-Sun 10:00-18:00 (winter)
barn.bigcartel.com

A must visit place for coffee-admirers, with prices slightly above the average, and products aiming for the highest quality.

While its small wooden interior might not be the most convenient for the long rituals of coffee indulgence, the Barn definitely offers some of the best coffees in the city, from espresso drinks to its famed handbrewed filter coffees.

The menu also offers a variety of homemade cakes, scones and sandwiches (prepared on site). Food and beverages can also be ordered as takeaway.

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**STREET FOOD THURSDAY**
Eisenbahnstraße 42/43 in the Markthalle 9
U1 Görlitzer Park
Thu 17:00-22:00
€ 1 – 8
markthallen.de

Street Food Thursday is a relatively new phenomenon in Kreuzberg. The street food fair is located in an unrenovated market hall (#9) near Görlitzer Park.

Since April 2013, the food fair takes place each Thursday and it has, in its short existence, already turned into one of the most popular weekly food events in Berlin. Many exhibitors and local producers come here to showcase their creative street food inventions.

Markthalle 9 is still a local Berliner place with plenty of good food from various cuisines, from Taiwanese to Italian.

Our recommendation is to come here for the culinary event, and try out different and new food creations for decent prices (or get some inspiration for your own cooking). That said, expect a big crowd and not a great seat capacity.

Still, the market’s growing popularity definitely reflects its quality. You should give it a try at least once for a sense-pleasing Berliner market experience.

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**COCOLO RAMEN X-BERG**
Paul-Lincke-Ufer 39-40
U1, U8 Kottbusser Tor
Mon-Sat 12:00-23:00
Sun 18:00-23:00
€ 3 – 10
kuchi.de
(recommended by Sebastian Herzberg, BA’16)

As a part of the “Kuchi” restaurant chain in Berlin, Cocolo Ramen is definitely a refreshment in the sea of Asian restaurants in Berlin.

The Japanese noodle bar was opened last year, for the true fans of traditional Japanese food. You should pay a visit to Cocolo Ramen whenever in need of original & fresh homemade noodles.
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 Bard College Berlin 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)
BERLINER EXPERIENCE II
A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE: Recommendations by Inasa Bibic, BA’16

MEIN HAUS AM SEE
Brunnenstr. 197-198
M1, U8 Rosenthaler Platz
Always open
€ 3 – 20
http://www.mein-haus-am-see.blogspot.com/

“It’s not a bar, it’s not a club, it’s something sexier in between…” is how this place describes itself. During daytime, it is a lounge café for a friendly chit-chat, essay brainstorming or a weekend brunch. At night, it turns into a bar with loud – and often live – music.

Mein Haus Am See is one of the rare places in Berlin that offer free AND fast WiFi, which often attracts a lot of working (and laptop-focused) bees during day. The interior is quite laid back, with couches and cushioned stairs to sit on.

For live events at night (often with an entrance fee of around €5), you should regularly check their website to see what’s new.

For the smokers among us, smoking is only allowed in the (beautifully painted) smoking room. All in all: a very friendly, multi-purpose place.

Special recommendation: Cheesecake and Chai Latte

DU BONHEUR
Brunnenstr. 39
UB Bernauer Straße
Mon-Fri 08:00-19:00
Sat-Sun 09:00-19:00
€ 1.5 – 10
dubonheur.de

My absolute favorite dessert café/bakery in Berlin. If you wish to experience the timeless taste of a classic Parisian pâtisserie in Berlin, this is the place for you.

A lot of their creativity stems from the traditional French Pâtisserie Master Pierre Hermé. Original French macarons, pains aux chocolat, airy croissants, delicious tarts and creative quiche versions – you name it!

The bakery is almost always full, and you can even watch the French goodies being freshly baked.

CAFÉ CINEMA
Rosenthaler Str. 39
M1 Hackescher Markt
Mon-Sun 12:00-04:00
€ 2 – 5
dubonheur.de

Café Cinema is one of the oldest and most popular cafés at Hackescher Markt, with a peculiar artistic charm. The interior is decorated with movie posters and cinematic spotlights. Perfect place for a friendly gathering or hours of solitary reading in an inspiring, cozy atmosphere.

The background music is always nice and not too loud (unless you go to a small smokers’ section where there is sometimes live music later in the evening).

Decorated in the old GDR apartment style, with dim lights and candles, Luzia has a unique homey pleasant atmosphere that makes you want to sit there for hours.

If you do want to change the location, you can just stay in the same street – there are many more bars and coffee shops (as well as a small club, SO 36) nearby.

LUZIA
Oranienstr. 34
U1, U8 Kottbusser Tor
€ 2 – 8

The best bar in the Oranienstraße area and one of my personal all-time favorites.

The background music is always nice and not too loud (unless you go to a small smokers’ section where there is sometimes live music later in the evening).

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HONOLULU
Warschauerstr. 39
U1, S-Bahn Warschauer Str.
The Friedrichshain café that has it all

DADA FALAFEL
Linienstr. 132
M1 Oranienburger Tor
Best falafel in the city, prepare for long lines (it is worth it)

SING BLACKBIRD
Sanderstr. 11
U8 Schönleinstr.
Vintage shop + vegan brunch every weekend

SCHWARZES CAFÉ
Kantstr. 148
U1 Uhlbrandstr.
SS, S7, S75 Savignyplatz

Perfect bar for getting out of the Prenzlauer Berg/Kreuzberg comfort zone. Schwarzes Café has good food and coffee, a spacious interior and friendly staff, making it an excellent choice for when you want to try out something new in an area of the city you usually do not go to.

THE PLAYWRIGHT CAFÉ
Pannierstr. 29
UB Hermannplatz
theplaywright.de

Think Irish, Oscar Wilde and writing

DACHKAMMER
Simon-Dach- Straße 39
U5 Frankfurter Tor
U1 Warschauer Str.

One of my favorite bars, in one of my favorite neighborhoods. Dachkammer is one of the most popular and oldest bars in Friedrichshain, mostly unexplored by the international community of the city. They often organize readings and live music in the evening. It’s definitely a special place, with a predominantly local atmosphere (difficult to spot too, if you don’t know where to look).
DESSERT COMES FIRST

Kuchenrausch
Simon-Dach-Straße 1
Mon-Thur, 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, tarts 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
cerici.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
UI 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 €, so just give in to the temptation for more!

Kauf Dich Glücklich
Oderberger Straße 44
MI 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 crépes? Amazing breakfast food.

SUGAR HIGH

DESSERT COMES FIRST

“Talking of ‘sugar high’, subscribe to the actual sugarhigh.de for a bilingual daily newsletter featuring the latest in Berlin’s contemporary culture (“free and strictly editorial”!

FOOD DIRECTORY

Prenzlauer Berg

Maharadscha
Schönhauser Allee 142
Indian food,
2 for 1 Sundays

Café Krone
Oderberger Straße 38

Fleischmobel
Oderberger Straße 2

Wohnzimmer
Lettestraße 6

Café Morgenrot
Kastanienallee 85

Yumcha Heroes
Weinbergsweg 8
Homemade Dumplings
€ 6 - 12

Café Galão
Weinbergsweg 8
Egg tarts!

Café Anita Wronski
Knaackstr. 26
Restaurant + bar with local vibe and free Wi-Fi

Ritter Sport Schokowelt
Französische Straße 24
U6 Französische Straße
Mon-Sat 10:00-19:00
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Helpful Phrases

Ich möchte...
Ich nehme...
Könnten wir bitte noch einen/eine/ein... haben?
Könnten Sie das bitte zurück gehen lassen?
Die Rechnung, bitte.
Stimmt so.
I would like...
I’ll have...
Can we have another...
Please?
Can you take this back?
Check, please.
Keep the change.

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

Windburger
Windscheidstr. 26
(rumor has it) Best burger place in Charlottenburg
If you need a break from all those required readings, here is a list of bookshops from fellow Bard College Berlin bookworms.

Bargain hunting for books is a favourite pastime for students. You might even come across books previously owned by Bard College Berlin 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 Bard College Berlin 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.

(photograph 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
colours and sounds, that will make you return to Pankow a new person. 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!

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

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.
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.

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

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/FFK), 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 Schachtensee, 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 25 km away from campus is called Lipnitzsee, 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).

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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 5-10 mins 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

(Sanssouci, Charlottenburg)
BERLIN SUMMER EVENTS

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.

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

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.

BERLIN GRAPHIC DAYS
berlinpieces.com

The festival is aimed at people who are passionate about design, art, illustration and street art. Artistic graphics are considered in the classical sense: as an artistic expression in a graphical form.

OPEN AIR GALLERY
at Oberbaumbrücke
2 Sundays in June and July

‘Oberbaumbrücke’, the bridge which connects the Berliner boroughs of Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain, turns into a feast of art, music and expression every summer on two holiday Sundays. *

The aim of the Open Air Gallery is to promote the dialogue between artists and spectators. Both professional and emerging artists are given the chance to present their work in the categories of painting/graphics, sculpture or photography.

What makes the event even more special is that the visitors also have the opportunity to get involved.

‘A 120 meter long canvas invites everyone there to express and show their inspirational impulses.’ *

BERGMANSTRASSENFEST
3 days each summer (27-29 June in 2014)  bergmannstrassenfest-kreuzbergjazzt.de

‘Kreuzberg’s Bergmannstrasse, a thoroughfare in one of Berlin’s diverse and historic neighborhoods, is home to the annual Bergmannstrassenfest, a jazz and music festival which animates the area for three days each summer.

Kreuzberg jazzt! can pride itself with quite a long history. The festival has cherished the idea of peaceful coexistence between generations and cultures since its inauguration in 1994.

The partaking bands perform on three stages each year: Mehringdamm, Upper Nostitzstrasse and Zossener Strasse. The fourth stage is theatrical and features performances for both adults and children.

All of this, accompanied by excellent street food and an open market with various goods available for browsing in between the stages, makes the Bergmannstrassenfest an ideal weekend getaway for Berliners of all ages, tastes and backgrounds.’ *

*Visit blog.berlin.bard.edu for more
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 37) 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 area 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 “Wannsee conference” 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.
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 its history, especially among the 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 Bard College Berlin 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 Süd
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.

**HEERSTRASSE CEMETERY**
Trakehner Allee 1
U2 Olympia-Stadion
The Friedhof Heerstraße is an unusual burial place open to all religions. Created in the 1920s, the cemetery fascinates the visitors with its beautiful landscape and its rich garden design.

Many famous personalities were buried there, including Georg Kolbe (leading German sculptor in the 1900s), who designed his family’s burial place that is now considered one of the most important memorials in the cemetery.

If you feel inspired by his work, the Georg-Kolbe Museum is just a few steps away from the entrance at the end of Insterburgallee.

*Visit blog.berlin.bard.edu for more*

**DAS BUDDHISTISCHE HAUS**
Edelhofdamm 54
S1 Frohnau
buddhistisches-haus.de
‘Located in the Berlin suburb of Frohnau, Das Buddhistische Haus (The Buddhist House) is a Buddhist temple complex built in 1924 and therefore the oldest Buddhist temple in Europe. The temple is run by Theravada monks – members of the oldest surviving branch of Buddhism.

When planning a visit to Das Buddhistische Haus it might be useful to remember that Mondays are quiet days on which not many visitors or residing monks can be seen. Sundays on the other hand are lecture days on the ways of Buddhism. All visitors are free to meditate in the Meditation Hall next to the library of carefully selected works on Buddhism and spirituality in general.

Das Buddhistische Haus can be an interesting place of exploration for all those with a sense of natural curiosity and an open mind. It is an isolated Buddhist island filled with peacefulness and harmony amidst the lively, exciting and fast-moving city of Berlin.’

**COMENIUS GARTEN**
Richardstr. 35
U7 Karl-Marx-Straße
A little themed garden in the Böhmisches Dorf (Bohemian Village) in Neukölln. The three-dimensional creations in the garden are either inspired by quotes from Comenius’ works, or are poetic symbols drawn from nature narrating the challenges the man faces at different stages of life.

Guided tours on the botanical, philosophical and theological aspects of the design of the Comenius Garden are offered once a month (except during the winter season).
STRALAU PENINSULA
Alt-Stralau, Tunnelstr.
S-Bahn Treptower Park

The Stralau Peninsula walk is one of the rare and beautiful walks along the river Spree. The view of the offshore love island and the banks of Plänterwald and Kratzbruch is simply breathtaking.

Opposite Treptower Park the path leads you to the cemetery of the Stralau village church. The cemetery presents the perfect opportunity to take a break from walking and sit on one of the benches facing the Spree.

After its destruction in the Second World War, the Stralau village church was renovated and restored to its original Gothic style. Today, it is unique and renowned in the whole of Berlin as the only church with late Gothic stained-glass windows from the Middle Ages.

LÖWENBRÜCKE IN TIERGARTEN
Tiergarten

Lion’s Bridge is surely the most spectacular and unmissable bridge in Tiergarten. It is located in the southwestern corner of the park, between Straße des 17. Juni, Hofjägeralle and Landwehrkanal.

Two pairs of lions made of cast iron are sitting on tall stone pedestals and holding steel bands that support the little wooden bridge in their mouths.

The gentle swinging and the delicacy of the bridge guarded by iron lions inspire carefree sitting and contemplation by the still water – almost like in a fairytale.

CAFÉ BUCHWALD
Bartningallee 29
S-Bahn Bellevue
Mon-Sat 09:00-18:00
Sun 10:00-18:00
konditorei-buchwald.de

Café Buchwald is one of the ‘alterberlinisch’ traditional cake-shops that can be found on the northern edge of Tiergarten. Founded in 1852, it used to supply the Court, and still maintains a traditional café culture.

The interior is in the traditional Berlin style, reminding of a cozy and classy living room. House specialties are the homemade Baumkuchen, which you may enjoy in the huge renovated garden outside.

If you’re looking for something typical of Berlin, this is a place you should not miss.

NOT TO MISS IN AUTUMN

RAUM DER STILLE
Pariser Platz
raum-der-stille-im-brandenburger-tor.de

Pariser Platz is one of the crowdest squares in Berlin. Tourists, city workers and cars on the other side of Brandenburger Tor leave no space for peace of mind around the city’s greatest landmark. That is where the Room of Silence steps in, as a space of most protected quietude in the heart of the city.

The room is located on the north side of Brandenburg Gate and, for more than 15 years, it has been offering silence and relaxation to Berliners and to the city’s visitors.

The quiet room in the midst of the city chaos has a ‘higher purpose’ too: tolerance between all nationalities and beliefs.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
each year in October
festival-of-lights.de

The Festival of Lights transforms Berlin’s most famous sights and landmarks into a canvas for dazzling lights and video projections each year.

‘...the rich history of Berlin is built into its greatest monuments - the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Cathedral, Tempelhof Airport, the Berlin Victory Column - and all of it is illuminated throughout the nights of the Festival.

The entire city, a city that already has a quality of magic to it, is staged as a work of art. With the participation of national and international artists, as well as national and international viewers, the Festival moves beyond just Berlin and becomes the production of something magnificent that is appreciated world-wide; in 2013 alone there were about 2,000,000 visitors to the Festival.’*

*Visit blog.berlin.bard.edu for more
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.
M1 Mitte am Kupfergraben
THE BARD COLLEGE BERLIN STUDENT’S BEST FRIEND

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

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.

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.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT BERLIN

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blog.berlin.bard.edu