

# Global Roaming: Neighbourhood favourites

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A booming boho scene, Prussian prowess and communist influences have all collided to create the fusion of *avant garde* architecture, daring design and contemporary dining that is Berlin 2010. Destroyed, divided then finally reunited in 1990, this is a city that has been home to more Kaisers, artists and dictators than it cares to count. All the more reason to 'Check' point Charlie off your list and forget the kitsch Soviet-era souvenirs. Venture out and see where the real Berlin is— its neighbourhoods.



# Stay

Berlin has more boutique accommodation options than it has unemployed artists. The design conscious and literati will love the arty **Hotel Bleibtreu** and its author-in-residence (*Bleibtreustr. 31, Berlin 10707*). When design aficionados can't sleep unless it's in a room furnished with Bauhaus pieces, or when gastronomes are hungry for a Michelin-starred meal, then the luxurious **Brandenburger Hof Hotel** is where you will experience German culture and sophistication at its finest (*Eislebener Str. 14, Berlin-Charlottenburg 10789*). The **Michelberger Hotel** (*Warschauer Stra. 39/40, Berlin- Friedrichshain 10243*) pays homage to Berlin's reputation as a creative yet affordable city. A low-budget design hotel in the city's east, the courtyard concerts, deluxe film projectors in The Chalet room and restaurant, ensure that this new kid-on-the-boutique-block is a favourite among rockstars and entrepreneurs, alike.

# See & Do

Bike ride. Seriously. Channel your inner Marlene Dietrich as you navigate the well-paved (and flat) bike paths of Kreuzberg and discover the city's hidden secrets and sins along the way. Rent a bike ([www.callabike.de](http://www.callabike.de)) and start at Kotbusser Tor as you make your way to the Turkish markets (*Maybachufer, Neukölln; Tue and Fri 11am-6.30pm; U-Bahn station Schnleinstrae*). Wander through the abundant produce and swathes of oriental fabrics, then hang out with the local musicians at

Admiralsbrücke (*between Planufer and Fraenkelufer*). Then, take a refreshing summer dip (or sauna during winter months) in converted shipping container, the Badeschiff (*Eichenstrae 4 Berlin 12435; entry 4*).

Twice a year, Berlin's world-class museums open their doors with special performances and events during the Long Night of the Museums. The next one is 28 August (*tickets 15 including shuttle bus transfers to all museums*).

## Eat & Drink

Be a true Berliner as you dig your teeth into the tastiest of curry wurst (a sausage doused in curry powder and ketchup) at legendary Konnopkes Imbi (*due to renovations, currently located at corner Schnhauser Allee and Pappelallee Prenzlauerberg*). Sip on a summer cocktail at rooftop bar Ressort (*Invalidenstr. 50- 51, Berlin 10557*). Maxwell restaurant (*Bergstr. 22 Berlin 10115, +49 30 280 71 21*) serves modern European cuisine using locally sourced produce. For great coffee and freshly baked organic tarts, Oliv cafe delivers the goods (*Mnzstr. 8, corner Almstadtstr. Berlin 10178*).

## Shopping

Edgy designers tend to be found in the design/fashion quarter bounded by Alte Schnhauser, Neue Schnhauser, Rosenthaler and Mnz streets in Mitte. Have a peek

at kaviar gauche (*Linienstr. 44, Berlin 10119, +49 30 288 735 62*) and boutique brand store 14 oz. (*Neue Schnhauser Str. 13, Berlin 10178, +49 30 280 40 514*). While fashion victims will find all the big labels along the Kfurstendamm and at department store KadeWe in the city's west (*Taentzienstr. 21-24 Berlin 10789, +49 30 2121 0*)—definitely worth checking out.

## Getting there

Berlin is easily accessible by all major as well as discounted airlines. There are daily train and bus connections from Tegel and Shnefeld airports to Alexanderplatz and Hauptbahnhof. The excellent German train system makes inter-European travel from Berlin to cities such as Paris and Prague a breeze ([www.db.de](http://www.db.de)).