



berlin trails - guided bus tours off the beaten path

Free City Guide Berlin

June 2009



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“The greatest cultural extravaganza that one could imagine.”

(David Bowie, singer, 1970s Berlin)

This pocket size guide book of Berlin is supposed to help you get an overview and an insight on the broad diversity of this city. We hope that by giving you a few advices on where to go and what to do we can help you to make your stay here an unforgettable and enjoyable one.

Though this handbook can only give you a rough overview on Berlin. It is by no means complete considering all the things there are to do and the small size of this guide book.

If you wish to send us comments, advices, information or if you have any questions regarding this berlin trails guide book, please feel free to email us: handbuch@berlin-trails.com.

We hope you enjoy your stay in Berlin!

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General Information

Introduction

„Berlin is poor but sexy“ (Klaus Wowereit)

Despite the never ending constructions sites and the enormous debts that Berlin has to deal with, it is still one of – if not – the most attractive, exciting and vibrating cities of Germany. Since the fall of the Berlin wall on the 9th of November 1989 the city is constantly undergoing changes and developments. For the last years Berlin is experiencing a boom regarding the international awareness of the city and the increasing attractiveness it has among national and international visitors. Every year there is a new record regarding the number of visitors and overnight stays in Berlin.

Berlin is a magnet to and a meeting point for all kinds of groups. Business people, backpackers, party goers, congress visitors, city tourists, artists, architects, athletes, film makers – for all of them Berlin offers attractive opportunities to pursue their interests and to realize their ideas and dreams.

That makes it impossible to describe Berlin in just one word or phrase. Due to its constant changes and its enormous diversity it symbolises the new and reunited Germany.

Berlin is a place of contrasts, which meet here and exist successfully along each other in a relative harmony. Here you will find different and opposing cultures, people, styles of art and architecture, music tastes, religions, political opinions and much more – living along side by side.

History

The founding of Berlin goes back to more than 750 years ago. Cologne (Cölln) – part of the old dual city Berlin-Cölln was first mentioned in 1237. Berlin itself was mentioned for the first time in 1244. It was located on the Northern bank of the river Spree. The oldest building of Berlin is the Nikolai church, which was already built between 1220 and 1230. The church was destroyed during the Second World War and only reconstructed in 1987 – for the 750th anniversary of Berlin. Despite its medieval and picturesque looks also the surrounding district of the church („Nikolai district“) was only finished in the 1980s under the Socialist regime. Because of its looks it was also called the „Socialist Disneyland“.



Berlin – origin of the name

Even though it suggests itself, the name „Ber“lin has nothing to do with the Bear that covers the rest of the city. It is probable that the name originates from the Slavic language and means swamp land (berl = swamp).

Useful information

Emergency phone numbers

Police: 110

Emergency and Fire brigade: 112

Central lost and found office: (030) 7560 3101, - 3102,- 3103

Block credit cards

American Express 069 - 97 97 10 00

Visa & Mastercard 069 - 79 33 19 10

Diners Club 069 - 66 16 61 23

Barclaycard 089 - 89 09 98 77

General facts

Berlin has about 3.4mio inhabitants and a size of about 892km². It is therefore the biggest city of Germany in regard to population and size. It is the second biggest city of the EU (regarding the size of the population). Since 1998 Berlin consists of 12 districts/ boroughs. Back then the number was reduced from formerly 23 to 12. Since the reunification on October 3rd 1990, Berlin is the German capital and the seat of the German government.

Good to know

Just a few facts which are not commonly known but still interesting:

- * Berlin has about the same size as New York's and is about 8 times bigger than Paris.
- * 1921 Berlin used to be the biggest city in the world
- * the city centre lies at an altitude of 32m above sea level and the level of ground water only lies 2m deep
- * with about 400.000 trees Berlin is the greenest European capital
- * Berlin has 53 theaters, 3 operas, 4 universities, more than 100 movie theatres and 2 of the biggest European zoos
- * the public Berlin transportation net has a total length of 1.924,5km
- * there are more than 420 songs about Berlin



Vacation / Staying in Berlin

Getting there, around, and away

By plane

Berlin has two airports: Berlin Tegel and Schönefeld. Both of the two airports are well connected and used by all major airlines.

Information on departures and arrivals of all airports can be found at: www.berlin-airport.de

By car

Berlin lies in the centre of Eastern Germany and is well connected by „Autobahnen“/Highways to other big cities of Germany. Distances are e.g. to Munich: about 5-6h, Hamburg: 3h, Leipzig 2h, Frankfurt: 7hrs.

Apart from the - sometimes annoying - frequency of city festivals, street blocks and never ending construction sites the traffic, sign posting and orientation in the city is well structured.Y

Still you should try to plan your route ahead of your stay – either by asking your hotel for exact directions and/or by using a route planner such as www.viamichelin.de.

Not everyone's choice but a very cheap, communicative, and easy way of travelling Germany is to use the services of other private drivers. There is a German internet service where you can find so called „co-driving opportunities“.

It is helpful to speak a bit of German if you wish to use the service.

Some examples on the prices: Munich – Berlin: about 25€ p.p., Leipzig – Berlin: 10€, Berlin – Hamburg: 13-15€ p.p.

More information at: www.mitfahrgelegenheit.de

By train

Berlin is well connected to all major and minor cities in Germany and to most capitals in Continental Europe. Information on all connections and the respective prices can be looked up at the site of the German railway company (Deutsche Bahn): www.db.de

Besides the DB there are also few private railway companies which offer selected routes for lower prices. For example Interconnex offers cheap tickets starting at a price of 12€ p.p. to and from Berlin, from Leipzig, and Warnemünde. More Information at:

www.interconnex.info



Berlin has a new central train station which opened in May 2006 and which is located at the center of Berlin. There are 2 more „central“ stations: Zoologischer Garten (City West) and Ostbahnhof (former central station of East Berlin). All train stations have good connections to the public transportation net of Berlin. Information regarding the central station can be found at: www.hbf-berlin.de

Public Transport / Ticket system

Using the public transportation of Berlin is an easy and effortable way to get around. All connections can be checked on the website of the BVG (Berlin public transportation company): www.bvg.de

There are busses, trams, city trains („S-Bahn“) and the underground train („U-Bahn“).

If you are going to use public transportation while you are in Berlin, you should consider buying a combined ticket.

Choices are:

Group ticket – valid for 1 day (till 3am next day) for up to 5 people, price: 15,40€ (city of Berlin - AB region) or 15,60€ if you want Potsdam included (ABC region)

Welcome Card – valid for 48hrs, including a coupon book with vouchers for different museums, galleries, restaurants, etc.

price: 16€ p.p

There are also day tickets (price 6,10€ p.p.) which allow you to use all means of transportations for 24 hours (max till 3am the next day).

If you only need a one way ticket then you have the choice between a short trip (max. 3 stops by train) for 1,20€ or a 2hrs – ticket (one direction only) for 2,10€.

Taxis

The prices for taxis vary according to the time (night or day) and the distance. 10km cost about 18€, 20km cost about 30€.

Distances from the airports:

Airport Schönefeld - City West (Kurfürstendamm): about 25km

Airport Tegel – City Center (Mitte): about 15km

Accommodation

Currently there are almost 600 different accommodation facilities in Berlin (February 2009) of which about 400 are hotels. Besides the hotels of all price categories, there are also various guest houses, B&B's, hostels, private rooms and camping areas. That means for you, as a visitor that you have plenty of choices regarding type, standard, price category, and location of your accommodation. It is



impossible for us, just to select a few because the choice depends on where you want to be, what standard you are looking for and what you would like to do in Berlin. Here are a few sites that can be of help when looking for the right accommodation.

Hotels, B&B's, guesthouses: www.berlin.de

Hostels: www.gomio.de, www.backpackernetwork.de

Sightseeing in Berlin

To list all museums and sights of Berlin in this pocket size guide book is just impossible. Therefore we will try and concentrate on the best known and „must see“ highlights of the city. We do not claim to present a complete list of highlights in Berlin. Also other, not mentioned museums and sights are – if you have the time – interesting and worth a visit.

Museums

Museum Island

The Museum Island is one of the most important museum complexes in the world and it is also one of the main highlights of Berlin. Since 1999 the island is the only architectural and cultural ensembles worldwide that belongs to the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage. The island consists of 5 museums, of which 4 are currently open to the public. The oldest of the five (Old Museum) was already built in 1830. The newest and, at the same time, best known museum is the Pergamon museum, which was finished a 100 years later in 1930. Each museum houses different exhibitions. More information and details can be found at

www.museumsinsel-berlin.de

The five museums are: Old Museum, Old National Gallery, Pergamon Museum, Bode Museum, New Museum (Reopening planned for 2009)

Opening hours

Mo - Sun 10am-6pm, Thu 10am –10pm

Entrance fee: 8,- Euro, reduced: 4,- Euro (for the entire Museum Island)

How to get there:

S-Bahn (city train): S - Hackescher Markt: S3, S5, S7, S75, S9

Bus stop: Lustgarten Bus number: 100, 200, N2

Tram - stop: Spandauer Str./ Marienkirche M4, M5, M6

S - Hackescher Markt: M1, M2, M4, M5, M6



German History Museum

The former Royal Armory in which the German History Museum is now located, was already built in the beginning of the 18th century (official year of completion was 1706). During the first years it was used as the Royal Armory and later as a warehouse for plunder and war trophies of the Prussian kings. Inside the courtyard you can find the 22 „Heads of Dying Warriors“ made by Andreas Schlüter (1664-1714). They belong to the few sculptures in the building that stayed almost unharmed over the last 300 years.

Address:

Unter den Linden 2, 10117 Berlin

phone: +49 - (0)30 - 20304 - 444

Opening hours:

daily 10am – 6pm

Closed on 24th of December 2007

Entrance fee: 4,-€p.p, under 18 years: free entrance

How to get there:

S-Bahn (city train): Hackescher Markt, Friedrichstr.

U-Bahn (underground): Französische Straße, Hausvogteiplatz and Friedrichstraße

Bus: 100, 200 and TXL, stops: either Staatsoper or Lustgarten

More information at: www.dhm.de

Jewish Museum

The permanent exhibition shows two thousand years of German-Jewish history and tells about the relation between Jewish and Non-Jewish people in Germany. Besides the permanent and the changing special exhibitions of the museum, it is also the distinct architecture of the building - by Daniel Libeskind - that makes a visit to this museum such an outstanding experience. The building connects the baroque old building of a former court with the zick-zack formed new building.

Address: Lindenstraße 9-14, 10969 Berlin

Info: (030) 259 93 300

Opening hours:

Tue -Sunday: 10am-8pm, Mon till 10pm

Entrance fee

Adults: 5 Euro, reduced: 2,50 Euro

More information at: www.juedisches-museum-berlin.de



Wall Museum at Checkpoint Charlie

The Wall museum at Checkpoint Charlie is very popular among tourists from all over the world. It shows different exhibitions on the Berlin Wall and the time of a separated Germany.

Opening hours: daily: 9am till 10pm

Address: Friedrichstr. 43-45, 10969 Berlin

Phone: (030) 25 37 25-0

Entrance fee:

Adults: 9,50€, reduced: 5,50€

Groups of minimum 10 people: 5,50€ p.p.

How to get there:

U- Bahn (underground): U6 Kochstraße, U2 Stadtmitte,

Bus number: M29

More information on lectures and exhibitions at:

www.mauermuseum.de

GDR Museum

The GDR Museum Berlin shows the life, everyday routine, and products of East Germany. It allows you a glimpse into the allday life before the wall came down in 1989. Well done and interesting.

Address: Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 1, directly at the river Spree, 10178 Berlin

Entrance fee: Adults: 5€, reduced: 3€

Groups/ per Person: 3 €

opening hours:

Mo - Sun 10am till 8pm, Sat 10am till 10pm

An overview on all Berlin museums can be found at:

<http://www.smb.spk-berlin.de>

Tip: Most museums offer free entrance on Thursdays during the last 4 hours (mostly between 6pm and 10pm)!

Places of interest:

Many of the most important sights can be found at Berlin's centre, in the former Eastern part of Berlin around „Unter den Linden“. The street was originally erected in the 16th century as a connection between the Royal City Castle and the Tiergarten (former hunting grounds of the kings). Only in the 18th century it was turned into a representative and important boulevard housing a large number of impressive buildings and monuments.



When you walk down the street, starting from Alexanderplatz on one end to the Brandenburger Gate at the other end of the boulevard you will find houses and places showing more than 700 years of Berlin history. Here is a list of sights in the order of passing:

Alexanderplatz – former city center of East Berlin, currently being restructured and modernised (big construction site)

TV Tower (Fernsehturm) – one of the best known symbols of Berlin, 368m high, built in the 1970's as the second highest building in Europe (highest was the TV tower in Moscow),

At an altitude of 209m you will find a viewing platform and a restaurant. Price to go up: adult: 8,50€

Berlin Cathedrale – the Protestant church of the House of Hohenzoller (Prussian aristocracy), destroyed in World War II, restoration was finished in 2002. In the basement there are still several tombstones and graves of Hohenzoller kings and queens.

Castle Square (Schloßplatz) – former location of the Royal City Castle, today it is a huge construction site because of the removal of the „Palace of the Republic“. The future plan is to rebuild the City Castle (2013) where different exhibitions of art, science and history will be housed.

Seat of the GDR Chief of Command – former seat of the GDR Chief of Command, the old front is an original part of the Royal City Castle. From the Golden balcony, Karl Liebknecht called out the first German Republic (Weimaer Republic) on the 9th of November in 1918.

Today it houses an Elite International Business University (fee per year/per student: about 50,000€).

Prince and Princesses Palais (today Opernpalais) – built under Frederic II. („the Great“, 1740-1786), as the house for the Royal descendants.

Zeughaus /Royal armory - see German History Museum

New Guardhouse – 1818 built by the architect Schinkel as the Royal Guard House, since 1993 it is the „Memorial for Victims of War and Tyranny“. Holds a statue of Käthe Kollwitz.

Bebel Square – Place of the book burning which took place in May 1933, when German students burned books of „Non-German, Non-Faschist“ authors. Today there is a memorial - an empty bookshelf for about 20,000 books. Quote of Heinrich Heine on top.

Beautiful square surrounded by the **State Opera**, formerly the Royal Opera, the former **Royal Library** (today belongs to the Humbold University) and the **St. Hedwigs-Cathedrale** – the biggest Catholic church of Berlin.



These four buildings (Opera, Princes Palais, Cathedrale and former Royal Library) form the „**Forum Fredericianum**“ which was planned and realised by Frederic the Great in the 18th century.

Humboldt University – the oldest of the four Universities in Berlin. Today there are about 40,000 students studying here. Opened in 1809. There were already 29 Nobel Prize winners coming from/going to this University.

Statue of Frederic II. (the Great) – built by Daniel Rauch, erected in 1840, 100yrs. after Frederic’s accession to the Prussian throne.

Russian Embassy – exists in this form since 1952, but already in Russian ownership from 1837 on. Build on original Russian soil because there is an Orthodox Russian church inside.

Brandenburger Gate – built between 1788 till 1791 as one of 14 gates of the City wall (used for taxation on all trade going in and out of the city). Later the gate became a symbol for various important events e.g. Hitler’s accession of power (celebrated with a torch parade through the gate in January 1933), than symbol for the separated city and later for the reunification of Germany in 1989

Pariser Square – was almost completely destroyed in WW II. Stayed unbuilt upon till 1989 because of the Berlin Wall. Today you can find there among others: the famous Hotel Adlon, the new US Embassy, Academy of Arts, the French Embassy

Reichstag – Seat of the German Parliament. Highlight is a visit to the Glass dome on top which was designed by Sir Norman Foster.

Opening hours: 8am-10pm, free entrance. There is always a queue so you should try and get there either really early or as late as possible.

Government district and the riverside of the Spree: The new Government district was finished in 1999, when (many of) the German politicians moved from Bonn to the new German capital Berlin. Impressive buildings are: the Chancellery (seat of the German Chancellor), the Paul Löbe House (holds the offices for the politicians), and the Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-House.

Besides the highlights along Unter den Linden there are also various other areas and places worth a visit. Below you will find a selection of the best known and most important sights:

Column of Victory - with the Golden goddess Victoria on top. It was erected in the 1860s after the „Unification Wars“ against Denmark, France, Austria, etc. The original location of the statue was in front of the Reichstag building. Hitler gave order to move it to its current



position in 1938. She was supposed to mark the center of his planned East/West and North/South axis.

Castle Bellevue – since 2005 seat of the German President (currently Mr. Horst Köhler). It was already built in 1786 for Ferdinand – the brother of Frederick the Great.

Potsdamer Square – almost completely destroyed in WWII, afterwards an empty area where the Berlin Wall crossed right through. Today it is the third and the newest center of Berlin built in the 1990s. Consists of three parts/areas: the Stone city (Daimler Chrysler), Glass city (Sony) and the White city/part (Beisheim center). It is the place of the Berlinale film festival, famous for entertainment, culture and shopping possibilities. Location of the famous Pink Floyd concert „The Wall“ in 1990.

Gendarmen square – one of the most beautiful places in Northern Europe, was built around 1688, and was firstly used by French immigrants who were seeking religious freedom in Prussia. The three main buildings on the square are: Concert Hall in the center (in front of it stands a statue of Schiller), right and left of the Concert hall are the French and the German Cathedrale (both built in 1701), the domes on top of the churches were put up in the end of the 18th century by Frederic the II.

Niederkirchner Street/ Topography of Terror – Remains of the Berlin Wall, behind it you find a provisional open air exhibition. The headquarter of the „Gestapo“ (Secret Police of the Nazis) used to stand here during the 1930's and 40's. A new exhibition is planned and will be erected here in 2009.

Holocaust Memorial – A memorial for all murdered Jews in Europe, opened in 2005, consists of a subterranean „Place of Information“ and a field of concrete blocks (number of blocks: 2711), designed by Peter Eisenmann. During the construction there were many discussions going on because of the closeness to the former „Reich's Chancellery“, Hitler's Bunker (further down the road) and the Brandenburger Gate. It is an important place of interest for guests from all over the world.

Checkpoint Charlie – the third (A= Alpha, B= Bravo, C= Charlie) border crossing between the American and the Russian Sector of Germany, international point of conflict in the Cold War, consists of the original border post, an open air documentation and the Wall museum.

Careful when taking a picture with the soldiers there – they charge you 1€ per photo.

East Side Gallery – the longest remaining piece of the Berlin Wall (1.3km), under protection (so don't try to take your own piece of the



Wall home from there), has pictures of more than 100 artists from 21 countries and is therefore the longest open air gallery in the world.

Kurfürstendamm (Ku'damm) – this street is a synonym for the city center of West Berlin, famous for its extensive shopping and cultural possibilities

(Emperor Wilhelm) Memorial Church – opened in 1895, symbol of the City West, destroyed in 1943, after the war it was stabilized and kept as a memorial to remind of victims of war and terror. In the 60's two new, modern churches were built to its sides.

KaDeWe – „Shopping Center of the West“, opened in 1907. Today it is the biggest shopping center of Continental Europe with an impressive selection of food in the 6th floor (e.g. over 1400 kinds of cheese, over 400 types of bread etc).

Food & Drinks

In Berlin you will find a broad variety of food – from the Doner Kebab and/or the famous Berlin „Currywurst“ at a snack bar around the corner to the nice fancy restaurants close to the Gendarmensquare. Also the prices vary accordingly. Compared to other German cities prices for food and drinks in the „average“ restaurants are moderate. In every Berlin district you will find German and international restaurants, cafes and pubs that offer food from A like Argentinian beef to Z like Zambesian rice. That makes it difficult to choose just a few locations. Every local is determined that his/her favorite restaurant around the corner has the best food, beer, wine, schnaps etc.

Therefore we recommend asking the people at your hotel for the local favorites or to go and try out what you like most.

However since this is a guide book we will give you a small choice of restaurants – split in different price categories and nationalities. All of them are centrally located and relatively well know. For more insider tips in your area you will have to ask the locals and or the hotel staff.

International kitchen

Probably the biggest variety of international food can be found at the 6th floor of the KaDeWe (Shopping Mall of the West). There you can find and try everything you can imagine. However the prices are at the top end and it is mostly crowded with tourists from all over the world.

Location: U-Bahnhof Wittenbergplatz, Tauentzienstraße 21-24



Well Known Areas/Nightlife districts:

Oranienburger Strasse and Hackescher Markt: Here you will find plenty of big and small restaurants – German food as well as international like Japanese, Italian, Thai, Turkish, Russian, Indian etc and after dinner you have the choice between various pubs, clubs and cocktail bars to spend the rest of night here.

Carefull when talking to the young women around – this is also the best know red light district of Berlin

Location: Train station (city train/S-Bahn) Oranienburger Straße or Hackescher Markt

Prenzlauer Berg around Helmholtzplatz (square) and/or

Kollwitzplatz: Here it caters for all tastes. From cheap to low-cost and expensive to noble, you can find everything. Probably the most popular restaurant at Kollwitzplatz is the „Gugelhof“ in that Gerhard Schröder and Bill Clinton already had dinner.

Journey: Subway station Eberswalder Straße, therefrom 5min by foot.

Kurfürstendamm and surrounding: There are apart from countless stores even a lot of restaurants alongside the about 3km long Prachtstraße. To recommend is among other things the Italian restaurant Francucci's, that offers homemade and fresh pasta and pizza reasonably priced. Kurfürstendamm 90

Journey to Kurfürstendamm: Subway station Zoologischer Garten or subway station Kurfürstendamm

Event restaurants:

For all those, who don't want „just“ to go out for meal.

Nocti Vagus – a dark-restaurant in Berlin. Delicious food and events in complete darkness. Menu starting from 29€ p.p.,

Saarbrücker Str. 36-38, 10405 Berlin, Tel: 030/ 74 74 91 23

kontakt@noctivagus.de

Chamäleon Theater – offers packages composed of an exclusive menu and a following varietéshow, prices starting from 52€,

Rosenthaler Straße 40/41, 10178 Berlin-Mitte,

Tel. 030 / 4000 590

Umspannwerk Ost – Criminalstage/-theatre and restaurant combined in one house. Thrilling entertainment.

Palisadenstr. 48, 10243 Berlin, Tel: 030/ 42 80 94 97



Coffee and cakes

Here, too, we mention quite a few of the most popular cafés. Apart from these there is a big selection of delicious, little bakeries and cafés that can't be mentioned because it is too short of space.

Cafe Ephraim - restaurant & coffeehouse in founding period style with selected German cuisine and in-house confectionery in the Berliner Nikolaiviertel. www.ephraims.de

Cafe Kranzler – is already existing since 1835, tradition-rich house with daily fresh tarts and cakes from own confectionery. www.cafekranzler.de

Cafe Einstein Unter den Linden- was opened in 1996 and is today classed among the most popular coffeehouses of Germany.

A „walk-in masterpiece“ (Der Spiegel) that is now meeting point of economy, politics, media and culture. www.einsteinudl.com

Typically Berlin restaurants

Zur letzten Instanz – the oldest Berlin pub, existing since 1621, average price range, in the near of Nikolaiviertel
Waisenstr. 14-16, 10179 Berlin

Tel: 030 /242 55 28

Konopke Imbiss – existing since 1932 and thereby the oldest curried sausage kiosk of Berlin, well-attended, very popular especially with tourists, sausage prices starting from 2€, Schönhauser Allee, under the subway arch at station Eberswalder Straße

Apart from these both popular possibilities to try the Berlin cuisine, there are typical pubs at almost every street corner that offers the classics of the Berlin cuisine for cheap prices.

Language – „Berlinerisch“

We also have some linguistic assistances to find one's way in the jungle of Berlin's nicknames, short forms and descriptions.

„... is ja nich ganz unnütz, wenn man versteht, wat die Leute so reden.“ („...it isn't really useless to understand what people are talking about.“)

Nicknames

Eierwärmer (egg cosy) – the Reichstag building with the new glass dome.

Gold Else – name for the statue atop of the Berlin's victory column



„Hohenschöngrünkohl“ or „Hohenschönweitdraußen“ – name for Hohenschönhausen, a district of Berlin. It was popular for vegetable cultivation in former days.

(VEB) Horch und Guck (“hear and look”)– underhand description for the GDR State Security (Stasi) in general and for the building of the Ministry of the State Security service in the Normannenstraße.

Hungerharke „stick“ (thin person) - nickname of the Berlin Airlift memorial in Tempelhof.

„Langer Lulatsch“ (beanpole) – nickname of the Radio Tower Berlin at the fairground, who reminds of a long and lanky guy.

“Lippenstift and Puderdose” (lipstick and powder compact) – the two buildings of the new Memorial Church at the Kurfürstendamm

“Nuttenbrosche” (brooch of a whore) – the fountain at the Alexanderplatz

„Retourkutsche“ (“Returned Carriage” – in former days a common name for the Quadriga atop of the Brandenburger Tor (was taken to Paris by order of Napoleon and came only back in 1814 = retour)

“Schwangere Auster” (pregnant oyster)– nickname of the congress hall / house of the cultures of the

“Saint-Walter-Cathedrale” – former name of the Television Tower given by the GDR population, because its bowl reflects the sunlight in form of a widely visible crucifix – much to the disgust of the SED-regime and his former Chief in Command Walter Ulbricht. (also known as „The revenge of the Pope“).

“Suppenschüssel” (soup toureen) - the granite basin in the “Lust garden”

“Waschmaschine” (washing machine) – the chancellery building

„Wasserklops“ (Water ball) – common name of the Weltkugelbrunnen at the Breitscheidplatz

Places and buildings

Alex - Alexanderplatz in Mitte

Görlli - Görlitzer Park in Kreuzberg.

JWD - Ganz weit draußen = Janz weit draußen = far far away

Ku'damm - Kurfürstendamm

Popl - Potsdamer Platz

Prenzlberg - Kurzform des Stadtteils Prenzlauer Berg

Expressions

Dit is doch Jacke wie Hose = das ist vollkommen egal = that doesn't matter



Ick jeb dir eens uff'n Deez, detste durch de Rippen kiekst wie'n Affe durch't Jitter = Ich gebe Dir gleich eins auf den Deez (= Kopf), dass Du durch die Rippen kiekst (= schaust) wie der Affe durch das Gitter. sich de Beene in'n Bauch stehn = sich die Beine in den Bauch stehen (you have to wait a long time)

Der jeht ran wie Hektor anne Buletten = Der geht ran wie Hektor an die Bouletten (be motivated)

Der wird aus de Latschen kippen = Er wird sprachlos sein (he's gonna be speechless)

Du riskierst ne janz schön große Lippe = Du traust Dich was (you have the courage to do sth)

Ey Meesta, jeht'it no'? = in etwa - Sind Sie verrückt? (Are you crazy?)

Da kiekste, wa? = Da schaust Du aber, stimmt's? (Blimey!)

Ick find' dir richtich schniecke = Ich finde dich gut/ hübsch (I like you)
wat uff'm Kast'n ha'm = etwas auf dem Kasten haben (to be good at a lot of things)

Nu machma Fuffzn Puppe! = mach mal halblang! (Come off it!)

Have fun in Berlin!

