

How Berlin will *feel different* from Tel Aviv – through 7- to 10-year-old eyes

(45 quick-fire contrasts to spark the girls' curiosity)

- **Cooler summer air** – Berlin afternoons hover ~24-26 °C, comfy T-shirt weather, while Tel Aviv cranks up to ~30-32 °C and stays muggy until bedtime.
weatherspark.com
- **Rain actually happens!** – August in Tel Aviv is bone-dry; Berlin may hand you a sprinkle or two and fluffy thunder-cloud shows. climate.topweather-and-climate.com
- **Longer daylight** – Berlin sunsets after 20:30 let playground time stretch; Tel Aviv sky darkens about an hour earlier.
- **Different beaches** – Tel Aviv kids build sand-castles beside salty waves; Berlin kids paddle in lakes (Wannsee) or floating pools because there's no sea.
- **Traffic-light buddies** – Berlin crossings flash the hat-wearing green *Ampelmännchen*; Tel Aviv shows a plain stick-man.
- **Playground overload** – Berlin boasts ~1 900 public play areas, many themed (dragons, pirate ships); Tel Aviv has far fewer but wins on beach jungle-gyms. berlin.de
- **Bikes rule the road** – Wide, coloured bike lanes line almost every Berlin street; in Tel Aviv scooters weave between people on the promenades.
- **Money switch-up** – Pocket money becomes shiny euro coins (€) instead of shekels (₪); 1 euro ≈ 4 ₪ – good math practice.
- **Bottle “treasure”** – In Berlin you pop empty bottles into machines for a 25-cent refund; Israel's deposit is only 0.3 ₪ and fewer machines exist.
- **Sunday surprise** – Berlin supermarkets nap all Sunday; in Tel Aviv the city buzzes, but many shops close for *Shabbat* from Friday afternoon.
- **School week flip** – Israeli kids learn Sunday-Thursday and finish early Friday; Berliners go Monday-Friday and often stay until 13:30-14:00.
- **Hot lunch vs sandwiches** – Berlin primary schools usually serve a cooked canteen meal; Israeli pupils carry pita-sandwiches or toast in bags.

- **Free riding ages** – Berlin: under-6s free on all trains/buses, 6-14 pay child fare. Israel: under-5s ride free on Egged buses, 5-18 discounted but not free. bvg.deegged.co.il
- **Zooming underground** – Berlin kids master colour-coded U- & S-Bahn maps; Tel Aviv's brand-new red-line light-rail has just one route (for now).
- **Pet population** – Berlin streets parade dogs on leashes (they're allowed on trains); Tel Aviv pavements host friendly stray cats looking for schnitzel crumbs.
- **Leaf pile seasons** – Berlin autumns bring giant crunchy leaves to kick; Tel Aviv palms just drop dates.
- **Snow chance** – Berlin winters might gift real snowmen; Tel Aviv kids may see hail once every few years.
- **Language puzzle** – Hebrew has ש/o/ד shaped letters; German uses äöü and super-long words like *Straßenbahnhaltestelle*.
- **Sirens & services** – Israeli *Magen David Adom* ambulances wail a rising glissando; Berlin ambulances beep-beep-beeeeep in a European rhythm.
- **Recycling heroes** – Berlin flats sort paper, bio, glass by colour; Tel Aviv mostly separates only plastic & paper in street cages.
- **Market snacks** – Tel Aviv's Carmel Market tempts with pomegranate juice; Berlin's Markthalle Neun hands out pretzels dripping with butter.
- **Holiday breaks** – Israeli kids know *Chanukah* candles and *Sukkot* huts; Berlin classmates talk about *Weihnachten* markets and chocolate Advent calendars.
- **Water fountains** – Berlin parks have drinkable spouts; Tel Aviv promenades offer mist sprayers to beat desert heat.
- **Street art styles** – Tel Aviv's Florentin walls show colourful graffiti cats; Berlin's East Side Gallery sports giant murals and peace messages.
- **Zoo stars** – Berlin kids brag about panda twins; Tel Aviv kids visit Safari Ramat-Gan to feed giraffes from safari trucks.
- **Camp culture** – Israeli summers mean week-long *kaytanot* (day camps); Berlin families often travel to Baltic beaches or stay-over nature camps.

- **Public holidays** – Berlin kids cheer for *Kinder's Day* (*Kindertag*, 1 June) and *Martinstag* lantern walks; Tel Aviv kids march on *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* with blue-white flags.
- **Clock chimes** – Berlin's town-hall bells ring deep "dong"; Tel Aviv's beach clock tower just ticks quietly.
- **Library treats** – German children's libraries lend board games and Tonie-box audio figures; Tel Aviv libraries lend Hebrew comics like *Zbeng*.
- **Sports at school** – Berlin PE may include cross-country skiing practice on plastic skis; Tel Aviv PE plays *matkot* paddle-ball under the sun.
- **Food portion names** – Order *Kinder* size in Berlin cafés; in Israel you ask for *katan* (small).
- **Rain-gear fashion** – Berlin kids own colourful wellies and fold-up umbrellas; Tel Aviv kids often don't own any until a surprise storm.
- **Playdate drinks** – Berlin serves fizzy *Apfelschorle*; Tel Aviv pours cold chocolate milk *Shoko*.
- **Museum sleepovers** – Berlin's Natural-History Museum hosts "night at the dino" events; in Tel Aviv overnights happen at the planetarium.
- **Bee vs bear** – Tel Aviv crest features a lighthouse and waves; Berlin flag carries a prancing bear—spot it on buses, bins, manhole covers.
- **Street crossings** – Berlin cars really stop when the light is red; Tel Aviv drivers sometimes inch forward—eyes left-right every time.
- **Ice-cream flavours** – Berlin kiosks scoop Spaghetti-eis and liquorice; Tel Aviv counters pile halvah and mango-passionfruit sorbet.
- **Grocery carts** – Berlin trolleys unlock with a €1 coin; Tel Aviv carts free-roll—keep them from racing downhill.
- **Music buskers** – Accordions & violins hop onto Berlin S-Bahn; Tel Aviv buskers play guitar on Rothschild Boulevard.
- **Emergency numbers** – Israel: 101 (ambulance), 100 (police); Germany: 112 for both ambulance & fire, 110 police—easy new digits to memorise.

- **School bags** – Berlin first-graders get a giant cardboard cone (*Schultüte*) full of candy on day one; Israeli kids get a *Tik* backpack and shofar practice before Rosh HaShana.
- **Tap-water taste** – Berlin’s mineral-rich water leaves chalky residue; Tel Aviv’s mostly-desalinated supply tastes very neutral.
- **Bus pay style** – Berlin adults just beep e-tickets; Tel Aviv still sees drivers selling paper tickets or Rav-Kav taps at the door.
- **Festival lights** – Tel Aviv’s beaches host kite festivals; Berlin parks explode with silent mini-firework fountains on New Year’s Eve (kids watch from balcony).
- **Night creatures** – Berlin parks show red squirrels and hedgehogs after dusk; Tel Aviv alleys reveal geckos and fruit bats.
- **Home heating vs cooling** – Berlin apartments boast radiators you can perch socks on; Tel Aviv homes rely on strong A/C and ceiling fans.
- **Storytime sound** – Hebrew books read right-to-left; German books read left-to-right—bookmark adventures switch sides!