[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox German state](/wiki/Template:Infobox_German_state) **Berlin** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), [Template:IPA-de](/wiki/Template:IPA-de)) is the [capital](/wiki/Capital_city) of [Germany](/wiki/Germany) and one of its 16 [states](/wiki/States_of_Germany). With a population of approximately 3.5 million people,[[1]](#cite_note-1) Berlin is the second [most populous city proper](/wiki/Largest_cities_of_the_European_Union_by_population_within_city_limits) and the seventh [most populous urban area](/wiki/Largest_urban_areas_of_the_European_Union) in the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union).[[2]](#cite_note-2) Located in northeastern Germany on the banks of Rivers [Spree](/wiki/Spree) and [Havel](/wiki/Havel), it is the centre of the [Berlin-Brandenburg Metropolitan Region](/wiki/Berlin/Brandenburg_Metropolitan_Region), which has about six million residents from over 180 nations.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5)<ref name=LUZ>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Due to its location in the [European Plain](/wiki/European_Plain), Berlin is influenced by a [temperate](/wiki/Temperate) seasonal climate. Around one-third of the city's area is composed of forests, parks, gardens, rivers and lakes.[[6]](#cite_note-6) First documented in the 13th century and situated at the crossing of two important historic [trade routes](/wiki/Trade_route),[[7]](#cite_note-7) Berlin became the capital of the [Margraviate of Brandenburg](/wiki/Margraviate_of_Brandenburg) (1417[Template:Ndash](/wiki/Template:Ndash)1701), the [Kingdom of Prussia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Prussia) (1701–1918), the [German Empire](/wiki/German_Empire) (1871–1918), the [Weimar Republic](/wiki/Weimar_Republic) (1919–1933) and the [Third Reich](/wiki/Third_Reich) (1933–1945).[[8]](#cite_note-8) [Berlin in the 1920s](/wiki/1920s_Berlin) was the third largest municipality in the world.[[9]](#cite_note-9) After [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), the city was divided; [East Berlin](/wiki/East_Berlin) became the capital of [East Germany](/wiki/East_Germany) while [West Berlin](/wiki/West_Berlin) became a *de facto* [West German](/wiki/West_Germany) [exclave](/wiki/Exclave), surrounded by the [Berlin Wall](/wiki/Berlin_Wall) (1961–1989) and East Germany territory.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Following [German reunification](/wiki/German_reunification) in 1990, Berlin was once again designated as the capital of united Germany.

Berlin is a [world city](/wiki/Global_city) of culture, politics, media and science.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14) Its economy is based on [high-tech](/wiki/High_tech) firms and the service sector, encompassing a diverse range of [creative industries](/wiki/Creative_industries), research facilities, media corporations and convention venues.<ref name=congress>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=Cityofdesign>[Template:Cite press release](/wiki/Template:Cite_press_release)</ref> Berlin serves as a continental hub for air and rail traffic and has a highly complex public transportation network. The metropolis is a popular [tourist destination](/wiki/Tourism_in_Germany).[[15]](#cite_note-15) Significant industries also include [IT](/wiki/Information_technology), pharmaceuticals, biomedical engineering, clean tech, [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology), construction and electronics.

Modern Berlin is home to world renowned universities, orchestras, museums, entertainment venues and is host to many sporting events.<ref name=UNESCO>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Its urban setting has made it a sought-after location for international [film productions](/wiki/List_of_films_set_in_Berlin).[[16]](#cite_note-16) The city is well known for its festivals, diverse architecture, nightlife, contemporary arts and a [high quality of living](/wiki/World's_Most_Livable_Cities).[[17]](#cite_note-17) Over the last decade Berlin has seen the emergence of a cosmopolitan [entrepreneurial](/wiki/Entrepreneurship) [scene](/wiki/Startup_ecosystem).[[18]](#cite_note-18)

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

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### Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The origin of the name *Berlin* is uncertain. It may have roots in the language of [West Slavic](/wiki/West_Slavs) inhabitants of the area of today's Berlin, and may be related to the Old [Polabian](/wiki/Polabian_language) stem *berl-*/*birl-* ("swamp").[[19]](#cite_note-19) [Folk etymology](/wiki/Folk_etymology) connects the name to the German word for bear, *Bär*. A bear also appears in the [coat of arms of the city](/wiki/Coat_of_arms_of_Berlin).[[20]](#cite_note-20)

### 12th to 16th centuries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|Map of Berlin in 1688](/wiki/File:ZLB-Berliner_Ansichten-Januar.jpg)

The earliest evidence of settlements in the area of today's Berlin are a wooden rod dated from approximately 1192[[21]](#cite_note-21) and leftovers of wooden houseparts dated to 1174 found in a 2012 excavation in Berlin Mitte.[[22]](#cite_note-22) The first written records of towns in the area of present-day Berlin date from the late 12th century. [Spandau](/wiki/Spandau) is first mentioned in 1197 and [Köpenick](/wiki/Köpenick) in 1209, although these areas did not join Berlin until 1920.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The central part of Berlin can be traced back to two towns. [Cölln](/wiki/Cölln) on the [Fischerinsel](/wiki/Fischerinsel) is first mentioned in a 1237 document, and Berlin, across the [Spree](/wiki/Spree) in what is now called the [Nikolaiviertel](/wiki/Nikolaiviertel), is referenced in a document from 1244.[[21]](#cite_note-21) 1237 is considered the founding date of the city.<ref name=Medtradc>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The two towns over time formed close economic and social ties, and profited from the [staple right](/wiki/Staple_right) on the two important [trade routes](/wiki/Trade_route) [*Via Imperii*](/wiki/Via_Imperii) and from [Brügge](/wiki/Brügge) to [Novgorod](/wiki/Novgorod).[[7]](#cite_note-7) In 1307, they formed an alliance with a common external policy, their internal administrations still being separated.[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[25]](#cite_note-25) In 1415, [Frederick I](/wiki/Frederick_I,_Elector_of_Brandenburg) became the [elector](/wiki/Prince-elector) of the [Margraviate of Brandenburg](/wiki/Margraviate_of_Brandenburg), which he ruled until 1440.[[26]](#cite_note-26) During the 15th century, his successors established Berlin-Cölln as capital of the margraviate, and subsequent members of the [Hohenzollern](/wiki/Hohenzollern) family ruled in Berlin until 1918, first as electors of Brandenburg, then as kings of Prussia, and eventually as [German emperors](/wiki/German_emperor). In 1443, [Frederick II Irontooth](/wiki/Frederick_II,_Elector_of_Brandenburg) started the construction of a new [royal palace](/wiki/Stadtschloss,_Berlin) in the twin city Berlin-Cölln. The protests of the town citizens against the building culminated in 1448, in the "Berlin Indignation" ("Berliner Unwille").[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) This protest was not successful and the citizenry lost many of its political and economic privileges. After the royal palace was finished in 1451, it gradually came into use. From 1470, with the new elector [Albrecht III Achilles](/wiki/Albrecht_III_Achilles,_Elector_of_Brandenburg), Berlin-Cölln became the new royal residence.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Officially, the Berlin-Cölln palace became permanent residence of the Brandenburg electors of the Hohenzollerns from 1486, when [John Cicero](/wiki/John_Cicero,_Elector_of_Brandenburg) came to power.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Berlin-Cölln, however, had to give up its status as a free [Hanseatic](/wiki/Hanseatic_League) city. In 1539, the electors and the city officially became [Lutheran](/wiki/Lutheran).[[30]](#cite_note-30)

### 17th to 19th centuries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Friedrich_Zweite_Alt.jpg)[Frederick the Great](/wiki/Frederick_the_Great) (1712–1786) was one of Europe's [enlightened monarchs](/wiki/Enlightened_monarch).

The [Thirty Years' War](/wiki/Thirty_Years'_War) between 1618 and 1648 devastated Berlin. One third of its houses were damaged or destroyed, and the city lost half of its population.[[31]](#cite_note-31) [Frederick William](/wiki/Frederick_William_I,_Elector_of_Brandenburg), known as the "Great Elector", who had succeeded his father [George William](/wiki/George_William,_Elector_of_Brandenburg) as ruler in 1640, initiated a policy of promoting immigration and religious tolerance.[[32]](#cite_note-32) With the [Edict of Potsdam](/wiki/Edict_of_Potsdam) in 1685, Frederick William offered asylum to the French [Huguenots](/wiki/Huguenot).[[33]](#cite_note-33) By 1700, approximately 30 percent of Berlin's residents were French, because of the Huguenot immigration.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Many other immigrants came from [Bohemia](/wiki/Bohemia), [Poland](/wiki/Polish–Lithuanian_Commonwealth), and [Salzburg](/wiki/Archbishopric_of_Salzburg).[[35]](#cite_note-35) [thumb|left|Berlin became the capital of the](/wiki/File:Berlin_Unter_den_Linden_Victoria_Hotel_um_1900.jpg) [German Empire](/wiki/German_Empire) in 1871 and expanded rapidly in the following years. (Unter den Linden in 1900)

Since 1618, the Margraviate of Brandenburg had been in [personal union](/wiki/Personal_union) with the [Duchy of Prussia](/wiki/Duchy_of_Prussia). In 1701, the dual state formed the [Kingdom of Prussia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Prussia), as [Frederick III, Elector of Brandenburg](/wiki/Frederick_III,_Elector_of_Brandenburg) crowned himself as king [Frederick I in Prussia](/wiki/Frederick_I_of_Prussia). Berlin became the capital of the new Kingdom. This was a successful attempt to centralise the capital in the very outspread state, and it was the first time the city began to grow. In 1709, Berlin merged with the four cities of Cölln, Friedrichswerder, Friedrichstadt and Dorotheenstadt under the name Berlin, "Haupt- und Residenzstadt Berlin".[[24]](#cite_note-24) In 1740, Frederick II, known as [Frederick the Great](/wiki/Frederick_the_Great) (1740–1786), came to power.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Under the rule of Frederick II, Berlin became a center of [the Enlightenment](/wiki/The_Enlightenment), but also, was briefly occupied during the [Seven Years' War](/wiki/Seven_Years'_War) by Russian army.[[37]](#cite_note-37) Following France's victory in the [War of the Fourth Coalition](/wiki/War_of_the_Fourth_Coalition), [Napoleon Bonaparte](/wiki/Napoleon_Bonaparte) marched into Berlin in 1806, but granted self-government to the city.[[38]](#cite_note-38) In 1815, the city became part of the new [Province of Brandenburg](/wiki/Province_of_Brandenburg).[[39]](#cite_note-39) The [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution) transformed Berlin during the 19th century; the city's economy and population expanded dramatically, and it became the main railway hub and economic centre of Germany. Additional suburbs soon developed and increased the area and population of Berlin. In 1861, neighbouring suburbs including [Wedding](/wiki/Wedding_(Berlin)), [Moabit](/wiki/Moabit) and several others were incorporated into Berlin.[[40]](#cite_note-40) In 1871, Berlin became capital of the newly founded [German Empire](/wiki/German_Empire).[[41]](#cite_note-41) In 1881, it became a city district separate from Brandenburg.[[42]](#cite_note-42)

### 20th to 21st centuries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|150px|*Street, Berlin* (1913) by](/wiki/File:Kirchner_1913_Street,_Berlin.jpg) [Ernst Ludwig Kirchner](/wiki/Ernst_Ludwig_Kirchner)

In the early 20th century, Berlin had become a fertile ground for the [German Expressionist](/wiki/German_Expressionism) movement.[[43]](#cite_note-43) In fields such as [architecture](/wiki/Architecture), [painting](/wiki/Painting) and [cinema](/wiki/Film) new forms of artistic styles were invented. At the end of the [First World War](/wiki/First_World_War) in 1918, a [republic](/wiki/Weimar_Republic) was proclaimed by [Philipp Scheidemann](/wiki/Philipp_Scheidemann) at the [Reichstag building](/wiki/Reichstag_(building)). In 1920, the [Greater Berlin Act](/wiki/Greater_Berlin_Act) incorporated dozens of suburban cities, villages and estates around Berlin into an expanded city. The act increased the area of Berlin from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The population almost doubled and Berlin had a population of around four million. During the [Weimar era](/wiki/Weimar_culture), Berlin underwent political unrest due to economic uncertainties, but also became a renowned centre of the [Roaring Twenties](/wiki/Roaring_Twenties). The metropolis experienced its heyday as a major world capital and was known for its leadership roles in science, technology, arts, the humanities, city planning, film, higher education, government and industries. [Albert Einstein](/wiki/Albert_Einstein) rose to public prominence during his years in Berlin, being awarded the [Nobel Prize for Physics](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_for_Physics) in 1921.

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|Berlin in ruins after the](/wiki/File:Potsdamer_Platz_1945.jpg) [Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War) ([Potsdamer Platz](/wiki/Potsdamer_Platz), 1945)

In 1933, [Adolf Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) and the [Nazi Party](/wiki/Nazi_Party) [came to power](/wiki/Nazi_seizure_of_power). NSDAP rule diminished Berlin's Jewish community from 160,000 (one-third of all Jews in the country) to about 80,000 as a result of emigration between 1933 and 1939. After [Kristallnacht](/wiki/Kristallnacht) in 1938, thousands of the city's Jews were imprisoned in the nearby [Sachsenhausen concentration camp](/wiki/Sachsenhausen_concentration_camp). Starting in early 1943, many were shipped to [death camps](/wiki/Death_camp), such as [Auschwitz](/wiki/Auschwitz).[[44]](#cite_note-44) During World War II, large parts of Berlin were destroyed in [the 1943–45 air raids](/wiki/Battle_of_Berlin_(air)) and during the [Battle of Berlin](/wiki/Battle_of_Berlin). Around 125,000 civilians were killed.[[45]](#cite_note-45) After the [end of the war in Europe](/wiki/End_of_World_War_II_in_Europe) in May 1945, Berlin received large numbers of refugees from the Eastern provinces. The victorious powers divided the city into four sectors, analogous to the [occupation zones](/wiki/Allied-occupied_Germany) into which Germany was divided. The sectors of the [Western Allies](/wiki/Western_Allies) (the United States, the United Kingdom and France) formed [West Berlin](/wiki/West_Berlin), while the [Soviet sector](/wiki/Soviet_Union) formed [East Berlin](/wiki/East_Berlin).[[46]](#cite_note-46) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Berlinermauer.jpg) [Berlin Wall](/wiki/Berlin_Wall) (painted on the western side) was a barrier that divided the city from 1961 to 1989.

All four [Allies](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II) shared administrative responsibilities for Berlin. However, in 1948, when the Western Allies extended the currency reform in the Western zones of Germany to the three western sectors of Berlin, the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) imposed a [blockade](/wiki/Berlin_Blockade) on the access routes to and from West Berlin, which lay entirely inside Soviet-controlled territory. The [Berlin airlift](/wiki/Berlin_airlift), conducted by the three western Allies, overcame this blockade by supplying food and other supplies to the city from June 1948 to May 1949.[[47]](#cite_note-47) In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany was founded in [West Germany](/wiki/West_Germany) and eventually included all of the American, British and French zones, excluding those three countries' zones in Berlin, while the [Marxist-Leninist](/wiki/Marxist-Leninist) [German Democratic Republic](/wiki/East_Germany) was proclaimed in East Germany. West Berlin officially remained an occupied city, but it politically was aligned with the Federal Republic of Germany despite West Berlin's geographic isolation. Airline service to West Berlin was granted only to American, British and French airlines.

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Thefalloftheberlinwall1989.JPG) [fall of the Berlin Wall](/wiki/Berlin_Wall#The_Fall) on 9 November 1989. On [3 October 1990](/wiki/German_Unity_Day), the [German reunification](/wiki/German_reunification) process was formally finished.

The founding of the two German states increased [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War) tensions. West Berlin was surrounded by East German territory, and East Germany proclaimed the Eastern part as its capital, a move that was not recognised by the western powers. East Berlin included most of the historic centre of the city. The West German government established itself in [Bonn](/wiki/Bonn).[[48]](#cite_note-48) In 1961, East Germany began the building of the [Berlin Wall](/wiki/Berlin_Wall) between East and West Berlin, and events escalated to a tank standoff at [Checkpoint Charlie](/wiki/Checkpoint_Charlie). West Berlin was now de facto a part of West Germany with a unique legal status, while East Berlin was de facto a part of East Germany. [John F. Kennedy](/wiki/John_F._Kennedy) gave his "[*Ich bin ein Berliner*](/wiki/Ich_bin_ein_Berliner)"[Template:Snd](/wiki/Template:Snd) speech in 1963 underlining the US support for the Western part of the city. Berlin was completely divided. Although it was possible for Westerners to pass from one to the other side through strictly controlled checkpoints, for most Easterners travel to West Berlin or West Germany was prohibited by the government of East Germany. In 1971, a [Four-Power agreement](/wiki/Four_Power_Agreement_on_Berlin) guaranteed access to and from West Berlin by car or train through East Germany.[[49]](#cite_note-49) In 1989, with the end of the Cold War and pressure from the East German population, the Berlin Wall fell on 9 November and was subsequently mostly demolished. Today, the [East Side Gallery](/wiki/East_Side_Gallery) preserves a large portion of the wall. On 3 October 1990, the two parts of Germany were [reunified](/wiki/German_reunification) as the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin again became the official German capital. In 1991, the German Parliament, the [Bundestag](/wiki/Bundestag), [voted to move the seat](/wiki/Decision_on_the_Capital_of_Germany) of the German capital from Bonn to Berlin, which was completed in 1999. On 18 June 1994, soldiers from the United States, France and Britain marched in a parade which was part of the ceremonies to mark the final withdrawal of foreign troops allowing a [reunified Berlin](/wiki/German_reunification#Reunified_Berlin).<ref name=ReUnificationParade>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> [Berlin's 2001 administrative reform](/wiki/Berlin's_2001_administrative_reform) merged several districts. The number of boroughs was reduced from 23 to 12. In 2006, the [FIFA World Cup Final](/wiki/2006_FIFA_World_Cup_Final) was held in Berlin.

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

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### Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|Aerial view over Berlin Mitte](/wiki/File:Visit-suomi-2009-05-by-RalfR-014.jpg)

Berlin is situated in northeastern [Germany](/wiki/Germany), in an area of low-lying marshy woodlands with a mainly flat [topography](/wiki/Topography), part of the vast [Northern European Plain](/wiki/Northern_European_Plain) which stretches all the way from northern [France](/wiki/France) to western [Russia](/wiki/Russia). The *Berliner Urstromtal* (an ice age [glacial valley](/wiki/Glacial_valley)), between the low [Barnim Plateau](/wiki/Barnim_Plateau) to the north and the [Teltow Plateau](/wiki/Teltow_plateau) to the south, was formed by meltwater flowing from ice sheets at the end of the last [Weichselian glaciation](/wiki/Weichselian_glaciation). The [Spree](/wiki/Spree) follows this valley now. In Spandau, a borough in the west of Berlin, the Spree empties into the river [Havel](/wiki/Havel), which flows from north to south through western Berlin. The course of the Havel is more like a chain of lakes, the largest being the Tegeler See and the [Großer Wannsee](/wiki/Großer_Wannsee). A series of lakes also feeds into the upper Spree, which flows through the [Großer Müggelsee](/wiki/Müggelsee) in eastern Berlin.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Substantial parts of present-day Berlin extend onto the low plateaus on both sides of the Spree Valley. Large parts of the boroughs [Reinickendorf](/wiki/Reinickendorf) and [Pankow](/wiki/Pankow) lie on the Barnim Plateau, while most of the boroughs of [Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf](/wiki/Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf), [Steglitz-Zehlendorf](/wiki/Steglitz-Zehlendorf), [Tempelhof-Schöneberg](/wiki/Tempelhof-Schöneberg), and [Neukölln](/wiki/Neukölln) lie on the Teltow Plateau.

The borough of Spandau lies partly within the Berlin Glacial Valley and partly on the Nauen Plain, which stretches to the west of Berlin. Since 2015, the highest elevation in Berlin is found on the Arkenberge hills in Pankow, at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Through the dumping of construction debris, they surpassed [Teufelsberg](/wiki/Teufelsberg) (120.1 m), a [hill made of rubble](/wiki/Schuttberg) from the ruins of the Second World War.[[51]](#cite_note-51) The highest natural elevation is found on the [Müggelberge](/wiki/Müggelberge) at 114.7 m, and the lowest at the Spektesee in Spandau, at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[52]](#cite_note-52)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|The outskirts of Berlin are covered with woodlands and numerous lakes.](/wiki/File:Luftbild_bln-schmoeckwitz.jpg)

Berlin has a [Maritime temperate climate](/wiki/Maritime_temperate_climate) (*Cfb*) according to the [Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) system.[[53]](#cite_note-53) There are significant influences of mild continental climate due to its inland position, with frosts being common in winter and there being larger temperature differences between seasons than typical for many oceanic climates. Furthermore, Berlin is classified as a [temperate](/wiki/Temperate) [continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental) (*Dc*) under the [Trewartha climate scheme](/wiki/Trewartha_climate_classification).[[54]](#cite_note-54) Summers are warm and sometimes humid with average high temperatures of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and lows of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Winters are cool with average high temperatures of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and lows of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Spring and autumn are generally chilly to mild. Berlin's built-up area creates a microclimate, with [heat stored by the city's buildings and pavement](/wiki/Urban_heat_island). Temperatures can be [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) higher in the city than in the surrounding areas.[[55]](#cite_note-55) Annual precipitation is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with moderate rainfall throughout the year. Snowfall mainly occurs from December through March.<ref name=worldweather>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

[Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

### Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|The cityscape of Berlin. Population wise, Berlin is a growing metropolis.](/wiki/File:Skyline_West_East_Berlin_2014.jpg)

Berlin's history has left the city with a highly eclectic array of architecture and buildings. The city's appearance today is predominantly shaped by the key role it played in Germany's history in the 20th century. Each of the national governments based in Berlin[Template:Snd](/wiki/Template:Snd) the Kingdom of Prussia, the 1871 German Empire, the Weimar Republic, Nazi Germany, East Germany, and now the reunified Germany[Template:Snd](/wiki/Template:Snd) initiated ambitious reconstruction programs, with each adding its own distinctive style to the city's architecture.

Berlin was devastated by [bombing raids](/wiki/Bombing_of_Berlin_in_World_War_II), fires and street battles during World War II, and many of the buildings that had remained after the war were demolished in the post-war period in both West and East Berlin. Much of this demolition was initiated by municipal architecture programs to build new residential or business quarters and main roads. Many [ornaments](/wiki/Ornament_(art)) of pre-war buildings were destroyed following [modernist dogmas](/wiki/Ornament_and_Crime). While in both systems and in reunified Berlin, various important heritage monuments were also (partly) [reconstructed](/wiki/Reconstruction_(architecture)), including the *Forum Fridericianum* with e.g., the [State Opera](/wiki/Berlin_State_Opera) (1955), [Charlottenburg Palace](/wiki/Charlottenburg_Palace) (1957), the main monuments of the [Gendarmenmarkt](/wiki/Gendarmenmarkt) (1980s), [Kommandantur](/wiki/Alte_Kommandantur) (2003) and the project to reconstruct the baroque façades of the [City Palace](/wiki/City_Palace,_Berlin). A number of new buildings is inspired by historical predecessors or the general classical style of Berlin, such as [Hotel Adlon](/wiki/Hotel_Adlon).

Clusters of [high-rise buildings](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Berlin) emerge at e.g., [Potsdamer Platz](/wiki/Potsdamer_Platz), [City West](/wiki/City_West) and [Alexanderplatz](/wiki/Alexanderplatz). Berlin has three of the top 40 [tallest buildings](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Germany) in Germany.

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|A](/wiki/File:Berlin,_Kreuzberg,_Chamissoplatz_4,_Mietshaus.jpg) [mixed-use](/wiki/Mixed-use_development) building in [Kreuzberg](/wiki/Kreuzberg). The 'blockrand' structure of the 1862 [Hobrecht-Plan](/wiki/Hobrecht-Plan) is typical for Berlin.

The [Fernsehturm](/wiki/Fernsehturm_Berlin) (TV tower) at [Alexanderplatz](/wiki/Alexanderplatz) in [Mitte](/wiki/Mitte) is among the tallest structures in the European Union at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Built in 1969, it is visible throughout most of the central districts of Berlin. The city can be viewed from its [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) high observation floor. Starting here the [Karl-Marx-Allee](/wiki/Karl-Marx-Allee) heads east, an avenue lined by monumental residential buildings, designed in the [Socialist Classicism](/wiki/Socialist_Classicism) style. Adjacent to this area is the [Rotes Rathaus](/wiki/Rotes_Rathaus) (City Hall), with its distinctive red-brick architecture. In front of it is the [Neptunbrunnen](/wiki/Neptunbrunnen), a fountain featuring a mythological group of [Tritons](/wiki/Triton_(mythology)), [personifications](/wiki/Anthropomorphism) of the four main Prussian rivers and [Neptune](/wiki/Neptune_(mythology)) on top of it.

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Brandenburger_Tor_morgens.jpg) [Brandenburg Gate](/wiki/Brandenburg_Gate)

The [Brandenburg Gate](/wiki/Brandenburg_Gate) is an iconic landmark of Berlin and Germany; it stands as a symbol of eventful European history and of unity and peace. The [Reichstag building](/wiki/Reichstag_(building)) is the traditional seat of the German Parliament. It was remodelled by British architect [Norman Foster](/wiki/Norman_Foster_(architect)) in the 1990s and features a glass dome over the session area, which allows free public access to the parliamentary proceedings and magnificent views of the city.

The [East Side Gallery](/wiki/East_Side_Gallery) is an open-air exhibition of art painted directly on the last existing portions of the Berlin Wall. It is the largest remaining evidence of the city's historical division.

The [Gendarmenmarkt](/wiki/Gendarmenmarkt) is a [neoclassical](/wiki/Neoclassical_architecture) square in Berlin, the name of which derives from the headquarters of the famous Gens d'armes regiment located here in the 18th century. It is bordered by two similarly designed cathedrals, the [Französischer Dom](/wiki/Französischer_Dom) with its observation platform and the [Deutscher Dom](/wiki/Deutscher_Dom). The Konzerthaus (Concert Hall), home of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, stands between the two cathedrals.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Haus_der_Weltkulturen.jpg)[Haus der Kulturen der Welt](/wiki/Haus_der_Kulturen_der_Welt)

The [Museum Island](/wiki/Museum_Island) in the [River Spree](/wiki/River_Spree) houses [five museums](/wiki/Berlin#Museums) built from 1830 to 1930 and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Restoration and the construction of a main entrance to all museums, as well as the reconstruction of the [Stadtschloss](/wiki/Stadtschloss,_Berlin) is continuing.[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) Also located on the island and adjacent to the [Lustgarten](/wiki/Lustgarten) and palace is [Berlin Cathedral](/wiki/Berlin_Cathedral), emperor William II's ambitious attempt to create a Protestant counterpart to [St. Peter's Basilica](/wiki/St._Peter's_Basilica) in Rome. A large crypt houses the remains of some of the earlier Prussian royal family. [St. Hedwig's Cathedral](/wiki/St._Hedwig's_Cathedral) is Berlin's Roman Catholic cathedral.

[thumb|140px|left|Kollhoff Tower](/wiki/File:Potsdamer_Platz_-_Kollhoff-Tower,_20060603.jpg)

[Unter den Linden](/wiki/Unter_den_Linden) is a tree-lined east–west avenue from the Brandenburg Gate to the site of the former Berliner Stadtschloss, and was once Berlin's premier promenade. Many Classical buildings line the street and part of [Humboldt University](/wiki/Humboldt_University) is located there. [Friedrichstraße](/wiki/Friedrichstraße) was Berlin's legendary street during the [Golden Twenties](/wiki/Golden_Twenties). It combines 20th-century traditions with the modern architecture of today's Berlin.

[Potsdamer Platz](/wiki/Potsdamer_Platz) is an entire quarter built from scratch after 1995 after the [Wall](/wiki/Berlin_Wall) came down.[[58]](#cite_note-58) To the west of Potsdamer Platz is the Kulturforum, which houses the [Gemäldegalerie](/wiki/Gemäldegalerie,_Berlin), and is flanked by the [Neue Nationalgalerie](/wiki/Neue_Nationalgalerie) and the [Berliner Philharmonie](/wiki/Berliner_Philharmonie). The [Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe](/wiki/Memorial_to_the_Murdered_Jews_of_Europe), a [Holocaust](/wiki/Holocaust) memorial, is situated to the north.[[59]](#cite_note-59) The area around [Hackescher Markt](/wiki/Hackescher_Markt) is home to fashionable culture, with countless clothing outlets, clubs, bars, and galleries. This includes the [Hackesche Höfe](/wiki/Hackesche_Höfe), a conglomeration of buildings around several courtyards, reconstructed around 1996. The nearby [New Synagogue](/wiki/New_Synagogue,_Berlin) is the center of Jewish culture.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Le_château_de_Charlottenburg_(Berlin)_(6340508573).jpg)[Schloss Charlottenburg](/wiki/Schloss_Charlottenburg) is the largest existing palace in Berlin.

The [Straße des 17. Juni](/wiki/Straße_des_17._Juni), connecting the Brandenburg Gate and Ernst-Reuter-Platz, serves as the central east-west axis. Its name commemorates the [uprisings in East Berlin of 17 June 1953](/wiki/Uprising_of_1953_in_East_Germany). Approximately halfway from the Brandenburg Gate is the Großer Stern, a circular traffic island on which the [Siegessäule](/wiki/Siegessäule) (Victory Column) is situated. This monument, built to commemorate Prussia's victories, was relocated in 1938–39 from its previous position in front of the Reichstag.

The [Kurfürstendamm](/wiki/Kurfürstendamm) is home to some of Berlin's luxurious stores with the [Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church](/wiki/Kaiser_Wilhelm_Memorial_Church) at its eastern end on [Breitscheidplatz](/wiki/Breitscheidplatz). The church was destroyed in the Second World War and left in ruins. Nearby on Tauentzienstraße is [KaDeWe](/wiki/KaDeWe), claimed to be continental Europe's largest department store. The [Rathaus Schöneberg](/wiki/Rathaus_Schöneberg), where [John F. Kennedy](/wiki/John_F._Kennedy) made his famous "[Ich bin ein Berliner](/wiki/Ich_bin_ein_Berliner)!" speech, is situated in [Tempelhof-Schöneberg](/wiki/Tempelhof-Schöneberg).

West of the center, [Schloss Bellevue](/wiki/Schloss_Bellevue) is the residence of the German President. [Schloss Charlottenburg](/wiki/Schloss_Charlottenburg), which was burnt out in the Second World War is the largest historical palace in Berlin.

The [Funkturm Berlin](/wiki/Funkturm_Berlin) is a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) tall lattice radio tower in the fairground area, built between 1924 and 1926. It is the only observation tower which stands on insulators and has a restaurant [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and an observation deck [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above ground, which is reachable by a windowed elevator.

The [Oberbaumbrücke](/wiki/Oberbaumbrücke) is Berlin's most iconic bridge, crossing the [River Spree](/wiki/River_Spree). It was a former East-West border crossing and connects the boroughs of [Friedrichshain](/wiki/Friedrichshain) and [Kreuzberg](/wiki/Kreuzberg). It was completed in a [brick gothic](/wiki/Brick_gothic) style in 1896. The center portion has been reconstructed with a steel frame after having been destroyed in 1945. The bridge has an upper deck for the [Berlin U-Bahn](/wiki/Berlin_U-Bahn) line [Template:BVG lines](/wiki/Template:BVG_lines).

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Young people in Berlin-Tiergarten](/wiki/File:Live8_berlin_publikum.jpg)

On 31 December 2015, the city-state of Berlin had a population of 3,610,156 registered inhabitants[[1]](#cite_note-1) in an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[60]](#cite_note-60) The city's population density was 3,994 inhabitants per km2. Berlin is the second [most populous city proper](/wiki/Largest_cities_of_the_European_Union_by_population_within_city_limits) in the EU. The [urban area](/wiki/Urban_area) of Berlin comprised about 4 million people making it the seventh [most populous urban area](/wiki/Largest_urban_areas_of_the_European_Union) in the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union).[[2]](#cite_note-2) The metropolitan area of the Berlin-Brandenburg region was home to about 4.5 million in an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). In 2004, the [Larger Urban Zone](/wiki/Larger_Urban_Zones) was home to about 5 million people in an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name=LUZ/> The entire Berlin-Brandenburg capital region has a population of 6 million.[[61]](#cite_note-61) [thumb|left|Berlin's population 1880–2012](/wiki/File:Berlin_population2.svg)

National and international migration into the city has a long history. In 1685, following the revocation of the [Edict of Nantes](/wiki/Edict_of_Nantes) in France, the city responded with the [Edict of Potsdam](/wiki/Edict_of_Potsdam), which guaranteed religious freedom and tax-free status to French Huguenot refugees for ten years. The [Greater Berlin Act](/wiki/Greater_Berlin_Act) in 1920 incorporated many suburbs and surrounding cities of Berlin. It formed most of the territory that comprises modern Berlin and increased the population from 1.9 million to 4 million.

Active immigration and asylum politics in West Berlin triggered waves of immigration in the 1960s and 1970s. Currently, Berlin is home to about 200,000 [Turks](/wiki/Turks_in_Germany),[[62]](#cite_note-62) making it the largest Turkish community outside of Turkey. In the 1990s the *Aussiedlergesetze* enabled immigration to Germany of some residents from the former [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union). Today ethnic [Germans](/wiki/History_of_Germans_in_Russia_and_the_Soviet_Union) from countries of the former Soviet Union make up the largest portion of the Russian-speaking community.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The last decade experienced an influx from various Western countries and some African regions.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Young Germans, EU-Europeans and Israelis have settled in the city.[[65]](#cite_note-65)

### International communities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Registered foreign residents (2013)**<ref name=pop-detail>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> | |
|  | Population |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 99,558 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 51,084 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 22,693 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 19,137 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 18,982 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 18,352 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 16,806 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 15,289 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 14,341 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 13,231 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 12,512 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 11,764 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 11,224 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 10,880 |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | 10,536 |

In December 2015, 621,075 registered residents were of foreign nationality,[[1]](#cite_note-1) originating from approximately 190 different countries.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Another estimated 460,000 citizens in 2013 are descendants of international migrants and have either become naturalized German citizens or obtained citizenship by virtue of birth in Germany.[[67]](#cite_note-67) In 2008, about 25–30% of the population had foreign born parents.[[68]](#cite_note-68) 45 percent of the residents under the age of 18 have foreign roots.[[69]](#cite_note-69) Berlin in 2009 was estimated to have from 100,000 to 250,000 non-registered inhabitants.[[70]](#cite_note-70) There are more than 25 non-indigenous communities with a population of at least 10,000 people, including [Turkish](/wiki/Turks_in_Berlin), Polish, Russian, Lebanese, Palestinian, Serbian, Italian, Bosnian, [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_community_of_Berlin), American, Romanian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Austrian, Ghanaian, Ukrainian, French, British, Spanish, Israeli, Thai, Iranian, [Egyptian and Syrian communities](/wiki/Arabs_in_Berlin).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [German](/wiki/German_language) is the official and predominant spoken language in Berlin. It is a [West Germanic language](/wiki/West_Germanic_languages) that derives most of its vocabulary from the Germanic branch of the [Indo-European](/wiki/Indo-European_languages) language family. German is one of 24 languages of the European Union,[[71]](#cite_note-71) and one of the three [working languages](/wiki/Working_language) of the [European Commission](/wiki/European_Commission).

Berlinerisch or Berlinisch is a dialect of [Berlin Brandenburgish German](/wiki/Berlin_Brandenburgish_dialects) spoken in Berlin and the [surrounding metropolitan area](/wiki/Berlin/Brandenburg_Metropolitan_Region). It originates from a [Mark Brandenburgish](/wiki/Mark_Brandenburgish_dialects) variant. The dialect is now seen more as a [sociolect](/wiki/Sociolect), largely through increased immigration and trends among the educated population to speak [standard German](/wiki/Standard_German) in everyday life.

The most-commonly-spoken foreign languages in Berlin are Turkish, English, Russian, Arabic, Polish, Kurdish, Vietnamese, Serbian, Croatian and French. Turkish, Arabic, Kurdish, Serbian and Croatian are heard more often in the western part, due to the large Middle Eastern and former-Yugoslavian communities. English, Vietnamese, Russian, and Polish have more native speakers in eastern Berlin.[[72]](#cite_note-72)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) More than 60% of Berlin residents have no registered religious affiliation.[[73]](#cite_note-73) The largest denomination in 2010 was the [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant) [regional church body](/wiki/Landeskirche) – the [Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia (EKBO)](/wiki/Evangelical_Church_of_Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian_Upper_Lusatia) – a [United church](/wiki/United_church). EKBO is a member of the [Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD)](/wiki/Evangelical_Church_in_Germany) and [Union Evangelischer Kirchen (UEK)](/wiki/Union_Evangelischer_Kirchen), and accounts for 18.7% of the local population.[[74]](#cite_note-74) The [Roman Catholic Church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) has 9.1% of residents registered as its members.[[74]](#cite_note-74) About 2.7% of the population identify with other Christian denominations (mostly [Eastern Orthodox](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church), but also various Protestants)[[75]](#cite_note-75) and 8.1% are [Muslims](/wiki/Muslim).[[76]](#cite_note-76) 0.9% of Berliners belong to other religions.[[77]](#cite_note-77) Approximately 80% of the 12,000 (0.3%) registered Jews now residing in Berlin[[75]](#cite_note-75) have come from the former Soviet Union.

[thumb|The Protestant](/wiki/File:141227_Berliner_Dom.jpg) [Berlin Cathedral](/wiki/Berliner_Dom), held by the [EKD](/wiki/Evangelical_Church_in_Germany)

Berlin is the seat of the [Roman Catholic archbishop of Berlin](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Berlin) and [EKBO's](/wiki/Evangelical_Church_of_Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian_Upper_Lusatia) elected chairperson is titled the bishop of EKBO. Furthermore, Berlin is the seat of many Orthodox cathedrals, such as the Cathedral of St. Boris the Baptist, one of the two seats of the [Bulgarian Orthodox](/wiki/Bulgarian_Orthodox_Church) Diocese of Western and Central Europe, and the Resurrection of Christ Cathedral of the Diocese of Berlin (Patriarchate of Moscow).

The faithful of the different religions and denominations maintain many [places of worship in Berlin](/wiki/List_of_places_of_worship_in_Berlin). The [Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church](/wiki/Independent_Evangelical_Lutheran_Church) has eight parishes of different sizes in Berlin.[[78]](#cite_note-78) There are 36 [Baptist](/wiki/Baptist) congregations (within [Union of Evangelical Free Church Congregations in Germany](/wiki/Union_of_Evangelical_Free_Church_Congregations_in_Germany)), 29 [New Apostolic Churches](/wiki/New_Apostolic_Church), 15 [United Methodist](/wiki/United_Methodist) churches, eight Free Evangelical Congregations, four [Churches of Christ, Scientist](/wiki/Church_of_Christ,_Scientist) (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 11th), six congregations of [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints), an [Old Catholic](/wiki/Old_Catholic) church, and an [Anglican](/wiki/Anglican) church in Berlin.

Berlin has 76 mosques, 11 synagogues, and two [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhist) temples, in addition to a number of [humanist](/wiki/Humanism) and [atheist](/wiki/Atheist) groups.

## Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### City state[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Berlin-_The_Rotes_Rathaus_with_the_Neptunbrunnen_in_front_-_2752.jpg)[Rotes Rathaus](/wiki/Rotes_Rathaus), seat of the Berlin Senate

Since [the reunification](/wiki/German_reunification) on 3 October 1990, Berlin has been one of the three [city states in Germany](/wiki/States_of_Germany#Subdivisions) among the present 16 states of Germany. The city and state parliament is the [House of Representatives](/wiki/Abgeordnetenhaus_von_Berlin) (*Abgeordnetenhaus*), which currently has 141 seats. Berlin's executive body is the [Senate of Berlin](/wiki/Senate_of_Berlin) (*Senat von Berlin*). The Senate of Berlin consists of the [Governing Mayor](/wiki/List_of_mayors_of_Berlin) (*Regierender Bürgermeister*) and up to eight senators holding ministerial positions, one of them holding the official title "Mayor" (*Bürgermeister*) as deputy to the Governing Mayor.

The [Social Democratic Party](/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_of_Germany) (SPD) and [The Left](/wiki/The_Left_(Germany)) (Die Linke) took control of the city government after the [2001 state election](/wiki/Berlin_state_election,_2001) and won another term in the [2006 state election](/wiki/Berlin_state_election,_2006).[[79]](#cite_note-79) Since the [2011 state election](/wiki/Berlin_state_election,_2011), there has been a coalition of the Social Democratic Party with the [Christian Democratic Union](/wiki/Christian_Democratic_Union_(Germany)), and for the first time ever, the [Pirate Party](/wiki/Piratenpartei_Deutschland) won seats in a state parliament in Germany.

The Governing Mayor is simultaneously Lord Mayor of the city (*Oberbürgermeister der Stadt*) and Prime Minister of the Federal State (*Ministerpräsident des Bundeslandes*). The office of Berlin's Governing Mayor is in the [Rotes Rathaus (Red City Hall)](/wiki/Rotes_Rathaus). Since 2014 this office has been held by [Michael Müller](/wiki/Michael_Müller_(politician)) of the SPD.[[80]](#cite_note-80) The total annual state budget of Berlin in 2007 exceeded €20.5 ($28.7) billion including a budget surplus of €80 ($112) million.[[81]](#cite_note-81) The total budget included an estimated amount of €5.5 ($7.7) bn, which is directly financed by either the German government or the German Bundesländer.[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### Boroughs[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|280px|](/wiki/File:Berlin_Subdivisions.svg)[Berlin's twelve boroughs and their 96 neighborhoods](/wiki/Boroughs_and_neighborhoods_of_Berlin)

Berlin is subdivided into twelve boroughs or districts (*Bezirke*). Each borough contains a number of subdistricts or neighborhoods (*Ortsteile*), which often have historic roots in older municipalities that predate the formation of Greater Berlin on 1 October 1920 and became urbanized and incorporated into the city. Many residents strongly identify with their subdistricts or districts. At present, Berlin consists of 96 subdistricts, which are commonly made up of several smaller residential areas or quarters, called [*Kiez*](/wiki/Kiez) in the [Berlin dialect](/wiki/Berlin_dialect).

Each borough is governed by a borough council (*Bezirksamt*) consisting of five councilors (*Bezirksstadträte*) including the borough mayor (*Bezirksbürgermeister*). The borough council is elected by the borough assembly (*Bezirksverordnetenversammlung*). The boroughs of Berlin are not independent municipalities. The power of borough administration is limited and subordinate to the Senate of Berlin. The borough mayors form the council of mayors (*Rat der Bürgermeister*), led by the city's governing mayor, which advises the senate. The neighborhoods have no local government bodies.

### Twin towns – sister cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Berlin maintains official partnerships with 17 cities.<ref name=Berlinsistercities>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Town twinning](/wiki/Twin_towns_and_sister_cities) between Berlin and other cities began with sister city Los Angeles in 1967. East Berlin's partnerships were canceled at the time of German reunification and later partially reestablished. West Berlin's partnerships had previously been restricted to the borough level. During the Cold War era, the partnerships had reflected the different power blocs, with West Berlin partnering with capitals in the West, and East Berlin mostly partnering with cities from the [Warsaw Pact](/wiki/Warsaw_Pact) and its allies.

There are several joint projects with many other cities, such as [Beirut](/wiki/Beirut), [Belgrade](/wiki/Belgrade), [São Paulo](/wiki/São_Paulo), [Copenhagen](/wiki/Copenhagen), [Helsinki](/wiki/Helsinki), [Johannesburg](/wiki/Johannesburg), [Mumbai](/wiki/Mumbai), [Oslo](/wiki/Oslo), [Shanghai](/wiki/Shanghai), [Seoul](/wiki/Seoul), [Sofia](/wiki/Sofia), [Sydney](/wiki/Sydney), [New York City](/wiki/New_York_City) and [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna). Berlin participates in international city associations such as the Union of the Capitals of the European Union, Eurocities, Network of European Cities of Culture, Metropolis, Summit Conference of the World's Major Cities, and Conference of the World's Capital Cities. Berlin's official sister cities are:<ref name=Berlinsistercities/>

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| * 1967 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Los Angeles](/wiki/Los_Angeles), United States * 1987 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Paris](/wiki/Paris), France * 1988 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Madrid](/wiki/Madrid), Spain * 1989 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul), Turkey * 1991 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Warsaw](/wiki/Warsaw), Poland[[83]](#cite_note-83)\* 1991 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Moscow](/wiki/Moscow), Russia | * 1992 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Brussels](/wiki/Brussels), Belgium * 1992 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Budapest](/wiki/Budapest), Hungary[[84]](#cite_note-84)\* 1993 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Tashkent](/wiki/Tashkent), Uzbekistan * 1993 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Mexico City](/wiki/Mexico_City), Mexico * 1993 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Jakarta](/wiki/Jakarta), Indonesia * 1994 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Beijing](/wiki/Beijing), China | * 1994 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Tokyo](/wiki/Tokyo), Japan * 1994 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Buenos Aires](/wiki/Buenos_Aires), Argentina * 1995 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Prague](/wiki/Prague), Czech Republic[[85]](#cite_note-85)\* 2000 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Windhoek](/wiki/Windhoek), Namibia * 2000 [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [London](/wiki/London), United Kingdom |

### Capital city[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

Berlin is the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany. The [President of Germany](/wiki/President_of_Germany), whose functions are mainly ceremonial under the [German constitution](/wiki/Grundgesetz), has his official residence in [Schloss Bellevue](/wiki/Schloss_Bellevue).[[86]](#cite_note-86) Berlin is the seat of the [German executive](/wiki/Chancellor_of_Germany_(Federal_Republic_of_Germany)), housed in the [Chancellery](/wiki/German_Chancellery), the *Bundeskanzleramt*. Facing the Chancellery is the [Bundestag](/wiki/Bundestag), the German Parliament, housed in the renovated [Reichstag building](/wiki/Reichstag_building) since the government moved back to Berlin in 1998. The [Bundesrat](/wiki/Bundesrat_of_Germany) ("federal council", performing the function of an upper house) is the representation of the Federal States (*Bundesländer*) of Germany and has its seat at the former [Prussian House of Lords](/wiki/Prussian_House_of_Lords).

<gallery mode=packed> File:Berlin Reichstag 01.jpg|[Reichstag](/wiki/Reichstag_building), seat of the [Bundestag](/wiki/Bundestag) File:Kanzler21a.jpg|[German Chancellery](/wiki/German_Chancellery) File:Be ItalianEmbassy 01.JPG|The Italian embassy File:Berlin, Mitte, Wilhelmstraße, Detlev-Rohwedder-Haus.jpg|The Federal Ministry of Finance </gallery>

The relocation of the federal [government](/wiki/Cabinet_of_Germany) and Bundestag to Berlin was completed in 1999, however with some ministries as well as some minor departments retained in the [federal city](/wiki/Federal_city) [Bonn](/wiki/Bonn), the former capital of West Germany. [Discussions to move](/wiki/Berlin-Bonn_Act) the remaining branches continue.[[87]](#cite_note-87) The ministries and departments of [Defence](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Defence_(Germany)), [Justice and Consumer Protection](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Justice_and_Consumer_Protection), [Finance](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Finance_(Germany)), [Interior](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_the_Interior_(Germany)), [Foreign](/wiki/Foreign_Office_(Germany)), [Economic Affairs and Energy](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_for_Economic_Affairs_and_Energy_(Germany)), [Labour and Social Affairs](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Labour_and_Social_Affairs) , [Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Family_Affairs,_Senior_Citizens,_Women_and_Youth), [Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_for_the_Environment,_Nature_Conservation,_Building_and_Nuclear_Safety), [Food and Agriculture](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Food_and_Agriculture), [Economic Cooperation and Development](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_for_Economic_Cooperation_and_Development), [Health](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Health_(Germany)), [Transport and Digital Infrastructure](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Transport_and_Digital_Infrastructure) and [Education and Research](/wiki/Federal_Ministry_of_Education_and_Research_(Germany)) are based in the capital.

Berlin hosts 158 foreign embassies[[88]](#cite_note-88) as well as the headquarters of many think tanks, trade unions, non-profit organizations, lobbying groups, and professional associations. Due to the influence and international partnerships of the Federal Republic of Germany as a state, the capital city has become a venue for German and European affairs. Frequent official visits, and diplomatic consultations among governmental representatives and national leaders are common in contemporary Berlin.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Berlin is a UNESCO "City of Design" and recognized for its](/wiki/File:Berlin_night.jpg) [creative industries](/wiki/Creative_industries) and [startup ecosystem](/wiki/Startup_ecosystem).[[89]](#cite_note-89)

In 2015, the nominal GDP of the citystate Berlin totaled €124.16 (~$142) billion compared to €117.75 in 2014,[[90]](#cite_note-90) an increase of about 5.4%. Berlin's economy is dominated by the service sector, with around 84% of all companies doing business in services. In 2015, the total labour force in Berlin was 1.85 million. The unemployment rate reached a 24-year low in November 2015 and stood at 10.0% .[[91]](#cite_note-91) From 2012–2015 Berlin as a German state had the highest annual employment growth rate. Around 130.000 jobs were added in this period.[[92]](#cite_note-92) Important economic sectors in Berlin include life sciences, transportation, information and communication technologies, media and music, advertising and design, biotechnology, environmental services, construction, e-commerce, retail, hotel business, and medical engineering.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Research and development have economic significance for the city. The metropolitan region ranks among the top-3 innovative locations in the EU.[[94]](#cite_note-94) The Science and Business Park in Adlershof is the largest technology park in Germany measured by revenue.[[95]](#cite_note-95) Within the [Eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone), Berlin has become a center for business relocation and international [investments](/wiki/Investment).[[96]](#cite_note-96)

### Companies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:2015-03-22_D-ABKT_at_Berlin-Tegel_TXL_by_sebaso.jpg)[Air Berlin](/wiki/Air_Berlin) is headquartered in Berlin.

Many German and international companies have business or service centers in the city. For several years Berlin has been recognized as a major center of [business founders](/wiki/Entrepreneurship).[[97]](#cite_note-97) In 2015, Berlin generated the most venture capital for young [startup companies](/wiki/Startup_company) in Europe.[[98]](#cite_note-98) Among the 10 largest employers in Berlin are the City-State of Berlin, [Deutsche Bahn](/wiki/Deutsche_Bahn), the hospital provider [Charité](/wiki/Charité) and Vivantes, the local public transport provider [BVG](/wiki/Berliner_Verkehrsbetriebe), and [Deutsche Telekom](/wiki/Deutsche_Telekom).

[Daimler](/wiki/Daimler_AG) manufactures cars, and [BMW builds motorcycles](/wiki/BMW_Motorrad) in Berlin. [Bayer Health Care](/wiki/Bayer_Schering_Pharma) and *Berlin Chemie* are major pharmaceutical companies headquartered in the city. The second largest German airline [Air Berlin](/wiki/Air_Berlin) is based there as well.[[99]](#cite_note-99) [Siemens](/wiki/Siemens), a [Global 500](/wiki/Fortune_Global_500) and [DAX](/wiki/DAX)-listed company is partly headquartered in Berlin. The national railway operator [Deutsche Bahn](/wiki/Deutsche_Bahn) and the [MDAX](/wiki/MDAX)-listed firms [Axel Springer SE](/wiki/Axel_Springer_AG) and [Zalando](/wiki/Zalando) have their headquarters in the central districts.[[100]](#cite_note-100) Berlin has a cluster of rail technology companies and is the German headquarter or site to [Bombardier Transportation](/wiki/Bombardier_Transportation),[[101]](#cite_note-101) [Siemens Mobility](/wiki/Siemens_Mobility),[[102]](#cite_note-102) [Stadler Rail](/wiki/Stadler_Rail) and [Thales Transportation](/wiki/Thales_Group).[[103]](#cite_note-103)

### Tourism and conventions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

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Berlin had 788 hotels with 134,399 beds in 2014.<ref name=visitberlin>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The city recorded 28.7 million overnight hotel stays and 11.9 million hotel guests in 2014.<ref name=visitberlin/> Tourism figures have more than doubled within the last ten years and Berlin has become the third most-visited city destination in Europe. The largest visitor groups are from Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain and the United States.

Berlin is among the top three congress cities in the world.<ref name=congress/> The [Messe Berlin](/wiki/Messe_Berlin) is the main convention organizing company in the city. Its main exhibition area covers more than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Several large-scale trade fairs like the consumer electronics trade fair [IFA](/wiki/IFA_Berlin), the [ILA Berlin Air Show](/wiki/ILA_Berlin_Air_Show), the [Berlin Fashion Week](/wiki/Berlin_Fashion_Week) (including the [Bread and Butter tradeshow](/wiki/Bread_and_Butter_tradeshow) and *Panorama Berlin*),[[104]](#cite_note-104) the [Green Week](/wiki/Berlin_International_Green_Week), the *Fruit Logistica*, the transport fair [InnoTrans](/wiki/InnoTrans), the tourism fair [ITB](/wiki/ITB_Berlin) and the adult entertainment and erotic fair [Venus](/wiki/Venus_Award) are held annually in the city, attracting a significant number of business visitors. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Creative industries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|frame|The](/wiki/File:European_Film_Academy_-_European_Film_Awards_logo.svg) [European Film Academy](/wiki/European_Film_Academy) (logo pictured) was founded in Berlin.

The [creative arts and entertainment](/wiki/Creative_industries) business is an important and sizable sector of the economy of Berlin. The sector comprises music, film, advertising, architecture, art, design, [fashion](/wiki/German_fashion), [performing arts](/wiki/Performing_arts), publishing, [R&D](/wiki/Research_and_development), [software](/wiki/Software),[[105]](#cite_note-105) TV, radio, and [video games](/wiki/Video_gaming_in_Germany).

In 2014 around 30,500 creative companies were operating in the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region, predominantly [SMEs](/wiki/Small_and_medium-sized_enterprises). Generating a revenue of 15.6 Billon Euro and 6% of all private economic sales, the culture industry grew from 2009 to 2014 at an average rate of 5.5% per year.[[106]](#cite_note-106) Berlin is an important centre in the European and [German film industry](/wiki/Cinema_of_Germany).[[107]](#cite_note-107) It is home to more than 1000 film and television production companies, 270 movie theaters, and around 300 national and international co-productions are filmed in the region every year.[[94]](#cite_note-94) The historic [Babelsberg Studios](/wiki/Babelsberg_Studios) and the production company [UFA](/wiki/Universum_Film_AG) are located adjacent to Berlin in [Potsdam](/wiki/Potsdam). The city is also home of the [German Film Academy](/wiki/Deutsche_Filmakademie) (Deutsche Filmakademie), founded in 2003, and the [European Film Academy](/wiki/European_Film_Academy), founded in 1988.

### Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|Headquarter of the](/wiki/File:Berlin,_Kreuzberg,_Axel-Springer-Strasse_56,_Axel-Springer-Hochhaus_01.jpg) [Axel Springer SE](/wiki/Axel_Springer_AG) Berlin is home to numerous magazine, newspaper, book and scientific/academic publishers, as well as their associated service industries. In addition around 20 news agencies, more than 90 regional daily newspapers and their websites, as well as the Berlin offices of more than 22 national publications such as [Der Spiegel](/wiki/Der_Spiegel), and [Die Zeit](/wiki/Die_Zeit) re-enforce the capital's position as Germany's epicenter for influential debate. Therefore, many international journalists, bloggers and writers live and work in the city.

Berlin is the central location to several international and regional television and radio stations.[[108]](#cite_note-108) The public broadcaster [RBB](/wiki/Rundfunk_Berlin-Brandenburg) has its headquarters in Berlin as well as the commercial broadcasters [MTV Europe](/wiki/MTV_Europe), [VIVA](/wiki/Viva_(TV_station)), and [N24](/wiki/N24_(Germany)). German international public broadcaster [Deutsche Welle](/wiki/Deutsche_Welle) has its TV production unit in Berlin, and most national German broadcasters have a studio in the city including [ZDF](/wiki/ZDF) and [RTL](/wiki/RTL_Television).

Berlin has Germany's largest number of daily newspapers, with numerous local [broadsheets](/wiki/Broadsheet) ([*Berliner Morgenpost*](/wiki/Berliner_Morgenpost), [*Berliner Zeitung*](/wiki/Berliner_Zeitung), [*Der Tagesspiegel*](/wiki/Der_Tagesspiegel)), and three major [tabloids](/wiki/Tabloid_(newspaper_format)), as well as national dailies of varying sizes, each with a different political affiliation, such as [*Die Welt*](/wiki/Die_Welt), [*Neues Deutschland*](/wiki/Neues_Deutschland), and [*Die Tageszeitung*](/wiki/Die_Tageszeitung). The [*Exberliner*](/wiki/Exberliner), a monthly magazine, is Berlin's English-language periodical and [La Gazette de Berlin](/wiki/La_Gazette_de_Berlin) a French-language newspaper.

Berlin is also the headquarter of major German-language [publishing houses](/wiki/Publishing_house) like [Walter de Gruyter](/wiki/Walter_de_Gruyter), [Springer](/wiki/Axel_Springer_AG), the Ullstein Verlagsgruppe (publishing group), [Suhrkamp](/wiki/Suhrkamp) and Cornelsen are all based in Berlin. Each of which publish books, periodicals, and multimedia products.

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Berlin_hauptbahnhof_no_2.jpg)[Berlin Hauptbahnhof](/wiki/Berlin_Hauptbahnhof) is the largest grade-separated railway station in Europe.

Berlin's transport infrastructure is highly complex, providing a diverse range of urban mobility.[[109]](#cite_note-109) A total of 979 bridges cross [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of inner-city waterways. [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of roads run through Berlin, of which [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) are motorways ("[Autobahn](/wiki/Autobahn)").[[110]](#cite_note-110) In 2013, 1.344 million motor vehicles were registered in the city.[[110]](#cite_note-110) With 377 cars per 1000 residents in 2013 (570/1000 in Germany), Berlin as a [Western](/wiki/Western_World) global city has one of the lowest numbers of cars per capita.

Long-distance rail lines connect Berlin with all of the major cities of Germany and with many cities in neighboring European countries. Regional rail lines provide access to the surrounding regions of Brandenburg and to the [Baltic Sea](/wiki/Baltic_Sea). The [Berlin Hauptbahnhof](/wiki/Berlin_Hauptbahnhof) is the largest [grade-separated](/wiki/Grade_separation) [railway station](/wiki/Railway_station) in Europe.[[111]](#cite_note-111) [Deutsche Bahn](/wiki/Deutsche_Bahn) runs trains to domestic destinations like [Hamburg](/wiki/Hamburg), Munich, [Cologne](/wiki/Cologne) and others. It also runs an airport express rail service, as well as trains to several international destinations, e.g., [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna), [Prague](/wiki/Prague), [Zürich](/wiki/Zürich), [Warsaw](/wiki/Warsaw) and [Amsterdam](/wiki/Amsterdam).

Public transport

The [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) and the Deutsche Bahn manage several dense urban public transport systems.[[112]](#cite_note-112)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **System** | **Stations/ Lines/ Net length** | **Passengers per year** | **Operator/ Notes** |
| [S-Bahn](/wiki/Berlin_S-Bahn) | 166 / 15 / [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 402 million | [DB](/wiki/Deutsche_Bahn)/ Mainly overground [rapid transit](/wiki/Rapid_transit) rail system with suburban stops. |
| [U-Bahn](/wiki/Berlin_U-Bahn) | 173 / 10 / [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 507 million | [BVG](/wiki/Berliner_Verkehrsbetriebe)/ Mainly underground rail system. 24h-service on weekends. |
| [Tram](/wiki/Tram_transport_in_Berlin) | 398 / 22 / [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 189 million | BVG/ Operates predominantly in eastern boroughs. |
| [Bus](/wiki/Bus_transport_in_Berlin) | 2627 / 149 / [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | 409 million | BVG/ Extensive services in all boroughs. 46 Night Lines |
| [Ferry](/wiki/Ferry_transport_in_Berlin) | 6 lines |  | BVG/ All modes of transport can be accessed with the same ticket.[[60]](#cite_note-60) |

Airports

[thumb|Flights departing from Berlin serve 163 destinations around the globe.](/wiki/File:BER-Destinations.png)

Berlin has two commercial international airports. [Berlin Tegel Airport](/wiki/Berlin_Tegel_Airport) (TXL) is situated within the city limits. [Schönefeld Airport](/wiki/Schönefeld_Airport) (SXF) is located just outside Berlin's south-eastern border in the state of Brandenburg. Both airports together handled 29.5 million passengers in 2015. In 2014, 67 airlines served 163 destinations in 50 countries from Berlin.[[113]](#cite_note-113) Tegel Airport is an important transfer hub for [Air Berlin](/wiki/Air_Berlin) as well as a focus city for [Lufthansa](/wiki/Lufthansa) and [Eurowings](/wiki/Eurowings). Schönefeld serves as an important destination for airlines like [Germania](/wiki/Germania_(airline)), [easyJet](/wiki/EasyJet) and [Ryanair](/wiki/Ryanair).

The new [Berlin Brandenburg Airport](/wiki/Berlin_Brandenburg_Airport) (BER), currently under construction, will replace Tegel as single commercial airport of Berlin.[[114]](#cite_note-114) The new airport will integrate old Schönefeld (SXF) facilities and is scheduled to open not before autumn 2017. Because of the rapid passenger growth at Berlin airports the passenger capacities at the BER are already considered too small for the projected demand.

Cycling

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Berlin is well known for its highly developed bicycle lane system.[[115]](#cite_note-115) It is estimated that Berlin has 710 bicycles per 1000 residents. Around 500,000 daily bike riders accounted for 13% of total traffic in 2009.[[116]](#cite_note-116) Cyclists have access to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of bicycle paths including approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of mandatory bicycle paths, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of off-road bicycle routes, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of bicycle lanes on roads, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of shared bus lanes which are also open to cyclists, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of combined pedestrian/bike paths and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of marked bicycle lanes on roadside pavements (or sidewalks).[[117]](#cite_note-117)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[thumb|Heat and power plant Heizkraftwerk Mitte](/wiki/File:Berlin-mitte_heizkraftwerk-mitte_20060605_629.jpg)

Berlin's energy is mainly supplied by the Swedish firm [Vattenfall](/wiki/Vattenfall), which relies more heavily than other electricity producers on [lignite](/wiki/Lignite) as an energy source. Because burning lignite produces harmful emissions, Vattenfall has announced its commitment to transitioning to cleaner sources, such as [renewable energy](/wiki/Renewable_energy).[[118]](#cite_note-118) In the former West Berlin, electricity was supplied chiefly by thermal power stations. To facilitate buffering during load peaks, [accumulators](/wiki/Accumulator_(energy)) were installed during the 1980s at some of these power stations. These were connected by static inverters to the power grid and were loaded during times of low energy consumption and unloaded during periods of high consumption.

In 1993 the power grid connections to the surrounding areas were restored. In the western districts of Berlin, nearly all power lines are underground cables; only a 380 kV and a 110 kV line, which run from Reuter substation to the urban [Autobahn](/wiki/Autobahn), use overhead lines. The [Berlin 380-kV electric line](/wiki/Berlin_380-kV_electric_line) was built when West Berlin's electrical grid was not connected to those of East or West Germany. This has now become the backbone of the city's energy grid.

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Berlin_mitte_spreebogenpark_blick_auf_charite_10.08.2011_13-31-03.JPG) [Charité](/wiki/Charité) university hospital

Berlin has a long history of discoveries in medicine and innovations in medical technology.[[119]](#cite_note-119) The modern history of medicine has been significantly influenced by scientists from Berlin. [Rudolf Virchow](/wiki/Rudolf_Virchow) was the founder of cellular pathology, while [Robert Koch](/wiki/Robert_Koch) developed vaccines for anthrax, cholera, and tuberculosis.[[120]](#cite_note-120) The [Charité](/wiki/Charité) hospital complex is the largest [university hospital](/wiki/University_hospital) in Europe, tracing back its origins to the year 1710. The Charité is spread over four sites and comprises 3,300 beds, around 14,000 staff, 7,000 students, and more than 60 operating theaters, and it has a turnover of over one billion euros annually.[[121]](#cite_note-121) The [Charité](/wiki/Charité) is a joint institution of the [Freie Universität Berlin](/wiki/Free_University_of_Berlin) and the [Humboldt University of Berlin](/wiki/Humboldt_University_of_Berlin), including a wide range of institutes and specialized medical centers.

Among them are the German Heart Center, one of the most renowned transplantation centers, the Max-Delbrück-Center for Molecular Medicine and the Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Genetics. The scientific research at these institutions is complemented by many research departments of companies such as Siemens and Bayer. The [World Health Summit](/wiki/World_Health_Summit) and several international health related conventions are held annually in Berlin.

### Telecommunication[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[thumb|Students at the St. Oberholz café in Berlin Mitte using](/wiki/File:St_oberholz.jpg) [Wi-Fi](/wiki/Wi-Fi) devices

The [digital television](/wiki/Digital_television) standard in Berlin and Germany is [DVB-T](/wiki/DVB-T). This system transmits [compressed](/wiki/Video_compression) [digital audio](/wiki/Digital_audio), [digital video](/wiki/Digital_video) and other data in an [MPEG transport stream](/wiki/MPEG_transport_stream), using coded [orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing](/wiki/Orthogonal_frequency-division_multiplexing) modulation. The transmission standard is scheduled to be replaced by [DVB-T2](/wiki/DVB-T2) in 2018.

Berlin has commissioned the company ABL Social Federation to install several hundred free public [Wireless LAN](/wiki/Wireless_LAN) sites across the capital by 2016. The wireless networks will be concentrated mostly in central districts. 650 hotspots (325 indoor and 325 outdoor access points) are going to be installed.[[122]](#cite_note-122) The [UMTS](/wiki/UMTS) (3G) and [LTE](/wiki/LTE_(telecommunication)) (4G) networks of the three major cellular operators [Vodafone](/wiki/Vodafone), [T-Mobile](/wiki/T-Mobile) and [O2](/wiki/Telefónica_Germany) enable the use of mobile broadband applications citywide.

The [Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute](/wiki/Fraunhofer_Institute_for_Telecommunications) develops mobile and stationary [broadband](/wiki/Broadband) communication networks and multimedia systems. Focal points of independent and contract research conducted by Fraunhofer HHI are [photonic components and systems](/wiki/Photonics), [fiber optic](/wiki/Optical_fiber) sensor systems, and [image signal processing](/wiki/Digital_image_processing) and [transmission](/wiki/Signal_processing). Future applications for broadband networks are developed as well.

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|The](/wiki/File:Humboldt_monument.jpg) [Humboldt University](/wiki/Humboldt_University). 40 Nobel Prize winners are affiliated with the Berlin-based colleges.

Berlin has 878 schools that teach 340,658 children in 13,727 classes and 56,787 trainees in businesses and elsewhere.[[94]](#cite_note-94) The city has a six-year primary education program. After completing primary school, students continue to the Sekundarschule (a comprehensive school) or Gymnasium (college preparatory school). Berlin has a special bilingual school program embedded in the "Europaschule" in which children are taught the curriculum in German and a foreign language, starting in primary school and continuing in high school. Nine major European languages can be chosen as foreign languages in 29 schools.[[123]](#cite_note-123) The [Französisches Gymnasium Berlin](/wiki/Französisches_Gymnasium_Berlin), which was founded in 1689 to teach the children of Huguenot refugees, offers (German/French) instruction.[[124]](#cite_note-124) The [John F. Kennedy School](/wiki/John_F._Kennedy_School,_Berlin), a bilingual German–American public school located in [Zehlendorf](/wiki/Zehlendorf_(Berlin)), is particularly popular with children of diplomats and the English-speaking expatriate community. Four schools teach [Latin](/wiki/Latin) and [Classical Greek](/wiki/Classical_Greek). Two of them are state schools (Steglitzer Gymnasium in [Steglitz](/wiki/Steglitz) and Goethe-Gymnasium in [Wilmersdorf](/wiki/Wilmersdorf)), one is Protestant ([Evangelisches Gymnasium zum Grauen Kloster](/wiki/Evangelisches_Gymnasium_zum_Grauen_Kloster) in Wilmersdorf), and one is Jesuit ([Canisius-Kolleg](/wiki/Canisius-Kolleg) in the "Embassy Quarter" in [Tiergarten](/wiki/Tiergarten_(Berlin))).

### Higher education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|260px|left|The](/wiki/File:Freie_Universitaet_Berlin_-_Gebaeudekomplex_Rost-_und_Silberlaube.jpg) [Freie Universität](/wiki/Freie_Universität_Berlin) is one of Germany's eleven "Universities of Excellence".

The Berlin-Brandenburg capital region is one of the most prolific centres of higher education and research in Germany and Europe. Historically, 40 Nobel Prize winners are affiliated with the Berlin-based universities.

The city has four public research universities and more than 30 private, professional, and technical colleges *(Hochschulen)*, offering a wide range of disciplines.[[125]](#cite_note-125) A record number of 175,651 students were enrolled in the winter term of 2015/16.[[126]](#cite_note-126) Among them around 18% have an international background.

The three largest universities combined have approximately 100,000 enrolled students. There are the [Humboldt Universität zu Berlin](/wiki/Humboldt_Universität_zu_Berlin) *(HU Berlin)* with 33,000 students, the [Freie Universität Berlin](/wiki/Freie_Universität_Berlin) *(Free University of Berlin, FU Berlin)* with about 33,000 students, and the [Technische Universität Berlin](/wiki/Technische_Universität_Berlin) *(TU Berlin)* with 33,000 students. The FU and the HU are part of the [German Universities Excellence Initiative](/wiki/German_Universities_Excellence_Initiative). The [Universität der Künste](/wiki/Universität_der_Künste) *(UdK)* has about 4,000 students and the [Berlin School of Economics and Law](/wiki/Berlin_School_of_Economics_and_Law) has enrollment of about 10,000 students.

### Research[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[thumb|270px|The](/wiki/File:Berlin_Adlershof_Wista_Bessy.jpg) [Science and Technology Park](/wiki/WISTA) in [Adlershof](/wiki/Berlin-Adlershof) is home to several new businesses, research institutes and student facilities.

The city has a high density of research institutions, such as the [Fraunhofer Society](/wiki/Fraunhofer_Society), [Leibniz Association](/wiki/Leibniz_Association) and the [Max Planck Society](/wiki/Max_Planck_Society), which are independent of, or only loosely connected to its universities. In 2008, 62,000 scientists were working in [research and development](/wiki/Research_and_development) in the city.[[94]](#cite_note-94) Berlin is one of the centers of knowledge and innovation communities of the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](/wiki/European_Institute_of_Innovation_and_Technology) (EIT).[[127]](#cite_note-127) One of Europe's major research and technology [clusters](/wiki/List_of_technology_centers) is at [WISTA](/wiki/WISTA) in [Berlin-Adlershof](/wiki/Berlin-Adlershof), with more than 1,000 affiliated companies and 16 scientific institutions.[[128]](#cite_note-128) In addition to the libraries that are affiliated with the various universities, the [Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin](/wiki/Staatsbibliothek_zu_Berlin) is a major research library. Its two main locations are on Potsdamer Straße and on [Unter den Linden](/wiki/Unter_den_Linden). There are also 86 public libraries in the city.[[94]](#cite_note-94) [ResearchGate](/wiki/ResearchGate), a global social networking site for scientists, is based in Berlin.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

Berlin is known for its numerous cultural institutions, many of which enjoy international reputation.<ref name=UNESCO/><ref name=UNESCO2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The diversity and vivacity of the metropolis led to a trendsetting atmosphere.[[129]](#cite_note-129) An innovative music, dance and art scene has developed in the 21st century.

Young people, international artists and entrepreneurs continued to settle in the city and made Berlin a popular entertainment center in the world.[[130]](#cite_note-130) The expanding cultural performance of the city was underscored by the relocation of the [Universal Music Group](/wiki/Universal_Music_Group) who decided to move their headquarters to the banks of the River Spree.[[131]](#cite_note-131) In 2005, Berlin was named "City of Design" by [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO).<ref name=Cityofdesign/>

### Galleries and museums[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|upright|left|The](/wiki/File:Jewishmuseumberlin2007.jpg) [Jewish Museum](/wiki/Jewish_Museum_Berlin) presents two millennia of [German–Jewish history](/wiki/German_Jews)

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) Berlin is home to 138 museums and more than 400 art galleries.[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[132]](#cite_note-132) The ensemble on the [Museum Island](/wiki/Museum_Island) is a UNESCO [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) and is situated in the northern part of the Spree Island between the Spree and the Kupfergraben.<ref name=UNESCO/> As early as 1841 it was designated a "district dedicated to art and antiquities" by a royal decree. Subsequently, the [Altes Museum](/wiki/Altes_Museum) was built in the Lustgarten. The [Neues Museum](/wiki/Neues_Museum), which displays the [bust of Queen Nefertiti](/wiki/Nefertiti_Bust),[[133]](#cite_note-133) [Alte Nationalgalerie](/wiki/Alte_Nationalgalerie), [Pergamon Museum](/wiki/Pergamon_Museum), and [Bode Museum](/wiki/Bode_Museum) were built there.

Apart from the Museum Island, there are many additional museums in the city. The [Gemäldegalerie](/wiki/Gemäldegalerie,_Berlin) (Painting Gallery) focuses on the paintings of the "old masters" from the 13th to the 18th centuries, while the [Neue Nationalgalerie](/wiki/Neue_Nationalgalerie) (New National Gallery, built by [Ludwig Mies van der Rohe](/wiki/Ludwig_Mies_van_der_Rohe)) specializes in 20th-century European painting. The [Hamburger Bahnhof](/wiki/Hamburger_Bahnhof), located in [Moabit](/wiki/Moabit), exhibits a major collection of modern and contemporary art. The expanded [Deutsches Historisches Museum](/wiki/Deutsches_Historisches_Museum) re-opened in the Zeughaus with an overview of German history spanning more than a millennium. The [Bauhaus Archive](/wiki/Bauhaus_Archive) is a museum of 20th century design from the famous [Bauhaus](/wiki/Bauhaus) school.

[thumb|The reconstructed](/wiki/File:Ishtar_Gate_at_Berlin_Museum.jpg) [Ishtar Gate](/wiki/Ishtar_Gate) of Babylon at the [Pergamon Museum](/wiki/Pergamon_Museum)

The [Jewish Museum](/wiki/Jewish_Museum_Berlin) has a standing exhibition on two millennia of German-Jewish history.[[134]](#cite_note-134) The [German Museum of Technology](/wiki/German_Museum_of_Technology_(Berlin)) in [Kreuzberg](/wiki/Kreuzberg) has a large collection of historical technical artifacts. The [Museum für Naturkunde](/wiki/Museum_für_Naturkunde) exhibits natural history near [Berlin Hauptbahnhof](/wiki/Berlin_Hauptbahnhof). It has the largest mounted dinosaur in the world (a [Giraffatitan](/wiki/Giraffatitan)). Well-preserved specimens of [Tyrannosaurus Rex](/wiki/Tyrannosaurus_Rex) and the early bird [Archaeopteryx](/wiki/Archaeopteryx) are at display as well.[[135]](#cite_note-135) In [Dahlem](/wiki/Dahlem_(Berlin)), there are several museums of world art and culture, such as the [Museum of Asian Art](/wiki/Museum_of_Asian_Art), the [Ethnological Museum](/wiki/Ethnological_Museum_of_Berlin), the [Museum of European Cultures](/wiki/Museum_Europäischer_Kulturen), as well as the [Allied Museum](/wiki/Allied_Museum). The [Brücke Museum](/wiki/Brücke_Museum) features one of the largest collection of works by artist of the early 20th-century expressionist movement. In [Lichtenberg](/wiki/Lichtenberg), on the grounds of the former [East German Ministry for State Security](/wiki/Stasi), is the [Stasi Museum](/wiki/Stasi_Museum). The site of [Checkpoint Charlie](/wiki/Checkpoint_Charlie), one of the most renowned crossing points of the Berlin Wall, is still preserved. A private [museum venture](/wiki/Checkpoint_Charlie_Museum) exhibits a comprehensive documentation of detailed plans and strategies devised by people who tried to flee from the East. The [Beate Uhse Erotic Museum](/wiki/Beate_Uhse_Erotic_Museum) claims to be the world's largest erotic museum.[[136]](#cite_note-136) The cityscape of Berlin displays large quantities of urban [street art](/wiki/Street_art).[[137]](#cite_note-137) It has become a significant part of the city's cultural heritage and has its roots in the graffiti scene of [Kreuzberg](/wiki/Kreuzberg) of the 1980s.[[138]](#cite_note-138) The [Berlin Wall](/wiki/Berlin_Wall_graffiti_art) itself has become one of the largest open-air canvasses in the world.[[139]](#cite_note-139) The leftover stretch along the Spree river in [Friedrichshain](/wiki/Friedrichshain) remains as the [East Side Gallery](/wiki/East_Side_Gallery). Berlin today is consistently rated as an important world city for street art culture,[[140]](#cite_note-140) and is recognized for its unique visual appearance.[[141]](#cite_note-141)

### Nightlife and festivals[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Franzoesischer_Dom_-_Festival_of_Lights_2011.jpg)[French Cathedral](/wiki/French_Cathedral,_Berlin) during the annual [Festival of Lights](/wiki/Festival_of_Lights_(Berlin))

Berlin's nightlife has been celebrated as one of the most diverse and vibrant of its kind.[[142]](#cite_note-142) In the 1970s and '80s the [SO36](/wiki/SO36) in [Kreuzberg](/wiki/Kreuzberg) focused on [punk music](/wiki/Punk_music). The *SOUND* and the *Dschungel* gained notoriety.[[143]](#cite_note-143) Throughout the 1990s, people in their 20s from many countries, particularly those in [Western](/wiki/Western_Europe) and [Central Europe](/wiki/Central_Europe), made Berlin's club scene a premier nightlife venue. After the [fall of the Berlin Wall](/wiki/Fall_of_the_Berlin_Wall) in 1989, many historic buildings in Mitte, the former city centre of East Berlin, were illegally occupied and re-built by young squatters and became a fertile ground for underground and [counterculture](/wiki/Counterculture) gatherings. The central boroughs are home to many nightclubs, including the clubs Watergate, [Tresor](/wiki/Tresor), [E-Werk](/wiki/E-Werk) and [Berghain](/wiki/Berghain). The [KitKatClub](/wiki/KitKatClub) and several other locations are known for sexually uninhibited parties.

Clubs are not required to close at a fixed time on the weekends, and many parties last well into the morning, or all weekend. *Berghain* features the *Panorama Bar*, a bar that opens its shades at daybreak, allowing party-goers a panorama view of Berlin after dancing through the night. The *Weekend Club* near [Alexanderplatz](/wiki/Alexanderplatz) features a roof terrace that allows partying at almost any time of the day. Several venues have become a popular stage for the [Neo-Burlesque](/wiki/Neo-Burlesque) scene.

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:In_Berghain.jpg)[Berghain](/wiki/Berghain) nightclub

Berlin has a long history of gay culture, and is an important [birthplace of the LGBT rights movement](/wiki/Scientific-Humanitarian_Committee). Same-sex bars and dance halls operated freely from the 1880s, and the first magazine, *Der Eigene*, started in 1896. By the 1920s, gays and lesbians had an unprecedented visibility in popular culture.<ref name=Krauss>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>[[144]](#cite_note-144) Today, in addition to a positive atmosphere in the wider club scene, the city again has a huge number of queer clubs and festivals. The most famous are [Berlin Pride](/wiki/Berlin_Pride), the [Christopher Street Day](/wiki/Christopher_Street_Day),[[145]](#cite_note-145) the [Lesbian and Gay City Festival](/wiki/Lesbian_and_Gay_City_Festival) in Berlin-Schöneberg, the [Kreuzberg Pride](/wiki/Kreuzberg_Pride) and [Hustlaball](/wiki/Hustlaball).

The annual [Berlin International Film Festival](/wiki/Berlin_International_Film_Festival) (Berlinale) with around 500,000 admissions is considered to be the largest publicly attended film festival in the world.[[146]](#cite_note-146)[[147]](#cite_note-147) The Karneval der Kulturen (*Carnival of Cultures*), a multi-ethnic street parade celebrated every [Pentecost](/wiki/Pentecost) weekend.[[148]](#cite_note-148) Berlin is also well known for the cultural festival, [Berliner Festspiele](/wiki/Berliner_Festspiele), which includes the jazz festival [JazzFest Berlin](/wiki/JazzFest_Berlin). Several technology and media art festivals and conferences are held in the city, including [Transmediale](/wiki/Transmediale) and [Chaos Communication Congress](/wiki/Chaos_Communication_Congress). The annual [Berlin Festival](/wiki/Berlin_Festival) focuses on indie rock, electronic music and synth pop and is part of the international Berlin Music Week.[[149]](#cite_note-149)[[150]](#cite_note-150) Every year Berlin hosts one of the largest New Year's Eve celebrations (Silvester) in the world, attended by over a million people. The focal point is the Brandenburg Gate, where midnight fireworks are centred. Throughout the city, private fireworks displays take place in all neighbourhoods as well. Partygoers in Germany often toast the New Year with a glass of [sparkling wine](/wiki/Sekt).

### Performing arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Rattle_BPH-Rittershaus1-Wikipedia.jpg)[Sir](/wiki/Sir) [Simon Rattle](/wiki/Simon_Rattle) conducting the renowned [Berlin Philharmonic](/wiki/Berlin_Philharmonic)

Berlin is home to 44 theaters and stages.[[94]](#cite_note-94) The [Deutsches Theater](/wiki/Deutsches_Theater) in Mitte was built in 1849–50 and has operated almost continuously since then. The [Volksbühne](/wiki/Volksbühne) at [Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz](/wiki/Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz) was built in 1913–14, though the company had been founded in 1890. The [Berliner Ensemble](/wiki/Berliner_Ensemble), famous for performing the works of [Bertolt Brecht](/wiki/Bertolt_Brecht), was established in 1949. The [Schaubühne](/wiki/Schaubühne) was founded in 1962 and moved to the building of the former Universum Cinema on Kurfürstendamm in 1981. With a [seating capacity](/wiki/Seating_capacity) of 1,891 and a stage floor of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), the Friedrichstadt-Palast is the largest show palace in Europe.

[thumb|Dance show at](/wiki/File:Berlin_Dance_Performance_2010.jpg) [Friedrichstadt-Palast](/wiki/Friedrichstadt-Palast)

Berlin has three major [opera houses](/wiki/Opera_house): the [Deutsche Oper](/wiki/Deutsche_Oper), the [Berlin State Opera](/wiki/Berlin_State_Opera), and the [Komische Oper](/wiki/Komische_Oper). The Berlin State Opera on [Unter den Linden](/wiki/Unter_den_Linden) opened in 1742 and is the oldest of the three. Its current musical director is [Daniel Barenboim](/wiki/Daniel_Barenboim). The Komische Oper has traditionally specialized in [operettas](/wiki/Operetta) and is located at Unter den Linden as well. The Deutsche Oper opened in 1912 in Charlottenburg.

The city's main venue for musical theater performances are the Theater am Potsdamer Platz and [Theater des Westens](/wiki/Theater_des_Westens) (built in 1895). Contemporary dance can be seen at the *Radialsystem V*. The [Tempodrom](/wiki/Tempodrom) is host to concerts and circus inspired entertainment. It also houses a multi-sensory spa experience. The [Admiralspalast](/wiki/Admiralspalast) in Mitte has a vibrant program of [variety](/wiki/Variety_show) and music events.

There are seven symphony orchestras in Berlin. The [Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra](/wiki/Berlin_Philharmonic_Orchestra) is one of the preeminent orchestras in the world;[[151]](#cite_note-151) it is housed in the [Berliner Philharmonie](/wiki/Berliner_Philharmonie) near Potsdamer Platz on a street named for the orchestra's longest-serving conductor, [Herbert von Karajan](/wiki/Herbert_von_Karajan).[[152]](#cite_note-152) The current principal conductor is [Simon Rattle](/wiki/Simon_Rattle).[[153]](#cite_note-153) The [Konzerthausorchester Berlin](/wiki/Konzerthausorchester_Berlin) was founded in 1952 as the orchestra for East Berlin. Its current principal conductor is [Ivan Fischer](/wiki/Ivan_Fischer). The [Haus der Kulturen der Welt](/wiki/Haus_der_Kulturen_der_Welt) presents various exhibitions dealing with intercultural issues and stages world music and conferences.[[154]](#cite_note-154) The *Kookaburra* and the *Quatsch Comedy Club* are known for satire and [stand up comedy](/wiki/Stand_up_comedy) shows.

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:CurryWurst.jpg) [Currywurst](/wiki/Currywurst).

The [cuisine](/wiki/German_cuisine) and culinary offers of Berlin vary greatly. Twelve restaurants in Berlin have been included in the [Michelin guide](/wiki/Michelin_guide) of 2015, which ranks the city at the top for the number of its restaurants having this distinction in Germany.[[155]](#cite_note-155) Apart from that, Berlin is well known for its offerings of [vegetarian](/wiki/Vegetarian) cuisine.[[156]](#cite_note-156) Many local foods originated from north German culinary traditions and include rustic and hearty dishes with pork, goose, fish, peas, beans, cucumbers, or potatoes. Typical Berliner fares include [*Currywurst*](/wiki/Currywurst), [*Bulette*](/wiki/Frikadeller) and the [*Berliner*](/wiki/Berliner_(doughnut)) doughnut, known in Berlin as [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang).[[157]](#cite_note-157)[[158]](#cite_note-158) German bakeries offering a variety of breads and pastries are widespread. One of Europe's largest [delicatessen](/wiki/Delicatessen) markets is found at the [KaDeWe](/wiki/KaDeWe), and among the world’s largest chocolate stores is *Fassbender & Rausch*.[[159]](#cite_note-159) Berlin is also home to a diverse gastronomy scene reflecting the immigrant history of the city. Turkish and Arab immigrants brought their culinary traditions to the city, such as the [lahmacun](/wiki/Lahmacun) and [falafel](/wiki/Falafel), which have become common fast food staples. The modern fast food version of the [döner kebab](/wiki/Döner_kebab) sandwich [evolved in Berlin](/wiki/Kadir_Nurman) in the 1970s, and became a favorite in Germany.[[160]](#cite_note-160) Asian cuisine like Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, and sushi restaurants, as well as Spanish tapas bars, Italian, Greek, and Indian cuisine, can be found in many parts of the city.

### Recreation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[thumb|Tigers in the](/wiki/File:TigerCubs2.jpg) [Berlin Zoo](/wiki/Zoologischer_Garten_Berlin)

[Zoologischer Garten Berlin](/wiki/Zoologischer_Garten_Berlin), the older of two zoos in the city, was founded in 1844. It is the most visited zoo in Europe and presents the most diverse range of species in the world.[[161]](#cite_note-161) It was the home of the captive-born celebrity polar bear [Knut](/wiki/Knut_(polar_bear)).[[162]](#cite_note-162) The city's other zoo, [Tierpark Friedrichsfelde](/wiki/Tierpark_Berlin), was founded in 1955.

[Berlin's Botanischer Garten](/wiki/Botanical_Garden_in_Berlin) includes the Botanic Museum Berlin. With an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and around 22,000 different plant species, it is one of the largest and most diverse collections of botanical life in the world. Other gardens in the city include the [Britzer Garten](/wiki/Britzer_Garten), and the [Gärten der Welt](/wiki/Erholungspark_Marzahn) (Gardens of the World) in Marzahn.[[163]](#cite_note-163) [thumb|left|230px|](/wiki/File:Neues_Palais,_Potsdam.jpg)[Neues Palais](/wiki/Neues_Palais) in the former royal gardens of [Sanssouci](/wiki/Sanssouci_Park)

The [Tiergarten](/wiki/Tiergarten_(Berlin)), located in Mitte, is Berlin's largest park and was designed by [Peter Joseph Lenné](/wiki/Peter_Joseph_Lenné).[[164]](#cite_note-164) In Kreuzberg, the [Viktoriapark](/wiki/Viktoriapark) provides a viewing point over the southern part of inner-city Berlin. [Treptower Park](/wiki/Treptower_Park), beside the Spree in [Treptow](/wiki/Treptow), features a large [Soviet War Memorial](/wiki/Soviet_War_Memorial_(Treptower_Park)). The Volkspark in [Friedrichshain](/wiki/Friedrichshain), which opened in 1848, is the oldest park in the city, with monuments, a summer outdoor cinema and several sports areas.[[165]](#cite_note-165) [Potsdam](/wiki/Potsdam) is situated on the southwestern periphery of Berlin. The city was a residence of the [Prussian](/wiki/Prussia) kings and the [German Kaiser](/wiki/German_Emperor), until 1918. The area around Potsdam in particular [Sanssouci](/wiki/Sanssouci) is known for a series of interconnected lakes and cultural landmarks. The [Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin](/wiki/Palaces_and_Parks_of_Potsdam_and_Berlin) are the largest [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) in Germany.[[166]](#cite_note-166) Berlin is also well known for its numerous cafés, street musicians, beach bars along the Spree River, flea markets, boutique shops and [pop up stores](/wiki/Pop_up_store), which are a source for recreation and leisure.[[167]](#cite_note-167)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Berliner_Olympiastadion_night_2.jpg) [Olympiastadion](/wiki/Olympic_Stadium_(Berlin)) hosted the [1936 Summer Olympics](/wiki/1936_Summer_Olympics) and the [2006 FIFA World Cup Final](/wiki/2006_FIFA_World_Cup_Final) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Berlin_marathon.jpg) [Berlin Marathon](/wiki/Berlin_Marathon) is the current world record course.

Berlin has established a high-profile reputation as a host city of major international sporting events.[[168]](#cite_note-168) The city hosted the [1936 Summer Olympics](/wiki/1936_Summer_Olympics) and was the host city for the [2006 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/2006_FIFA_World_Cup) final.[[169]](#cite_note-169) The [IAAF World Championships in Athletics](/wiki/IAAF_World_Championships_in_Athletics) was held in the [Olympiastadion](/wiki/Olympiastadion) in 2009.[[170]](#cite_note-170) In 2015 Berlin became the venue for the [UEFA Champions League Final](/wiki/2015_UEFA_Champions_League_Final).

The annual [Berlin Marathon](/wiki/Berlin_Marathon)[Template:Snd](/wiki/Template:Snd) a course that holds the most top-10 world record runs[Template:Snd](/wiki/Template:Snd) and the [ISTAF](/wiki/Internationales_Stadionfest) are well-established athletic events in the city.[[171]](#cite_note-171) The [FIVB](/wiki/FIVB) World Tour, a beach volleyball Grand Slam event, is presented at an inner-city site every year, while the [Mellowpark](/wiki/Mellowpark) in Köpenick is one of the biggest skate and BMX parks in Europe.[[172]](#cite_note-172) A Fan Fest at Brandenburg Gate, which attracts several hundred-thousand spectators, has become popular during international football competitions, like the [UEFA European Championship](/wiki/UEFA_European_Championship).[[173]](#cite_note-173) In 2013, around 600,000 Berliners were registered in one of the more than 2,300 sport and fitness clubs.[[174]](#cite_note-174) The city of Berlin operates more than 60 public indoor and outdoor swimming pools.[[175]](#cite_note-175) Berlin is the largest Olympic training centre in Germany. About 500 top athletes (15% of all German top athletes) are based there. 47 elite athletes participated in the Summer Olympics 2012. Berliners could achieve seven gold, twelve silver and three bronze medals.[[176]](#cite_note-176) Several professional clubs representing the most important spectator team sports in Germany have their base in Berlin:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | **Sport** | **Founded** | **League** | **Venue** | **Head coach** |
| [Hertha BSC](/wiki/Hertha_BSC)[[177]](#cite_note-177) | [Football](/wiki/Association_football) | 1892 | [Bundesliga](/wiki/Bundesliga) | [Olympiastadion](/wiki/Olympic_Stadium_(Berlin)) | [P. Dárdai](/wiki/Pál_Dárdai) |
| [1. FC Union Berlin](/wiki/1._FC_Union_Berlin)[[178]](#cite_note-178) | [Football](/wiki/Association_football) | 1966 | [2. Bundesliga](/wiki/2._Fußball-Bundesliga) | [Stadion An der Alten Försterei](/wiki/Stadion_An_der_Alten_Försterei) | [J. Keller](/wiki/Jens_Keller) |
| [ALBA Berlin](/wiki/ALBA_Berlin)[[179]](#cite_note-179) | [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) | 1991 | [BBL](/wiki/Basketball_Bundesliga) | [Mercedes-Benz Arena](/wiki/Mercedes-Benz_Arena_(Berlin)) | [A. Çakı](/wiki/Ahmet_Çakı) |
| [Eisbären Berlin](/wiki/Eisbären_Berlin)[[180]](#cite_note-180) | [Ice hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey) | 1954 | [DEL](/wiki/Deutsche_Eishockey_Liga) | [Mercedes-Benz Arena](/wiki/Mercedes-Benz_Arena_(Berlin)) | [U. Krupp](/wiki/Uwe_Krupp) |
| [Füchse Berlin](/wiki/Füchse_Berlin_Reinickendorf_HBC)[[181]](#cite_note-181) | [Handball](/wiki/Team_handball) | 1891 | [HBL](/wiki/Bundesliga_(handball)) | [Max-Schmeling-Halle](/wiki/Max-Schmeling-Halle) | E. Richardsson |

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

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| * [List of quotes featuring Berlin](/wiki/List_of_quotes_featuring_Berlin) * [List of fiction set in Berlin](/wiki/List_of_fiction_set_in_Berlin) * [List of songs about Berlin](/wiki/List_of_songs_about_Berlin) * [List of honorary citizens of Berlin](/wiki/List_of_honorary_citizens_of_Berlin) * [List of video games set in Berlin](/wiki/Category:Video_games_set_in_Berlin) | [Template:Listen](/wiki/Template:Listen) |

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links) [Template:Wikisource1911Enc](/wiki/Template:Wikisource1911Enc)

* [Berlin.de](http://www.berlin.de/en/) – Official website
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)

[Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

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