

Neukölln

No other Berlin neighborhood is more popular among young people and the jet-set crowd than this old working-class district. With so many Turks settled here, Neukölln is unsurprisingly also known as “Little Istanbul”. Today the percentage of foreigners in this area is still high and one of every three people is of foreign origin. In recent years Neukölln has experienced a massive influx of young people from all over the world, especially artists and students. These young, alternative and international crowds have brought with them a variety of entertainment options, making Neukölln one of the most vibrant places in Berlin, featuring a variety of bars, funky clubs, galleries and restaurants. Although this has historically been a poor area, the process of gentrification is slowly transforming this shabby neighborhood. While you’re in Berlin during the CSA you might want to pay a visit to this trendy neighbourhood before the process of gentrification completely takes over and a good starting point could be Hermannplatz. This square is the reflection of the lighthearted, humble and eclectic character of the neighborhood. An excellent place to enjoy a relaxed and trendy atmosphere and a stunning view over the city is the terrace of Klunkerkranich. Also make sure to visit the Schillerkiez and Kreuzkölln (named so because of its proximity to Kreuzberg) where you will find Neukölln’s best cafés. Finish your tour by visiting Neukölln’s most trendy feature, its huge park Tempelhofer Feld. A few years ago this former airport exchanged planes for bicycles, becoming Berlin’s largest public space.

Mitte

As its name implies, the Mitte neighborhood is just that: the middle, the heart of Berlin, and as such it is most famous for sights like the Brandenburger Gate, Alexanderplatz and Museum Island. Visited by most tourists, Mitte is the most visible neighborhood in Berlin and gives the impression of being in a state of constant flux. It is here you will also find the oldest traces of the city, such as the Rosenthaler Platz (located where the Rosenthaler Gate used to stand, which in the 19th century was one of the few gates through which Jews were allowed to enter the city), the Scheunenviertel (a former slum district which once welcomed a large group of Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe), or the Hackescher Markt (a square which used to serve as a market and is today noted for offering fashionable designer clothes, the newest food trends and many craft shops). For those among you who are art lovers, a very special place to visit are the galleries and exhibitions in and around the Auguststrasse. Finally, if you did not get enough of Austrian cuisine in Vienna you might want to visit Cordobar, an Austrian wine bar named for the place where Austria triumphed over Germany during the 1978 FIFA World Cup.

Prenzlauer Berg

Prenzlauer Berg is a neighborhood in Berlin that has undergone many transformations throughout history, but has always maintained a certain bohemian character.

Prenzlauer Berg buildings add color and style to the neighborhood, many of which date back to the early 19th century and were renovated and modernized after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The hip crowd that frequents this neighbourhood's many bars, cafés and restaurants has come to replace the artists and non-conformists that used to define Prenzlauer Berg's intriguing subculture in the 1980s and 1990s. Artists, actors, directors and dreamers all coexist within this picturesque neighborhood. Among other things, Prenzlauer Berg is the neighborhood with one of the highest birth rates in Europe and one of the continent's largest organic food markets. Some of the must-see sites in this neighborhood are the Kulturbrauerei (former brewery which has been transformed into a cultural and entertainment centre), the Mauerpark (once a part of the death strip between East and West Berlin, this park is best known for its Sunday flea market and karaoke sessions), as well as the two of the most beautiful squares in Berlin: Kollwitzplatz (the perfect place to take a stroll on a sunny day) and Helmholtzplatz (the best place to spend a relaxing Saturday/Sunday morning). All things considered Prenzlauer Berg will delight all those who wander around here.

Friedrichshain

One of the neighborhoods every newcomer in Berlin needs to visit is Friedrichshain. With its flea markets, vintage shops, clubs and bars, this neighborhood exudes a rebellious spirit and is one of Berlin's party hotspots. Although you may access Friedrichshain using public transit, we recommend that you dive into the neighborhood from the Karl-Marx-Allee (a colossal boulevard built by the GDR) or crossing the famous Oberbaumbrücke (double-decker bridge connecting Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg). Near the S-Bahn Warschauer Straße is the RAW area. By far the biggest cluster of street art in all of Friedrichshain, the RAW area is a must-see. In the very heart of the neighborhood is Boxhagener Platz. One of the most important meeting places in Friedrichshain, it serves as a central recreation area, children's playground and on Sundays a marketplace. No matter your taste, the best way to end your visit to Friedrichshain is sitting by the Spree River at the East Side Gallery, the world's largest open air gallery that consists of some 100 murals painted on a 1.3 km stretch of the Berlin Wall, preserved precisely for that purpose.

Wedding

A northern counterpart to the hip neighborhood of Neukölln, Wedding is a mix of UNESCO protected apartment blocks that used to house the working class, graffiti-covered factory buildings and a growing population of young artists. Less gentrified than some other Berlin neighborhoods, Wedding has a truly multicultural vibe and its numerous cafés, bars and clubs attract an eccentric and mixed crowd. However, this edgy neighborhood is a must-visit for craft beer lovers. In fact, this year marks the

500th anniversary of the German Beer Purity Law (Reinheitsgebot)—strict rules controlling what can go into beer. Over the past couple of years many craft breweries have been sprouting up around the country, especially in Berlin and during your time here a visit to Wedding will give you a perfect opportunity to enjoy tasty beers and experience the city’s craft beer culture.

Kreuzberg

As an immigrant neighbourhood well known for having a strong Turkish presence, Kreuzberg offers an alternative to the more gentrified parts of the city. This is the cultural hub of Berlin bringing together some of the best food, nightlife and entertainment. Once enclosed on three sides by the Berlin Wall, this neighbourhood used to attract immigrants, artists and squatters. While some parts of Kreuzberg have become gentrified, it is still one of the most dynamic neighborhoods of the city. But if you intend to visit Kreuzberg, you should not expect monuments or tourist sites. This neighbourhood will show you a modern side of Berlin: graffiti-covered walls, record shops, kebab stalls and alternative clothing stores. Kreuzberg is the perfect place to spend a Saturday morning and have breakfast at Markthalle 9 (a foodie paradise), visit the Prinzessinnengarten (a well-known urban gardening project).

Schöneberg

Schöneberg undoubtedly evokes memories of Berlin’s golden age, with its many old buildings that predate the war. A lively district in Berlin with a lot of character, Schöneberg is a perfect place to take a stroll and visit one of the most beautiful weekly markets on Winterfeldtplatz (Saturday), savour a cup of coffee in one of the many cafés and visit numerous quaint shops. A must-see is the Bavarian Quarter—a neighbourhood that was populated by many Jewish doctors and lawyers before the war. In addition to the Stolpersteine, which commemorate the victims of the Nazis, here you’ll find a unique memorial. *Places of Remembrance* (Orte des Erinnerns) consists of 80 street signs across this neighbourhood which shed light on the daily humiliations endured by Jews who used to live in this area. While you’re in the neighborhood make sure to visit the Schöneberg town hall where John F. Kennedy made his famous speech in 1963 “Ich bin ein Berliner”.