

BERLIN CONFIDENTIAL

HIDDEN GEMS
LOVED BY LOCALS



JONGLEZ PUBLISHING

01

WHERE TO STAY IN BERLIN

Surprisingly, boutique hotels are scarce in Berlin. Here are three, each in a very different neighbourhood.

> Michelberger Hotel

Between the Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain neighbourhoods, Michelberger Hotel (100 rooms) is one of the city's coolest places to stay. The draw here is the young, arty and festive atmosphere (plenty of events throughout the year), creative rooms that are all different (if you can, try the Hideout suite where you'll discover hidden features like a private sauna concealed behind cupboards), and its proximity to several Berlin clubs. Perfect for making the most of Berlin's nightlife. Very reasonable prices.



MICHELBERGER HOTEL
WARSCHAUER STRASSE 39-40
(RUMMELSBURG)



+49 30 29778590

michelbergerhotel.com
Instagram: @michelbergerhotel

U1, U3
(Warschauer Straße)

© JAMES PFAFF



© BEN STOCKLEY





© PHILIPP OBKIRCHER



© PHILIPP OBKIRCHER



© PHILIPP OBKIRCHER

02

THE BEST OF MODERN CUISINE

> **Otto's** is basically the perfect restaurant, with its modern but warm decor (concrete walls and an open kitchen), lively atmosphere, delicious and inventive cuisine and friendly service ... Places like this are few and far between in Berlin.

Moreover, unlike at most of Berlin's gourmet restaurants, where you have to order a five-, seven- or eight-course menu, at Otto's you can order à la carte, a welcome change.

After working for a number of Michelin-starred restaurants, including Koks (Faroe Islands), Maaemo (Oslo), Loco in Lisbon and Noma's pop-up restaurant in Tulum (Mexico), Berlin native Vadim Otto Ursus, who was born in Prenzlauer Berg (just a stone's throw from the restaurant), returned home to open Otto, which sources all its ingredients from Berlin and the immediate surroundings. Remember to book in advance: the restaurant only seats about 20.



RESTAURANT OTTO
ODERBERGER STRASSE 56
(PRENZLAUER BERG)



Reservations highly
recommended
+49 30 58705176

otto@otto-berlin.net
otto-berlin.net
Instagram: @otto_berlin

U2 (Eberswalder Straße)

© ROBERT RIEGER





> It's no surprise that **Trio** is a real success. The team behind the restaurant are Vadim Otto Ursus (who previously ran Otto in Prenzlauer Berg), Eva Alken and Clemens Roesch. You'll find the restaurant in Mitte, roughly halfway between Volksbühne and Soho House.

The menu offers delicious reimagined traditional German cuisine. Service is wonderfully relaxed, the décor draws on the 1920s and 1950s, and prices are very reasonable given the quality of both cooking and ingredients.

All in all, Trio gets everything right. You won't be disappointed!



RESTAURANT TRIO
LINIENSTRASSE 13
(FRIEDRICHSHAIN)



+49 30 33 90 1310

trioberlin.net
Instagram: @trio.berlin

U2 (Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz)





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THE WORLD'S SMALLEST NIGHTCLUB

Didn't get into Berghain? Or Katerblau? Then head on over to Teledisko!

There's no chance of being turned away at the door here: just slide 2€ into the slot, choose your tunes and enter this phone-booth-sized nightclub with whoever you want: your dog, two or five friends ...

Three minutes of pure magic – and there's even a disco ball.

TELEDISKO
RAW-GELÄNDE
REVALER STRASSE 99
(FRIEDRICHSHAIN)



teledisko.com

Metro: U1, U3, S3, S5, S7, S9 (Warschauer Straße)



© THE FEUERLE COLLECTION

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AN EXCEPTIONAL AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE

Located in Kreuzberg, in a former Second World War bunker converted by the architect John Pawson, the Feuerle Collection is an exceptional private collection of ancient Khmer and Chinese art open for viewing by appointment only.

The visit, which lasts a total of one hour, is a true aesthetic, spiritual and erotic experience, the collection of ancient art being interspersed with works of art by Cristina Iglesias, Anish Kapoor and others, as well as contemporary photographs.

More well-to-do patrons can rent the venue to visit it at their leisure but also and above all to enjoy a unique olfactory experience in private: an Incense Ceremony that lasts about 45 minutes.

The collection is named after Désiré Feuerle, the founder (together with Sara Puig) of this exhibition space, which promises visitors the feeling of a moment outside of time.



THE FEUERLE COLLECTION
HALLESCHES UFER 70
(KREUZBERG)



Reservations required

thefeuerlecollection.org/en
Instagram: @thefeuerlecollection

U1, U3, U7 (Möckernbrücke)



#16

EXPLORE LITTLE-KNOWN ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECES

Despite the destruction caused by the Second World War, several architectural gems – most of them unfamiliar even to locals – managed to survive in Berlin, as did some unique architectural curiosities. There are also some amazing post-war buildings. What follows is a short, though hardly exhaustive, list.

> A masterpiece of brutalist architecture

With a shape reminiscent of a giant warship, the Mäusebunker (literally, 'mouse bunker') is one of Berlin's most spectacular and little-known buildings. A 120-metre-long masterpiece of brutalist architecture, this exceptional building was designed by the Berlin architect Gerd Hänska, together with his wife and son, as an animal experimentation laboratory for the Freie Universität between 1967 and 1970. Today, the building is no longer in use and is not open to the public.



MÄUSEBUNKER
KRAHMERSTRASSE 6
(ZEHLENDORF)



Only the exterior of the building
can be viewed

S25, S26 (Lichterfelde Ost)





> An expressionist wonder

Built between 1927 and 1929 and based on the plans of Ernst Paulus and his son Günther Paulus, the Kreuzkirche (Church of the Cross) is a masterpiece of expressionist architecture.

Stop and admire its surprising blue-glazed ceramic entrance portal and, above all, its remarkable octagonal main hall – the wonderful painted wall decorations behind the altar are also typically expressionistic.

The entrance door to the parish offices, about 10 metres to the left of the church's main entrance as you walk up Hohenzollerndamm towards the S-Bahn, also has some fantastic expressionist ornamentation.



**KREUZKIRCHE
HOHENZOLLERN DAMM 130A
(SCHMARGENDORF)**



+ 49 30 83224663

kreuzkirche-berlin.de

S41 (Hohenzollerndamm)

#18

EXPLORING UNDERGROUND BERLIN

Unterwelten is an association of guides specialising in forbidden underground spots with links to Nazi Germany or erstwhile East Germany: former bunkers, tunnels dug to circumvent the Wall ...

No matter which circuit you choose, these tours are an absolute must-do, thanks to the talented guides (who speak many languages) and their first-rate explanations, not to mention the places themselves.

At the association's headquarters in Gesundbrunnen, in north Berlin (don't linger in the area, which isn't the city's most attractive), there's a fascinating exhibition on 'Germania', the outrageous Nazi project for a Reich capital that was never built.

Whatever you do, don't miss out on these tours.



UNTERWELTEN
BRUNNENSTRASSE 105
(GESUNDBRUNNEN)



Reservations highly
recommended

berliner-unterwelten.de

U8 (Voltastraße)
S1, S2, S25, S26 (Humboldthain)



© HOLGER HAPPEL

#
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TRACKING DOWN BERLIN'S ARCHITECTURAL ODDITIES

An underground that runs through a house; a giant, 20-metre-high pink tube; a building on top of a bunker; an edifice with a motorway running through it ... Here's a mini-tour of some of Berlin's architectural oddities.

> An architectural UFO

Standing 35 metres high, on the edge of Tiergarten Park, the UT2 building looks like a cross between a giant pink pipeline and a grounded container ship. Even many Berliners don't have a clue what it is. In fact, it's simply an aquatic test facility.



UT2 BUILDING
MÜLLER-BRESLAU-STRASSE 15
(TIERGARTEN)



Open on Heritage Day or on request:
[dms.tu-berlin.de/menue/versuchseinrichtungen/
umlauf-tank_ut2](https://dms.tu-berlin.de/menue/versuchseinrichtungen/umlauf-tank_ut2)

S3, S5, S7, S9 (Tiergarten)



BERLIN'S BEST BEACHES

Berliners may know about them (though often they're only familiar with the one at Wannsee and, at best, two or three others), but visitors are always amazed: yes, when the weather's nice in Berlin, there are real sandy beaches if you feel like a swim – right in the city.

There are eleven official *Strandbäder*: beaches with an affordable admission fee and a small kiosk serving drinks and snacks – and sometimes even a modest restaurant. Open from around mid-May to mid-September, they also provide sunbeds (often for an extra fee) and the mythical *Strandkörbe* ('beach baskets'), a charming throwback to the pre-war years. No more getting a crick in your neck lying on your towel on the city's small free beaches; instead, stretch out comfortably on your sun lounger and immerse yourself in a book or calmly take in the surroundings, including the beach volleyball and ping-pong players. (Courts and tables are provided: to join in the fun, just bring your own equipment.) It's almost like being in Rio.

BERLIN

WE TESTED 1,000 PLACES, AND CHOSE ONLY THE BEST

The world's smallest nightclub, an exceptional private collection of ancient Asian art, Berlin's best beaches, the most beautiful bike ride, a fabulous spa that'll make you feel like you're in Bali, exploring the city's underground spots, an ice cream shop that makes its own cones right in front of you, the city's best restaurants (not necessarily the ones you'd think), where to cruise along canals just like in Venice, the best places to have lunch by the water, an outstanding burger, spending a night in a mattress workshop, some unique architectural curiosities and psychedelic metro stations ...

Hidden hotels, outstanding restaurants, secret bars, off-the-radar strolls ... In this guide you'll find a carefully curated, eclectic selection for every budget. Designed for both travellers and locals, it reveals handpicked addresses chosen by local writers – each place a gateway to discovery, far from the crowds and off the beaten path. A fresh take on the art of travel.

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