

Berlin, January 2007

Did you know that ... ?

50 interesting facts and figures on the German capital

During the past few years, Berlin has changed more than any other city in the world. In 2006, around 15.7 million overnight guests in the hotel sector will have further enhanced the reputation of this pulsating metropolis on the Spree River as Germany's favorite destination. We warmly invite you to discover Europe's most exciting city with its unique atmosphere, attractions, and history – and there is plenty to discover. Did you know that ...

- Berlin, with an area of 891 sq. km., is nine times bigger than Paris?
- Berlin's city border is about 234 km long? Its width is 45 km. and the length from north to south is 38 km (as the crow flies).
- Berlin has the same latitude as London and the same longitude as Naples?
- the total length of all the bus lines in the German capital is more than 1,662 km.? The route network of the trams are an additional 297 km., the commuter rail network is 332 km. long, and the subway system stretches around 145 km.
- Berlin will not only host the final of the FIFA World Cup™ in 2006 but is also home to Germany's oldest soccer club? The BFC Germania was founded in 1888 and still exists today.
- soccer is by far the most popular sport with the city's 539,000 sports association members? After soccer comes tennis and gymnastics.
- with the new Central Station – "Berlin Hauptbahnhof" – the city will, for the first time in its history, have a genuine central transfer station which will also be the largest in Europe?
- Europe's first traffic light signal system was installed in 1924 on the Potsdamer Platz? A reconstruction of the lights can still be admired there today.
- since World War II, six American presidents have given historic speeches in Berlin? Who can forget John F. Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech (1963) and Ronald Reagan's emphatic "Mr. Gorbachov, tear down this wall!" (1987).

- while the Wall was dividing Berlin, visitors from the western part of the city who wanted to visit the eastern part had to exchange at least 25 West German marks into East German marks at a rate of 1:1 which could not be changed back? Money which was not spent could be deposited at the border (for possible future visits). For tourists from West Germany, a visa cost 5 marks but was free for West Berliners.
- the East Side Gallery is the world's longest open air gallery and, at 1,316 m., is also the longest remaining part of the Berlin Wall? The section was painted with 101 works by 118 artists from 21 countries.
- Berlin used to end at the Brandenburg Gate? The historic city border can be recognized by the roads names in many places such as Wallstraße ("Rampart Street"), Mauerstraße ("Wall Street"), Linienstraße ("Line Street"), and Palisadenstraße ("Palisade Street"). The former city gates are especially preserved by the subway station names (Schlesisches, Kottbusser, Hallesches, and Oranienburger gates).
- the city's population was at its highest in 1942? At that time, it had reached 4,478,102. Today, it has 3.39 million inhabitants.
- Berlin is Germany's most multicultural city? Of its nearly 3.4 million inhabitants, around 467,000 have a foreign passport. People from more than 180 nations are permanent residents of the city.
- the city's road network is 5,342 kilometers long? Of these, the longest road is the Adlergestell which runs 13 km. from Adlershof to Schmöckwitz, while the Eiergasse in the Nikolai district is the shortest at only 16 m. The widest is not the Breite Straße (Broad Street) but rather the Straße des 17. Juni at 85.2 m.
- there are more than 180 km. of navigable waterways within Berlin's city limits? You can also discover Berlin by boat and see it from a completely different perspective. The shortest ferry connection in Berlin is between Rahnsdorf and Müggelheim over the Müggelspree that is around 10 m. wide. The F 24 ferry is a small rowing boat which will bring you to the opposite bank during the warm time of year (the timetable is determined on a case by case basis).
- Berlin has around 1,700 bridges, easily surpassing even Venice?
- the city's largest lake is the Müggelsee with a surface area of almost 7.7 sq. km.? The smallest pond, on the other hand, is the Pechsee in the Grunewald, covering only 3,000 sq. m.
- Berlin's highest hills – the Müggelberge and the Teufelsberg, each at 115 m. above sea level – are the same height?
- Berlin is the greenest metropolis in Germany? More than 30% of the area of the city is covered by parks and woods or rivers, lakes, or waterways. The streets are lined by

around 400,000 trees, and within the city there are 840 community gardens with nearly 80,000 plots.

- statistically, for every one of the many dogs in Berlin are three trees? Berliners are passionate dog lovers and the numbers of man's best friends are constantly increasing.
- Berlin's tallest tree, at 43 m, is a European larch which has been standing in the Tegeler Woods for 205 years? It was probably planted by the forester Friedrich August Ludwig von Burgsdorf who paid for the post of forest secretary in Tegel near Berlin in 1777 and managed the surrounding royal forests.
- Berlin's Television Tower (Fernsehturm), at a height of 368 m, is Germany's tallest structure and one of the tallest in Europe?
- Berlin's oldest dining establishment is nearly 400 years old and is still open today? The pub "Zur letzten Instanz" is on the Waisenstraße and is often visited today by many VIPs.
- the city, with its *three* universities, *four* art colleges, *ten* specialized colleges, and more than 140,000 students, is Germany's largest university city? In addition, there are also around 130 non-university research institutes.
- the quadriga, or four-horse chariot, on the Brandenburg Gate, the famous emblem of Berlin, was returned to the city in 1814 after the victory of the European allies over Napoleon? He had taken it to France with him in 1806 as a symbol of his victory. Since then, it has also been popularly known as the "Retourkutsche" (Return Coach). Contrary to many rumors, the quadriga has always faced eastwards – in the old Berlin, inwards towards the city.
- there are *nine* castles in Berlin? These include Schloss Charlottenburg and the Köpenicker Schloss as well as *six* former estate houses and manor houses, commonly known as "Schlösschen" (little castles).
- many names in the city go back to the Prussian kings from the Hohenzollern dynasty in which, during the last 300 years, only a few first names dominated? These place names include, for example, Friedrichstadt and Friedrichstraße, Friedrichstadtpalast and Friedrichswerder, Friedrichshain, Friedrichsfelde, Friedrichshagen, Wilhelmstraße, and Wilhelmshagen.
- as a result of its earlier division, Berlin now has *two* zoos: the Tierpark in Friedrichsfelde with many lovely open enclosures and the Zoologischer Garten next to the station of the same name? Berlin is therefore the city with the most zoo animals in the world. The Zoologischer Garten is the oldest zoo in Germany and the third oldest in Europe. It was founded over 150 years ago. The aquarium that belongs to the zoo has the most species in all of Europe and is one of the largest in the entire world. The Tierpark Friedrichsfelde is a zoo with one of the largest surface areas in Europe.

Including the reptiles, amphibians, fishes and invertebrates, the total number of animals at both zoos amounts to 22,770. In 2006, both zoos together had around *three* million visitors, thus enjoying a success that is unique on the continent.

- Berlin's cemeteries, which often resemble park-like refuges in the city, are also well worth a visit? The Jewish Cemetery in Berlin-Weißensee is the largest in Europe, with over 115,000 graves. A "must" for every culture vulture are the Dorotheenstädtische and the Friedrichwerdersche Cemeteries in the Chausseestraße (containing the graves of Brecht, Weigel, Fichte, Hegel, and Schinkel, amongst others). The cemeteries in front of the Hallesches Tor (with Felix Mendelssohn, Heinrich von Stephan, Rachel Varnhagen von Ense, and Kurt Mühlenhaupt) are also worth a visit.
- Europe's largest department store is Berlin's Kaufhaus des Westens, better known as KaDeWe? Its *eight* floors cover an area of 60,000 sq. m., equal to the Olympia Stadium plus *four* soccer fields. Over 380,000 items may be purchased. A total of 64 escalators and 26 elevators enable around 80,000 visitors per day to comfortably get around the store. The gourmet department covers 7,000 sq. m., offers 33,000 different products, and is Europe's largest grocery department. The delicatessen section offers 400 types of bread, 1,300 types of cheese, and 1,200 types of sliced meats. Visitors to the 33 cooking stations, the gourmet stands, and the restaurants are pampered every day by around 500 employees – including 150 chefs and pastry chefs.
- Berlin's weekly markets have a long tradition? They can be found on many squares and often in front of the town halls where they are usually held two days a week. Perhaps the nicest market experience is a Saturday spent strolling through the market at the Winterfeldtplatz in Schöneberg. Afterwards, you can also browse through the many antique shops in the adjoining streets.
- the city not only has many parks but also, as a special attraction, Chinese, Japanese, and Balinese gardens? In the "Garden of the World" in the Marzahn Recreational Park, you can also enjoy a tea ceremony in authentic surroundings.
- Berlin is the only European city with "more museums than rainy days"? The 175 museums and collections are famous for their high quality exhibition items. In 2006, 11.4 million visitors attended the city's 125 most important exhibitions.
- in addition to the world-famous collections, there are also more unusual ones, such as the Sugar Museum and the Erotic Museum that provide a fun alternative?
- the Berlinale, Berlin's most popular film festival, has been held for more than 50 years? As one of the film industry's top events, it regularly attracts about 3,500 journalists from more than 80 countries. At this festival which is held every year in February, the Golden Bear and Silver Bear Awards are presented, the bear being the animal on Berlin's coat of arms.
- Berlin's Gemäldegalerie, which opened in 1998, unites the magnificent paintings of the Bodemuseum (from the former East Berlin) and the museums in Dahlem (in the

former West Berlin) and is one of the most visited art museums in Europe, along with the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the Prado in Madrid, and the Louvre in Paris?

- the world's largest "universal museum" is being created in the heart of Berlin? The renovation and redesign of the Museum Island with its five monumental buildings is Germany's most ambitious cultural project. By 2010, the Museum Island, a world cultural heritage site since 1999, will shine in new splendor. By that time, around 1.5 billion euros will have been invested.
- the Pergamon Museum with its 2,000 year old Pergamon Altar (on the Museum Island), is the world's first archaeological museum and, with 960,000 visitors in 2005, is the city's most popular permanent collection?
- since its opening on September 9, 2001, the Jewish Museum has fascinated more than 3 million people, including 715,000 visitors just in 2006? The museum was built according to the design by Daniel Libeskind in the form of a shattered Star of David. The building is regarded as one of the most significant examples of contemporary architecture and presents the exhibition "Two Millennia of German-Jewish History".
- Berlin is the only city in the world with three running opera houses that have a total capacity for 4,411 opera fans? In addition, there are 130 theatres and stage venues for all entertainment genres.
- no other city in Germany can offer a greater culinary selection? In Berlin there are more than 5,500 restaurants, bars, pubs, trattorias, bodegas, and other dining establishments offering food and drink from all over the world. Berlin is a city that never sleeps. In contrast to other cities, there is no "last call", so you can visit cafes, restaurants, and pubs around the clock.
- Berlin has its own genuine beer specialty? The Berliner Weiße is a bubbly, pleasantly bitter beer made from wheat and fermented in the bottle. With a shot of raspberry or Waldmeister syrup, it is served as "Weiße mit Schuss" – a wonderfully refreshing summer beverage.
- the most famous Berlin specialties include "Eisbein mit Sauerkraut und Erbsenpüree" (pork knuckles with sauerkraut and pea purée), "gebratener Hering" (fried herring), pike-perch, cold boulettes (meat balls) with mustard, pickled eggs and gherkins, green pea soup with ham, and fried liver with apple rings?
- the centuries-old tradition of wine growing was resumed once again in Berlin a few years ago? The most famous vineyard is in Kreuzberg, but wine grapes are also cultivated in Wilmersdorf, Schöneberg, Mitte, Neukölln and Mahrzahn. The northernmost vineyard is in Humboldthain in the district of Gesundbrunnen which also produces Berlin's only sparkling wine.
- Berlin's most famous pastry is a crepe filled with jam? It is known throughout all of Germany as the "Berliner" – although in Berlin you will rarely find it under this name.

Here it is simply called a Pfannkuchen (crepe). And what is otherwise called a crepe in Germany is known in Berlin as an "Eierkuchen" (egg cake).

- beginning in the late seventeenth century, the Berlin dialect was influenced in particular by the Huguenots? Some words with French origin that have remained are: Budike (pub or shop), Boulette (meat ball), Roulade (rolled meat slice,) and Destille (pub). But other linguistic influences have also left their audible traces in expressions, such as "Ganove" (crook) or "Macke" (quirk) from Yiddish.
- there are a total of 580 accommodations with around 87,000 beds which in 2006 housed about 7.5 million people?
- the 2007 Berlin WelcomeCard is one of the most popular products of Berlin Tourismus Marketing GmbH (BTM) and Germany's most successful city card? The big seller is available in six different versions, offering either 48 hours or 72 hours of free travel with public transport in Berlin and Potsdam, along with discounts to tourist sites and events and cultural venues with almost 150 partners.
- additional tourist information can be found on the BTM's homepage at <http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de> ? The site provides extensive information on approximately 3,500 pages on everything from A as in "Arrival", to Z as in "Zoos" in eleven different languages (Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish).