

# Top 10 Must See's

## **1. Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate)**

Visit Berlin's world-famous landmark – the Brandenburg Gate. After the fall of the Wall, this became a symbol of German reunification.

## **2. Reichstag (German Parliament)**

Since 1990, the historic Reichstag building has housed the German Parliament. The publicly accessible modern glass dome offers a stunning 360° panorama of the city.

## **3. Berliner Mauer (Berlin Wall)**

The Wall was the inner German border through the heart of the city, and came to symbolise the division of Germany and the Cold War. Trace the course of the Wall through the city – a route marked by the remains of the Wall and border complex and a double row of cobblestones.

## **4. Museumsinsel (Museum Island)**

The world's largest museum ensemble is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The five museums on the island house a fascinating display of over 6,000 years of art and cultural history.

## **5. Schloss Charlottenburg (Charlottenburg Palace)**

This charming baroque palace, the largest surviving residence of the Prussian kings in Berlin, also has romantic palace gardens and a charming landscaped park.

## **6. The bird's-eye view from the Fernsehturm (TV Tower)**

At 368 metres high, Berlin's TV Tower is Germany's highest building. Ultra-modern elevators speed you to the observation floor where you can take a seat in the Sphere Restaurant, relax and enjoy spotting the city sights – while the restaurant slowly revolves for the perfect 'all round' view!

## **7. A concert by the Berlin Philharmonic**

Enjoy one of the world's leading symphony orchestras, with a global reputation forged by conductor Herbert von Karajan and continued today by Sir Simon Rattle. Berlin offers the entire spectrum of music and theatre: opera, musicals, revue shows and around 150 large and small stages providing a top cultural programme.

## **8. Berlin from the water**

Relax and let the city slide past. Take a seat on the deck and enjoy viewing the sights, river banks and beaches from the water.

## **9. The legendary KaDeWe gourmet department**

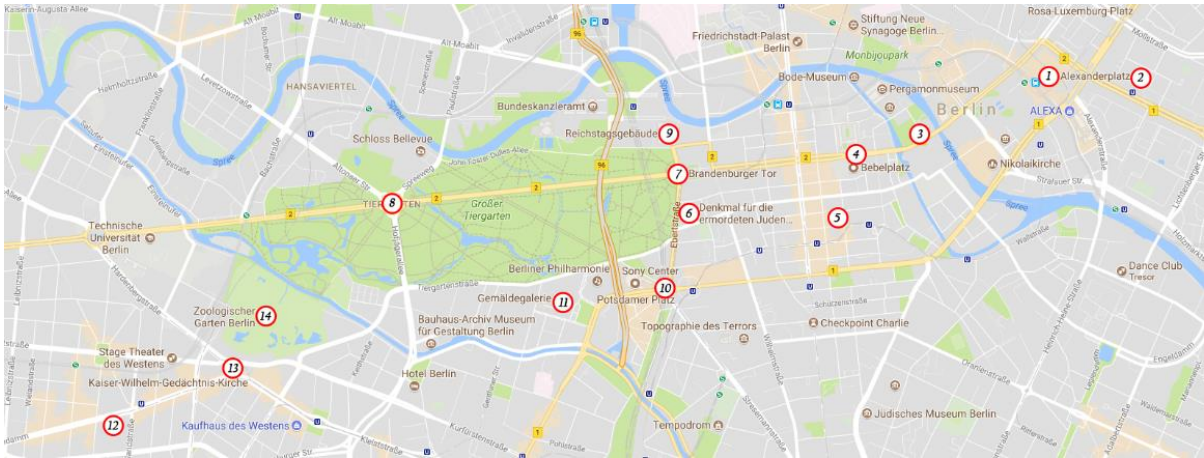
Surrender to temptation! Visit the sixth floor of the European mainland's largest department store with its array of food bars and cafés, as well as culinary specialities from around the world, including 1,300 cheeses and 2,400 wines.

## **10. Berlin's famous currywurst snack**

The classic Berlin currywurst sausage – outside crispy, inside firm, and served with a tasty curry-style sauce. Watch Berlin life go by as you treat your taste buds at Konnopke's Imbiss snack bar under the elevated railway in the heart of cool Prenzlauer Berg.

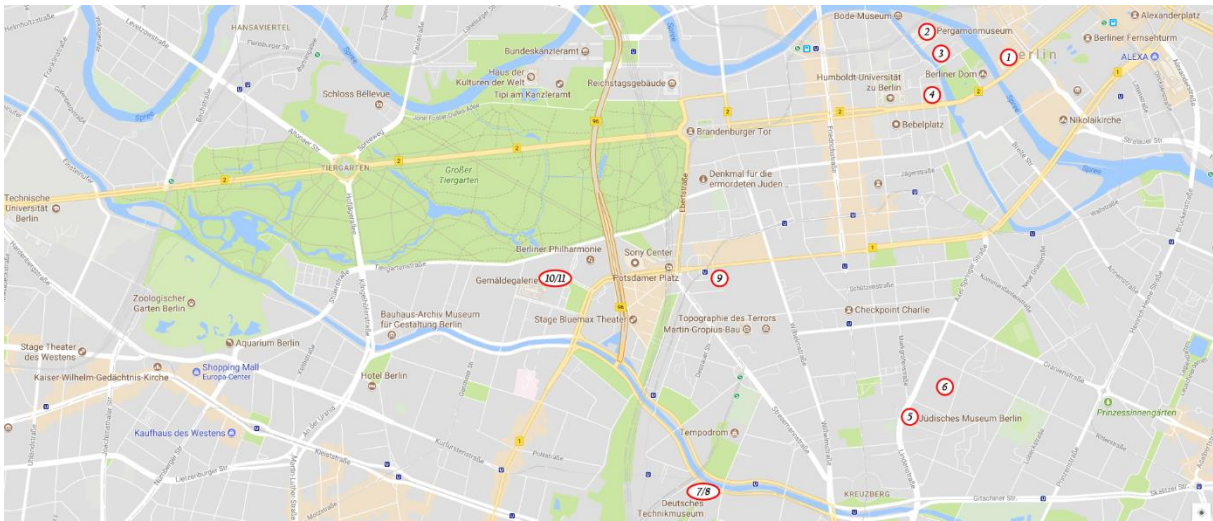
# Top 5 Tours and Shopping

## 1. Fast track Berlin



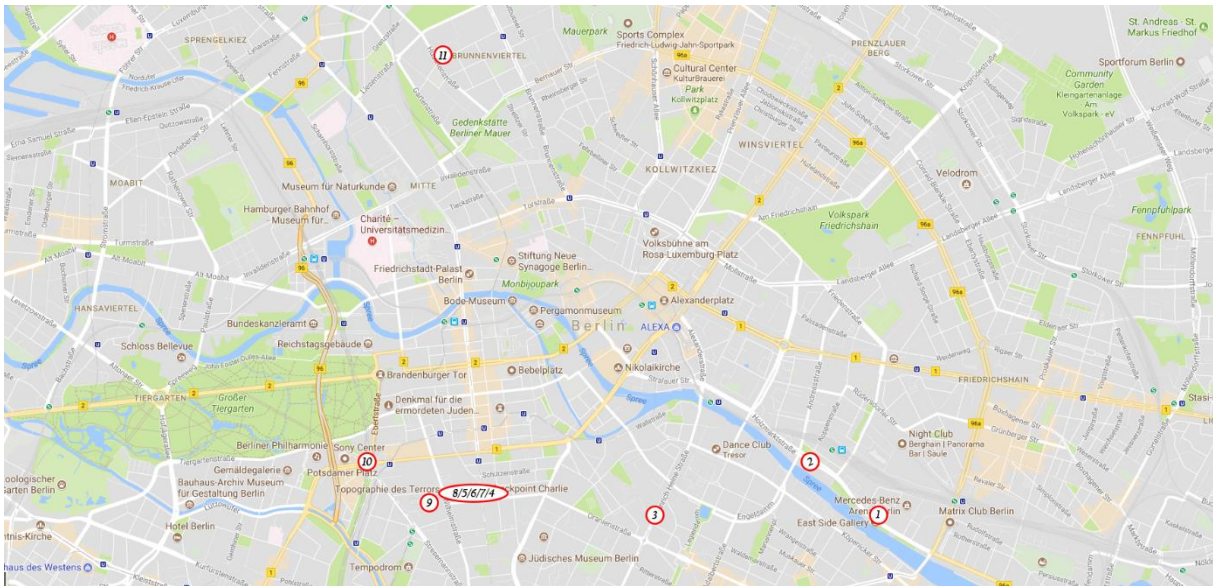
Savour your first coffee of the day at the Fernsehturm (TV Tower) (1) while enjoying the magnificent views 207 metres up. Take in the famous Weltzeituhr (the World Clock) on Alexanderplatz (2) before strolling the Berliner Dom (3) and viewing Berlin's cathedral church with its magnificent dome. The tour continues down Berlin's renowned Unter den Linden boulevard (4) with its impressive array of historical buildings and monuments. At Markgrafenstraße, turn left and you're just a few minutes away from the beautiful Gendarmenmarkt (5). With its elegant ensemble of concert hall and churches – the Konzerthaus and the Deutsche and Französische Dom – the square's harmonious design is inspirational. This is the perfect view for lunch at one of the many restaurants and cafés lining the square. Refreshed and restored, follow the crowds down Französische Straße and cross the popular Friedrichstraße. Head straight on to the Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas (Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe) (6) with its field of stelae open on all sides. Berlin's signature sight of the Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate) (7) is only a few steps away. To the west, the Siegessäule (Victory Column) (8) towers over the trees in Tiergarten park. Brandenburg Gate is very close to the Reichstag (9), home to the German Parliament. The publicly accessible glass dome (advance registration required [www.bundestag.de/besuche](http://www.bundestag.de/besuche)) has stunning views across the city centre, the modern architecture of the nearby government buildings, and down to the highrises at Potsdamer Platz (10). There, the contemporary designs of the Sony Center's glass façades, the Potsdamer Platz quarter and the Kollhoff Tower at Potsdamer Platz 1 are defining the face of modern Berlin. Potsdamer Platz is within easy walking distance of the Kulturforum (11) ensemble, with the Philharmonie, the Staatsbibliothek (State Library) and the Gemäldegalerie (Old Master Paintings) art gallery. You can now walk on – or rest your feet on the M29 bus - and head through Berlin's embassy quarter, past the Bauhaus Archive to the City West. Kurfürstendamm boulevard (12) is the heart of the western city. At Breitscheidplatz, the ruins of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche (Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church) (13) together with the new church from 1961 commemorate the horrors of World War II. Berlin Zoo (14), Germany's oldest zoo, is close by. With around 1,500 species and over 20,000 animals, it is ranked among the zoos with the most species in the world. From here, take the 109 bus on Kurfürstendamm to finish your tour at the palace of Schloss Charlottenburg (15) with its lovely baroque garden and grounds.

## 2. Museums



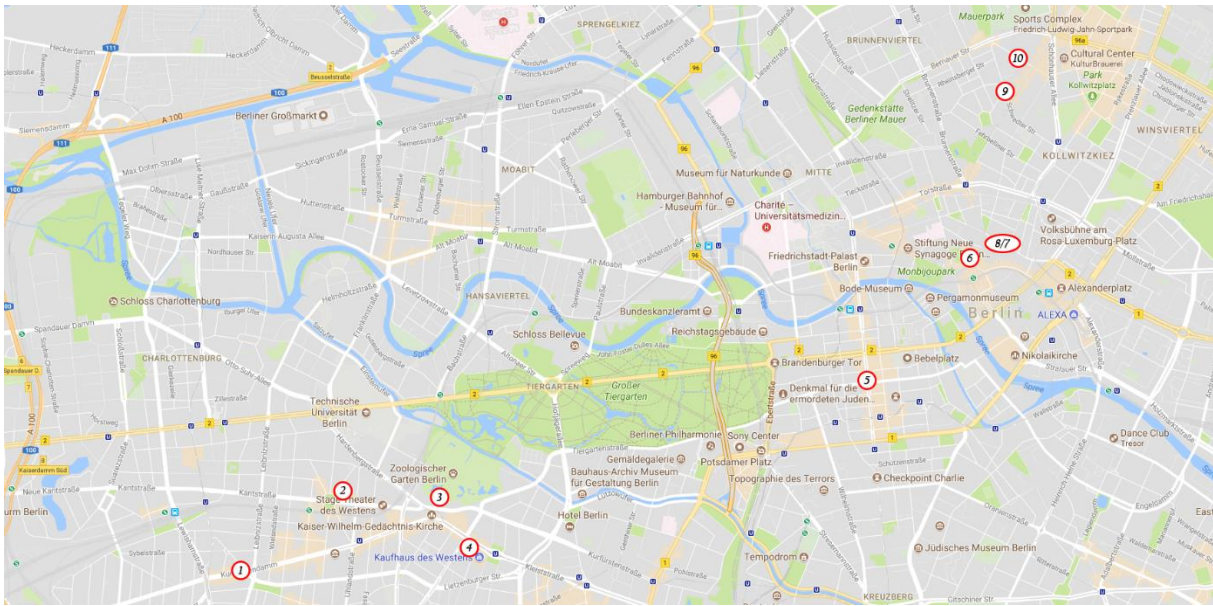
Start out with a hands-on experience of life in former East Germany in the DDR Museum (1). Take a simulated ride in an original Trabi car through a Berlin tower-block estate, or eavesdrop on a Stasi interrogation. Then cross the nearby Karl-Liebknecht-Brücke to the world-renowned Museumsinsel (Museum Island) (2). Enjoy the spectacularly restored Neues Museum (New Museum) (3), immersing yourself in the world's oldest cultures and marvelling at the beauty of the bust of Egyptian Queen Nefertiti. From here, the baroque building housing the Deutsches Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum) (4) is just a few steps away. The collection showcases 2000 year of German history, from a 4<sup>th</sup>-century Gothic silver clasp to the 1994 agreement on the Allied forces withdrawal from Germany. Now head down Unter den Linden to take the U6 line from Friedrichstraße to Kochstraße and the Jüdisches Museum Berlin (Jewish Museum Berlin) (5). This impressive and highly-modern museum, built like a broken Star of David, presents a journey of discovery across two millennia of German-Jewish history and culture. The Berlinische Galerie (6) is literally just around the corner. Dedicated to the best in the arts in Berlin since 1870, the museum showcases everything from painting and sculpture to photography and multimedia art. The Deutsches Technikmuseum (German Museum of Technology) (7) close to Gleisdreieck subway station is a sure winner with all the family! Here, you can climb on the footplate and explore the cab of some historic locomotives, admire famous planes such as the Messerschmitt, and marvel at the world's first computer. Next door, see an indoor rainbow at the Science Center Spectrum (8), where fascinating hands-on experiments bring science alive! Next stop Potsdamer Platz – easy to reach on the U2 subway line- and the Spy Museum Berlin (9) casting a light on the shadowy world of espionage. Ten minutes' walk then takes you to the Kulturforum, the ensemble by renowned architects intended as former West Berlin's counterpart to Museum Island. Here, the highlights include the Gemäldegalerie (10) with its stunning collection of paintings, including works by such great name as van Eyck, Raphael, Titian, Rembrandt, and Dürer. The adjacent Kunstgewerbemuseum (Museum of Decorative Arts) (11) presents masterpieces of European arts and crafts down ages and new fashion and a new fashion gallery.

### 3. Berlin Wall



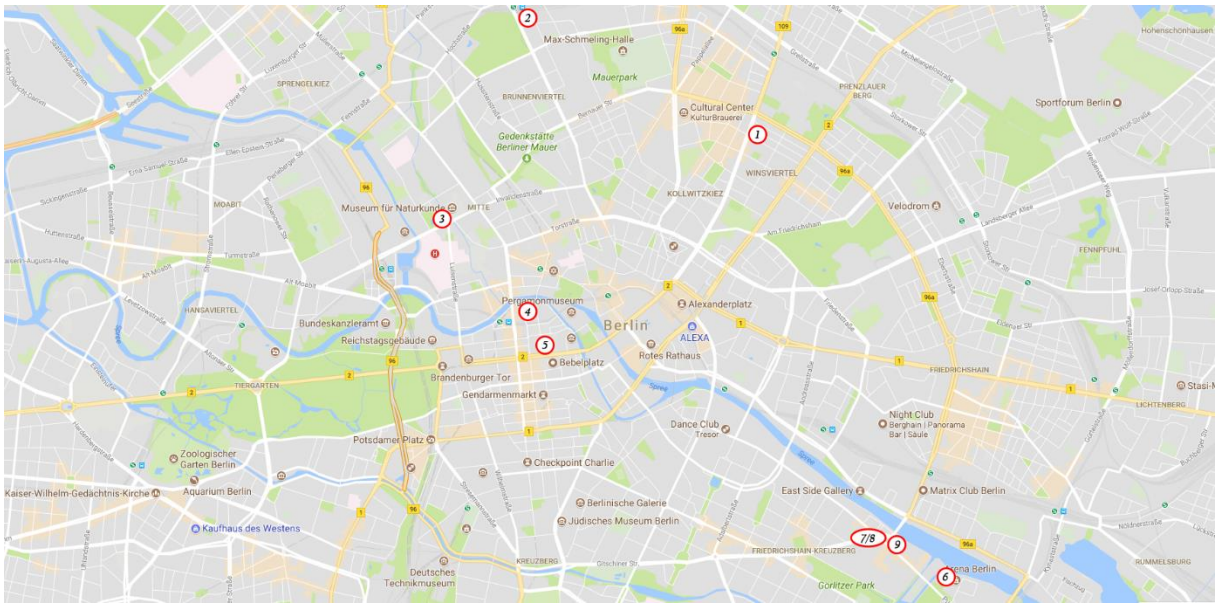
Your tour of the traces of the Berlin Wall begins at the East Side Gallery (1), the world's longest open-air gallery. The art works here are painted on a 1.3-km section of the old inner Berlin Wall along the River Spree in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg – the longest section of the Wall that has survived. Carrying on down Mühlenstraße, you reach Stralauer Platz (2) and its heritage site with remains of the Wall. Cross the Schillingbrücke bridge and carry on to the former border crossing point at Heinrich-Heine-Straße (3). The route leads on past the Peter Fechter Memorial (4), dedicated to the young man who was one of the Wall's most tragic victims. Zimmerstraße is also close to Checkpoint Charlie (5), the world famous border crossing point. The Berlin Wall exhibition in the Mauermuseum Haus am Checkpoint Charlie (Berlin Wall Museum) (6) presents documentary films and eye-witness accounts as well as many exhibits and original artefacts used in escapes from East Germany. Checkpoint Charlie is also close to the BlackBox Cold War (7), with its photos, media stations and text panels offering a fascinating insight into the history of the East-West conflict. Here too you can find the asisi Panorama "The Wall" (8), a breathtaking panoramic picture of a divided Berlin conjuring up life along the Wall on a fictive autumn day in the 1980s. Further down Zimmerstraße, the Topografie des Terrors (Topography of Terror) (9) shows a permanent exhibition on the Nazi regime at a site which also has around 200 metres of the original Berlin Wall. The course of the Wall here is also clearly marked with a double row of cobblestones. Along Stresemannstraße towards Potsdamer Platz (10), the display panel of the Berlin Wall History Mile, information columns and an East German border watchtower all testify to the years of division. At Potsdamer Platz take S-Bahn lines S1, S2 or S25 to Nordbahnhof for the final stop on the tour – the Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer (Berlin Wall Memorial) (11) in Bernauer Straße. With its monument to the victims of divided Germany, the Chapel of Reconciliation, Documentation Center, watchtower and historical remains, this site today gives the most vivid impression of the former border complex.

## 4. Shopping



Berlin offers an irresistible array of shop-till-you-drop locations, from large malls to shopping centres, department stores, independent outlets and upscale boutiques. Your tour kicks off with sheer luxury – exclusive brand boutiques such as Karl Lagerfeld, Chanel, BVLGARI and Hermès down from Oliver Platz on the Kurfürstendamm boulevard (1) in the City West. For an entire mall dedicated to the best in interior design from top European manufactures, check out stilwerk (2) at the corner of Uhlandstraße/Kantstraße. Bikini Berlin (3), directly at the Zoologischer Garten, is Germany’s first Concept Mall and irresistible for sophisticated fashionistas. Its three floors offer a treasure trove of fashion and lifestyle outlets, young designer pop-up stores and restaurants. Walk down Kurfürstendamm or take the M19 or M29 bus to Wittenbergplatz and the legendary Kaufhaus des Westens, or KaDeWe (4) as it’s popularly known. Saunter through the ground floor Luxury Boulevard before taking lunch in the seventh floor Wintergarten with its stunning views. From here, the U2 subway line takes you to Berlin’s Mitte district. After the fall of the Wall, Friedrichstraße (5) awoke from its slumbers to reclaim its crown as an elegant shopping street. Galleries Lafayette with its 43-metre-high glass dome is a must-shop destination. The basement level in this store, which Berlin’s French community jokingly call their real embassy, is packed with mouth-watering Paris-style culinary delights! Afterwards, take time out for cultural fashions and explore the books, CDs, and films on five floors at the Dussmann cultural department store. Next, hop on the S-Bahn to Hackescher Markt (6). The Alte Schönhauser Straße (7) neighbourhood has a vibrant mix of small boutiques, quirky design outlets and art galleries. The Mulackstraße (8) side-street boasts independent outlets for creative ‘made-in-Berlin’ fashion. The established Berlin labels here include designer Claudia Skoda, who transforms fine Italian yarns into elegant hand-manufactured knit-ware. In cool Prenzlauer Berg, the young and hip fashion scene is booming, with some of the most eccentric and original designer stores along Kastanienallee (9) and Oderberger Straße (10) near Eberswalder Straße station. In small series outlets such as parapluie or Das Rote Kleid you can look into the design studios before relaxing over a tasty snack in one of the many Asian-fusion restaurants nearby.

## 5. Berlin 24/7



In Berlin, time is elastic – especially since the city has its own unique rhythm of life. Almost anything is possible, any time of day or night – and every hour has special experiences waiting to be discovered. Why not start the day differently – by kicking out your old routine and hitting the dance floor! Morning Gloryville turns club culture upside down – with inspirational music at Kesselhaus (1) for you to rave your way into the day. A wealth of cafés around the Kulturbrauerei complex offer a relaxing after-rave breakfast. With energy levels restored, head for the M10 tram and the U8 subway line (changing at Bernauer Straße) to Gesundbrunnen station – and an unusual city tour. Berliner Unterwelten e.V. (Berlin Underworlds Association) (2) offers an exciting insight into Berlin’s history, with tours through mysterious and long forgotten bunkers, air raid shelters and rail tunnels under the city. Afterwards, explore a past of a different nature – literally! In the Museum für Naturkunde (3), Berlin’s natural history museum, marvel at ‘Tristan’, the 12-metre-long original T-Rex skeleton, the only one of its kind in Europe and the best preserved worldwide. Few stations down the U6 line, visit the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum (4), the impressive new Humboldt University library. The elegant library houses over 2.5 million volumes and has the largest open-shelf access of any library in Germany. The Humboldt University (5) forecourt is home to the Lise Meitner Monument, the first in a series of Talking Statues. Just scan the QR code with your smartphone and the statue will ring you and recount the story of this world-famous nuclear physicist! And how can Berlin get? Find out by taking the S-Bahn from Alexanderplatz to Treptower Park (change at Ostkreuz) and the Badeschiff (6) swimming pool in the River Spree. Here, you can even swim after sundown and enjoy the stunning panorama of Berlin’s cityscape. Fully refreshed, head down Schlesische Straße to Schlesisches Tor (7). For that special snack, check out the juicy burgers and crisp fries at Burgermeister (8) – at a very unusual location! Then stroll down to the river to Watergate (9) and catch that perfect wave on the techno beats that last till dawn.