

# The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

## Our top 15 Insider Tips



### INSIDER TIP In memoriam

Micha Ullman's *memorial* to the Burning of the Books on Bebelplatz under the Nazi dictatorship draws our gaze downwards. Below the sheet of glass empty bookcases can be seen that symbolise the 20,000 books burned here on 10 May 1933 → p. 31

### INSIDER TIP The village within the city

Surrounded by apartment blocks in Neukölln, the historical village of *Rixdorf* looks from another era with its church, blacksmith and barns → p. 59

### INSIDER TIP Telling history

Former inmates guide visitors through the *prison* run by the former East German State Security (Stasi) and tell their personal stories of solitary confinement and psychological terror → p. 59

### INSIDER TIP Stalinist glory

The 90m-wide *Karl-Marx-Allee* in Friedrichshain with its monumental, Moscow-style housing blocks is impressive (photo above) → p. 37

### INSIDER TIP Paddling in the Spree

In the *Freischwimmer* restaurant and water lounge (photo right) you can either enjoy the romantic location on the river bank or you can rent a canoe or kayak and explore the Spree. Life jackets available for children → p. 69

### INSIDER TIP Hip design

The shop *Aus Berlin* presents more-or-less useful – and many weird – things created by around 270 Berlin designers. If you are after pills to cure lovesickness, bookends in the shape of pieces of the Berlin Wall or a Television Tower lollipop, this is the place for you → p. 80

### INSIDER TIP A good night story

The breakfast room doubles up as a library. Readings with famous or still-unknown authors are held regularly in the lounge of the *Literaturhotel* in the suburb of Friedenau. Some literature Nobel Prize winners live(d) just round the corner → p. 102

### INSIDER TIP A drink with a view

You can enjoy the magnificent view from the roof of the *Park Inn Hotel* (40th floor) opposite the Television Tower – and sip a cocktail at the same time. There are even deck chairs waiting for you → p. 102

### INSIDER TIP Nostalgia for nerds

Excellent interactive exhibition in the *Computerspielemuseum* (computer games museum) featuring lots of games you might remember from your childhood → p. 30

### INSIDER TIP “There ain’t much better than a life on a cutter”

The *deckhouse* of an old stern-wheel tug on the Spree is the perfect place to get your teeth into some sprats or Berlin-style hamburgers → p. 69

### INSIDER TIP Second-hand Beatles

Music fans and vinyl freaks will find 200,000 singles and countless other records at *Platten Pedro*, Berlin's largest antiquarian record shop → p. 78

### INSIDER TIP Turkish delights

Try the finest Turkish sweets from one of Turkey's best confectioners right in the city centre at the *Confiserie Orientale* → p. 78

### INSIDER TIP Loft camping

Overnight in a caravan at the *Hüttenpalast* located on a factory floor in Neukölln – a unique and extremely comfortable experience! → p. 104

### INSIDER TIP The BVG's convertible trains

Public transport with a difference: travel the underground in carriages with the roof down – an experience not to be missed! → p. 122

### INSIDER TIP Don't get dizzy

The fastest lift in Europe will whisk you to the top of the *Kollhoff Tower* on Potsdamer Platz. There you will not only be able to admire the view but also have a coffee or enjoy your breakfast in comfort → p. 45



# BEST OF...

## GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

### ● **Lunchtime concerts**

From September to June, you will be able to enjoy a free lunchtime concert every Tuesday in the *Philharmonie*. The performing ensembles are first-rate and include the Berlin Philharmonic and scholarship holders from the orchestra's academy → p. 95

### ● **Wall art**

The *Eastside Gallery* (photo), the longest open-air gallery in the world, is located to the south of the Ostbahnhof railway station. Take a look at what artists have left for future generations on a 1,316 m (4,317 ft) long piece of the former Berlin Wall → p. 48

### ● **New Berliner bike tours**

Hop on the saddle and away you go. The Allgemeine Deutsche Fahrrad Club (ADFC) offers *free city tours* on bike. Bikes can be hired first at a low cost for example from *Next-Bike* ([www.nextbike.de](http://www.nextbike.de)) → p. 129

### ● **Rock for free**

Free admission on Thursdays from 7pm at the *Sageclub* in the Heinrich-Heinrich-Straße underground station! Dance the night away or just enjoy being a part of the scene → p. 90

### ● **Déjeuner sur l'herbe**

In summer, the Berliners pack their picnic baskets and make a pilgrimage to the *English Garden* in Tiergarten to relax and listen to free concerts of jazz and Klezmer music. Join in the fun! → p. 41

### ● **Life on the border**

Get a vivid impression of life behind the wall at the *Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer* (Berlin Wall Memorial) at the Nordbahnhof station: with mine patrols (without any mines though), eyewitness accounts, observation tower, documentary films etc. – and what's best: admission to everything is free → p. 35



●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

# ONLY IN BERLIN

Unique experiences

### ● **Quadriga with twelve legs**

The *Brandenburger Tor* is an absolute must. Not only the street artists let their hair down here, there are also many hobby photographers. Who can take the most beautiful picture of this city landmark? → p. 41

### ● **"TV asparagus"**

This is the name the people of Berlin have affectionately given the *Fernsehturm* on Alexanderplatz. You will really miss out on something if you don't visit the viewing platform 203 m (666 ft) above street level – it's the best view in Berlin → p. 34

### ● **Wall taxi**

A taxi will take you to all remnants of the Berlin Wall in the city. The driver will point out the most important places and garnish his stories with his personal experiences in the former divided city → p. 130

### ● **Curry 36**

Cheap but tasty – that's all a Berlin currywurst needs to be, with some chips or a bread roll to go along with it. The Berliners queue up at *Curry 36* in Kreuzberg for a grilled sausage with curry powder → p. 74

### ● **Sophisticated shopping**

Time and time again, the *Ku'damm* has been pronounced dead, but the many customers in the fashionable boutiques on the elegant boulevard cannot all be wrong. This is where Berlin is at its most glamorous in a setting of magnificent old buildings: typical of Berlin – but sometimes beautiful can be expensive → p. 54

### ● **Don't forget your swimsuit...**

You will feel like you are at the seaside: deck chairs and sand as far as the eye can see. The wide expanse of water at *Wannsee* is an inviting place to sunbathe or swim, and a snack bar is never far away (photo) → p. 24

### ● **Jazz in a beer garden**

Real Kreuzbergers don't give a hoot about the yuppies in Mitte or Friedrichshain when they sit back with a pint in their hands in one of the beer gardens – listening to live jazz in *Yorkschlösschen*, for example → p. 94



# ONLY IN



# DISCOVERY TOURS

1

## BERLIN AT A GLANCE



**START:** ① Reichstag building

**END:** ⑩ Riva bar

**Distance:**

→ 26.5 km/16.5 miles, of which approx.

11 km/6.8 miles on foot

1 day

Walking time  
(without stops)  
approx. 2½ hours

**COSTS:** approx. 50 euros for a day ticket on the public transport network, Segway hire and snacks

**IMPORTANT TIPS:** Buy a one-day BVG ticket (6.90 euros) to travel for free on all buses, underground and district line trains.

Reserve a table in the **Dachgartenrestaurant Käfer** in advance.

Pre-book tickets online for the **Fernsehturm** on the ⑪ Alexanderplatz!

Cities have many faces. If you want to get behind the scenes to explore their unique charm and head off the beaten track or find your way to green oases, handpicked restaurants or the best local activities, then these tailored Discovery Tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

This tour offers you a first insight into the capital's diversity: it takes you from the government quarters to the colourful Kreuzberg and from Brandenburger Tor onto the Fernsehturm (television tower). Although it requires endurance, you will be rewarded with having seen a lot of Berlin.

**09:30am** The best place to start the day is in **Dachgartenrestaurant Käfer** → p. 66 at the top of the ① Reichstag building → p. 46 (advance reservation essential). From here, you will have a magnificent view over the inner city and can also follow the walkway up into the dome of the building. Hire

① Reichstag building

