seeing Berlin
a guide to getting the most out of your stay

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AN ADVANSTAR PUBLICATION
This address is an absolute must for visitors to Berlin: XXVI ESCRS Congress, Stand 1560, Hall 15

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Welcome to Berlin

Your trip to this interesting and vibrant city in the heart of Europe should be worthwhile for both your career and social life.

The ESCRS Congress is the leading international forum for anterior segment involving surgeons. It enables scientific information and practical experiences to be exchanged at various levels. The industry also plays its part in this. We will be available at the exhibition to take part in interesting discussions on innovations. We look forward to your visit at our Booth 1560 in Hall 15.

We present this small guide which gives you the low-down on the city so that you can enjoy and experience Berlin in a relaxed manner.

Here’s to a successful conference and an unforgettable experience in Berlin.

Andreas Bosshard
President, Oertli Instrumente AG
Welcome to seeing Berlin, a traveller’s guide to Germany’s capital city, the location for the 2008 congress of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ESCRS).

Berlin has an awful lot to offer the discerning traveller… and here at Ophthalmology Times Europe, we’d like for you to get the most out of your stay, no matter how brief that may be.

Shoulder-to-shoulder alongside the thriving cultural and counter-cultural atmosphere of this modern, vibrant city stand monuments and memorials to the long, colourful and frequently tragic times gone by. This is truly a city in which visitors will not fail to find something to see and do, no matter what their tastes or preferences.

The bar, restaurant and hotel guides are organized so that those closest to the ICC, where this year’s ESCR congress takes place, are listed first, with a handy colour-coded guide to represent their district. For an explanation of how Berlin’s districts are laid out, and to see the colour system we have used, please look at the map on p24.

To help you navigate this enormous city, please refer to the map of Berlin’s extensive and efficient public transport system, which you will find on p26.

We hope that you find this guide useful, and that you enjoy your stay in Berlin.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Ophthalmology Times Europe
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Restaurant Guide

Distance and location: Restaurants closest to the ICC are listed first, and their distance from the ICC is noted. The restaurants are colour-coded to correspond to the district in which they are located. A district map is available on page 24.

Opening times: The majority of restaurants serve food until around 23.00.

Payment: Prices include service and tax; Germans will generally round up the bill to the next euro. An additional 10% tip is customary, unless the service was particularly bad. The custom in Berlin is to tell the waiter how much you’re paying when you receive the bill — do not leave the money on the table. Many restaurants do not accept credit cards.

Access: Please discuss any wheelchair access requirements with restaurants when booking.

Smoking: Smoking is now prohibited in restaurants and cafes.

Fast food: For something more relaxed, Berlin has a wide variety of Imbisshalle, fast food stands serving traditional German food (usually currywurst with chips) that are dotted around the city. The standard of food found here is generally very good.

Price guide

| Price | €21 – €25 | €26 – €35 | €36 – €45 | €46 – €55 | €56+ |

Prices are based on a three course meal per person with tax and service but not wine.

Masala

Cuisine: Indian
Price: €€€€€
Address: Freidberg Str. 38
Distance: 0.8 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 48481787
Website: www.restaurant-masala.de

In 2007, Zitty Magazine named Masala one of Berlin’s 20 Best Restaurants. The service and ambience are excellent, and the meals are traditional Indian. The restaurant boasts an extensive vegetarian menu as well as a wide variety of specialities.

Ana e Bruno

Cuisine: Italian
Price: €€€€€
Address: Garde-du-Corps Str. 10
Distance: 2.1 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 3257110
Web: www.ana-e-bruno.de

With over 400 labels on the wine list, a seasonal menu and its elegant interior, Ana e Bruno is widely regarded as one of the finest Italian restaurants in Berlin. An outside patio is available during the summer, and ladies’ menus feature calorie counts rather than prices.
Alt Luxemburg

Cuisine: German
Price: € € € € €
Address: Windscheid Str. 31
Distance: 2.2 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 3238730
Website: www.altluxemburg.de

The menu changes each month in this restaurant, which is decorated in 19th-Century style. The service is excellent, though the restaurant is closed at weekends and does not serve lunch. The restaurant’s chef, Karl Wannemacher, is among the most renowned in Germany.

El Borriquito

Cuisine: Spanish
Price: € € € € €
Address: Wieland Str. 6
Distance: 2.5 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 3129929
Website: www.el-borriquito.de

Featuring live music, this traditional Spanish restaurant guarantees a lively dining experience. Service is available in Spanish, German, French and English. Open until 05.00.

Florian

Cuisine: German
Price: € € € € €
Address: Grolmann Str. 52
Distance: 2.9 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 3139184
Website: www.restaurant-florian.de

A very popular, discreetly glamorous restaurant offering traditional dishes and a wide selection of wines. Portions are large and, as the restaurant is open until 03.00, certain dishes are only available at particular times of day. Credit cards are not accepted here.

Zing

Cuisine: Asian
Price: € € € € €
Address: Grolmann Str. 21
Distance: 3.9 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 37591339
Website: www.restaurant-zing.de

The Asian-fusion food at Zing is mainly inspired by Vietnam, and the service is friendly and efficient. The restaurant also features a creative cocktail menu.

Nu

Cuisine: Asian
Price: € € € € €
Address: Schlüter Str. 55
Distance: 3.9 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 88709811
Website: www.nu-eat.de

With a very extensive menu and elegant modern décor as well as relaxed music and a good cocktail menu, Nu is a great place for an informal meal. As an added touch, chairs in the outside seating area are draped with fleece blankets.

Austeria Brasserie

Cuisine: French
Price: € € € € €
Address: Kurfürstendamm 184
Distance: 4.2 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 8818461
Website: www.austeria-brasserie.de

Oysters and lobster are both on the menu in this gourmet restaurant, where the emphasis is placed firmly on fish. The service in the Art Deco inspired room is relaxed.
Sachiko Sushi

Cuisine: Japanese
Price: €€€
Address: Grolmann Str. 47
Distance: 4.3 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 3132282
Website: www.sachikosushi.com

Inside Berlin’s oldest sushi restaurant, the fresh fish and the chrome and black interior offer everything you would expect of a modern, upscale Japanese restaurant. Sushi floats on little boats and diners can select whatever takes their fancy.

Tai-Tung

Cuisine: Chinese
Price: €€€
Address: Budapester Str. 50
Distance: 5.6 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 2613091
Website: www.tai-tung.de

The bright and friendly décor attracts both tour groups and large numbers of Asian diners. The menu is mainly Cantonese and Hong Kong-inspired.

First Floor

Cuisine: German
Price: €€€€€
Address: Budapester Str. 45
Distance: 5.2 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 25201020
Website: www.firstfloor.palace.de

Located inside the Palace hotel, this Michelin-starred restaurant has a seasonal menu, and boasts Gunnar Tietz, the “Sommelier of the Year 2008” (Aral Schlemmer Atlas), worthy of the restaurant’s 800-label strong wine list. **The restaurant is closed on Sunday and Monday.**

Die Quadriga

Cuisine: French
Price: €€€€€
Address: Eislebener Str. 14
Distance: 6.0 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 21405651
Website: www.brandenburger-hof.com

Located inside the Brandenburger Hof hotel, this cosy gourmet restaurant uses fresh ingredients to reinvent traditional dishes. **Closed on Sunday.**

Gaststätte Bacco

Cuisine: Italian
Price: €€€€€
Address: Marburger Str. 5
Distance: 5.3 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 2118687
Website: www.bacco.de

The interior of this restaurant is appropriately rustic to complement the emphasis on Tuscan food. The head chef creates new recipes daily.

Alte Meierei

Cuisine: International
Price: €€€€€
Address: Alt-Moabit 99
Distance: 6.2 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 399200
Website: www.hotel-spreebogen.de

Located inside the Hotel Spreebogen, the Alte Meierei has an outside seating area by the water and boasts the services of celebrity chef Rainer Strobel.
Grand Hotel Esplanade ■
Cuisine: Various
Price: €€€€€
Address: Lützowufer 15
Distance: 6.3 km
Telephone: (+49) 800 2401800
Website: www.esplanade.de/essen

The Grand Hotel Esplanade offers several fine restaurants: Ellipse Lounge provides Asian fare, the Eck-Kneipe is traditional German and Elements is a dedicated breakfast restaurant.

Habel Weinkultur ■
Cuisine: Mediterranean
Price: €€€€€
Address: Luisenstr. 19
Distance: 7.0 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 28098484
Website: www.wein-habel.de

Despite classing its menu as Continental, Habel Weinkultur also offers more traditional Prussian fare. The atmosphere is warm and the beer is cold in this informal restaurant.

Hugo’s ■
Cuisine: Italian
Price: €€€€€
Address: Budapester Str. 2
Distance: 6.4 km
Tel: (+49) 30 26021263
Website: www.hugos-restaurant.de

Hugo’s, voted Restaurant of the Year in 2003 by Der Feinschmecker magazine, has been awarded one Michelin star and 18 Gault Millau points for the light and sophisticated cuisine on offer. The beautiful room, atop the Intercontinental Hotel, boasts spectacular 360º panoramic views of Berlin.

Paris-Moskau ■■
Cuisine: French and German nouvelle cuisine
Price: €€€€€
Address: Alt-Moabit 141
Distance: 7.3 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 3942081
Website: www.paris-moskau.de

Located in a timbered house, the Paris-Moskau, which has a long history as a meeting point between East and West Germany, feels domestic, with separate dining rooms and a garden area. Now featuring seasonal menus with a heavy emphasis on seafood, the restaurant also offers a dedicated vegetarian menu.

Facil ■
Cuisine: International
Price: €€€€€
Address: Potsdamer Str. 3
Distance: 6.5 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 590051234
Website: www.facil.de

Located in the Mandala Hotel, this elegant Michelin-starred restaurant emphasizes relaxation, and advocates casual dress over formal attire. The glass ceiling makes for a beautiful evening dining experience.

Rutz Weinbar ■■
Cuisine: International
Price: €€€€€
Address: Chaussee Str. 9
Distance: 7.5 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 24628760
Website: www.rutz-weinbar.de

Despite being small, the Rutz Weinbar menu is very select, offering fine ingredients and unusual combinations, plus the option of a “surprise menu” selection. There is something available for almost every palate.
Dachgarten at the Reichstag

Cuisine: Continental
Price: € € € € €
Address: Platz der Republik 1
Distance: 7.6 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 22629933
Website: www.bundestag.de

Set in the glass dome of the parliament building, the lunch menu is very traditionally German, although evening meals have a pan-Continental influence. The modern interior is widely regarded as one of the best dining rooms in the city.

Felix Club Restaurant

Cuisine: Italian
Price: € € € € €
Address: Behren Str. 72
Distance: 7.8 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 20946329
Website: www.felix-clubrestaurant.de

With décor inspired by 1940s New York, the restaurant, which becomes a nightclub later in the evenings, features live blues music on Thursday nights. King prawns from the oven served with artichoke-mint-salad and parmesan chippings is the restaurant’s signature dish.

Vox

Cuisine: Mediterranean/Asian fusion
Price: € € € € €
Address: Marlene Dietrich Platz 2
Distance: 7.8 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 25531234
Website: www.vox-restaurant.de

The minimalist décor includes an open-view kitchen, and the restaurant also features a sushi bar, a terrace for outdoor dining and a stylish cocktail bar. Vox offers live jazz and blues music, and a business lunch menu that changes every day.

Margaux

Cuisine: French
Price: € € € € €
Address: Unter den Linden 78
Distance: 7.8 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 22652611
Website: www.margaux-berlin.de

Located close to the Brandenburg Gate, reservations are essential for this chic, minimalist restaurant. Wines are available by the glass and are matched to each of your courses, but the selection of Bordeaux is magnificent.

Restaurant Quarré

Cuisine: Continental
Price: € € € € €
Address: Unter den Linden 77
Distance: 8.0 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 22611555
Website: www.hotel-adlon.de

With views of the Brandenburg Gate, and an outside seating area, this restaurant, whose classic dishes include half lobster with caviar and green asparagus, focuses heavily on seafood. **Reservations recommended.**
Restaurant Guide

Restaurant Maxwell

Cuisine: Mediterranean
Price: ★★★★★
Address: Berg Str. 22
Distance: 8.3 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 2807121
Website: www.mxwl.de

The service in this restaurant, located in an old brewery decorated with Damien Hirst art, is friendly and efficient, much in keeping with the laidback, intimate style of dining. The menu is seasonal.

Neuer Bamberger Reiter

Cuisine: Austrian
Price: ★★★★★
Address: Regensburger Str. 7
Distance: 8.3 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 21966355
Website: www.bambergerreiter.de

The traditional and elegant décor of the three small dining rooms is well complemented by the friendly, attentive service. Credit cards are not accepted and the restaurant is closed on Sunday.

Bocca di Bacco

Cuisine: Italian
Price: ★★★★★
Address: Friedrich Str. 167/168
Distance: 8.4 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 20672828
Website: www.boccadibacco.de

Wild game and fish feature very prominently on the Tuscan menu, which also includes home-made pasta. The interior is light, spacious and elegant.

Gaststätte Borchardt

Cuisine: French/Italian
Price: ★★★★★
Address: Französische Str. 47
Distance: 8.5 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 81886262
Website: www.gastart.de

The elegant high-ceilinged interior gives way to an outdoor patio to be used in summer. Despite widely varying reports of the quality of service, reservations are essential in this very popular restaurant.

Fischers Fritz

Cuisine: Fish
Price: ★★★★★
Address: Charlotten Str. 49
Distance: 8.5 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 20336363
Website: www.fischersfritzberlin.com

The only restaurant in Berlin able to boast two Michelin stars, as well as 18 Gault Millau points, this seafood restaurant places heavy emphasis on ambience, service and décor (the dining rooms are oak-panelled) as well as spectacular food for every palate.

Lutter & Wegner

Cuisine: Austrian
Price: ★★★★★
Address: Charlotten Str. 56
Distance: 8.7 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 2029540
Website: www.lutter-wegner-gendarmenmarkt.de

The dining room is reminiscent of 19th-Century Vienna, with a seasonal Austrian menu to match. Certain dishes are served until 03.00 in the Weinstube. As the location in which the term “Sekt” was coined, the wine list is understandably of high quality. Not to be confused with the Lutter & Wegner across Berlin on Schlüter Str, which is not affiliated.
Vau

**Cuisine:** German  
**Price:** €€€€€  
**Address:** Jäger Str. 54-55  
**Distance:** 8.8 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 2029730  
**Website:** www.vau-berlin.de

This Michelin-starred restaurant has a homely feel, with attentive service and vegetarian and low-salt menus. Ingredients are seasonal and locally-sourced, and no more than three will be presented on a plate at one time. The restaurant also features a lively bar.

Moreno Carusi

**Cuisine:** Italian  
**Price:** €€€€€  
**Address:** Leipziger Platz 15  
**Distance:** 9.0 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 22488156  
**Website:** www.morenocarusi.com

This charming little Italian restaurant offers simple, well-made Abruzzo food, extremely friendly service and a sensational wine list. You will almost certainly meet the chef and owner, who frequently chats to diners. **Outdoor seating is available.**

Aapka

**Cuisine:** Indian  
**Price:** €€€€€  
**Address:** Kastanienallee 50  
**Distance:** 9.1 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 44010494  
**Website:** www.aapka.de

The atmosphere is relaxed and laidback, and the cocktail menu is extensive. The food is mainly inspired by the northern region of India. The Sunday brunch is also well worth a visit.

Altes Zollhaus

**Cuisine:** German  
**Price:** €€€€€  
**Address:** Carl-Heinz-Ufer 30  
**Distance:** 14.0 km  
**Tel:** (+49) 30 6923300  
**Website:** www.altes-zollhaus-berlin.de

Set in a cosy half-timbered traditional house on the banks of the Landwehrkanal, the country-house style restaurant can be reached by boat as it has its own landing place. On the menu, one finds many variations on traditional classics.

Trattoria Paparazzi

**Cuisine:** Italian  
**Price:** €€€€€  
**Address:** Husemann Str. 35  
**Distance:** 14.7 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 4407333

The house specialities are malfatti served with crispy fried sage leaves and strozzapreti. The service is friendly, the ingredients are fresh and the house wine is highly recommended. **Credit cards are not accepted, and reservations are encouraged.**
Brauhaus Lemke am Schloss  ■

**Type:** Pub  
**Address:** Luisen Platz 1  
**Distance:** 3.2 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 3087979  
**Website:** www.brauhaus-lemke.com

Views of Charlottenburg complement the good value home-brewed beers and traditional German cuisine in this typical German brew pub, formerly known as Luisen-Bräu.

Die Kleine Weltlaterne  ■

**Type:** Jazz bar  
**Address:** Nestor Str. 22  
**Distance:** 3.4 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 8926580  
**Website:** www.diekleineweltlaterne.de

A combination of art gallery and pub, live music is played in the venue Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Poems, photographs and paintings decorate the walls of this little corner of New Orleans in Berlin.

Mommsen-Eck  ■

**Type:** Pub  
**Address:** Mommsen Str. 45  
**Distance:** 3.2 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 3242580  
**Website:** www.mommsen-eck.de

The “house of 100 beers” offers 16 tap varieties as well as its 100 bottled beers. Patrons can sit outside in a pretty square containing trees and a fountain during warmer weather and order hearty portions from the traditional German menu. **Service is mainly in German.**

Gainsbourg  ■

**Type:** Cocktail Bar  
**Address:** Savignyplatz 2  
**Distance:** 4.0 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 3137464  
**Website:** www.gainsbourg.de

Bartender Frido Keiling has won awards for the cocktails he has invented at Gainsbourg. Understandably demand for seats in the dark but cosy interior is high, so arrive early to be sure of getting a table. The entrance to the bar, which is open from 15.00–03.00 in the summer, with Happy Hour until 20.00, is difficult to pinpoint, so be prepared to battle through the greenery to find it!

Schleusenkrug  ■

**Type:** Beer garden  
**Address:** Müller-Breslau Str.  
**Distance:** 4.4 km  
**Telephone:** (+49) 30 3139909  
**Website:** www.schleusenkrug.de

This large beer garden on the canal has an eclectic mix of clientele but a welcoming atmosphere, and is very child-friendly. Food and games, such as boules, are also available.
Q-Dorf
Type: Nightclub
Address: Joachimstaler Str. 15
Distance: 5.0 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 88001617
Website: www.qdorf.de

The Q-Dorf is not among Berlin’s coolest clubs, but with 18 bars and four dance floors, it’s always busy. The crowd that frequents this nightclub is young and ready to party.

Beersaloon
Type: Bar/Pub
Address: Kurfürstendamm 225
Distance: 5.3 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 8843990
Website: www.beersaloon.sportkneipe.de

A tourist-friendly location and Wi-Fi hotspot, this bar also offers food and large-screen TVs showing sports. Thursday night is karaoke night.

Strassenbahn
Type: Bar
Address: Laubacher Str. 29
Distance: 5.4 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 8217629
Website: www.strassenbahn-kneipe.com

A relaxed bar with terrace and garden areas available in the summer, the converted-railway-arch interior is a popular spot on Berlin’s alternative scene.

Irish Pub im Europa Center
Type: Pub
Address: Tauentzien Str. 9-12
Distance: 5.5 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 2621634
Website: www.irishpubberlin.de

Live music adds to the ambiance in this cavernous pub, where the clientele is split roughly 50/50 between Irish/British and German customers. Bear in mind that this pub is located in the basement of the Europa Center shopping mall.

Bar am Lützowplatz
Type: Bar
Address: Lützow Platz 7
Distance: 6.1 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 2626807
Website: www.baramluetzowplatz.com

As it is very popular with Berlin’s young professionals, Bar am Lützowplatz tends to be busy and crowded, despite boasting the longest bar in the city. The leather seats are comfortable, if you’re lucky enough to find one available. **Happy Hour is held 14.00–21.00.**

Trompete
Type: Nightclub
Address: Lützow Platz 9
Distance: 6.1 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 23004794
Website: www.trompete-berlin.de

A lounge furnished with leather chairs, tables made of logs and black and white photographs on the walls, this venue is crowded every Thursday for the renowned Radio Eins Afterwork Lounge event. Friday nights are for soul and R&B music, and the Winter Garten is popular throughout the year.
Bar Guide

Harry’s New York Bar

Type: Hotel bar  
Address: Lützowufer 15  
Distance: 6.3 km  
Telephone: (+49) 30 254788633  
Website: www.esplanade.de

Live piano music and pop art on the walls are some of the attractions that make this bar, located within the Grand Hotel Esplanade, popular with visiting business people. As befitting the birthplace of the bloody Mary, there are more than 200 options on the international drinks menu.

Pinguin Club

Type: Bar  
Address: Wartburg Str. 54  
Distance: 8.3 km  
Telephone: (+49) 30 7813005  
Website: www.pinguin-club.de

Decorated in a 1950s American rock ‘n’ roll style, with 156 spirits behind the bar, the atmosphere is intimate, with an eclectic crowd.

Bebel Bar and Lounge

Type: Hotel bar  
Address: Behren Str. 37  
Distance: 8.6 km  
Telephone: (+49) 30 4606090  
Website: www.hotelderome.com

As one would expect of a bar housed in a former bank, the interior of Bebel is chic, elegant and understated. The occasional live music is never intrusive, the clientele is composed of international professionals and the excellent service is formal. A private room is also available.

Hafen

Type: Gay  
Address: Motz Str. 19  
Distance: 8.8 km  
Telephone: (+49) 30 2114118  
Website: www.hafen-berlin.de

Regular quizzes, singalongs and street parties guarantee a lively atmosphere at this fashionable bar, which is nevertheless relatively laidback during the week. The interior is red and, with the flowers hanging from its ceiling, frequently described as “psychedelic”.

Victoria Bar

Type: Cocktail bar  
Address: Potsdamer Str. 102  
Distance: 9.8 km  
Telephone: (+49) 30 25759977  
Website: www.victoriabar.de

To focus the tastebuds on the flavours of the drink, a glass of water is served with every cocktail. The relaxed atmosphere, modern art on the walls and easy listening soundtrack have contributed to the bar’s reputation as one of Berlin’s finest. It even has the awards to prove it: Stefan Weber, a bartender here, is a former winner of the Gault Millau title “Barkeeper of the Year” and the bar itself has won awards for interior design. Happy Hour is 18.30–21.30 Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday.
Café Berio
Type: Gay
Address: Maassen Str. 7
Distance: 9.8 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 2161946
Website: www.cafe-berio.de

A popular but quiet daytime café, with a terrace for the summer, this bar is popular as a pre-club venue. The simply designed Viennese-style interior is comfortable, and both the all-day breakfasts and the selection of cakes available in the daytime are big attractions.

The Sharon Stonewall
Type: Gay
Address: Linien Str. 136
Distance: 10.0 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 24085502
Website: www.sharonstonewall.com

The atmosphere is warm and welcoming to all, with a relaxed lounge feeling. Films are projected silently onto bright-pink walls while patrons sit on the large sofas sipping cocktails. **Happy Hour is 20.00–21.30.**

Reingold
Type: Cocktail bar
Address: Novalis Str. 11
Distance: 12.4 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 28387676
Website: www.reingold.de

Standing outside Berlin’s major nightlife areas, Reingold tends to be less crowded than other locations. Its gold interior is elegantly done and the service in the chic, laidback lounge is friendly. Oysters and low-key techno music are also features of the bar. **Open daily from 19.00–01.00.**

Saphire Bar
Type: Whisky bar
Address: Bötzow Str. 31
Distance: 12.9 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 25562158
Website: www.saphirebar.de

Despite focusing (heavily) on whisky, the elegant 1970s style Saphire also offers an extensive cocktail menu featuring several in-house creations. **Happy Hour is 20.00–21.00.**

Solar
Type: Bar
Address: Stresemann Str. 76
Distance: 14.2 km
Telephone: (+49) 0163 7652700
Website: www.solarberlin.com

The highest bar in Berlin, this 17th floor lounge, bar and restaurant offers stunning views of the city as well as inexpensive cocktails, which are far superior to the food available.
Despite its long and varied history, Berlin’s cityscape has been shaped predominantly by the last five decades, as 92% of the buildings that populated the city before World War II were destroyed by bombs during the conflict. Nevertheless, certain iconic pre-war monuments, such as the Brandenburg Gate and the Schloss Charlottenburg, still stand, although many have necessitated extensive reconstruction. The city has no defined centre, covers 889 square kilometres and houses more than 150 museums and galleries, not to mention the monuments, nightlife and entertainment for which the city is famed, making it almost impossible to see everything in a short period of time. Here is a brief guide to some places not to miss while you’re in the German capital.

Pre-War History

The Brandenburg Gate [Brandenburger Tor] is possibly the most recognizable symbol of Berlin. Commissioned by Friedrich Wilhelm II and built by Carl Gottfried Langhans between 1788 and 1791, the neoclassical city gate stands at the end of Unter den Linden, between Pariser Platz and the Platz des 18. März. Modelled on the Propylaea, the entrance to the Acropolis in Athens, the Gate is composed of 12 Doric columns and is crowned with the Quadriga, Johann Gottfried Schadow’s sculpture of the goddess Viktoria driving a quadriga. The sculpture was originally designed to represent peace and was later modified and re-interpreted to represent victory. After being incorporated into the Berlin Wall, the Gate is now most commonly used as a symbol of the reunified city.

The largest existing palace in Berlin, Charlottenburg Palace [Schloss Charlottenburg] (pictured right) was designed as a summer home for Sophie Charlotte, the wife of Elector Friedrich III. Although construction began in 1695, sections continued to be added to the palace until 1746, resulting in a vast variety of architectural styles, which are nevertheless complementary. Much of the palace was rebuilt after damage sustained during the Second World War. Amongst the sights on offer at the palace are the extensive French baroque-style gardens, the Orangery, the Porcelain Room, which contains a valuable collection of Japanese and Chinese porcelain, and the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, the museum of pre- and early-history. The palace also contains the largest selection of 18th Century French art outside of France.

The Lutheran Berlin Cathedral [Berliner Dom], designed by Julius Raschdorff, was built between 1894 and 1905. The 98 metre high copper dome is intricately decorated with mosaics and has an outside balcony. Other features of interest in the cathedral include the crypt, which houses the tombs and sarcophagi of more than 80 Prussian royalties; the altar, which was salvaged from the previous cathedral and dates from 1820; “Sauer’s Organ”, an organ containing 7200 pipes; and Anton von Werner’s stained glass designs depicting, among other scenes, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The early 20th Century neo-baroque pulpit is also of interest. Photography is permitted and guided tours are available.
War

Built to a design by Albert Speer and completed only 48 hours before deadline in January 1939, the Reich Chancellery [Reichskanzlei] was the seat of Hitler’s government. The enormous building cost over 90 million Reichsmark (approximately $1 billion), necessitated over 4000 workers working in constant shifts to complete, and was dismantled by the Soviets after the war. Material, including marble, from the Chancellery was used to create the Soviet War Memorial [Sowjetische Ehrenmal], the final resting place of more than 2500 Soviet soldiers who were killed during the war. The memorial, set in landscaped gardens, is constructed from the artillery of war and is flanked by two Red Army ML-20 152mm gun-howitzer artillery pieces and two T-34 tanks, reputedly the first to reach Berlin. The Reich Chancellery stood above Hitler’s bunker [Führerbunker], in which the dictator spent his final days and eventually committed suicide. The bunker is now sealed, though not destroyed, and a plaque on the corner of In den Ministergärten and Gertrud-Kolmar-Str. marks its approximate location.

The mission of the Topography of Terror Foundation [Topographie des Terrors] is to provide information about National Socialism in Germany and to confront this history and its after-effects. Its main feature is an exhibition housed in the preserved cellars of destroyed historical buildings that were the homes to the political departments and governing bodies of the National Socialism era. The Foundation also maintains open-air and travelling exhibitions, and has been responsible for several important documentary exhibitions, including “1936: the Olympic Games and National Socialism” and “Berlin 1945”. The Foundation regularly presents lectures and discussions on topics related to National Socialist persecution, and a preserved section of the Berlin Wall runs alongside the Foundation’s grounds.

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe [Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas] was inaugurated in 2005 and was designed by American architect Peter Eisenman to commemorate the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Although an underground section of the memorial houses the names of all the known Jewish Holocaust victims, above ground the 4.7 acres of 2711 concrete stelae of various heights do not employ any obvious symbolism.

The Homosexual Memorial, which was inaugurated in May 2008, is opposite the Jewish Memorial. A memorial for Sinti and Roma Holocaust victims is currently under construction.

Wall

The Checkpoint Charlie Museum [Haus am Checkpoint Charlie] originally opened in West Berlin in 1963, and was a vantage point from which visitors could observe and perhaps aid attempts to flee East Berlin. Although the museum’s original intention was to document “the best border security system in the world”, its mission has grown and the Haus am Checkpoint Charlie has become the world’s first museum of non-violent protest, containing Mahatma Gandhi’s sandals as well as the Charta 77 typewriter and the death mask of Andrei Sakharov. The principal focus of the museum remains the Cold War border conflicts, a divided Berlin, and East to West escape attempts, with permanent exhibitions and regular lectures on these topics.
The **Parliament of Trees** (*Parlament der Bäume*), established in 1990 by the artist Ben Wargin, is a memorial to those who died while attempting to cross the Berlin Wall. The 258 victims’ names are engraved on granite and stand among an installation of trees, memorial stones and original pieces of the Wall. Although the memorial was scaled back to accommodate the building of the Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus, the new installation includes original sections of Wall with years and the number of victims the Wall claimed in that year painted on. The Parliament of Trees monument forms part of the “commemorative landscape” of Berlin that also includes the **White Crosses** (*Weisse Kreuze*), a memorial of seven white crosses inscribed with the names of prominent victims of the Wall. The crosses had originally been spread along the former border to mark the exact points of the deaths they commemorated, but they were moved to a single location to make them easier to maintain.

**Culture**

**Museum Island** (*Museumsinsel*) is the 1 km² island in the tributaries of the Spree river; this island was the site of the original 13th Century settlements that would become Berlin. These days, the island is home to an extensive collection of museums, including the **Pergamon Museum** — among the antiquities from Greece, Rome, the Near East (showing the exhibition “Babylon: Myth and Truth” until 5 October) and the Islamic world that the museum houses is the star of its collection, the Pergamon Altar; the neo-classical **Altes Museum**, whose monumental ionic colonnade dominates the entrance to the building and which will display the bust of Neferetiti until 2009; and, the baroque-style **Bode Museum**, which was opened in 1904 and contains a Sculpture Collection and museum of Byzantine art, the Numismatic Collection and a collection of paintings from the Old Masters. Currently, renovations to Museum Island are underway: the “master plan” for a more cohesive design should be complete by 2015.

The **Culture Forum** (*Kulturforum*), Berlin’s cultural heartland, is located in the centre of the city. The network of galleries, concert halls and museums was built on inner-city wasteland following wartime devastation as a counterpoint to East Berlin’s Museum Island, and the first buildings were erected in 1963. The Forum includes the State Library, the Museum for Musical Instruments, the Gemäldegalerie (Old Masters Gallery), the New National Gallery, the Museum of Decorative Arts, the Museum of Graphic Arts, the Art Library, the Philharmonic and the Chamber Music Hall, among others. All the state museums of Berlin are closed on Mondays, but there are many special events and temporary exhibitions taking place.

Throughout September, the New National Gallery will be hosting a Hiroshi Sugimoto retrospective, and the Gemäldegalerie will host an exhibition of works by Sebastiano del Piombo, Michaelangelo and prominent Spanish artists.

Following the Gestapo’s closure in 1938 of the original museum, Berlin’s **Jewish Museum** (*Jüdisches Museum*) re-opened its doors in 1978 and moved into its new home, the Libeskind building, in 1991. The museum opened as a state-run facility in 2001. Although the museum commemorates the two millennia of German-Jewish history, it understandably exerts a great pull for those with a relation to or an interest in the treatment of Jews during World War II and the Holocaust. The museum, which features the exhibits “Totally Manoli: No problem! Jewish entrepreneurs in the German cigarette industry”, “The Medieval World of Ashkenaz” and “It was as simple as that: Jewish childhood and youth in Germany, Austria and Switzerland after 1945”, as well as symposia, concerts, talks and workshops for children and teenagers, was enhanced in September 2007 with the addition of a glass courtyard.
Shopping

Hackescher Markt is a bustling shopping location for those looking for something individual and off the beaten path, as an antidote to homogenized high street looks. Located in the former East Berlin, many young designers display their wares in the network of streets and courtyards known as Hackescher Höfe, which comprises variety theatre, restaurants and bars, and is as popular as a nightlife destination as a shopping mecca.

For a more mainstream shopping experience, Kurfürstendamm [Ku’Damm] is a wide and elegant avenue filled with high-street and high-end designer shops. It is worth noting that, in Berlin, shops are able to choose their own opening hours, so you’re likely to be able to find somewhere to shop, no matter what time of day. Many of the quiet side streets surrounding Ku’Damm are filled with small, exclusive boutiques and elegant cafes. As well as its wide variety of clothing stores, Ku’Damm also offers furniture shops, antiques, delis and jewellery stores.

The Kaufhaus des Westens (much more commonly known as the KaDeWe) dates from 1907 and is the biggest shopping mall in continental Europe. The exclusive mall’s shops, built over seven floors, stock more than 3 million products, and the top floor houses the gourmet food hall with a particular emphasis on seafood, and the Wintergarten restaurant, which has views along the Ku’Damm. As with Harrods, Europe’s other behemoth of a department store, the merchandise available is high-end, and bargain-hunters will probably be unable to find anything to satisfy themselves.

Tourist Attractions

Berlin’s Reichstag building, originally built to house the parliament of the newly-declared German Empire in 1871 and to represent German unity, was, fittingly, the seat of the first post-unification parliament in 1990, and still houses the German parliament, the Bundestag, today. The 140-year history of the building has been turbulent, and the building itself has been damaged by fire and bombs; its appearance has, consequently, changed to reflect these events. The Reichstag’s current incarnation, featuring new additions to the building, were built to a design by Sir Norman Foster and completed in 1999. The metal and glass dome was designed to reflect the transparency of the German government and the roof terrace is the location for an award-winning restaurant with one of the best views in Berlin.

Potsdamer Platz, a large square in the centre of Berlin, has had a long and colourful history. Originally a road forming part of a small trade route, which expanded to become pan-European, causing extensive traffic problems, Potsdamer Platz formed the hub of Europe’s hedonistic nightlife during the 1920s, was bombed to rubble during the war and endured a brief period as a no-man’s-land during the Cold War division years before undergoing extensive renovation and gentrification. Potsdamer Platz now plays host to Berlin’s major financial and business districts, as well as a wide variety of commercial space, including restaurants, cinemas, shops, a theatre, a shopping centre and the Sony Centre, and has now come to represent Germany’s post-unification economic, culture and social renaissance. Potsdamer Platz has been the location for several historical innovations in the city, being the location for both Berlin’s first ever train journey in 1838 and Germany’s first radio broadcast in 1923, and this spirit of originality and modernization is apparent in today’s architecturally advanced landscape.

The oldest zoo in Germany, Berlin Zoo [Zoologischer Garten] is also the country’s most biodiverse zoo, although Knut, a baby polar bear, is almost certainly the most famous resident. Entrances to the zoo are through either the Lion Gate or the Elephant Gate, and alongside “Polar World” and “Tropics” areas, the zoo also features a monkey house, a predator house, an aviary and a large aquarium.
OPENING TIMES, LOCATIONS, ENTRANCE FEES (where applicable)

Brandenburg Gate ■
Location: Pariser Platz

Schloss Charlottenburg ■
Opening hours: 10.00–17.00 Tues–Sun
Location: Luisen Platz
Entrance fee: Combined day ticket, €7

Berlin Cathedral ■
Opening hours: 09.00–20.00 daily (12.00–20.00 Sun)
Location: Am Lustgarten 1
Entrance fee: €4

Soviet War Memorial ■
Location: Tiergarten Park

Topography of Terror Open Air Exhibition ■
Location: Niederkirchner Str. 8

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe: Information Centre ■
Opening hours: 10.00–20.00 (Closed Mon)
Location: Cora-Berliner-Str. 1
Entrance fee: Donations welcome

Checkpoint Charlie Museum ■
Opening hours: 09.00–22.00 daily
Location: Friedrich Str. 43–45
Entrance fee: €12.50 (adult)

Parliament of Trees ■
Opening hours: 13.00–19.00 Fri–Sun
Location: Schiffbauerdamm Promenade
Entrance fee: Free

White Crosses ■
Location: Ebert Str.

KaDeWe ■
Opening hours: 10.00–20.00 Mon–Fri (09.30–20.00 Sat)
Location: Tauentzien Str. 21-24

Reichstag ■
Opening hours: 08.00–00.00 daily
Location: Platz der Republik 1

Pergamon Museum ■
Opening hours: 10.00–18.00 daily
(Closed Mon; Thurs 10.00–22.00)
Location: Bode Str. 1-3
Entrance fee: Combined ticket for Museum Island, €12 (single ticket, €8).

Altes Museum ■
Opening hours: 10.00–18.00 daily
(Thurs 10.00–22.00)
Location: Bode Str. 1-3
Entrance fee: Combined ticket for Museum Island, €12 (single ticket, €8).

Bode Museum ■
Opening hours: 10.00–18.00 daily
(Thurs 10.00–22.00)
Location: Bode Str. 1-3
Entrance fee: Combined ticket for Museum Island, €12 (single ticket, €8).

Jewish Museum ■
Opening hours: 10.00–20.00 daily
(10.00–22.00 Mon)
Location: Linden Str. 9–14
Entrance fee: €5 (adult)

Berlin Zoo ■
Opening hours: 09.00–18.30
(09.00–17.30 from September 15)
Location: Hardenberg Platz 8
Entrance fee: €18 (adult, zoo + aquarium)

All state museums have free admission on Thursdays, 18.00–22.00.
The district “Mitte” covers the areas of Tiergarten, Unter den Linden, Museumsinsel and Kurfürstendamm.
Distance and location: Hotels closest to the ICC are listed first, and their distance from the ICC is noted. The hotels are colour-coded to correspond to the district in which they are located. A district map is available on page 24.

Golden Tulip Hotel Hamburg

Stars: ★★★★★
Location: Landgrafen Str. 4
Distance: 5.8 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 264770
Bars: Hanse Bar, Lounge
Restaurants: Alsterpavillon (breakfast), Il Sorriso (German and international)
Check-in: 14.00
Check-out: 11.00
Website: www.goldentulipberlin.de

Located in a quiet tree-lined side street, the Golden Tulip hotel is in the centre of the city but away from the noise and bustle. Famous landmarks including the Brandenburg Gate and the Holocaust Memorial, the Reichstag parliament building and the Kurfürstendamm shopping district are all within walking distance. A business centre and in-room wireless internet access are available.

Brandenburger Hof

Stars: ★★★★★
Location: Eislebener Str. 14
Distance: 6.0 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 214050
Bars: Quadriga Lounge
Restaurants: Die Quadriga (French), Berlin Salons
Check-in: 14.00
Check-out: 12.00
Website: www.brandenburger-hof.com

The Thaleia day spa offers Balinese massage, Thalgo thalasso applications and beauty treatments. Guests receive complimentary access to the Tiergarten Sporting Club, a five-minute limousine ride away, where relaxation techniques, mental training and stress reduction courses are offered.

The hotel’s restaurant, die Quadriga, is Michelin-starred. The Bauhaus-style hotel also offers a piano bar, private art tours, city and discovery programmes, a chauffeur service, and an in-house theatre box agency.
**Grand Hotel Esplanade**

**Stars:** ★★★★★

**Location:** Lützowufer 15

**Distance:** 6.3 km

**Telephone:** (+49) 800 2401800

**Bars:** Harry's New York Bar

**Restaurants:** Ellipse Lounge (Asian), Elements (breakfast), Eck Restaurant (German)

**Check-in:** 15.00

**Check-out:** 12.00

**Website:** www.esplanade.de

Along with the usual facilities, the Triangle Health & Spa also offers three specialized saunas (aquaviva sauna, sanarium and herb sauna).

This lakeside hotel is close to Berlin’s major shopping and cultural attractions. The interior is modern; rooftop terraces (only available in suites) give a view of nearby Tiergarten park. The hotel offers mobile phone and computer rental services, and the concierge has bicycles available for hire.

**InterContinental Hotel**

**Stars:** ★★★★★

**Location:** Budapester Str. 2

**Distance:** 6.4 km

**Telephone:** (+49) 30 26020

**Bars:** Marlene Bar, Library Bar

**Restaurants:** L.A. Café (breakfast, snacks, Asian), Hugo's (Italian)

**Check-in:** 15.00

**Check-out:** 12.00

**Website:** www.berlin.intercontinental.com

The Vitality Club offers a pool and whirlpool, saunas, Turkish bath, solarium and a healthy drinks bar. Childcare and babysitting services are also available in the hotel. The bar offers live music, and Hugo’s restaurant is widely regarded as one of Berlin’s best. The hotel, which has an on-site hair and beauty salon, was renovated in 2003, and staff are multi-lingual. Banking services and complimentary wireless internet access are available.

**Ritz Carlton**

**Stars:** ★★★★★

**Location:** Potsdamer Platz 3

**Distance:** 6.6 km

**Telephone:** (+49) 30 337777

**Bars:** The Tea Lounge, The Curtain Club

**Restaurants:** Vitium (Continental), Brasserie Desbrosses (French)

**Check-in:** 15.00

**Check-out:** 12.00

**Website:** www.ritzcarlton.com

The La Prairie Spa offers La Prairie signature treatments, and the Health Club features a swimming pool set under a crystal ceiling, as well as a jacuzzi.

Located in Berlin’s cultural hub, Potsdamer Platz, the Ritz Carlton offers feather beds, marble bathrooms and an “honour bar” in bedrooms. Room service is available 24 hours a day.

**Grand Hyatt**

**Stars:** ★★★★★

**Location:** Marlene-Dietrich-Platz 2

**Distance:** 7.8 km

**Telephone:** (+49) 30 25531234

**Bars:** Vox Bar

**Restaurants:** Vox (Mediterranean/Asian fusion), Tizian (international), mesa (international)

**Check-in:** 15.00

**Check-out:** 12.00

**Website:** berlin.grand.hyatt.com

Club Olympus Spa & Fitness has a rooftop view of Berlin and offers relaxation techniques including Tai Chi, massage and facial assessments, treatments and products. Traditional beauty treatments are also available.

Flat-screen TVs and high-speed internet access are available in all bedrooms; the hotel is designed to a modern art concept throughout. The hotel is close to the Reichstag, the Holocaust Memorial, the Brandenburg Gate and Charlottenburg Castle.
Adlon Kempinski

Stars: ★★★★★
Location: Unter den Linden 77
Distance: 8.0 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 22610
Bars: Lobby Lounge & Bar
Restaurants: Restaurant Quarre (Continental),
Gourmetrestaurant Lorenz Adlon (French)
Check-in: 15.00
Check-out: 12.00
Website: www.hotel-adlon.de

The pool and gym facilities — including workout room, solarium, whirlpool, sauna and steambath — are available daily from 06.30–22.00; the day spa is open 08.00–22.00 (20.00 on Sunday and Monday).

This elegant fin de siecle-style hotel can be found next to the Brandenburg Gate and a short stroll from the Reichstag building. All bathrooms are fitted in marble and a private butler is available on request. There are also six rooms purpose-built for allergy sufferers.

Westin Grand

Stars: ★★★★★
Location: Friedrich Str. 158-164
Distance: 8.5 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 20270
Bars: Lobby Lounge & Bar
Restaurants: Relish (contemporary),
Restaurant Coelin (international buffet)
Check-in: 15.00
Check-out: 12.00
Website: www.westin.com

The fitness centre includes a whirlpool, sauna, pool, solarium, and beauty rooms and gardens. Valet parking and a garage are also available nearby.

Suites and junior suites offer the hotel’s personalized butler service free of charge. Most rooms also feature the hotel’s signature “Heavenly Bed”. The hotel offers babysitting, a business centre and wi-fi in rooms and public areas.

Hotel de Rome

Stars: ★★★★★
Location: Behren Str. 37
Distance: 8.6 km
Telephone: (+49) 30 4606090
Bars: Bebel Bar and Lounge
Restaurants: Parioli (Mediterranean),
Opera Court (afternoon tea and coffee)
Check-in: 14.00
Check-out: 12.00
Website: www.hotelderome.com

The Spa de Rome includes a 20 metre swimming pool with relaxation lounge chairs, a Finnish sauna with light and aromatherapy, an aroma steam room, organic refreshments, water and teas, a fully equipped Techno-Gym training area and six treatment rooms, offering facials, massages, and body and beauty treatments. Pilates, yoga and aerobics sessions are available on request.

The hotel offers a business centre, but for an extra fee, wireless internet access is also available in public areas. Babysitting services and in-room massage are also offered by the hotel.

Despite the hotel’s contemporary décor, there is a fireplace in the lobby. A limousine service is available, and, for an added charge, airport transportation is also offered.
DATE
The XXVI Congress of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS) will be held September 13–17, 2008.

LOCATION
This year’s meeting will be held in Berlin, at the International Congress Centrum (ICC). The ICC can be found at Messe-damm 22, in the Charlottenburg district of Berlin. The ICC’s website is [www.icc-berlin.de](http://www.icc-berlin.de).
The ICC is outside of Berlin’s Environmental zone; therefore, cars do not need an Environmental Sticker to drive to the Centre. For more information on the Environmental Zone, see page 32. The ICC delivery area, however, is within the Environmental Zone. The ICC is a silver, 1970s futuristic building with more than 80 rooms and halls, as well as a roof garden for relaxation between sessions. The centre incorporates a business centre and three restaurants: Palais am Funkturm, Funkturm Restaurant and Bundespressestrand. Smoking is prohibited within the ICC.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
The closest S-Bahn stops to the ICC are Westkreuz/Messe Süd and Messe Nord/ICC. The bus stop is Haus des Rundfunks.

LANGUAGE
The official language of the congress is English.

REGISTRATION
On-site registration fees are as follows:

- **ESCRS member:** €600
- **Non-member:** €700
- **Trainee ESCRS member:** €250
- **Trainee non-member:** €300
- **Healthcare professional:** €300 (non-ophthalmologist)

SYMPOSIA
The main symposia will be held at 11.00–13.00 daily. The subjects of the main symposia are:

- **Sun, Sept 14:** Should you introduce multifocal IOLs into your practice?
- **Mon, Sept 15:** Current trends in laser refractive surgery
- **Tues, Sept 16:** Femtosecond laser and therapeutic corneal surgery
- **Wed, Sept 17:** Smaller incision cataract surgery

A number of clinical research and company-sponsored symposia will also be taking place.

COURSES
- Mr Clive Peckar will be directing a series of hands-on wetlabs on porcine eyes. The cost of each surgical skills training course is €100, and places are limited; you are advised to pre-book. For a full list of course topics, please go to [www.escrs.org/EVENTS/08berlin/courseinfo.asp](http://www.escrs.org/EVENTS/08berlin/courseinfo.asp).
- Most surgical skills training courses also have instructional course prerequisites, at a cost of €30 each.
- The Refractive Surgery Didactic Course takes place on Saturday September 13 and costs €250. After completing the day course, participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

ORGANIZER
ESCRS (Temple-House, Temple Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland) can be contacted via:

- **Tel:** +353 1 209 1100
- **Fax:** +353 1 209 1112
- **Email:** escrs@escrs.org

Up-to-date conference news and information can be found on the ESCRs website, [www.escrs.org](http://www.escrs.org).
Language
German is the national language. English, French and Russian are also spoken and understood relatively widely.

Smoking
From January 1, 2008 it is illegal to smoke in restaurants, bars and clubs in Germany, though many have separate, ventilated smoking rooms available. It is also illegal to smoke on public transport and in federal buildings. **The punishment for breaking this rule is a fine.**

Emergency contacts
Fire brigade 112
Ambulance 112
Police 110
Helpline International 44 01 06 07
Call-A-Doc 01804 22552362

Transport
Berlin has an underground train system (the U-Bahn), an overground railway (S-Bahn) and a bus and tram system (Tram). Machines selling tickets offer six languages: German, English, French, Spanish, Turkish and Polish. Berlin also has nearly 7000 taxis, and night buses and trains.
A single journey S-Bahn ticket within the city costs €2.10; a day ticket is €6.10.
Public transport call centre (030) 19 44 9

Mobility
The Mobidat database (www.mobidat.net; only available in German) gives a comprehensive guide to wheelchair accessibility in and around Berlin.
Wheelchair breakdown service 0180 111 47 47

Environment
Berlin is within an Environmental Zone: cars must display a sticker stating that their emissions are below a certain level to be able to drive around the city. The punishment for flouting this rule is a fine, and possibly one penalty point on the driver’s licence.

Weather
In September, temperatures typically range between 39ºF/4ºC (min.) and 82ºF/28ºC (max.), with around six daily sunshine hours and 46 mm of precipitation. For up-to-date weather information, please visit www.wetteronline.de/Berlin

Festivals & Events
Berlin hosts Berliner Festwochen, the city’s annual concert, theatre and exhibitions festival, throughout September. Berlin’s annual literature festival, the Internationales Literaturfestival, begins on September 24. The Berlin marathon will be run on Sunday, September 28.

Banking
Banks in Berlin do not open at the weekends. Throughout the week, bank business hours are:
Monday 09.00–15.00
Tuesday 09.00–18.00
Wednesday 09.00–15.00
Thursday 09.00–18.00
Friday 09.00–13.00

Electricity
230 Volt a/c, 50 Hz current plugs. Most outlets use the “Schuko” plug, which has thicker pins than the traditional European plug.
### General phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Ja</td>
<td>[yah]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Nein</td>
<td>[nine]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please</td>
<td>Bitte</td>
<td>[bitt-uh]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>Danke</td>
<td>[dunk-uh]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excuse me</td>
<td>Verzeihung</td>
<td>[fair-ty-hoong]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>Guten Tag</td>
<td>[goot-en tahk]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye</td>
<td>Auf Wiedersehen</td>
<td>[owf-veed-er-zay-ern]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is that?</td>
<td>Was ist das?</td>
<td>[voss ist duss?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>heute</td>
<td>[hoyt-uh]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomorrow</td>
<td>morgen</td>
<td>[morg’n]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There</td>
<td>dort</td>
<td>[dort]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Here</td>
<td>hier</td>
<td>[hear]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This</td>
<td>dass</td>
<td>[duss]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That one</td>
<td>jenes</td>
<td>[yay-nuss]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you open?</td>
<td>Wann öffnen Sie?</td>
<td>[vunn offn’n zee]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When do you close?</td>
<td>Wann schliessen Sie?</td>
<td>[vunn shlees’n zee]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Food & drink

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would like to make a reservation</td>
<td>Ich möchte eine Reservierung machen</td>
<td>[ish mer-shuh ine-uh rezer-veer-oong makh’n]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a reservation</td>
<td>ich habe eine Reservierung</td>
<td>[ishARB-uh ine-uh rezer-veer-oong]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m a vegetarian (m.)</td>
<td>ich bin Vegetarier</td>
<td>[ish bin veg-er-tah-ree-er]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m a vegetarian (f.)</td>
<td>ich bin Vegetarierin</td>
<td>[ish bin veg-g-er-tah-ree-er-inn]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiter</td>
<td>Herr Ober!</td>
<td>[hair oh-bare]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The bill (/check) please</td>
<td>die Rechnung, bitte</td>
<td>[dee resh-noong bitt-uh]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottle</td>
<td>Flasche</td>
<td>[flush-uh]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine list</td>
<td>Weinkarte</td>
<td>[vine-kart-uh]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Travel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How far is it to...?</td>
<td>Wie weit ist es...?</td>
<td>[vee vite ist ess]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train station</td>
<td>Bahnhof</td>
<td>[barn-hofe]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus stop</td>
<td>Haltestelle</td>
<td>[hal-te-shet-uh]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>Flughafen</td>
<td>[froog-haf’n]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Useful Phrases

#### Shopping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How much does it cost?</td>
<td>Was kostet das?</td>
<td>[voss kost’ duss?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemist/pharmacy</td>
<td>Apotheke</td>
<td>[appo-tay-kuh]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank</td>
<td>Bank</td>
<td>[bunk]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supermarket</td>
<td>Supermarkt</td>
<td>[super-marct]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expensive</td>
<td>teuer</td>
<td>[toy-er]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheap</td>
<td>preiswert</td>
<td>[price-vurt]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
<td>mehr</td>
<td>[mayr]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less</td>
<td>weniger</td>
<td>[vay-nig-uh]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Emergencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please call a doctor</td>
<td>Bitte rufen Sie einen Arzt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please call the police</td>
<td>Bitte rufen Sie die Polizei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Krankenhaus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### At the hotel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have a reservation</td>
<td>ich habe eine Reservierung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone card</td>
<td>Telefonkarte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key</td>
<td>Schlüssel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porter</td>
<td>Pförtner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### In case you get stuck...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>German</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I don’t speak German</td>
<td>ich spreche kein Deutsch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
<td>Sprechen Sie Englisch?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t understand</td>
<td>ich verstehe nicht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could you speak more slowly?</td>
<td>Können Sie bitte langsamer sprechen?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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- Perfect chamber stability
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- Absolutely tight wounds

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