



## 2. WALKS

### Berlin Wall Walking Tour

Note: for more detailed information on the sights in these walks, see the entries in chapter 1.

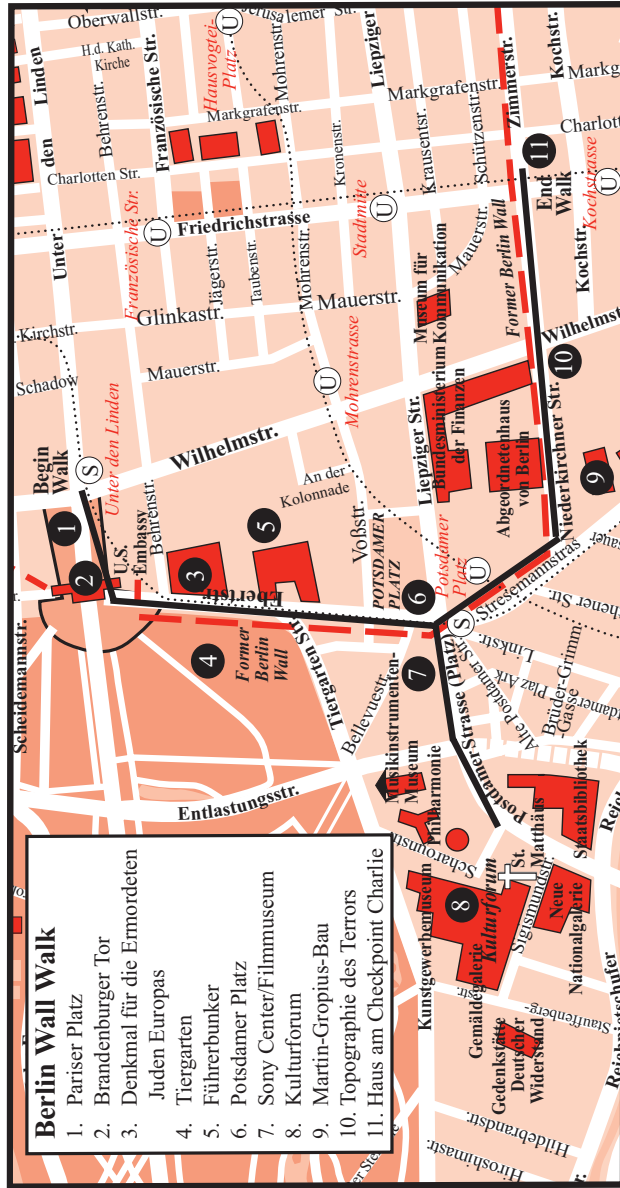
**Highlights:** Brandenburger Tor, Potsdamer Platz, Kulturforum and Checkpoint Charlie. Distance: Approximately one-and-a-half miles.

Between 1949 and 1961, three million people left East Berlin and East Germany. To stop this mass exodus, a 100-mile wall was built, a barrier that remained for 28 years. The wall was 13 feet tall and had a buffer zone of between 25 and 160 feet. Ultimately, 300 guard towers were built to monitor the area near the wall. In that 28-year period, 5,043 people are known to have successfully gotten around the wall. Guards fired at 1,693 people and made 3,221 arrests. Did you know that the East Germans referred to the wall as “The Anti-Fascist Protective

Rampart”? Although most of the wall is gone today, this walk takes you along a portion of the former wall.

*We start our walk at the Unter den Linden S-Bahn stop. Head down (west) on Unter den Linden toward the triumphal arch, the Brandenburger Tor. We’ll take a walk east down Unter den Linden on the East Berlin Walking Tour (later in this book).*

The square in front of the triumphal arch is **Pariser Platz**. The name of this square “celebrates” the German occupation of Paris in 1814. This was ground zero for bombing by the Allies in World War II. Today, it’s lined with banks, hotels, German governmental offices and embassies, including, ironically, the French Embassy. You’ll also find the British Embassy at 70 Wilhelmstrasse (just around the corner from the square).



The very fancy Adlon Hotel is also here.

*Now, head toward the triumphal arch.*

The **Brandenburger Tor** (Brandenburg Gate) is probably Berlin's most recognizable sight. This famous gate was originally called the "Friedenstor" ("Gate of Peace"). Built in 1791 as a triumphal arch, it was at one time one of 18 gates in the capital of Prussia. The gate (pictured on the front of this book) features six Doric columns topped by the statue of Victory driving a four-horse chariot (it's facing toward you). The current statue is a copy dating back to 1958. The gate was the backdrop of many Nazi propaganda films. Badly damaged in World War II bombing, it was long in a sort of no man's land when the Berlin wall stood. When the wall came down, it was the sight of huge celebrations. It's recently been restored.

*Head to the room built into the guard station (to the right as you face the gate).*

The **Raum der Stille** (Room of Silence) allows you to quietly contemplate Berlin's

turbulent history. It's meant to remind people of the original idea of the gate as a gate of peace.

*Walk through the gate (with the Pariser Platz to your back)*

In the distance, you can see the **Siegestsäule** (Victory Column). We'll visit it on the West Berlin Walking Tour later in this book.

*Now, turn left down Ebertstrasse to our next sight. You are now walking along the former Berlin Wall. You'll notice along this walk that the location of the former Berlin Wall is marked by a path of bricks set into the street.*

On your left, just south of the Brandenburg Gate, is the construction site of the new **U.S. Embassy**.

*Continue down the street. Our next sight is also to your left.*

The **Denkmal für die Ermordeten Juden Europas** (Memorial to the Murdered European Jews) is a massive memorial of 2,700 pillars honoring Jews killed by the Nazis. Truly an impressive and thought-provoking memorial. You can also visit

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its underground center with information on the Holocaust.

*Continue down Ebertstrasse.*

To your right is the **Tiergarten**, Berlin's great green space right in the middle of the city.

*As you continue down Ebertstrasse, to your left is a "sight" that will cause you to pause and reflect.*

The location of the **Führerbunker** (Hitler's Bunker) is not marked by any signs, and the German government has specifically left it unmarked in fear that it would become a pilgrimage shrine for neo-Nazis. There's a children's playground on the spot where it's said that the bodies of Eva Braun and Adolph Hitler were burnt. Some of the bunker was destroyed by the Soviets at the end of the war, and other parts were recently discovered during a construction project.

A little farther down the street on your left is the **Berlin Hi-Flyer** (across from the Marriott Hotel) where you can view the sights in a hot air balloon ( 20).

*Head to the large square at the end of Ebertstrasse.*

Bombed beyond recognition in World War II, this square, **Potsdamer Platz**, found itself in East Berlin. Unused and undeveloped while the city was divided, after reunification, it became a huge construction site.

On the right side of the street at the intersection with Potsdamer Platz is a piece of the Berlin Wall. You'll see people taking photographs here.

*Turn right at Potsdamer Platz (the sign says Potsdamer Platz, but this is also Potsdamer Strasse).*

Soon on your right, you'll see the entrance for the **Sony Center**, a steel-and-glass entertainment complex that is home to tons of movie theaters, a dancing fountain, cafés and restaurants. The huge canopy (interestingly lit at night) is fantastic. This is also the location of the **Filmmuseum Berlin** (closed Mondays), devoted to the history of German film. Even if you're not a film buff, you'll find much of interest here.

*After you've visited the Sony*

*Center, exit where you came in and turn right. You're now on Potsdamer Strasse. You'll soon be at our next stop.*

The **Kulturforum** is home to the following:

- **Philharmonie**: Home of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

- **Staatsbibliothek**: The State Library.

- **Gemäldegalerie** (Picture Gallery): One of the world's greatest collections of European art from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

- **Neue Nationalgalerie** (New National Gallery): Filled with works by 20<sup>th</sup>-century German and international artists.

- **Kunstgewerbemuseum** (Museum of Arts and Crafts): Arts and crafts from the past 1,000 years are on display here.

- **Musikinstrumenten-Museum** (Musical Instruments Museum): Filled with every imaginable musical instrument. For more information on these sights, see the Potsdamer Platz section of this book.

*After visiting the Sony Center and the Kulturforum, head back to the intersection of Ebertstrasse and Potsdamer Platz. Follow Stresemannstrasse (to your right) and turn left onto Niederkirchnerstrasse.*

To your right at number 7 is **Martin-Gropius-Bau**. Built in 1881, this beautiful renovated building features changing art exhibits.

Directly across the street is the **Abgeordnetenhaus von Berlin**, a building dating back to the 1890s. It was the former Prussian parliament building, and now is home to the Berlin House of Deputies.

*You can see portions of the Berlin Wall running along this street (to your right). Behind this section of the Berlin Wall is our next sight.*

The Prinz Albrecht Palais (the former headquarters of Hitler's Gestapo) once stood here. Today it's the **Topographie des Terrors** (Topography of Terror). There's an exhibit here on the history of Nazi terror.

On the left side of the street is the **Bundesministerium der Finanzen** (German Finance Ministry). This Nazi-era building and former home to the Nazi Air Force (Luftwaffe) survived World War II bombing. While part of communist East Germany, it housed the Ministry of Ministries (no kidding)!

*Continue down the street (the name of the street changes to Zimmerstrasse when you pass Wilhelmstrasse).*

To your left at the corner of Friedrichstrasse and Zimmerstrasse is a memorial of crosses with the names of those killed attempting to flee East Berlin.

*Our final stop is to your right at Friedrichstrasse (the street after Wilhelmstrasse).*

**Haus am Checkpoint Charlie** (Checkpoint Charlie) at 43-45 Friedrichstrasse was the only checkpoint through which foreigners could pass between East and West Berlin. The history of the construction of the Berlin Wall is documented, along

with incredible attempts to escape East Berlin. The checkpoint gets its name from checkpoint number three (as in the military code of Alpha for one, Bravo for two and Charlie for three). Some of the ways that people were smuggled into West Berlin are on display and they're very interesting. Attempts to escape included tunnels, hot-air balloons, a mini-submarine, cars and shopping carts! There's also a display dedicated to the Berlin Wall's demise in the 1989 peaceful revolution.

*Our walk ends here. Note that if you continue north up Friedrichstrasse to the Stadtmittel U-Bahn stop, you can begin the next walk (or end this walk and return to your hotel).*



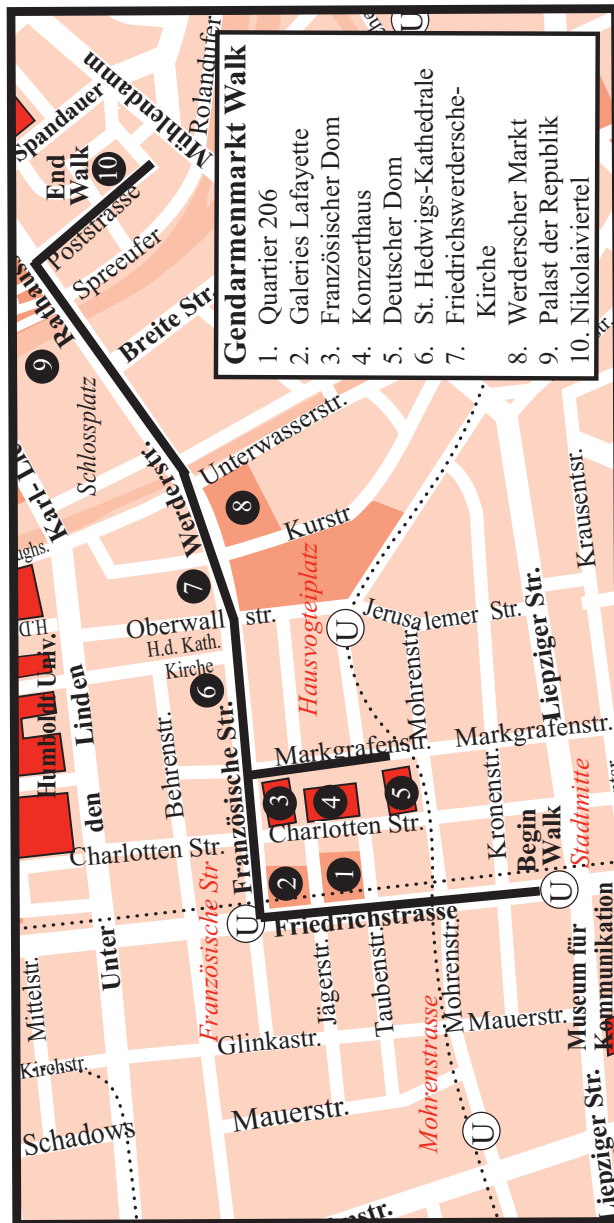
## Gendarmenmarkt Walking Tour

**Highlights:** Konzerthaus, Französischer Dom, Deutscher Dom, and Nikolaiviertel. Distance: Approximately one mile.

*Take the U-Bahn to Stadtmittel. You'll begin your walk on Friedrichstrasse (at the*

*intersection of Kronenstrasse). Head north on Friedrichstrasse.*

You'll pass boutiques and stores along Friedrichstrasse. Stop at number 67 for some great chocolates and tarts at Leysieffer.



*After you pass Taubenstrasse, on your right on Friedrichstrasse are two department stores.*

At number 71 is **Quartier 206**, selling all sorts of upscale goods. At number 75-78 (on the corner of Französische Strasse) is the Berlin branch of the famous French department store **Galeries Lafayette**. Don't miss the basement food market filled with French wines, breads, cheese and other French delicacies! Both stores are closed on Sundays. Underground shopping galleries connect them.

*Turn right on Französische Strasse. After Charlottenstrasse, take a right at Markgrafenstrasse. You're now at the Gendarmenmarkt.*

The **Gendarmenmarkt** is one of the most beautiful squares in Germany and all of Europe. It was created at the end of the 17th century as the Linden Markt, a marketplace. It gets its name from the Regiment Gens d'Armes who had their stables here in the 1770s. In the center of the square is a statue of Friedrich Schiller, the famous German poet. Three landmark buildings, the **Konzerthaus**, **Französischer Dom**, and **Deutscher Dom**, surround it.

The **Französischer Dom** (French Cathedral) is the home of the **Hugenottenmuseum**, which tells the story of the Huguenots, Protestants who arrived in Berlin after being expelled from France in the late 1600s. The tower offers picturesque views of the city (closed Mondays).

Between the two cathedrals is the **Konzerthaus** (Concert House), home to the famous Berlin and German Symphony orchestras. The building has been restored to its original 1821 glory, and has a grand staircase.

Also on Gendarmenmarkt is **Deutscher Dom** (German Cathedral) (closed Mondays). This church was built in the 1780s and is topped with a 23-foot-tall statue of Virtue. It's now the home of an exhibit called "Questions on German History."

There are lots of cafés here where you can take a break.

*Head back to Französische Strasse and turn right. As you head up the street, you can see the grand Humboldt University in the distance to your left. It's located on Unter den Linden and is visited on the East Berlin Walking Tour later in this*



*book. You'll soon find Hinter der Katholischen Kirche on your left. Turn left here and you'll soon be at our next sight.*

**St. Hedwigs-Kathedrale** (St. Hedwig Cathedral) is the diocesan church of the Archdiocese of Berlin. It was completed in 1773 and modeled after the Pantheon in Rome. Its modern interior is a result of renovations by the GDR. Inside is a Madonna from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

*Return to Französische Strasse and continue down the street. At Niederlagstrasse is another church on your left.*

The **Friedrichswerdersche Kirche** (closed Mondays) was built in 1820 and rehabilitated in the 1980s. It's no longer used for religious services, and now houses a museum dedicated to Berlin's most influential architect Karl Schinkel and his works.

*The street turns into Werderstrasse.*

On your right, you'll pass the **Werderscher Markt**, the home of the German foreign ministry.

*You'll cross one branch of the*

*Spree River. You're now on Museumsinsel (Museum Island), in the Spree River.*

On your left at Schlossplatz is the **Palast der Republik** (Palace of the Republic). This building is the former home of the parliament of the German Democratic Republic. It's been abandoned since the fall of the Berlin Wall (perhaps because it's so unattractive). Will it still be standing by the time you read this? Who knows, as it's scheduled for demolition.

*Cross the other branch of the Spree River and the street turns into Rathausstrasse. Pass the river walk Spreeufer and turn right onto Poststrasse.*

*Note that if you continue straight on Rathausstrasse, you'll run into Alexanderplatz. For information on the sights around Alexanderplatz (and that huge television tower rising above it), check out the East Berlin Walking Tour and the Alexanderplatz chapter of this book.*

You're now in the **Nikolaiviertel** (Nicholas Quarter). Named after the St. Nicholas Church, this quarter of Berlin is its oldest. The East German government painstakingly

reconstructed the remains of medieval and baroque buildings. Among the highlights are the **Ephraim-Palais** (16 Poststrasse) with its rococo balcony, and the **Knoblauch-Haus** (23 Poststrasse), both of which you can visit to see their grand interiors. The **Nikolaikirche** (St. Nicholas Church) (also on Poststrasse) is Berlin's oldest church, dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. You can visit an exhibit of archaeological finds that tells the history of Berlin until the

1600s. Photographs show the wartime destruction and reconstruction of the church.

There are plenty of restaurants and cafés here, especially on Spreeufer along the river, where you can end your walk. There are also lots of souvenir shops, some with unique relics from the GDR past.

*To return to your hotel, you can head to either the Klosterstrasse or Alexanderplatz U-Bahn stops.*



## East Berlin Walking Tour

**Highlights:** **Unter den Linden**, **Museumsinsel**, and **Alexanderplatz**. Distance: Approximately one-and-a-half miles.

*We start our walk at the Unter den Linden S-Bahn stop. Exit out of the S-Bahn stop by following the signs for "Russische Botschaft."*

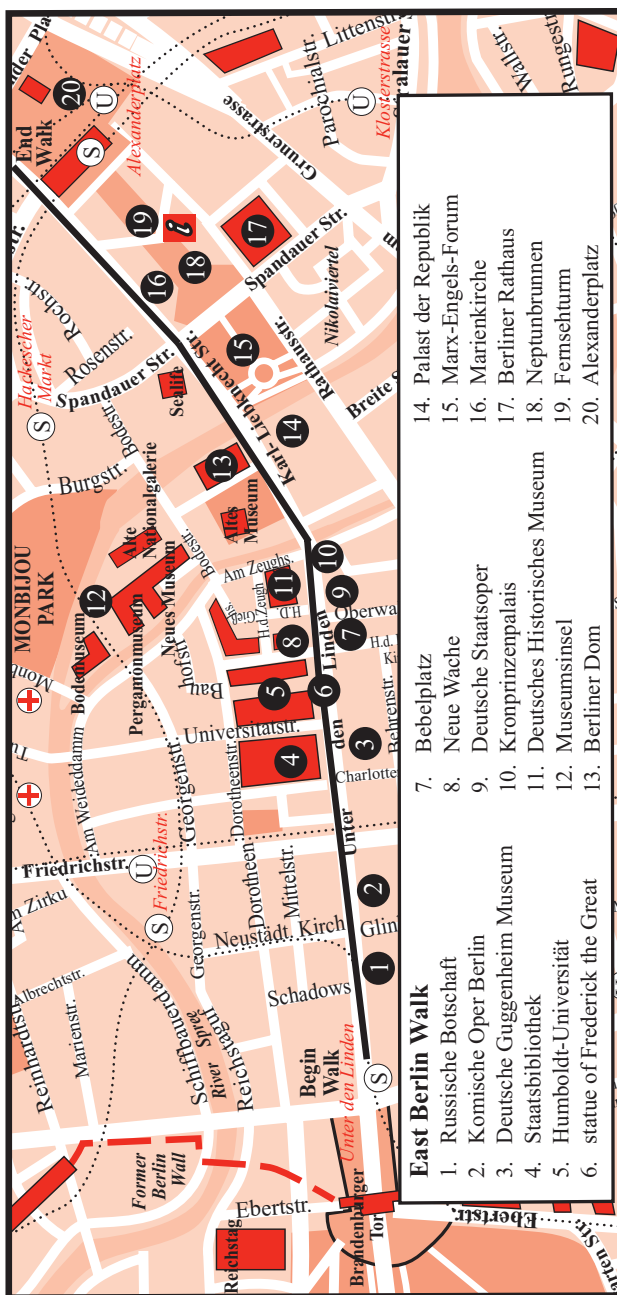
The famous boulevard **Unter den Linden** got its name from the linden trees that line it. When the Berlin Wall divided the city, this street was in East Berlin. Once again, it has

become one of Europe's grand boulevards.

*Walk toward the tall television tower (heading east) with the triumphal arch, the **Brandenburg Gate**, to your back. Head down the right side of the street.*

*Just past Wilhelmstrasse is our first sight.*

You can't miss the huge Stalinist 1950s building at number 63-65 on the right side of the street. The **Russische Botschaft** Russian



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Embassy) was one of the first large postwar construction projects in East Berlin. It's built in the style known as "Zuckerbäckerstil" or "wedding cake-style," and you'll understand why when you see it. Notice the hammer-and-sickle in the cement work above the windows.

*Continue down Unter den Linden and pass Glinkastrasse.*

At number 41 is the **Komische Oper Berlin** (Comic Opera Berlin). Musical theater, ballet and opera performances are held here. The original baroque interior survives, but the exterior is from the 1960s. Also here is the **Kunstsalon**, a strange and interesting shop selling souvenirs and leftovers from opera productions. You'll find everything from stage props to costumes.

As you're walking along this street, you'll see those silly men on traffic lights. They're called **Ampelmännchen** and they're a leftover of communist rule. They're so popular that there was an outcry when many were being replaced by modern traffic lights. You'll see shops selling souvenirs with the little men

on them throughout the city. By the way, Germans don't jaywalk!

*Pass Friedrichstrasse and Charlottenstrasse.*

On the corner of Charlottenstrasse at number 15 is the **Deutsche Guggenheim Berlin** (German Guggenheim Museum), located on the ground floor of the Berlin headquarters of Deutsche Bank. This is one of the famous Guggenheim Museums of contemporary and modern art. You'll find changing exhibits and an emphasis on avant-garde German artists.

On the left side of the street is the grand **Staatsbibliothek** (State Library) at number 8. It has a lovely courtyard. Next door is the **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin** (Humboldt University of Berlin) at number 6. Statues of the founders, the brothers Humboldt, are featured prominently on the superb façade of this grand university. Albert Einstein taught here and Karl Marx was a student. It's often the site of an outdoor book market.

In the center of Unter den Linden is a statue of Frederick the Great on his horse. He

was King of Prussia from 1740 to 1786, and one of the most famous German rulers of all time for both his military successes and his domestic reforms that made Prussia one of the leading European nations.

*The square across from the Humboldt University (on the right side of the street) is our next sight.*

It was here at **Bebelplatz** (Bebel Square) on May 10, 1933, that the Nazis had their infamous book burning. A memorial set into the middle of the square commemorates this event. There's a glass floor where you can see a large underground room with empty shelves symbolizing the 25,000 books by "enemies" of the government that were burned here. Access to the memorial will resume after construction in the area is completed.

*At the corner of Oberwallstrasse (on the left side of the street) is our next sight.*

The **Neue Wache** (New Guard House) is a former guard house dating back to 1816. It's now the site of a memorial to the victims of war and tyranny. The remains

of both the unknown soldier and unknown concentration camp victims are here surrounded by soil gathered from World War II, concentration camps and battlefields. Head inside (admission free) to see the moving statue by Käthe Kollwitz, *Mother With Her Dead Son*.

*On the right side of the street are these sights.*

At number 5-7 is the **Deutsche Staatsoper** (German State Opera). The original building was destroyed in World War II and the copy you see today was built in 1955. Locals call it Staatsoper Unter den Linden. This is the home of the German State Opera, an opera company that traces its roots back to the 1700s. If you attend an event, the lavish interior with immense chandeliers and ornate walls will impress. The beautiful **Operncafe** is here.

Next door at number 3 is the **Kronprinzenpalais** (Crown Prince's Palace), former home of Frederick the Great. The building is a re-creation of the former palace (the old one was bombed). It served as the guesthouse for dignitaries

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visiting the GDR. It was here that the agreement to unify Germany were signed on August 31, 1990.

*At number 2 (on the left side just before the Spree River) is our next sight.*

The **Deutsches Historisches Museum** (German History Museum) is housed in a former armory (the Zeughaus) and has a new wing designed by IM Pei (who designed the glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris). Period rooms tell the history of Germany through changing exhibits.

*Cross the Spree River and you are now on Museumsinsel (Museum Island), in the Spree River. This was the original settlement of Berlin back in the 1200s.*

To your left are several museums:

- Altes Museum** (Old Museum): Contains a collection of Roman and Greek antiquities and is the temporary home of the Egyptian Museum.

- Pergamonmuseum**: One of the world's largest museums of archeology.

- Alte Nationalgalerie** (Old National Gallery): Home to Germany's largest collection

of 19<sup>th</sup>-century art and sculpture.

- Neues Museum** (New Museum): Will eventually house the Egyptian Museum and the Primeval and Early History Museum.

- Bode Museum**: Will ultimately house the Museum of Byzantine Art, Collection of Antique Sculpture and Coin Cabinet.

You can learn more about these museums in the Museumsinsel section of this book.

*On your left side before you leave the island by (again) crossing over the Spree River is our next sight.*

The **Berliner Dom** (Berlin Cathedral) dates back to the early 1900s. A church has been on this site for centuries. It was heavily bombed in World War II and remained mostly in ruins until renovation began in the 1970s. Today, the interior of this Italian Renaissance-style cathedral has been restored to its former, and very ornate, glory. Its crypt contains the remains of the House of Hohenzollern, the Prussian rulers from 1701-1918. The panoramic views of the city from the dome are beyond compare. Hope you like to

climb steps, as there are 270 of them.

That huge, ugly 1970s building on your right is the **Palast der Republik** (Palace of the Republic), the former home of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). It's scheduled for demolition.

*Cross the Spree River (again) and the street turns into Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse. Continue down Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse.*

You'll pass the large square **Marx-Engels-Forum** on your right with bigger-than-life statues of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels along with photographs etched in stainless-steel pillars featuring the struggles of the world's workers. Hop into their laps and have your photo taken!

*Continue down Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse. Just after the Radisson Hotel at number 5, step into the covered courtyard to your left. Walk down about halfway until you see a blue frosted door on your left. Enter the café inside and walk straight to the elevator in front of you. Look up at our next sight.*

In the atrium of the Radisson

Hotel is an amazing 82-foot-tall aquarium. It's part of **Sealife Berlin**.

*Return to Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse and continue walking until you cross Spandauer Strasse.*

At number 8 (on your right) is **Marienkirche** (St. Mary's Church). Parts of this Gothic church date back to 1270. Of note are the baroque pulpit made of marble and the ornate 18<sup>th</sup>-century organ. Right inside the door is a mysterious painting dating back to 1475 named *The Dance of Death*. It was discovered under a layer of white paint in 1860.

That red brick building across the square is the **Berliner Rathaus** (Berlin City Hall), built in 1860. The stonework on the front of the building tells the history of Berlin. The magnificent fountain here is the **Neptunbrunnen** (Neptune Fountain).

*Continue down Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse toward the huge tower.*

A television tower, the **Fernsehturm**, dominates the area. You can take the elevator up to the observation deck at the top for great views. You

can also have a snack at the revolving café/restaurant.

*Continue down Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse toward our last sight.*

The East German government developed this huge square, **Alexanderplatz**, in the 1970s and you can tell! You'll find hideous communist-era buildings along with a silly-looking clock, the **Weltzeituhr** (World Clock), with an atom

design on top telling you the time in such important communist strongholds as Havana and Hanoi. The graffiti-covered fountain on the square has a wonderfully communist name: **Brunner der Völkerfreundschaft** or "Fountain of the Friendship of Peoples."

*You end your walk here. You can return to your hotel by using the Alexanderplatz S- and U-Bahn stops.*



## West Berlin Walking Tour

**Highlights:** Kaiser-Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche, Tiergarten and the Reichstag. Distance: Over two miles.

*Take the U-Bahn to the Kurfürstendamm stop. We'll begin our walk along Kurfürstendamm (known as Ku'damm). This is the main shopping street of what used to be West Berlin.*

Head for the interesting ruins of the **Kaiser-Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche** (Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church). Allied bombs in the last days of World War II demolished

all but a few walls and the tower of the Kaiser Wilhelm church, which had stood here since the late 1800s. It's a moving reminder of the destruction this city has seen. In 1961, a new octagonal-shaped church was built into the ruins. There are 11,000 blue windows in the annex. The free museum here tells the story of the old church, the bombing of the church and surrounding areas, and the phoenix of the new church.

*Walk up the street toward the building with the Mercedes*



*Benz symbol on top. The street curves right off of Ku'damm and becomes Tauentzienstrasse.*

The 22-story **Europa-Center** (the one with the Mercedes Benz symbol on top) has shops, bars, restaurants, movie theaters and clubs. There are great views from the observation deck. The Center is located on Breitscheidplatz. You can take a break and watch the street performers here around the red-granite **Weltenbrunnen** (World Fountain) that features a world split open.

*As you walk down Tauentzienstrasse, you'll see the sculpture **Berlin** in the center of the street. It's meant to symbolize the city. Placed there before the city was reunited, the tubes intertwine, but never connect, representing life in the city before reunification.*

*Head straight to 21-24 Tauentzienstrasse (on the right side of the street) to the large KaDeWe department store.*

On the sixth floor of the **KaDeWe** (**Kaufhaus des Westens**) department store is the largest food hall in Europe. There are over thirty places to eat. German regional specialties can be found at all

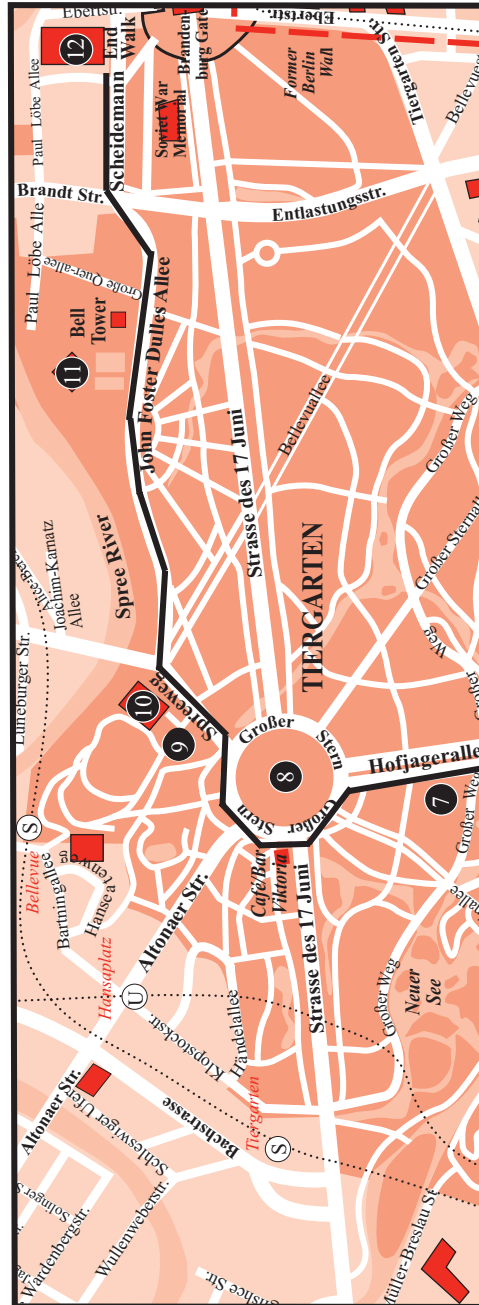
prices. You can sample over 1,300 types of cheese, 1,200 sausages and cold cuts, 240 desserts, 400 types of bread and rolls and 2,400 wines from five continents. If you can't find something you like here, you're really picky! It's closed on Sundays.

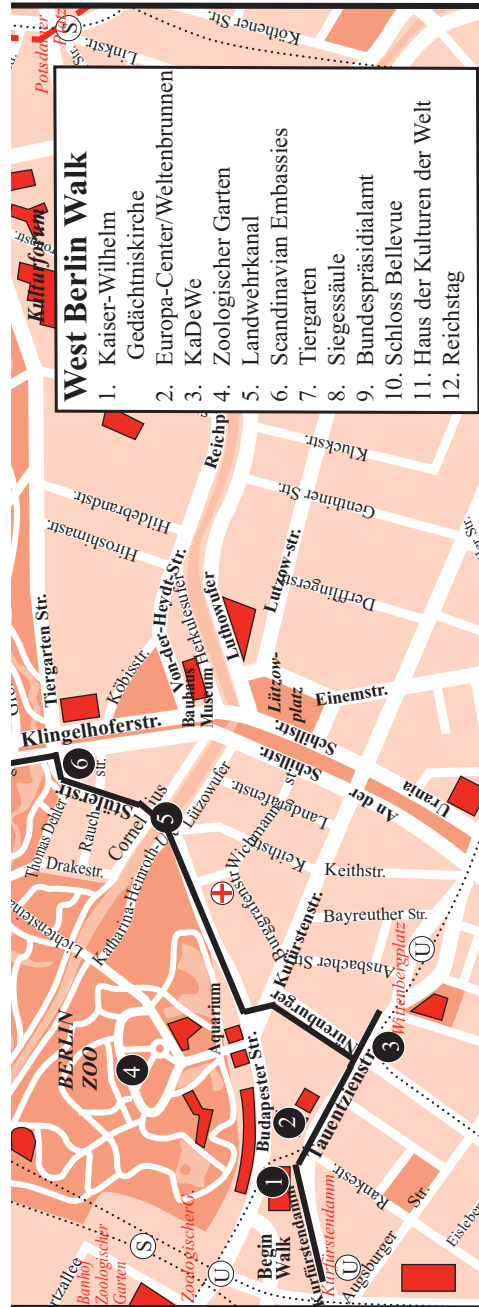
*Return to the corner of Tauentzienstrasse and Nürnberger Strasse. Turn right onto Nürnberger Strasse. Cross Kurfürstenstrasse and the square Olof-Palme-Platz.*

Across the square (to your left) is the Aquarium of the **Zoologischer Garten Berlin** (Berlin Zoo). Berlin's oldest zoo also has a huge aviary—and giant pandas!

*When you cross the square, you'll be on Budapester Strasse. Walk along this street for a while past the hotels, including the Intercontinental Hotel. The street becomes Stülerstrasse when you cross the canal Landwehrkanal.*

Now that Berlin is once again the capital of Germany, countries are reestablishing their embassies here, especially in this area. That green copper building to your right is the **Scandinavian Embassies Complex**.





*Turn left onto Klingelhöferstrasse/Hofjägerallee and you'll enter our next sight.*

The **Tiergarten** is a huge 412-acre park in the middle of the city. It was opened to the public in the 1700s and is filled with walkers, runners and, in good weather, Berliners having picnickers and sunbathers.

*Hofjägerallee leads to our next sight.*

The **Siegessäule** (Victory Column) commemorates Prussian military victories against France, Austria and Denmark.

*Turn to your left and cross the main street in the park Strasse*

#### DETOUR

To reach the Victory Column, you can head through the tunnel contained in the building with the columns on it next to the café. The tunnel will take you under the busy street to the Column. In the monument, you can climb the spiral staircase to reach an observation platform with good views of the park and the surrounding area (€3).

*des 17. Juni (named after the June 17, 1953 uprising in East Berlin that was crushed by the Soviets).*

Now's a good time for a break at the **Café/Bar Viktoria** where you can have a snack and a drink.

*Now, head to Spreeweg (one of the streets that veers off the intersection).*

You'll see large statues of German rulers including Bismarck, the "Iron Chancellor." Under his rule, Germany grew from a loose confederation of weak states to a unified powerful empire.

The oval-shaped building on your left is the **Bundespräsidialamt**, where Germany's president has his offices. A little bit farther down on your left is the palace **Schloss Bellevue**, the home of the German president. If the president is there, the German flag will be flying from the flagpole on the roof.

*Just after the palace, turn right onto John-Foster-Dulles-Allee (the sign is on the right side of the street). This street is named after the U.S. Secretary of State under the Eisenhower administration. He was a*

*fervent anti-communist who saw Berlin on the frontline of communist expansion. After walking a bit along the Spree River, you'll pass (on your left) our next sight at number 10.*

The “pregnant oyster” (as the locals call it) houses the **Haus der Kulturen der Welt** (House of World Cultures). Exhibits dedicated to world culture, from art to film, are held here. The building (formerly the Congress Hall or Kongresshalle) was a gift from the United States and opened in 1958. You'll also pass a modern **bell-tower**.

*Continue down John-Foster-Dulles-Allee (it turns into Scheidemannstrasse). Those modern buildings to your left are part of the Bundeskanzleramt, the German Federal Chancellery. You're now facing our final sight.*

The **Reichstag** is the seat of the German Parliament. It was constructed between 1884 and 1894. It's had a turbulent history. Fire broke out in the building in 1933, destroying most of it. It's believed that followers of Hitler started the fire, but the Com-

munists were blamed. This infamous event allowed Hitler to round up and arrest “enemies” of the government. It was heavily damaged by Allied bombing, and when the Soviet Army entered the city at the end of World War II. It was not used from 1933 to 1999. The building took on new meaning after reunification, when Berlin was restored as the capital of Germany. Since April 1999, the Reichstag is again the seat of the Bundestag (the German parliament). Today's design is by British architect Sir Norman Foster, who added a fantastic glass dome. Light enters the dome and reflects off 360 mirrors in the dome. At night, the dome is lit from inside. The lobby features a huge 60-foot German flag. The dome can be reached by taking the elevator. You then walk up spiral ramps to the top (there's also a rooftop restaurant). Admission is free, and you'll most likely have to wait in line to enter.

*You'll end your walking tour here. The closest S-Bahn stop (to return to your hotel) is the Unter den Linden stop.*



## Charlottenburg Walking Tour

**Highlights:** Sammlung Berggruen, Schloss Charlottenburg and Schlossgarten Charlottenburg. Distance: Less than one mile (excluding the gardens).

Note that most of the sights on this walk are closed on Mondays.

*Take the U-Bahn to Sophie-Charlotte Platz where we will begin our walk. Head up (north) from this square on Schlossstrasse. You're heading straight for Schloss Charlottenburg.*

To your right after Schustehrusstrasse and Wulfsheinstrasse are the **Schlossstrasse Villas**. These restored villas (especially at numbers 63, 65 and 67) give you an idea of what this area was like at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was home to Berlin's wealthiest residents.

Also to your right at number 69b is **Abguss-Sammlung Antiker Plastik Berlin**. Classical-sculpture fans can view works spanning 3,500 years (open 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and

noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday). At number 69 is **Heimatismuseum Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf** (open 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday). This local-history museum features changing exhibits.

*Across the street at number 1a is our next museum.*

The **Bröhan-Museum** contains a huge collection of Art Nouveau and Art Deco objects, paintings and furnishings. (German Art Nouveau is called "Jugendstil"). It's closed on Mondays.

Next door (also on your left) at number 1 is **Sammlung Berggruen: Picasso und Seine Zeit** (The Berggruen Collection: Picasso and His Era). This museum contains the private collection of Heinz Berggruen, an art dealer. The vast majority of the works here are by Picasso, such as his famous 1939 painting *Woman in a Hat*. The collection also contains works by such notables as van Gogh, Matisse, Klee and Cézanne. It's closed on Mondays.



*Straight ahead at the end of Schlossstrasse is our next sight.*

The **Schloss Charlottenburg** was built by King Friedrich I in the late 1600s for his wife Sophie Charlotte as a summer residence. Over the years, additions by subsequent kings increased its size. Like so many other historic buildings in Berlin, it was severely damaged in World War II, but has been reconstructed. Notice the statue of King Friedrich on his horse as you enter. The apartments of the king and his wife in the **Altes Schloss** (Old Palace) include the over-the-top **Reception Chamber** lined with mirrored walls and tapestries dating back to the early 1700s, and the incredible collection of porcelain from China in the **Porcelain Chamber**. The **Neue Flügel** (New Wing), also known as the Knobelsdorff-Flügel, contains the apartments of Frederick the Great (Friedrich II) and the Hohenzollern-Museum, featuring a selection of items from the royal collection. The **Neue Pavillon** (New Pavilion) was constructed in 1825 as an Italianate villa. It houses an art museum.

*To the left of Schloss Charlottenburg is another museum.*

The **Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte** (Museum of Primeval and Early History) follows the evolution of man from 1,000,000 B.C. to the Bronze Age. You'll find everything from Stone-Age tools to finds from the ancient city of Troy. It's closed on Mondays.

*Need a break? To the right of Schloss Charlottenburg as you face the palace is a traditional Berlin eatery.*

**Bierhaus Luisen-Bräu** at 1 Luisenplatz isn't the place to go if you're looking for fine dining. But try this beer hall for its buffet table filled with hearty (some might say overly heavy) traditional German dishes, where there's indoor and outdoor dining at picnic tables, and the featured beverage is constantly flowing. It's inexpensive and a good place for a break, even if just for a beer.

*Behind the Schloss Charlottenburg is our final stop.*

You can wander the formal, huge gardens **Schlossgarten Charlottenburg**. They've been here since 1697. You'll see swans swimming in small lakes, the **Mausoleum** containing the remains of



many members of the Prussian royal family, and **Belvedere**, the royal teahouse, with an extensive collection of 18<sup>th</sup>-century porcelain.

*Take your time and enjoy this peaceful end to your walk. You can head back to the Sophie-Charlotte-Platz U-Bahn to return to your hotel.*

