

Berlin guide

miniloft

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Miniloft

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Nearest U-Bahn station
Naturkundemuseum

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All photos by Matthew Griffin, except
Klemens Ortmeier (pages 9 and 11 right)
and Ludger Paiffraht (page 11 left)

We have endeavored to print this book
environmentally consciously. Its pages are
printed on PEFC-certified paper, and we off-
set the CO₂ used in the printing process.

We have printed 1000 copies of this edi-
tion. This is your personal souvenir of your
stay with us. Mark your favorite spots
and take it home with you! Let us know if
you would like anything added in the next
edition.

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Welcome!

Please make yourself at home

The Minilofts are the happy end of an adventure we undertook as young architects to realize our first building and personal vision of contemporary architecture.

Our five-year odyssey as inexperienced developers and architects included dealing with criminal banks and builders, the leftover stagnant communist bureaucracy, and Berlin's strict regulations and guidelines.

We designed the unconventional Miniloft concept to be the place we had always sought out on our own travels: a home base free of clutter and superfluous service, with lots of sumptuous space and everything you need to live and work independently.

It was an immediate success. The first four Minilofts in the old wing were completed in 2002 and were, at the time, the only offer of this kind in Berlin. The second phase of the new building was completed in 2004.

Our wonderful, international guests are a great inspiration to us. You seem to have two things in common: an independent streak and a fascination with culture. We always enjoy hearing about your endeavors, be it working with Aboriginal people in the Australian outback or practicing scales for another performance at our National Opera.

Britta Jürgens and Matthew Griffin

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We are here!

miniloft office

Monday to Friday
9:00–13:00 and 14:00–18:00

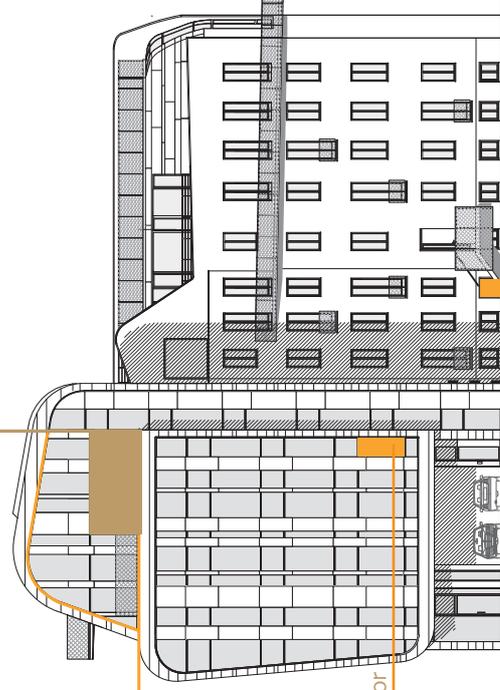
Come up to the fifth floor of the new building
or dial 37 on the in-room phone

DEADLINE

Our architecture office shares
the fifth and sixth floors with
the *Miniloft* office.

Whenever you feel in need of
architecture, meet us right here
in person on the top floor!

Check our website
www.deadline.de



Luggage storage on 1st floor

Laundry room in basement

Bender is the name of the new
stainless-steel-clad building facing the
street. Hardly finished, it was nominated
for the EU's prestigious Mies van der Rohe
award 2004 and exhibited in the German
Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Slender is the old wing attached to
the back of BENDER. Matthew and Britta
live on the two top floors with their kids
Theo and Odile. Their apartment won the
Berlin architecture award 2003.

The team



Andy

The Miniloft manager grew up in the north of England and moved to Berlin in 2008.

He is a keen gardener and a good person to ask about the parks and green spaces around Berlin.



Estefania

She is from north of Spain and passionate about tourism and traveling.

She has itchy feet, so you can ask her about either the events coming soon or the outdoor activities in Berlin and surrounding areas.



Britta

A German country girl, she left her village (see photo by Matthew in the Miniloft lobby) to work as an architect in London – returning after the fall of the wall to a reunited, exciting Berlin.



Matthew

An expatriate Canadian architect, born in New Zealand. When not in the office, he is a passionate photographer.

The Support Crew

A diverse bunch of international artists, musicians and other creatives, they make Berlin cool and the Minilofts sparkle!

We're thankful for their hard work.



Telegrau

The Miniloft mascot and permanent resident can often be found lounging in the office. Please do not let him outside, and if he goes somewhere he shouldn't, just let us know and we will pick him up.

The building



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1999 to 2004

The story

The design

As the architects who run Miniloft, we designed the lofts to make your Berlin experience as memorable and personal as possible.

We chose materials to reflect the unique mix of elegant and hip that is such a part of Berlin's identity. The building has won several prizes and been published in magazines and books around the world.

The transformation

The Miniloft building was built on the property Hessische Straße 5 in two phases from 2001 to 2004. It is a complex interweaving of renovation and new construction.

When we bought the property in 1999, the rear wing was a run-down building from the 1890s typical of Berlin-Mitte.

In the first phase, we completely transformed the narrow original wing by renovating the existing apartments to create the Classic and Compact lofts.

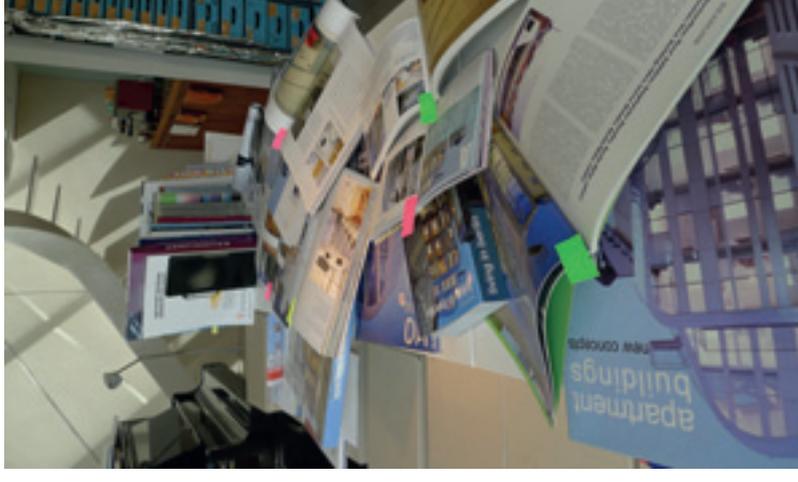
In the second phase, the modern Miniloft building was constructed in the overgrown bomb site at the front of the property. Its three bent stainless-steel ribbons embrace the existing rear wing behind and navigate between the buildings on either side.

The Classic and Compact lofts are located in the renovated rear wing, and the modern Extroverted and Introverted lofts are located in the new building at the front.

The feeling

The Minilofts face south and west. When the sun shines, the light plays – sparkling across the sanded cement floor. The distinct mix of materials and furnishings radiates a personal interpretation of Berlin, its design gives your experience of the city a solid foundation.

This architectural highlight is the perfect place to indulge in the modern luxury of pure space.



Receiving the [Berlin architecture award](#)

You can find out more about the architecture and design at: www.deadline.de

The glory

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The defining idea

The Miniloft building's predominant defining form developed from the initial sketch of three bands that are bent to create a dynamic interface between old and new. The first most northerly band is made of glass; the other two are clad in stainless steel.

These bands are designed to reduce the number of materials and transitions to a minimum. Through careful detailing the bands become monolithic surfaces that emphasize the purity of the building's form.

The southernmost band of the west facade cantilevers out into the street at an angle. This means that the top floors extend further into the street than Berlin's building code allows, and is one of several reasons that it took a year and a half to negotiate a building permit with the Berlin

Stadtplanungsamt (city planning department). We fought hard for exceptions like this because it meant we could give the building its distinctive dynamic form.

The tops of the southern and center bands curve continuously into the roof. This compelling gesture embraces and connects the contemporary addition to the renovated nineteenth century building, to which it is adjoined at the rear.

The angles inflected by these vertical bands relate directly to the buildings on either side. In so doing, the bands negotiate a dynamic formal relationship between the peaked-roof residential neighbors to the north, and the flat-roof university building to the south. This emphasizes the Miniloft building's urban function as a connector between two different city structures.



The materials



While designing the Minilofts, we selected materials that would underscore and heighten the experience of our building. The materials emphasize the loft character and, at the same time, create a cozy feeling of being at home.

A loft apartment is a space that has been converted from industrial factory use to living space. These conversions create exciting combinations of industrial and domestic elements, usually in very central locations of large cities. We designed the Minilofts with exactly this counterpoint in mind.

We chose the materials to create a dialogue, to inhabit opposite ends of a scale, like rough and smooth, warm and cool, soft and hard, practical and luxurious. This dialogue of contrasts accentuates the Miniloft's identity.

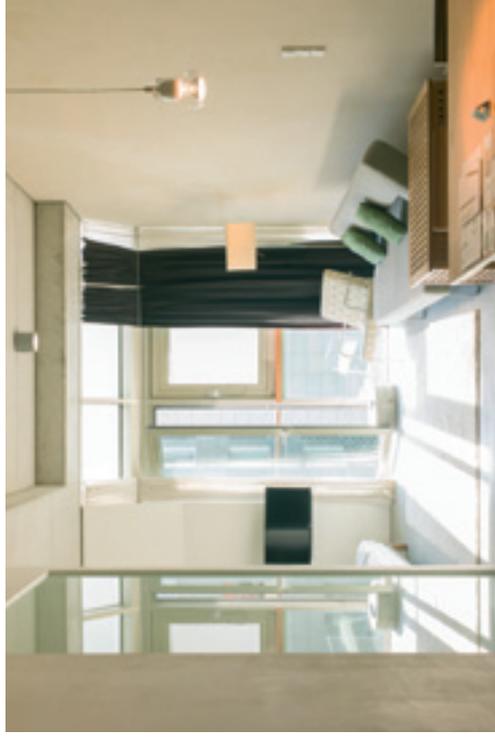
To create the loft feeling we combined industrial-feel materials such as our white sanded-concrete floors, the exposed-concrete structure, or the chain-link railing system, with luxurious surfaces which exude a warm, livable quality such as the adobe wall plaster, and walnut wood sills and railings.

In the Classic and Compact Minilofts, we augmented traditional Berlin materials with industrial materials to give the space its loft feeling. We restored the plaster wall rendering and replaced the wooden windows. We removed most of the walls, and unified the space with a new sanded white concrete floor. A translucent glass pane between the kitchen and the bathroom brings natural light into the bathroom and creates a surface for fascinating shadow-play.

The minilofts

The Extroverted minilofts feature a spectacular south facing 12 meter (40 ft.) glass curtain wall running the length of these spacious (45 sqm / 450 sq ft) apartments.

The Introverted minilofts are spacious (40 sqm / 400 sq ft), west facing, and offer the natural comforts of an adobe wall and a cosy bed alcove. A three meter wide full height window with a french door flood the space with daylight.



Introverted miniloft



Extroverted miniloft



The (45 sqm / 450 sq ft) Classic and 30 sqm (300 sq ft) Compact apartments are south facing, and located in a freshly renovated building from the turn of the 19th century. They retain the charm of an old brick structure with a distinctly modern touch in the furnishing and details.

Because the Classic and Compact minilofts are located away from the street they are slightly quieter than the modern minilofts.



Classic miniloft



Compact miniloft

Our house on a house



Here are a few images of our apartment to round out the tour of the building in which you are staying.

The environment

At Miniloft we recognize our responsibility as global citizens. In order to conserve precious natural resources and the health of our planet, we make environmental stewardship one of our priorities, continually striving to reduce our environmental impact.

The electricity used in the Miniloft building comes from NaturWatt, one of Germany's most established suppliers of 100% renewable electricity, such as wind and solar power. They are certified and checked regularly by independent institutions.

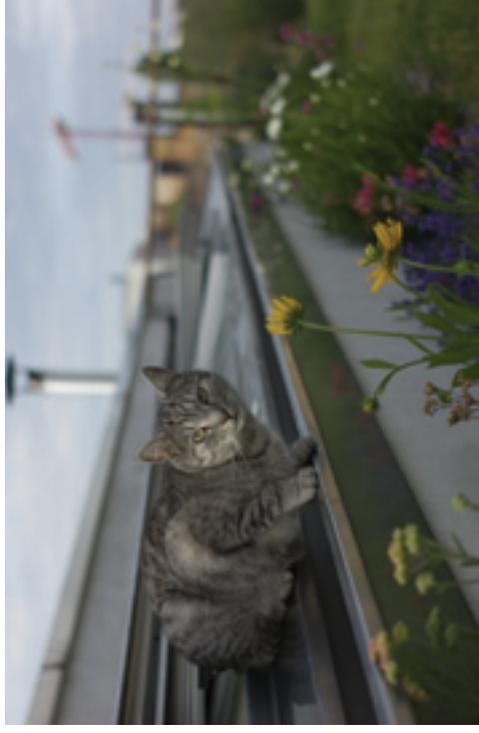
Our heating and hot water is produced using a highly efficient gas burning furnace. To minimize its global impact, we purchase carbon offsets for every cubic meter of natural gas we burn from Atmosfair. They fund only UN-certified gold-standard climate-protection projects and are widely recognized as Germany's best carbon offsetter. When traveling we also offset our flight emissions using their website.

All our cleaning products are organically certified and biodegradable. All the coffee, tea, and other drinks we supply are organically grown and fair-trade products.

The building was designed to reduce environmental impact. It is constructed of high-quality, long-lasting materials. It meets the stringent German standards for insulation. To reduce energy consumption in summer, we installed a sun-shade system, instead of air conditioning, to keep the building cool. We have a grass roof to reduce water run-off, extend roof life, and help clean the air.

Award Winning

In 2013 we won the grüne Zukunft (Green Future) category of the SOI Apart awards in recognition of our efforts to run Miniloft in an environmentally sustainable way.



ForestFlowerFloor - EcoProject

The lovely mature trees in our backyard create an extremely challenging environment for the plant life beneath them. Together with Gaby Gutzmann, an old friend and ecological landscaping expert, we have created a garden of forest-floor wild flowers. The plants are all native, although rarely found in the center of the city. Please treat them with respect.

Your new neighborhood

Mitte! Formerly part of East Berlin, this neighborhood is now at the center of the new German capital.

Our building is just 400m east of one of the old checkpoints. Before the wall fell in 1989, it was an urban desert at the edge of a crumbling empire.

When we bought the property in 1999, it was difficult to imagine that Berlin would have a new main station around the corner, or that the surrounding grand government ministries and university campus would be renovated and brought back to life.

Even the cemetery of famous Berliners, such as Brecht and Hegel, in the middle of our block is being restored and new trendy businesses and shops now line Chausseestraße and Torstraße.

We are in the middle of Berlin's international art scene, which started in little galleries just east and south of us. Recently they have expanded into luxuriously transformed storage halls directly west of us.

Just across the street, behind the yellow plaster facade is the Green Party's national headquarters. Our former foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, could often be seen jogging along our street.

You are three minutes from the closest U-Bahn station, at the perfect spot to get to know this inspiring city from the inside out – Enjoy!

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Local essentials



Local shops

We stocked your kitchen with a few essentials. Please help yourself to organic tea and coffee.

We've left beer, juice and mineral water in your fridge. These are 2 EUR each. Please just leave the money for these on the table before you leave.

Fill your fridge

RB Markt
Local grocery store open seven days a week.
Torstr. 225

Netto

A small discount supermarket just around the corner.
Chausseestr. 19

Rewe

Another close supermarket with a broad selection.
Chausseestr. 118–120

Galeries Lafayette

Gourmet! The department store's food hall is in the basement. Take the subway three stops to Französische Straße. Friedrichstr. 76–78

Use our shopping cart

If you want to get more groceries than you can carry, you are welcome to use our convenient shopping trolley.

It's kept outside the laundry room in the basement of the old building.

Any Miniloft key will let you into the old building.

Opening hours for most stores

Monday to Saturday
9:00 to 20:00

Take away

www.bloomsburys.de

+49 (0)30 3309973

A delivery service for 20 of Berlin's favorite restaurants.

www.lieferservice.de

Extensive listings of fast-food restaurants. The site is available in English. Just put in our zipcode **10115**, search for a restaurant and order online.

Once you've ordered your food

Make sure your door bell is switched on!

If the top button on the door-bell intercom phone is lit up (red means it's turned off), press it once.

It will make a sound and switch itself back on.

Local eats



You are in the fortunate position of living at the start of Berlin's most exciting gastronomic mile – and it just keeps getting better!

Walk out our front door, turn to your left and keep walking south. The first two restaurants – long-standing institutions with great Italian and Turkish food – were here before the young, hip crowd moved in. As you keep going across the intersection, both sides of Torstraße offer loads of surprises for food lovers. All the restaurants and cafes are small and offer exceptional food in a unique and personal atmosphere.

Hotel-style buffet breakfast for 9 EUR available to Miniloft guests

Good Italian place for lunch with an outside terrace

Excellent French brasserie

La Bonne Franquette

Naturkundemuseum U

Authentic French baguettes and delicious cakes

MarcAnn's

Mr Vertigo

Stylish sandwich and coffee bar

Michelin-starred avant-garde cuisine

Reinstoff

Bakery

Good little Australian cafe with cake and sandwiches

Bondi

Italian-inspired lunch with good pasta and prosciutto

Eins

Gourmet! The wild young chef has won a Michelin star

Rutz

Stylish Thai-fusion restaurant

Good Time Bakery

Nice place for lunch

Risotto

Berliner Eismanufaktur

Dada

The best falafel in town

Delicious homemade organic ice cream

Hip Asian-fusion place

Toca Rouge

Stylish Turkish restaurant

Mantée

Great good value fusion food

Pantry

Classy Italian restaurant

Cavallino Rosso

University cafeteria

Mensa

Brecht House restaurant with German food and a nice garden

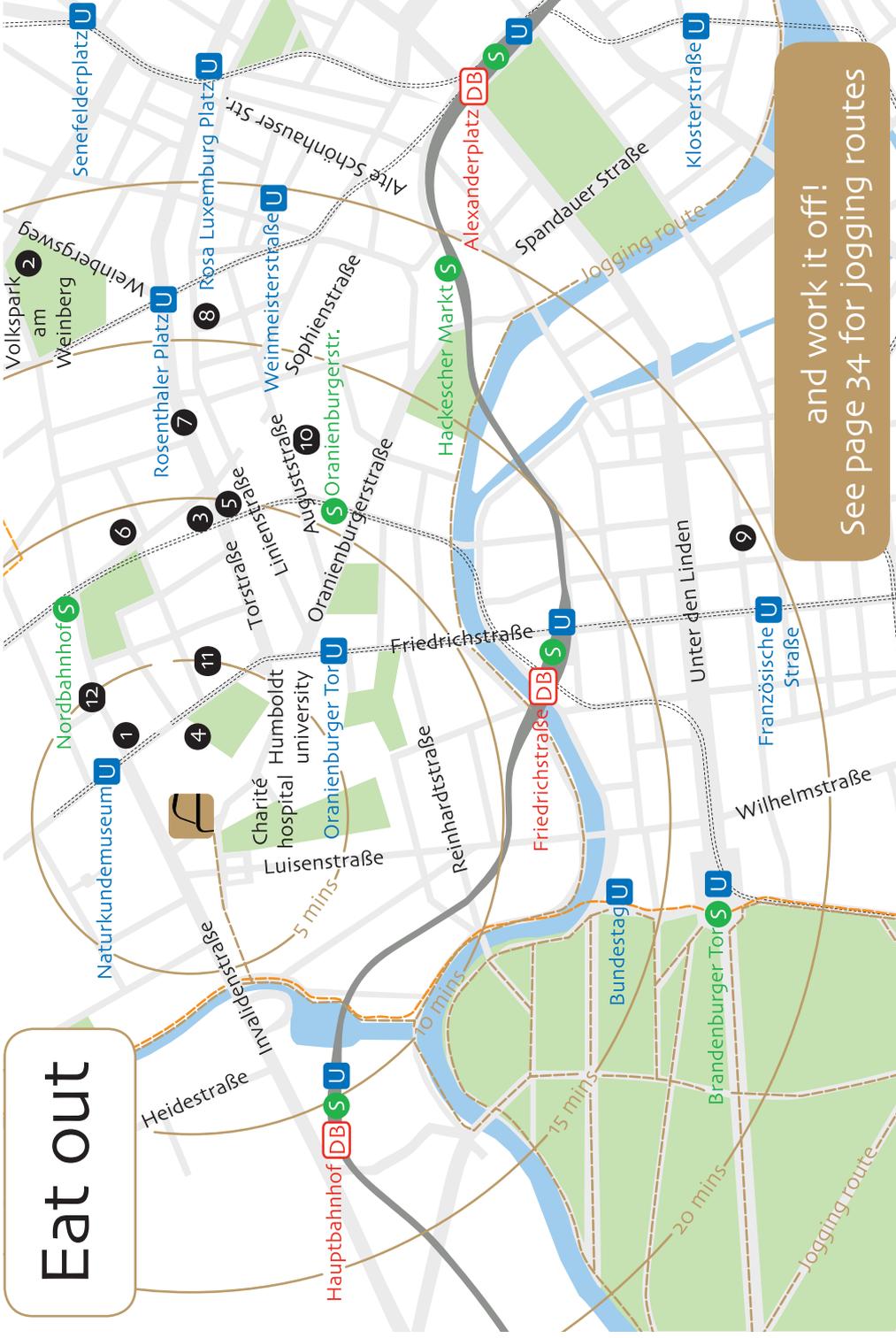
Keller Restaurant

University cafeteria

Classy Italian restaurant

Cool Canadian bar/restaurant

Tartane



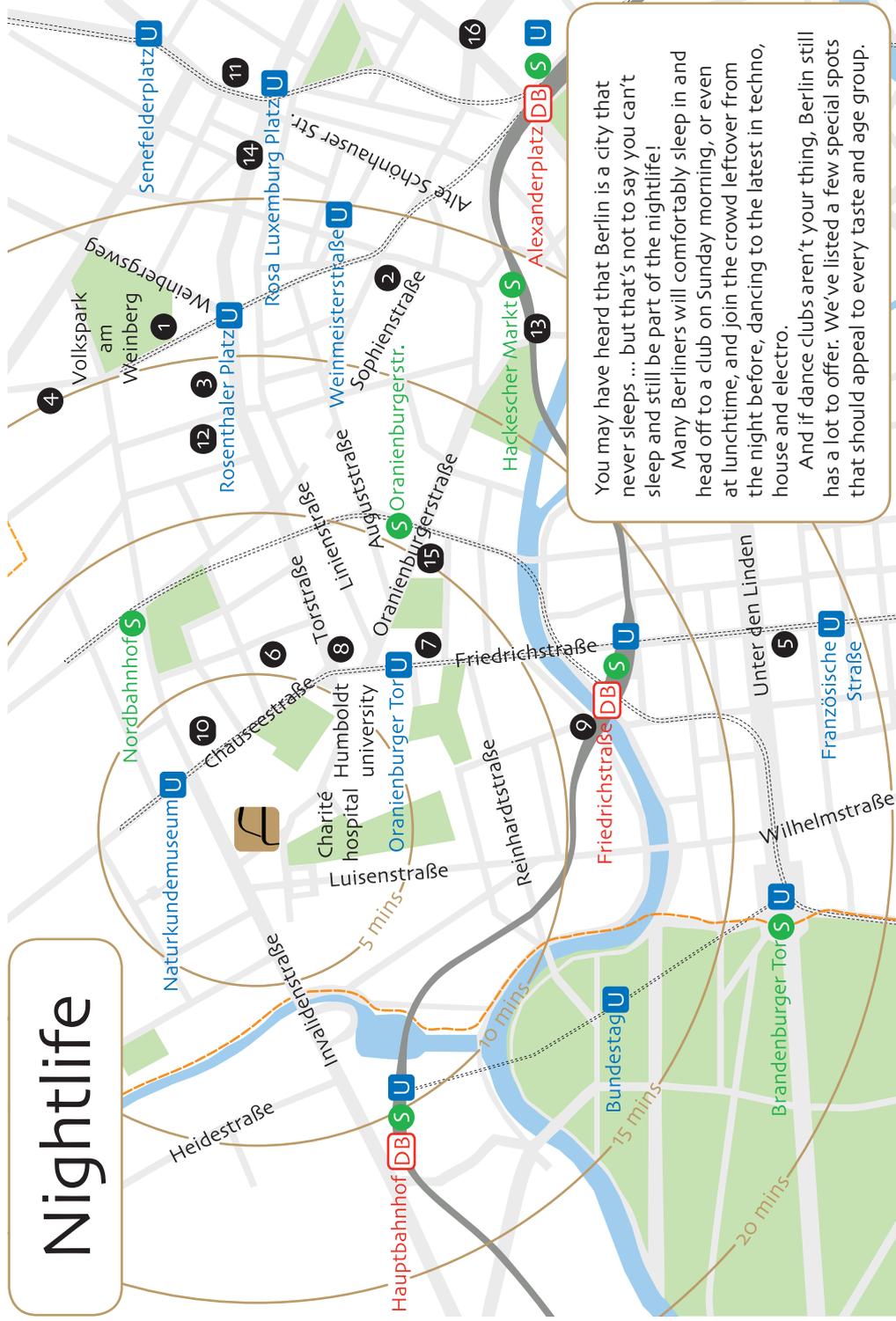
Eat out

and work it off!
See page 34 for jogging routes

- Breakfast & lunch around the corner**
- 1 **MarcAnn's**
Great for a quick bite. A very nice French couple, Marc & Ann, run this long-time popular cafe with excellent, authentic baguettes and cakes.
Invalidenstr. 112
+49 (0)30 2838 6171
Mon–Fri 8:00–18:00, Sat 10:00–14:00, Sun closed
- 2 **Nola's am Weinberg**
Fantastically located in a little park with a sun deck and a delicious brunch buffet. Your best choice for a Sunday morning!
Veteranenstr. 9
+49 (0)30 44 04 07 66
Daily 10:00 until late
- 3 **Toca Rouge**
Our favorite little Asian fusion place. Affordable, simple, fresh.
Torstr. 195
+49 (0)30 8471 2142
Mon–Fri 12:00–0:00, Sat–Sun 17:00–00:00
- 4 **Kellerrestaurant**
Hearty German food in the famous Bertolt-Brecht-Haus.
Chausseestr. 125
+49 (0)30 282 38 43
18:00 until late
- 5 **Schwarzwaldstuben**
Casual cosy pub with a huge wood-fired tile stove and traditional German food.
Tucholskystr. 48
+49 (0)30 2809 8084
Daily 9:30 until late
- 6 **Alpenstück**
Stylish interior, high-quality fresh traditional German food. Booking recommended.
Gartenstr. 9
+49 (0)30 21 75 16 46
Daily 18:00–2:00
- 7 **Bandol sur Mer**
A great, unpretentious, French restaurant, despite being very busy since Brad Pitt visited. Tiny, so book ahead!
Torstr. 167
+49 (0)30 67 30 20 51
18:00–0:00
- 8 **Al Contadino Sotto Le Stelle – Vino e Cucina**
Authentic Italian atmosphere & food. Booking recommended.
Auguststr. 34
+49 (0)30 28 19 0 23
18:00 until late
- 9 **Borchardt**
With red velvet & high ceilings, it's a favorite among politicians and celebrities! Go in the afternoon for an excellent-value lunch.
Französische Str. 47
+49 (0)30 81 88 62 30
11:30–0:00
- 10 **Clärchens Ballhaus**
Very weird, very Berlin! Great for groups with good pizza and dancing. The garden is open in the summer and in the winter, there are classical concerts on Sundays.
Auguststr. 24
+49 (0)30 282 92 95
12:00 until late
- 11 **Rutz**
Michelin starred and award-winning wines. Choose between eating in the wine bar or restaurant.
Chausseestr. 8
+49 (0)30 24 62 87 60
Mon–Sat, bar 16:00 until late, restaurant 18:30–23:30
- 12 **Reinstoff**
Another Michelin-starred restaurant!
Schlegelstr. 26c
+49 (0)30 30 881 214
Tues–Sat from 19:00

Stadtbad Mitte
Public pool. A 1920s architectural gem by Heinrich Tessenow.
Gartenstr. 5
+49 (0)30 308 8090
www.berlinerbaederbetriebe.de/74.html

Nightlife



You may have heard that Berlin is a city that never sleeps ... but that's not to say you can't sleep and still be part of the nightlife!

Many Berliners will comfortably sleep in and head off to a club on Sunday morning, or even at lunchtime, and join the crowd leftover from the night before, dancing to the latest in techno, house and electro.

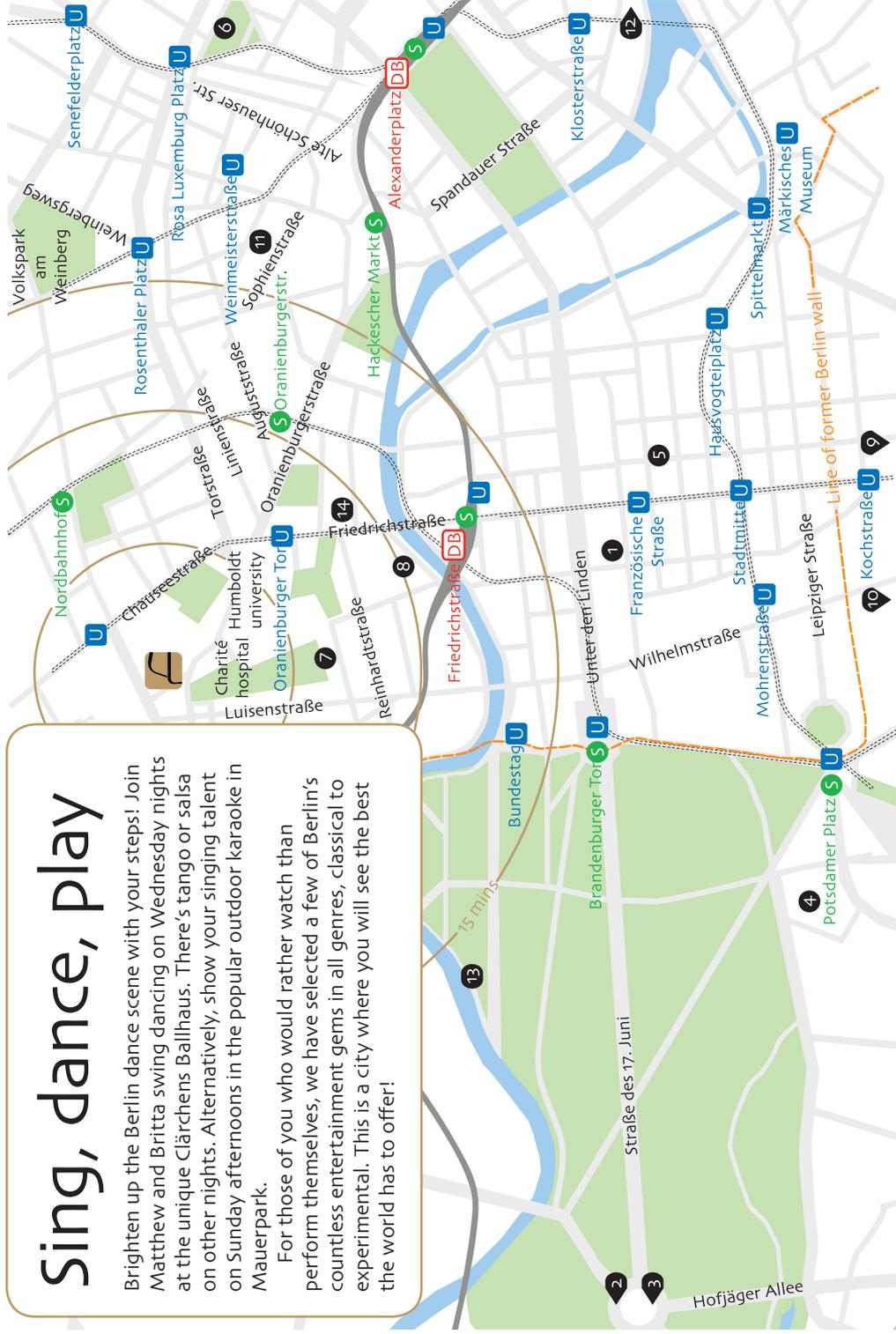
And if dance clubs aren't your thing, Berlin still has a lot to offer. We've listed a few special spots that should appeal to every taste and age group.

- Great bars**
- 1 **Kim**
Super minimal, hip bar known for their gallery after-parties.
Brunnenstr. 10
Open daily
- 2 **Eschlo-
raque**
Now surrounded by sleek shops at Hack-
escher Markt, Eschlo-
raque has held onto
their creepy grungy
back-courtyard charm,
with monster robots
and an open-air cinema
in the summer.
Rosenthaler Str. 29
Tues-Sat from 14:00
Sun-Mon from 21:00
- 3 **Muschi Obermaier**
Underground for
adults. Generally a
young crowd.
Torstr. 151
Tues-Sun from 20:00
- 4 **Bergstübl**
Hip, busy bar.
Invalidenstr. 151
Mon-Sat from 19:00
- Decadent elegance**
- 5 **Cookies**
Famously decadent
club with a high-end
vegetarian restaurant.
Don't show up sloppy
or you'll get turned
away at the door.
Friedrichstr. 158
Tues, Thurs, Sat from
22:30
- 6 **Reingold**
A modern-day speak-
easy. A gorgeous space,
a very classy joint.
Novallisstr. 11
Tues-Sat from 19:00
- 7 **King Size Bar**
Despite the name,
small, full and hip.
Friedrichstr. 112b
Mon-Sat from 21:00
- 8 **Bravo Bar**
A grungy yet hip late
night bar just around
the corner. Cosy with a
club atmosphere. Get
there fashionably late
and the party will be in
full swing.
Torstr. 230
Wed-Sat from 22:00
- 9 **Tausend Bar**
Chic elegance hiding
behind an unmarked
entry, with cool archi-
tecture and a stylish
clientele.
Schiffbauerdamm 11
Tues-Sat from 21:00
- 10 **Kunstfabrik Schlot**
Contemporary jazz
club around the corner!
Free entry on Mondays
and Thursday nights.
Schlegelstraße 26
Thurs-Tues from 20:00
- 11 **White Trash**
Extremely popular with
tourists, White Trash
still holds its own with
rock concerts, famously
wild parties and great
burgers.
Schönhauser Allee 6/7
Mon-Fri from 12:00
Sat-Sun from 18:00
- 12 **Schokoladen**
One of the last hold-
outs from pre-gentrifi-
cation Mitte, Schoko-
laden offers a diverse
line up of concerts and
parties (shows are over
by 23:00, but the bar
goes on until late).
Ackerstr. 169
- 13 **Levee**
Rock concerts and pop
DJ nights in a little
club under the S-Bahn
tracks.
Neue Promenade 10
Check www.veeve.com
for program
- 14 **Kaffee Burger**
Famous for its Russian
Disco parties and retro
style.
Torstr. 60
Daily from 21:00
- 15 **Aufsturz**
Drinks from around the
world, friendly service
and decent bar food
make this cosy Kneipe
a great place to start a
night out.
Oranienburger Str. 67
Mon-Sun 12.00- 02.00
- 16 **Weekend**
The view alone from
this club high above
Alexanderplatz is worth
it! Good house and
techno line-ups.
Alexanderplatz 7
Thurs-Sat from 23:00
- Dance the night away**

Sing, dance, play

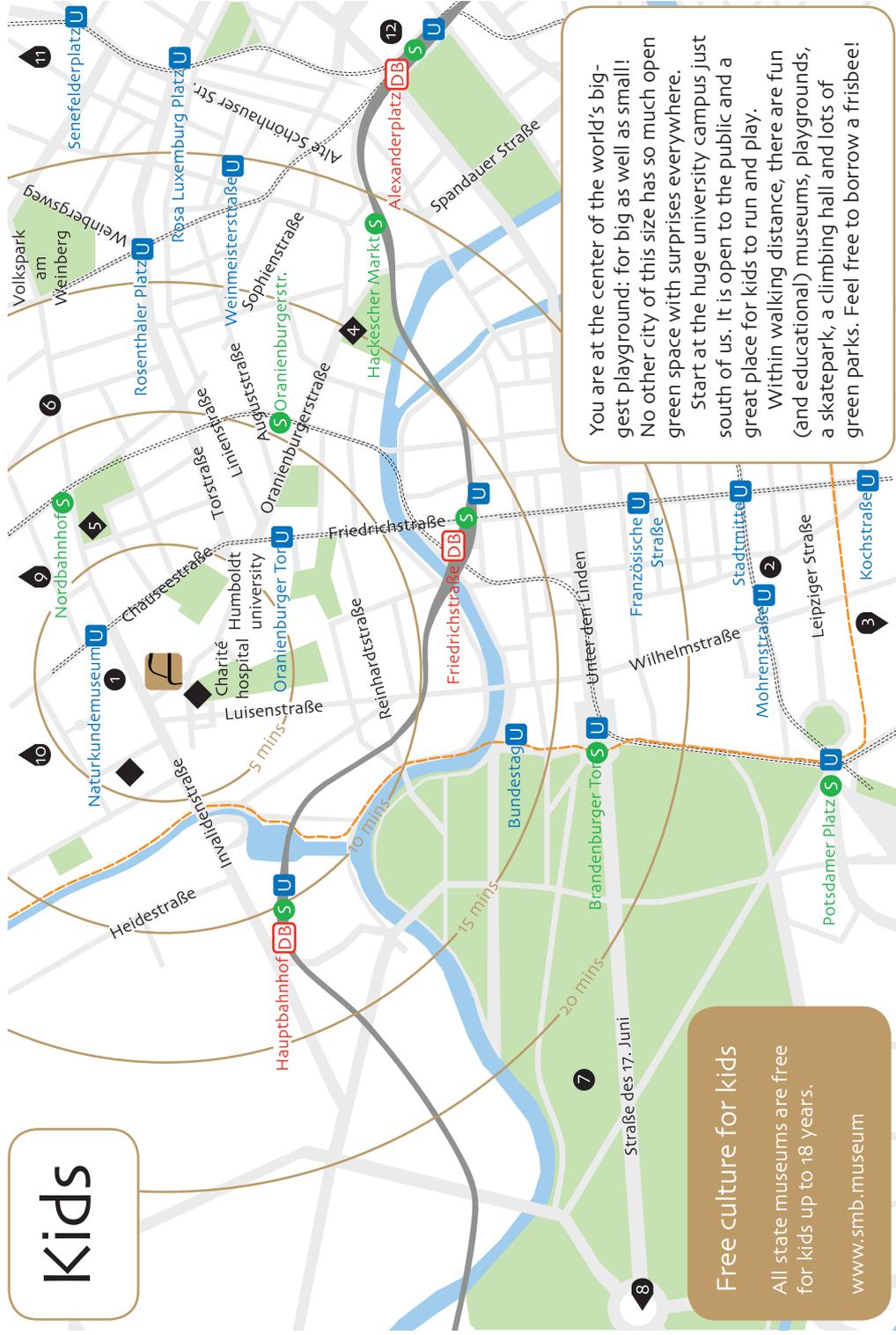
Brighten up the Berlin dance scene with your steps! Join Matthew and Britta swing dancing on Wednesday nights at the unique Clärchens Ballhaus. There's tango or salsa on other nights. Alternatively, show your singing talent on Sunday afternoons in the popular outdoor karaoke in Mauerpark.

For those of you who would rather watch than perform themselves, we have selected a few of Berlin's countless entertainment gems in all genres, classical to experimental. This is a city where you will see the best the world has to offer!



- Opera and classical**
- 4 **Philharmonie**
The base of the world-renowned Berlin Philharmonic, regarded as one of the best concert halls in the world. Herbert-von-Karajan-Str. 1
+49 (0)30 25488 0
- 1 **Komische Oper**
The smallest of Berlin's three opera houses. Miniloft guests enjoy a 10 EUR discount! Behrenstr. 55-57
+49 (0)30 4799 7400
- 2 **Deutsche Oper**
The place to go for Wagnerians, with the most modern technological equipment and the largest stage. Richard-Wagner-Str. 100
+49 (0)30 3438401
- 5 **Konzerthaus Berlin**
The home of the brilliant Konzerthausorchester Berlin, formerly the number one orchestra of East Germany. Gendarmenmarkt
+49 (0)30 20309 2101
- Theater**
- 3 **Staatsooper**
Located temporarily at the Schiller Theater, it will return to a renovated building on Unter den Linden in 2014. Bismarckstr. 110
+49 (0)30 202 683
- 6 **Volksbühne**
This large and legendary radical theater is a long-established heart of Mitte's hipness. Linienstr. 227
+49 (0)30 2406 5777
- 7 **Deutsches Theater**
One of the most prominent theaters in the city. Named German theater of the year in 2008, it remains at the forefront of the nation's performing arts organizations. Schumannstr. 13
+49 (0)30 28441 225
- 8 **Berliner Ensemble**
Bertolt Brecht's home base. This is one of Germany's leading theaters. Bertolt-Brecht-Platz 1
+49 (0)30 28408155
- 9 **English Theatre Berlin**
Classic and contemporary plays, readings and performances. All in the English language! Fidicinstr. 40
+49 (0)30 691 12 11
- 10 **Hebbel am Ufer**
Three locations showing experimental theater and modern dance. Stresemannstr. 29
Halleisches Ufer 32
Tempelhofer Ufer 10
+49 (0)259004 0
- 11 **Sophienseele**
The birthplace of Berlin's famous choreographer Sasha Waltz. THE place for independent theater and dance. Sophienstr. 18
+49 (0)30 2835266
- 12 **Radialsystem**
The new home of Sasha Waltz & Guests and the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin. Worth a visit to be pleasantly surprised by the latest crossover of art forms. Holzmarktstr. 33
+49 (0)30 2887885 0
- Dance**
- 13 **Haus der Kulturen der Welt**
A mix of genres with an emphasis on intercultural dialogue. John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10
+49 (0)30 3978 7175
- World**
- 14 **Friedrichstadtpalast**
One fantastic relic of communism: Europe's biggest theater stage with glitzy shows and a unique ensemble of 230 (!) kids bringing Grimm's fairy tales to life. Friedrichstr. 107
+49 (0)30 2326 2326

Kids



Free culture for kids

All state museums are free for kids up to 18 years.

www.smb.museum

You are at the center of the world's biggest playground: for big as well as small! No other city of this size has so much open green space with surprises everywhere.

Start at the huge university campus just south of us. It is open to the public and a great place for kids to run and play.

Within walking distance, there are fun (and educational) museums, playgrounds, a skatepark, a climbing hall and lots of green parks. Feel free to borrow a frisbee!

Museums

- 1 **Naturkundemuseum** (natural history museum)
An excellent museum just over the road. Among its countless specimens is a huge dinosaur skeleton, 11.72m tall.
Invalidenstr. 43
+49 (0) 30 20 93 85 91

- 2 **Museum für Kommunikation**
An entertaining and educational history of communication technology, fun for both adults and kids.
Leipziger Str. 16
+49 (0) 30 20 29 40

- 3 **Deutsches Technikmuseum** (German museum of technology)
This museum has lots of fascinating experiments to occupy both children and adults for hours!
Trebbiner Str. 9
+49 (0) 30 902 540

Out and about

- ◆ **Playgrounds**
There are a number of playgrounds, which are excellent, safe and clean. Within every neighborhood you'll be able to find a wide array of monkey bars, swings and the like to keep your kids amused!

- 4 **Monbijoupark**
As well as a great playground, there is a fun pool for kids in this local park next to the Spree river.
Oranienburger Str.

- 5 **Plansche am Nordbahnhof**
A kiddie splash pool south of Nordbahnhof.
Invalidenstr.

- 6 **Skatepark Pappelplatz**
Ramps, funboxes, ledges and handrails. This is a great place to hang out just a short skate away.
Pappelplatz

Tiergarten

- 7 Berlin's central park. A vast leafy sanctuary to get away from the hustle and bustle and a wonderful place to go for a bike ride.

- 8 **Zoologischer Garten**
Berlin's famous zoo is just a short S-Bahn ride away. Inside its beautiful grounds, you'll find the most comprehensive collection of species in the world.
Hardenbergplatz. 8
+49 (0)30 254010

- 9 **Mount Mitte**
A giant jungle gym and ropes course around the corner, complete with hanging Trabants. An excellent choice in summer for adventurers of all ages!
Caroline-Michaelis-Str. 8
+49 (0) 30 555 77 8922

Rainy days

- 10 **Magic Mountain**
The largest indoor climbing hall in Europe and it's only two stops away with the S-Bahn. For adults, there are also fitness and sauna facilities, a spa and steam bath, and an internet cafe.
Böttgerstr. 20-26
+49 (0) 30 887 15 79

- 11 **MACHmit!**
An interactive museum especially designed for children of all ages. It is housed in a beautifully architecturally transformed church in Prenzlauer Berg.
Senefelder Str. 5
+49 (0) 30 74 77 82 00

- 12 **TV tower**
Don't miss this brilliant icon of GDR architecture with the spaceship Orion experience. Sadly the entrance fee is no longer 1.50 marks and you may have to queue, but have a drink in the revolving restaurant – unreal!
Alexanderplatz
+49 (0)30 242 59 22



Walk west



Visiting the Bundestag

Climbing up the dome and seeing the federal parliament at work is one of Berlin's most popular attractions.

This is unfortunately not as convenient to access as it once was. It remains free, but visitors need to book a few days in advance through the Bundestag website.

www.bundestag.de

- 1 Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum (Berlin medical history museum)
World famous within the medical profession, this is a treasure trove of abnormalities and body parts in jars!
- 2 Hamburger Bahnhof (museum of contemporary art)
A must for lovers of modern and contemporary art, the museum also houses a good restaurant.
- 3 Hauptbahnhof (main train station)
Walk through for the architecture and enjoy the exceptional open space on the other side with amazing views of the architectural "sculptures" in the parliament quarter, such as the Swiss embassy or the
- 4 Bundeskanzleramt (federal chancellery)
- 5 Bundestag (federal parliament)
Book ahead to go up into the dome.
- 6 Brandenburg Gate
Tourist information is in the side building.
- 7 Akademie der Künste (academy of arts)
The building is by the German star architect Günther Behnisch.
- 8 Holocaust Memorial
Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe by Peter Eisenman with an unmistakable underground documentation center.
- 9 Potsdamer Platz
* Film Museum in the Sony Center
* Neue Nationalgalerie
* Peruse modern art in a modern architectural icon by Mies van der Rohe.
* Gemäldegalerie
* The picture gallery is home to world-famous paintings by old masters.
* Philharmonie and opposite, the Staatsbibliothek (state library) are both architectural masterpieces by local hero Hans Scharoun. Do yourself a favor and go inside!
- 10 Martin-Gropius-Bau
This beautiful 19th-century building houses major rotating exhibitions. Right next door is
Topographie des Terrors (topography of terror)
The Gestapo documentation center on the site of the SS headquarters.
- 11 Mauermuseum (wall museum)
A tourist favorite, the slightly eccentric museum has a comprehensive private collection of escape stories and artifacts.
- 12 Jüdisches Museum (Jewish museum)
An architectural masterpiece by Daniel Libeskind.
- 13 Gendarmenmarkt
Berlin's most elegant historic square with its Konzerthaus (concert hall) by the 19th-century master Schinkel.
- 14 Galeries Lafayette
Contemporary building by Jean Nouvel. The interior atrium is an architectural highlight and there's gourmet French food in the basement.
- 15 Bebelplatz
Another historic square featuring a memorial to the book burnings. Look underground through the glass pane in the middle of the square.
- 16 Deutsche Guggenheim Museum
Gallery's Berlin branch, free on Mondays.
From Friedrichstraße, take the S-Bahn two stops to Nordbahnhof.
- 17 Dokumentationszentrum Berliner Mauer (Berlin wall memorial)
This is a truly excellent exhibition about the Berlin wall in a good piece of contemporary architecture. A bit further up the street, the little ellipse-shaped adobe church is also well worth a visit. Brand-new memorial grounds extend north of here into the former border strip.
- 18 Museum für Naturkunde (natural history museum)
With 30 million specimens, it is home to one of the most comprehensive collections internationally, including the world's largest mounted dinosaur skeleton. Only selected items are on display at any one time.

Walk east



Three-day museum pass

Visit more than 70 Berlin museums and collections on three consecutive days for just 25 EUR.

- 1 Beautiful short cut through the **Humboldt University Campus**. The south end is closed on weekends. Just walk past the guarded barrier; public access is allowed.
- 2-3 + 5-7 **Museum Island** A Unesco world heritage site.
- 2 **Bode Museum** (sculptures and Byzantine art)
- 3 **Pergamon Museum** (antiquity collection, Middle East and Islamic art museum) You've got to go in - if only to experience the breathtaking space! It is Berlin's most popular museum.
- 4 **Deutsches Historisches Museum** (German historical museum) The modern extension is by IM Pei. Visit the entrance hall, enjoy the stairs and discover the surprise views!
- 5 **Altes Museum** (collection of classical antiquities) A famous piece designed by Schinkel, Berlin's great master of 19th century architecture, who is buried in our neighborhood (see 14).
- 6 **Neues Museum** (Egyptian museum and museum of prehistory and early history) This grand 19th-century museum was destroyed during the second world war and has only recently been reopened after a beautiful restoration by David Chipperfield.
- 7 **Alte Nationalgalerie** (19th-century art) Enjoy the exceptional harmony between the collection and the beautifully restored building – both from the same period.
- 8 Let the shopping begin! Choose from unique items in lots of small independent stores, as well as big-name international clothing chains.
- 9 The famous **Hackesche Höfe**. Go into the courtyards: this is how the interior of all Berlin blocks used to function before the second world war.
- 10 Check out the side streets, backyards and hidden basements. You'll find things you won't find anywhere else!
- 11 Our old home from 1992–99, where our son, Theo, was born. Although a beautiful bel-étage, there was coal heating and no phone for years! Not a single shop in the whole street back then, no designed park, nothing!
Until 1999 we ran the legendary gallery **Urban Issue** in the shop that is now a clothing store.
Take a break a bit further down the street at **Monsieur Vuong**, the hip Vietnamese restaurant,
- 12 or at **BarComi's** (gourmet snacks) if you can find the passage through the block, or at **Strandbad Mitte** (good organic cafe for lunch) on the dead end street before you hit 13.
- 13 **KunstWerke** is a cultural highlight with a tiny architectural gem by Dan Graham (Cafe Bravo). KW was the catalyst in transforming the area into the world-renowned gallery hot spot it is today.
- 14 **Dorotheenstädtischer Friedhof** (cemetery) Wind down in the company of Berlin's famous dead: Bertolt Brecht, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Friedrich Hegel, Heinrich Mann, Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Anne Seghers and many other inspiring minds.

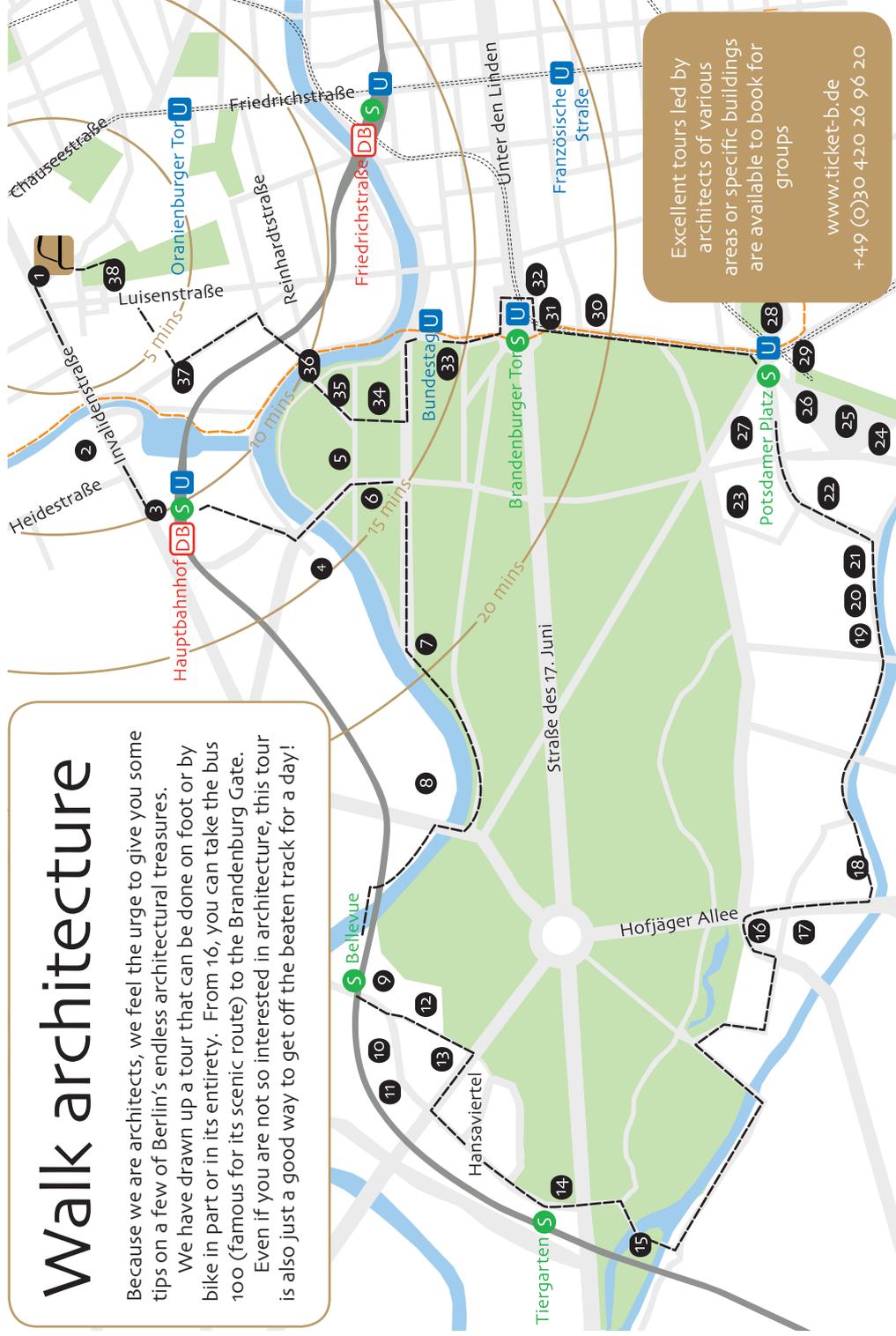
Nothing is obvious in Berlin!
It's still a fragmented place, full of surprises, best explored walking or, even better, rent a bicycle and check out the backyards.

Walk architecture

Because we are architects, we feel the urge to give you some tips on a few of Berlin's endless architectural treasures.

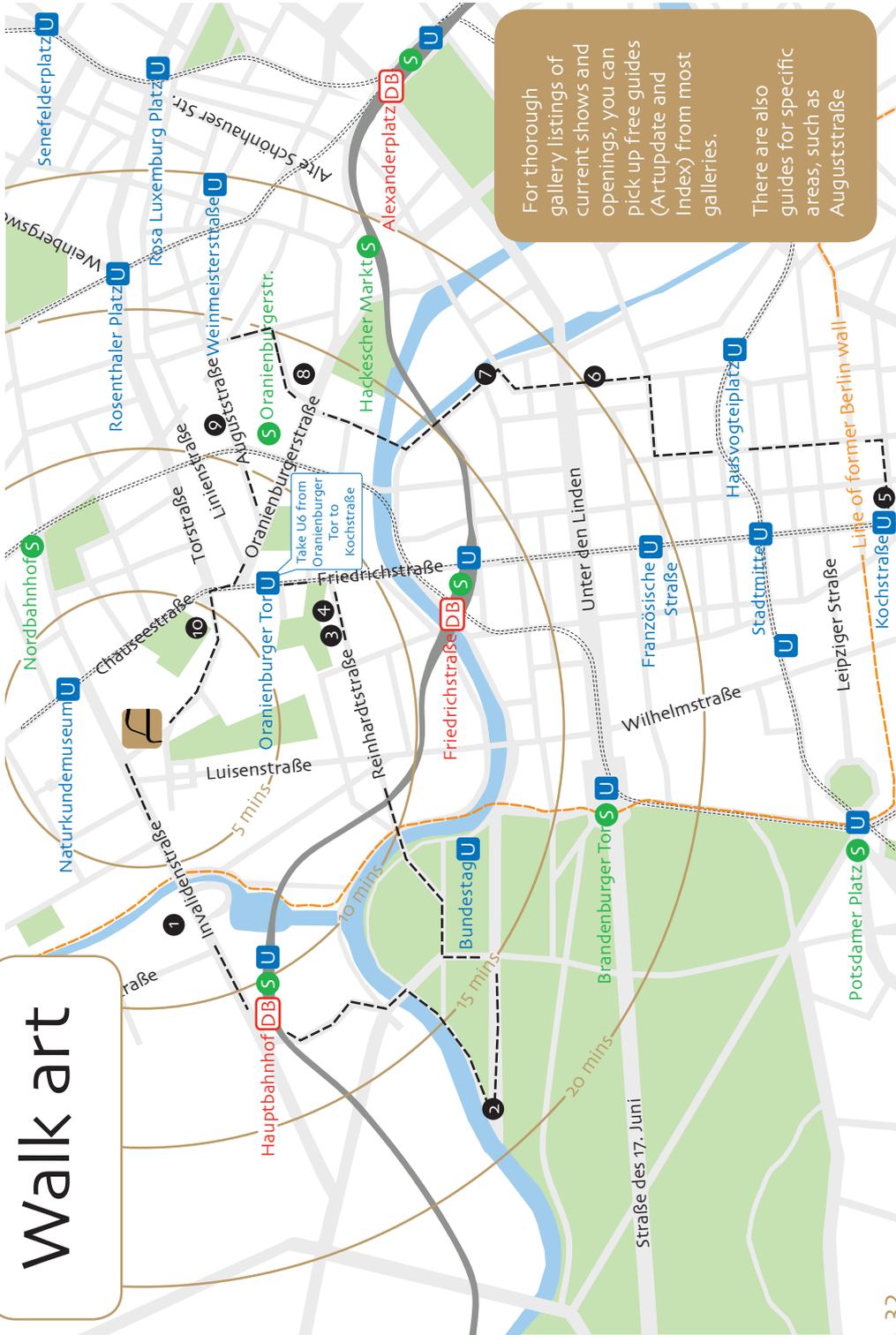
We have drawn up a tour that can be done on foot or by bike in part or in its entirety. From 16, you can take the bus 100 (famous for its scenic route) to the Brandenburg Gate.

Even if you are not so interested in architecture, this tour is also just a good way to get off the beaten track for a day!



- 1 SlenderBender
Matthew Griffin, Britta Jürgens, 2004
- 2 Hamburger Bahnhof Restoration: Joseph Paul Kleihues, 1996
- 3 Hauptbahnhof (main train station)
Gerkan Marg & Partners, 2006
- 4 Police and fire station
Matthias Sauerbruch, Louisa Hutton, 2004
- 5 Swiss embassy
Diener & Diener, 2000
- 6 Bundeskanzleramt (federal chancellery)
Axel Schultes, 2001
- 7 Haus der Kulturen der Welt (House of World Cultures)
Hugh Stubbins, 1957
- 8 Apartment building for parliamentarians
Georg Bumiller, 1999
- The Hansaviertel was built for the 1957 Internationale Bauausstellung Interbau (IBA). Six of these classic modernist buildings are listed here:
- 9 Residential tower
Hans Swippert, 1957
- 10 Residential tower
Van den Broek & Bakema, 1957
- 11 Residential tower
Luciano Baldessari, 1957
- 12 Akademie der Künste (academy of arts)
Werner Düttmann, 1957
- 13 Residential tower
Oskar Niemeyer, 1957
- 14 Berlin-Pavillon (now a Burger King restaurant)
Herman Fehling, 1957
- 15 Versuchsanstalt für Wasserbau (ship model basin)
Ludwig Leo, 1973
- 16 Nordic embassies
Berger + Parkkinen, Pysall-Ruge, Snoehetta, 1999
- 17 Mexican embassy
Gonzales de Leon and Serrano, 2000
- 18 Bauhaus archive
Walter Gropius, A Cvijanovic, 1978
- 19 Shell-Haus (Shell house)
Hans Emil Fahrenkamp, 1931
- 20 Wissenschaftszentrum-Berlin (social science research center)
James Stirling, Michael Wilford & Associates, 1987
- 21 Neue Nationalgalerie (new national gallery)
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, 1968
- 22 Staatsbibliothek (state library)
Hans Scharoun, Edgar Wisniewski, 1978
- 23 Berlin Philharmonie and chamber music hall
Hans Scharoun, Edgar Wisniewski, 1963 & 1988
- 24 Office and commercial building
Renzo Piano + Kohl Becker, 1998
- 25 Residential and commercial building
Richard Rogers & Partners, 1998
- 26 Office and commercial building
Kollhoff & Timmermann, 1998
- 27 Sony Center
Helmut Jahn (Murphy/Jahn), 2000
- 28 Potsdamer Platz station
Hilmer & Sattler, Her-
man + Öttl, 2000
- 29 Park Kolonnaden
Giorgio Grassi, 2001
- 30 Holocaust memorial
Peter Eisenman, 2005
- 31 DZ Bank
Frank Gehry, 1998
- 32 Akademie der Künste (academy of arts)
Günther Behnisch, 2002
- 33 Bundestag (parliament)
Norman Foster, 2000
- 34 Paul-Löbe-Haus
Stephan Braunfels, 2002
- 35 Kindergarten
Gustav Peichl, 2000
- 36 Kronprinzen bridge
Santiago Calatrava, 1997
- 37 Max Planck institute
Deubzer, König, 1999
- 38 Charité hospital
Karl-Ernst Swora, Christian Schulz 1982

Walk art



- 1 Hamburger Bahnhof The museum of contemporary art in a huge converted train station. It has a permanent collection and always-interesting rotating shows.
Invalidenstr. 50
- 2 Haus der Kulturen der Welt (House of World Cultures) Interdisciplinary space for art, discourse and culture, hosting a wide range of exhibitions and events, artists talks, forums, performances and lectures. Have a coffee on their terrace, located next to the river Spree.
John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10
- 3 Sammlung Boros A world-class collection in a fabulously renovated bunker. Admission includes guided tour. Book in advance: info@sammlung-boros.de
Reinhardtstr. 10
- 4 7 Hours Just next door to Sammlung Boros, this is a superb project space!
Reinhardtstr. 18-20
- 5 Charlotten Corner / Rudi-Dutschke-Strasse in Mitte See several highbrow galleries in ultimate approximation - some are located in the same Hinterhof, Rudi-Dutschke Str. 26.
 - * Galerie Krone
 - * Galerie Isabella Czarnowska
 - * Galerie Thomas Schulte
- 6 Schinkel Pavillon Set inside the neoclassical garden of Kronprinzen-Palais, next to historical boulevard Unter den Linden, visitors get a panoramic view of Downtown Mitte, while viewing the sculpture and installation exhibitions here.
Oberwallstr. 1
- 7 Contemporary Fine Arts One of Berlin's most flamboyant commercial galleries - art stars and glitzy shows!
Am Kupfergraben 10
- 8 Sprüth Magers Berlin Big names and a beautiful space: a blue-chip gallery.
Oranienburger Str. 18
- 9 Auguststraße Young galleries line this street. Some started as artist-run or project spaces but have since made the shift to commercial galleries.
Galerie Eigen + Art
- * A well-established gallery from Leipzig, run by a veteran of the east German art scene.
KW
- * Berlin's institute for contemporary art and one of the principle founders of the Mitte art scene with a conceptual curatorial bent.
me Collectors Room
- * Showcases the Olbricht collection with works from the Renaissance to the present day.
- 10 NBK (Neuer Berliner Kunstverein) A unique space, founded in 1969 to encourage public participation with contemporary art.
Chausseestr. 128

Berlin has an incredibly vibrant art scene. In the last decade, it has developed into one of the most exciting art capitals in Europe.

Alongside museums and public galleries, there are a multitude of small commercial and non-commercial spaces. Happily most of these are based in Mitte and Miniloft is at the ideal location to reach them by foot. Our tour takes you to the more important venues, but you're very likely to come across clusters of others around these.

Be warned, there's a lot to see!

Local fitness

Run to the gym

Through the Humboldt University campus to Friedrichstadt Palast, then south down Friedrichstraße, across Unter den Linden to Fitness & Friends gym on Behren Straße

Roughly 1.6km / 1 mile

10km around Tiergarten

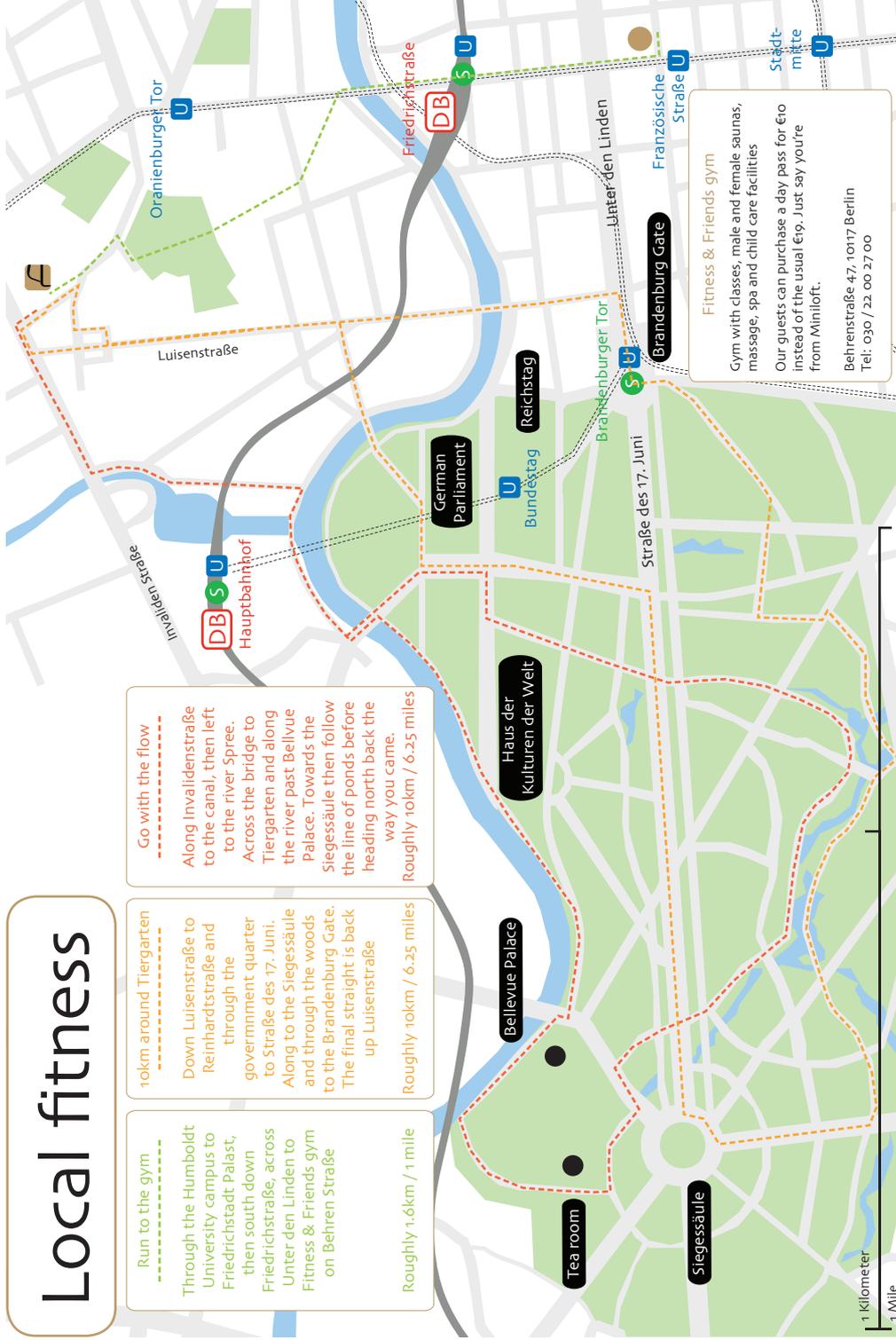
Down Luisenstraße to Reinhardtstraße and through the government quarter to Straße des 17. Juni. Along to the Siegessäule and through the woods to the Brandenburg Gate. The final straight is back up Luisenstraße

Roughly 10km / 6.25 miles

Go with the flow

Along Invalidenstraße to the canal, then left to the river Spree. Across the bridge to Tiergarten and along the river past Bellevue Palace. Towards the Siegessäule then follow the line of ponds before heading north back the way you came.

Roughly 10km / 6.25 miles



Fitness & Friends gym
Gym with classes, male and female saunas, massage, spa and child care facilities
Our guests can purchase a day pass for €10 instead of the usual €19. Just say you're from Miniloft.
Behrenstraße 47, 10117 Berlin
Tel: 030 / 32 00 27 00

Local green spaces



Kiez culture

There is so much to do within walking distance of Miniloft, you could easily spend your entire stay in Mitte. But if you want to explore farther afield, Berlin has a lot to offer, whether you're looking for swanky restaurants or late-late clubs, guerrilla stores or upscale boutiques. Here's our guide to the city's key Kieze (neighborhoods), each with their own distinctive flavor.

Mitte

Paris, London, New York and Mitte. This is the heart of the city and it's thumping. If you want the crème de la crème of Berlin culture, your new neighborhood is where fashion, art, music and gastronomy collide. See pages 12–31 for our recommendations!

Prenzlauer Berg

Prenzlauer Berg's post-reunification artists have settled down and had some babies, making this lovely neighborhood with its leafy, cobblestone streets a synonym for gentrification. Head to the **organic market at Kollwitzplatz** on Saturdays then have a sumptuous piece of cake at **Anna Blume** or one of the other neighborhood cafes (Kollwitzstr. 83, U-Bahn Eberswalder Str.).

Karaoke at Mauerpark, Prenzlauer Berg



Friedrichshain

For club culture head to Friedrichshain with its young boho creatives and students. Party through the night at the world-famous **Berghain** (Am Wriezener

Bahnhof, S-Bahn Ostbahnhof) then head straight to the **Boxhagener Platz flea market** the next morning. **Radialsystem** offers dance and modern classical music, in a setting that juxtaposes an industrial wasteland with idyllic riverfront (Holzmarktstr. 33, S-Bahn Ostbahnhof).

Charlottenburg

One of the wealthiest areas in Berlin, with Gucci and Chanel's shiny shop fronts on **Ku'damm** and a true "Wessi" atmosphere. Feel like a noble while touring **Schloss Charlottenburg**, the largest surviving baroque palace in Berlin. The huge palace gardens are a delight. With wealth and pomp comes great restaurants – for classic Charlottenburg old-school elegance, join the bon vivants at **Paris Bar** (Kantstr. 152, U-Bahn Uhlandstr.).

Kreuzberg

A history of cheap rents and social housing have attracted an eclectic mix of young creatives and entrepreneurs to this vibrant, diverse neighborhood with its large Turkish and Arab communities. Stroll down

Bergmannstraße for some antique shopping, or bar hop around Schlesisches Tor. The Jewish museum is an architectural highlight (Lindenstr. 9–14, U-Bahn Hallesches Tor).

Kreuzkölln

Cool with a capital K. This kiez just keeps getting hotter. Once a frayed edge on the canal, it's now artist central, with some of the best places to eat and drink in town. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the **Turkish market** transforms the banks of the canal into a cacophony of colors, smells, and languages. (Maybachufer, U-Bahn Kottbusser Tor).

Summer in the city

Enjoying a relaxing summer day in Berlin or looking for a way to cool off?

Flea Markets

Spend your Sunday searching for bargains and weird GDR memorabilia at one of Berlin's entertaining flea markets. Check out the sprawling market and diverse crowd of hungover party people at **Mauerpark** (just north of Eberswalder Straße in Prenzlauer Berg) and don't miss the hugely popular **karaoke** in the open-air amphitheater!

Arkonaplatz is smaller and sweeter, with a high-quality selection of vintage furniture. For both markets, take the M10 tram from Nordbahnhof to Wolliner Straße.

The huge antique market at Straße des 17. Juni in Tiergarten (also on Saturdays) is more expensive, for serious collectors - but you can still find some bargains.

Prinzessinnengärten

Founded as a pilot project in the summer of 2009 at Moritzplatz in Kreuzberg, on a plot of land formally on a dead-end street due to the Berlin wall and left to decay for half a century. A small group of local volunteers cleared shrubs and rubbish, built transportable organic vegetable plots and created a sustainable gardening community in the heart of a deprived (although now up-and-coming) area.

Urban gardening in the Prinzessingärten



Naturpark Südgelände

The site was one of the busier switchyards for Berlin's railway system, the area was slowly abandoned and finally shut its doors in 1952. What happened in those 60 years since has been a gradual transferral of industry back to nature. You can still see the old signs of the past; From a steam engine stationary near the water tower that used to power it, to a cavernous locomotive hall that now houses exhibitions and concerts, to the tracks that run throughout the park. The Naturpark Südgelände is one of those uniquely Berlin sites. It is a relic perfectly preserved - and yet left to run wild.

Naturpark Südgelände
S-Bahn: Priesterweg (S2 / 25)
www.gruen-berlin.de

www.prinzessinnengarten.net

Badeschiff

Originally a prize-winning art installation, this "bathing ship" is literally a boat filled with water, floating in the Spree river. Wooden decks and a little beach, bar, cafeteria and (sometimes live) music. At night it becomes very loungey. Only kids that can swim without water wings are allowed in the pool. It won one of the Berlin architecture prizes 2006. A small but sensational space that you won't find anywhere else!

Nearby you will find many other waterside clubs and restaurants, such as **Club der Visionäre** and **Freischwimmer**.

Open 8:00-0:00 (3 EUR until 20:00)
Eichenstr. 4, Kreuzberg
www.arena-berlin.de

Winter in the city

Winter in Berlin, albeit cold and a little gray, is also a lot of fun, with theaters, saunas on the river, cozy bars & cafes and of course, Christmas markets.

Märchenhütte

The Märchenhütte is a winter cabin in Monbijoupark where the magical tales of the Grimm Brothers unfold on stage. Some plays are scary and adults-only, while others are suited for kids. Check before you go.

The tales are told in German, unfortunately without subtitles, but we think it's a fun and kooky way to spend an evening. Monbijoustr. 2, Monbijoupark, Mitte
S-Bahn Hackescher Markt
+49 (0)30 2 888 66 999
www.maerchenhuette.de

Liquidrom

If you need a little self-nurturing, the Liquidrom is the perfect place to indulge, with thermal spas, a saltwater swimming pool and sauna. Have a massage or listen to cool Berlin beats while you backstroke – experiencing their unique underwater sound system is incredible!

Möckernstr. 10, Kreuzberg
U-Bahn Möckernbrücke
+49 (0)30 2580 0782 0
www.liquidrom-berlin.de



Badeschiff

There are two things one must do when visiting Berlin: eat a currywurst and have a swim at the Badeschiff. A temporary pavilion covers the pool in winter, creating a very hip, extraordinary wellness experience.

Have a Finnish sauna, a swim in the pool in the Spree, a foot spa or a drink at the bar. Covered pool open December to March
Eichenstr. 4, Kreuzberg
U-Bahn Schlesisches Tor
+49 (0)30 5332030
www.arena-berlin.de

Erika-Heiß-Eisstadion

If you're feeling sporty, rent some skates and take a few turns on the ice in the open air.

A great neighborhood skating rink just two stops northbound from our U-Bahn station. Müllerstr. 185, Wedding
U-Bahn Reinickendorfer Str.
+49 (0)30 46 90 79 55

Tadschikische-Teestube

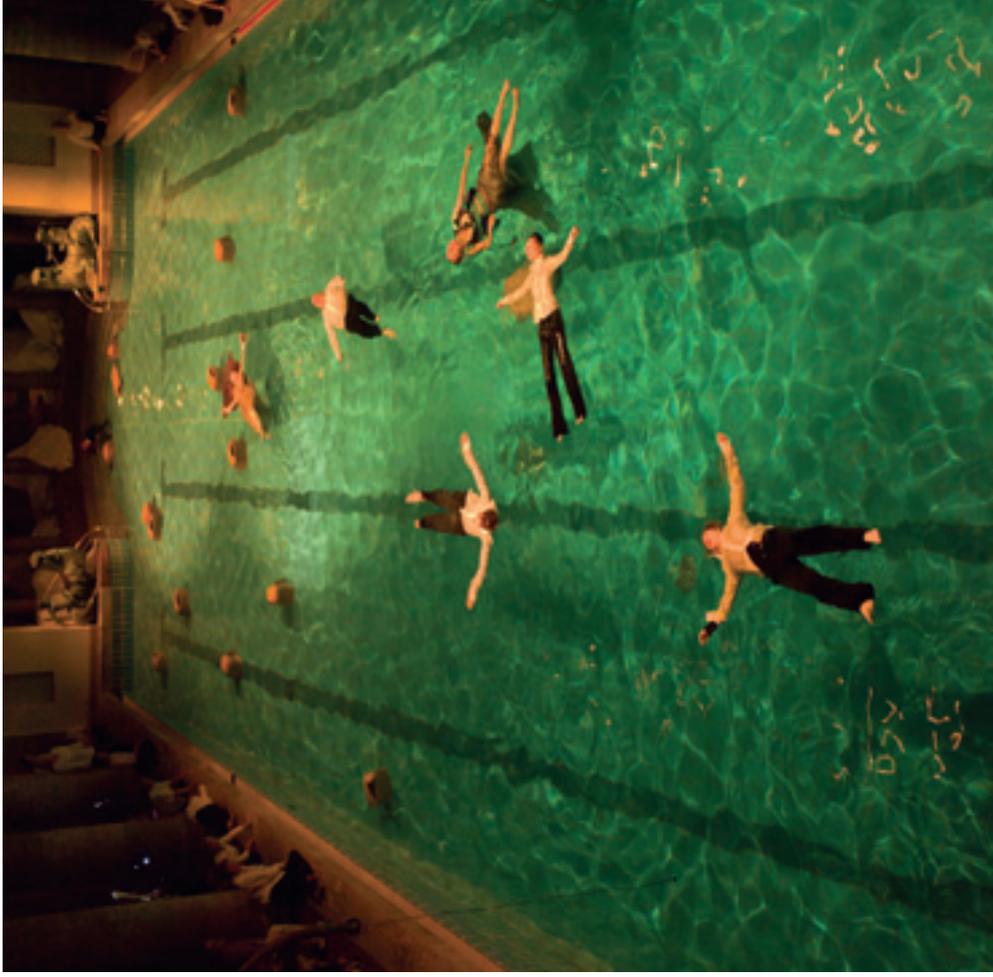
The "Tajikistan tearoom" is a warm and welcoming hidden treasure, the perfect spot for a break after a day wandering around cold Berlin. The entire interior – graceful carved wooden pillars, lush oriental carpets, wall hangings and ornate divans and cushions – was a gift from Tajikistan in the days of Soviet-GDR friendship (1970). Lounge on indulgent divans while drinking one of 20 teas from around the world, in a tangible piece of GDR history.

Im KunstHof, Oranienburger Str. 27, Mitte
S-Bahn Oranienburger Str
Mon–Fri, 16–00:00; Sat–Sun, 12–00:00
+49 (0)30 2041 112
www.tadshikische-teestube.de

Tropical Islands

A 200m stretch of tropical sandy beach and a giant indoor rainforest, water slides and palm trees are inside a huge former blimp factory, an hour outside of Berlin. A truly unique experience – the spectacular building is a masterpiece of contemporary engineering – and your kids will absolutely love it!

Tropical-Islands-Allee 1
Krausnick, 60km south of Berlin
+49 (0)3 547 760 5050
www.tropical-islands.de



Underwater opera in Neukölln Stadtbad

Wintery Museums

Stasi Museum

Nothing fits the winter in Berlin better than the Cold War. The Stasi headquarters in Berlin-Lichtenberg, including the offices of the Ministry for State Security, Erich Mielke, were frozen in time after the fall of the wall, preserved as a memorial and research center. Ruschestraße 103, Lichtenberg
www.stasimuseum.de

Topography of Terror

Built on the site of the Gestapo and SS headquarters, the Topography of Terror consists of an indoor exhibition documenting the atrocities carried out during the Nazi regime and an outdoor walking trail following the outline of the former buildings
Niederkirchnerstraße 8, Mitte
www.topographie.de

Bauhaus Archive

Escape the cold and enter the cool. The Walter Gropius-designed building contains an ever changing exhibition of artwork, workshop pieces, sketch notes, photographs etc that help to tell the story of the Bauhaus through its theories and practice. Well worth a visit for any fan of 20th century design.

Klingelhöferstraße 14, Kreuzberg
www.bauhaus.de

Getting around

Public transportation

Buy tickets from machines at all U-Bahn and S-Bahn stations, or in the first carriage of a tram. Bus drivers and shops that display a little yellow BVG flag also sell tickets.

All tickets are valid for S-Bahn, U-Bahn, tram and bus – you can hop on and off as you like, across the entire BVG transport network, either within zones AB (center, including Tegel airport) or within zones ABC (center, including all airports and Potsdam) depending on ticket.

www.bvg.de

After buying the ticket you must validate it before traveling.

Stamp it in one of the little red or yellow boxes in stations and on buses and trams.

BVG tickets

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 7 Day ticket AB | 28,80 EUR |
| WelcomeCard (72 hrs) AB (3 kids under 14 yrs free!) | 25,50 EUR |
| WelcomeCard (48 hrs) AB (3 kids under 14 yrs free) | 18,50 EUR |
| CityTourCard (72 hrs) AB | 23,90 EUR |
| CityTourCard (48 hrs) AB | 16,90 EUR |
| Group day ticket AB (up to 5 persons) | 16,20 EUR |
| Group day pass for school children (3 kids under 6 yrs free) | 3,10 EUR |
| Single fare AB (valid one-way) | 2,60 EUR |
| Reduced fare AB (6–14 yrs, bikes) | 1,60 EUR |
| Day ticket AB | 6,70 EUR |
| 4-trip ticket AB | 8,80 EUR |

Prices current in January 2014

Airports

Tegel (TXL)

Take the U6 subway from Naturkundemuseum to Kurt-Schumacher-Platz and then the 128 bus. Alternatively, the express TXL bus leaves from outside Hauptbahnhof. Both routes will take about 35 minutes.

Schönefeld (SXF)

From Hauptbahnhof (10 minutes walk from us), you can take AirportExpress trains RE7 or RB14. Journey time from Hauptbahnhof is 28 minutes.

+49 (0)180 5000 186
www.berlin-airport.de

Trains

0800 150 70 90
(toll-free number within Germany)

+49 (0)180 5 99 66 33
www.bahn.de

Bike

Berlin is the perfect scale for bikes and has many cycle paths. You can take bikes on all U- and S-Bahn trains with a special ticket.

Fahrrad Frank, Torstr. 220
www.fahrradfrank.de

Bike tours

www.fattirebiketours.com/berlin
From: TV tower
S+U-Bahn Alexanderplatz

www.berlinonbike.de
From: Kulturbrauerei, Knaackstr. 9
U-Bahn Eberswalderstr.

Boat tours

For a more relaxed tour, get on deck and see Berlin from the water. Companies offer tours of differing lengths. The nearest place to embark is behind Hauptbahnhof on the Spree.

www.reedereiwinkler.de
www.sternundkreis.de

Bus tours

Get on and off the double-decker tour buses at any of the 15 different stops, the closest is at Brandenburg Gate. The entire route takes 100 mins. Buses go every 20 mins between 10:00 and 19:20.

stadttouristik@bvg.de
+49 (0) 30 25 625 569

www.citysafari-berlin.com
www.bbsberlin.de
www.berlin-city-tour.de

Segway tour

An alternative, fun way to explore Berlin is to glide around on a segway. Tours take three hours and cost 65 EUR. Book in advance, online or in the agency, which is just around the corner. Ask in the office about a discount for Miniloft guests.

www.segway-kult-tour.de

Agency on Chausseestr. 124
U-Bahn Naturkundemuseum or
Oranienburger Tor

Taxi

0800 2222 255

This toll-free number will work directly from the phone in your loft, just dial 0 first to get an outside line.

Order a taxi for any time up to three months in advance.

From international cellphones, dial:
+49 (0)30 21 01 01

The nearest taxi stand is by the Charité hospital, turn right on Hannoversche Straße.

For a short trip, you can hail a cab in the street and ask for the short-trip fare:
Kurzstrecke (just 4 EUR for 2 km)

A taxi to Tegel (TXL) takes about 15 mins (approx 25 EUR)

A taxi to Schönefeld (SXF) takes 30–45 mins (approx 45 EUR)

Practical information

Cleaning

We clean your apartment and change all your bed linen and towels every seven nights at no extra charge. We are also happy to clean your apartment at any other time at the rate of 20 EUR per cleaning.

Heating

The Classic and Compact Minilofts have radiators with thermostats on each of them.
The Extroverted and Introverted Minilofts have floor heating with a thermostat on the wall. In all Minilofts, the temperature decreases a few degrees automatically at night.

Laundry

A washing machine and dryer are in the basement of the old building. To operate the washing machine (programs Mix or Super 15) you need:

4 x 1 EUR coins / wash, including drying

Other programs require more coins. Ecological detergents are provided and instructions can be found in the laundry room.

Garbage

At the back of the property behind the old building you find the following garbage containers:

- * paper (blue)
- * packaging (yellow)
- * wine bottles (green)
- * clear glass (white)
- * scrap items (orange)
- * all other garbage (black)

Other plastic or glass bottles are "Pfand" (deposit) and should be left in the round wire-mesh container. We will return them to the producers.

Video Rental

If you'd like to rent movies, you just need to take your key and a Miniloft business card to Filmgalerie
Invalldenstr. 148
Mon-Sat 12-24. Sun 14-24

Borrow

Ask us for free use of:

- * Synthetic pillows/duvets
- * Stroller and high chair
- * Plastic cutlery etc
- * DVD player
- * Mosquito nets
- * Rubber bath mats
- * Ethernet cable
- * and much more...

Your keys open both entrances and the laundry room

Beds

If you would like a mattress pad to make the bed softer, please just ask in the office.

Lost/broken

- * Key 25 EUR
- * Glass 5 EUR
- * Plate 10 EUR

Berlin tap water is good drinking water!

Eco

All detergents we use or supply are biodegradable. Supplies (coffee, tea, etc.) are organically produced. You can push the toilet flush twice to save water.

Check out 11:00

Before you leave, please check:

- * the dishes are clean
- * heating and lights are turned off
- * payment for drinks is on table (2 EUR a drink)
- * there's a note about missing or broken items
- * if you're a group and have moved things, items should be back in the original loft

Please just leave all your keys on the table and close the door behind you. Thank you!

Stay connected

Internet

Wireless (WLAN)
Network: miniloft
Password: kt23qx47

Ethernet (LAN)

Connect with ethernet cable provided.
Check internet access is set via a local network (LAN) and a DHCP server.

Telephone

To receive phone calls, your number is

+49 (0)30 847 109 + two-digit loft number

To call out, buy a 5 EUR calling card from us or a newsstand. All local and **0800** numbers are free to call. Dial **0** to get an outside line

Online inquiries

The phone book
www.dastelefonbuch.de

Yellow pages
www.gelbeseiten.de

Emergency

- * Fire/ambulance **112**
- * Police **110**
- * Pharmacy (night) **1180**

Directory inquiries

- * National **11 8 33**
- * International **11 8 34**
- * English service **11 8 37**



No Smoking please

Miniloft is a strictly no-smoking establishment. If you are found to have been smoking in the apartment you will be charged for any extra cleaning, as well as lost revenue due to not being able to use the apartment afterwards.

Call a doctor

English-speaking doctors will advise over the phone and come out within 40 minutes. You can pay by cash and they are available 24 hours a day.

+49 (0)180 50 19257
www.arzt-ruf.de

You can also come to the office and we will make an appointment with a local doctor's surgery

Contact us

For more information or tips on things to do, just drop by our office (on the fifth floor of the new building) or call:

+49 (0)30 847 109 0

or **37** from your Miniloft phone

In emergencies outside office hours, call our cellphone:

+49 (0)163 847 1990



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