



BIG ON BERLIN

Glamour meets grunge in Germany's capital, a dynamic and exciting city rich in history, art and architecture | 德國首都：一個充滿歷史、藝術和建築的多元城市，時刻教人興奮

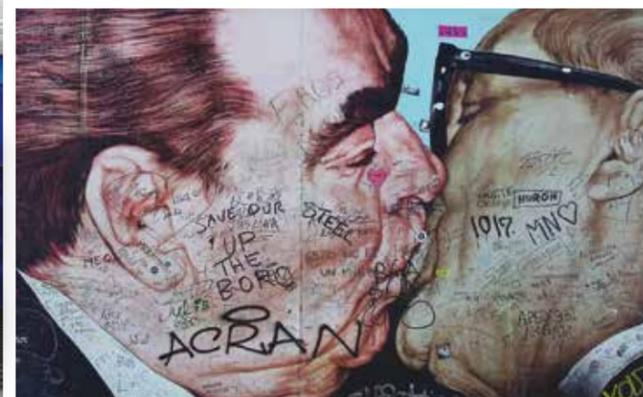
BY ANJI CONNELL PHOTOGRAPHY ALL COURTESY IMAGES



PAINT THE TOWN

Clockwise from top right: the graffiti-covered RAW-Gelände, graffiti on the walls of East Side Gallery and the artsy area of Kreuzberg.

繽紛城市
左上角順時針：覆蓋塗鴉的RAW-Gelände、East Side Gallery牆外的塗鴉、Kreuzberg的藝術區。



Berlin is a hub for artists, hedonists, hipsters, fashionistas, designers and history buffs, as well as curious urban explorers and luxury travellers. It maintains the unpretentious charm of an international village with a laid-back lifestyle, and has an emphasis on personal freedom and creativity rather than on material wealth and status symbols. Sail through the city centre, taking in the historic sites, or take a longer trip along the Spree and the Landwehr Canal as you travel under dozens of Berlin's historic bridges. Don't over-plan and leave a little to serendipity; Berlin has this in spades.

SEE

Mitte is Berlin's central borough and home to its world-famous cultural and historical sites, as well as elegant boulevards with beautifully restored pre-war buildings such as the domed Reichstag, Alexanderplatz, Checkpoint Charlie and the Brandenburg Gate. Only minutes away are the eclectic, hip inner-city neighbourhoods of Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain, Kreuzberg, Neukölln and Schöneberg, as well as the charming back streets of Gipsstrasse, full of independent shops, ateliers, galleries, and cafes.

In Berlin's east, Friedrichshain has a punk and alternative vibe, dubbed as the "new hip place" and giving popular Kreuzberg a run for its money. Linked to the Kreuzberg district by the castle-like Oberbaum Bridge over the Spree, it was one of the most severely damaged spots during the Second World War. After the collapse of the Berlin Wall, artists moved east. They began to make art that conveyed what it meant to be free – expression born from repression. Friedrichshain is a great place to start your street-art journey. Everything here is covered in graffiti – houses, shop fronts, trains and historical monuments. Berlin has embraced street art so much so that Emilie Trice, a critic and curator, dubbed the city "a site of pilgrimage for urban art" and a "graffiti mecca".

Art-gallery-turned-street-art-museum Urban Nation Museum is Berlin's first museum dedicated entirely to urban contemporary art, while the open-air East Side Gallery on a 1,300-metre section of the old Berlin Wall is covered on one side in famous works by commissioned artists, including the iconic My God, Help Me to Survive This Deadly Love, depicting the infamous kiss between Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and East German president Erich Honecker. The graffiti-covered RAW-Gelände is an old industrial district with derelict crumbling buildings that's now a chill space full of markets, restaurants and art studios.

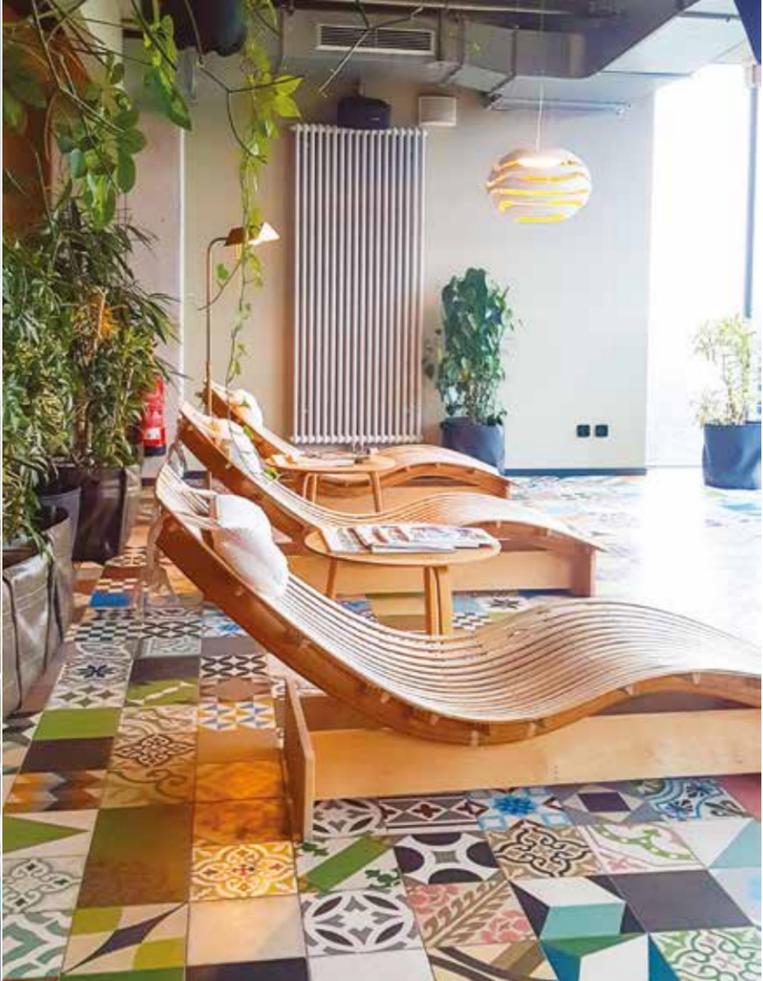
柏林是藝術家、享樂主義者、潮人、時裝迷、設計師、歷史迷以及旅客聚首一堂的地方。城中維持了國際城村的魅力和悠閒的生活方式，同時著重個人自由和創意，而非物質財富和社會地位。揚帆暢遊市中心，在施普雷河和蘭德韋爾運河中穿越多座柏林的歷史大橋。不用過於安排行程，即管隨緣一點，好好享受柏林吧！

觀光

米特區是柏林的歷史核心區，集中在世界知名的文化、歷史景點，高雅的大道兩旁豎立了復修好的戰前建築，如半球形Reichstag、Alexanderplatz和Checkpoint Charlie等。跟潮區如Prenzlauer Berg、Friedrichshain、Kreuzberg、Neukölln和Schöneberg等僅隔幾分鐘路程，鄰近的Gipsstrasse後街開滿小店、工作室、畫廊和咖啡店，值得一去。

柏林東的Friedrichshain擁有龐克、另類的氛圍，被譽為「新潮點」，跟人氣的Kreuzberg區絕對能一較高下。位於施普雷河上、城堡似的Oberbaum橋連接起Kreuzberg區，該區在一戰時受到嚴重破壞。而在柏林圍牆倒下後，藝術家都搬到東部開始創作表達自由的藝術。Friedrichshain就是街頭藝術之旅的最佳起步點，當地所有東西都噴上了塗鴉：房屋、商店、火車、歷史遺跡。

Urban Nation Museum屬柏林首家獻身於城市當代藝術的博物館，東翼露天畫廊中長1300米的舊柏林圍牆一邊畫滿著名作品，如具標誌性的《My God, Help Me Survive This Deadly Love》，也就是蘇維埃領導人Leonid Brezhnev跟東德總統Erich Honecker擁吻的一幕。佈滿塗鴉的RAW-Gelände是舊工業區，現開滿市集、餐廳和畫室。



SLEEP

STAY THE NIGHT

The hotel and members' club Soho House Berlin (this page and bottom right) and the trendy 25hours Hotel Bikini (right) are cosy respites to recharge in after a day of sightseeing.

留宿體驗

酒店及會員俱樂部 Soho House Berlin(本頁及右頁下圖)以及右邊的時尚酒店 25hours Hotel Bikini，也是觀光後休息的住宿點。

Creatives mingle with equally hip guests at Soho House Berlin, the über-cool outpost of the London club. Super-luxe design reigns over eight floors of a Grade II-listed Bauhaus building in the vibrant Mitte district with a gym, spa, cinema, rooftop terrace bar, restaurant and pool. On the ground floor, you'll find a branch of the Soho House-owned Italian restaurant Cecconi's with a slick Berliner vibe. A bold spray-painted Damien Hirst artwork presides over one wall amidst the high glamour and effortlessly cool lobby, adding a splash of colour to the open-plan minimalist interior with its glittering chandeliers.

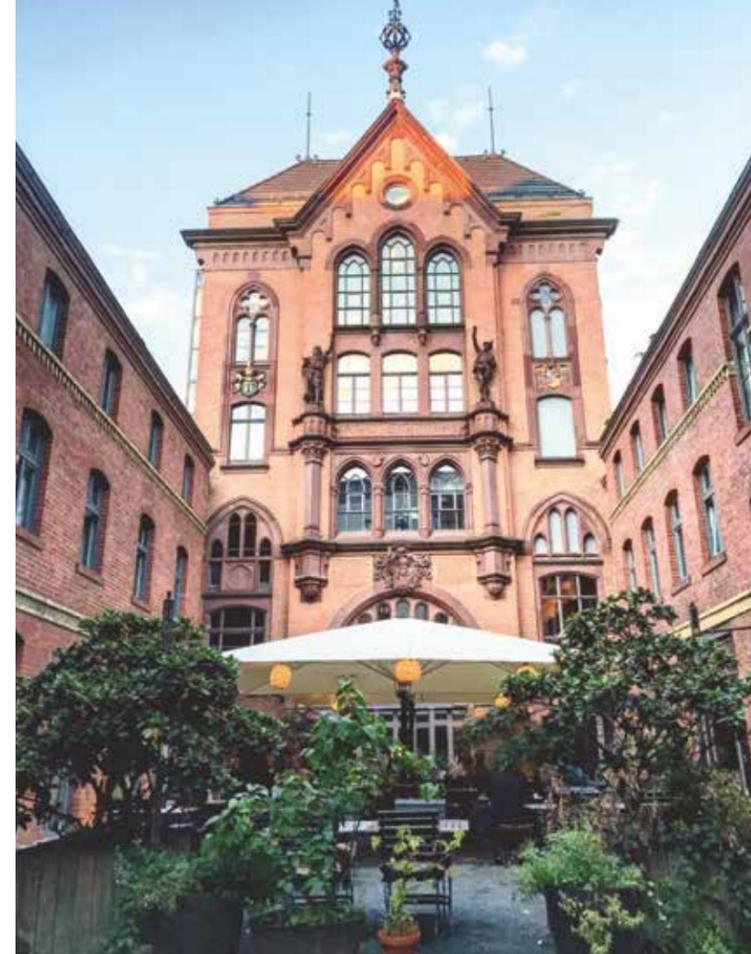
West Berlin's funky 25hours Hotel Bikini, located in a 1950s high-rise, is ideally located to explore City West – Ku'damm, the Zoo and the Tiergarten opposite. The playful interiors by Werner Aisslinger are a mix of an industrial aesthetic, with lots of exposed concrete, and a jungle vibe with plants on all surfaces (including the ceiling), in a theme that echoes the views of the zoo opposite. Dark corridors, with glowing numbers that appear to float, lead you to the rooms that come with a choice of vistas: the Jungle rooms have views across the ape and elephant enclosures of the Zoo, while the Urban rooms look over the war-damaged spire of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and the City West skyline.

住宿

創意工作者跟時尚的客人最愛在Soho House Berlin打交道。奢華的酒店樓高八層，屬巴浩斯二級建築，位於人氣極盛的米特區，建有健身房、水療、影院、天台露天酒吧、餐廳和泳池。地下一層開設了意大利餐廳Cecconi's，充滿柏林嫺熟的氛圍。Damien Hirst的噴漆畫作在迷人性格的大堂中出現，為開放簡約的設計帶來一抹繽紛色彩。

柏林西的摩登酒店25hours Hotel Bikini位於一幢50年代的高樓內，最適合希望探索城西如庫達姆大街、動物園和蒂爾加滕公園的旅人。由Werner Aisslinger打造的室內設計玩味十足，完美糅合工業風和森林氣息，各處種滿植物，以呼應對面動物園的景觀。房間分成兩種：森林房看到動物園的黑猩猩和大象園，而城市房則眺望威廉皇帝紀念教堂被戰火破壞的尖頂和城西的天際線。





EAT

The Hackescher Markt area has hip cafes and shops in a series of labyrinthine courtyards. One of them, Haus Schwarzenberg, is a chill spot for a coffee break, a beer and people-watching. With its chipped walls and Second World War bullet holes, this building complex is one of the very few non-restored buildings in the area. Katz Orange, set in a castle-like former brewery, is another popular place for the Berlin-Mitte crowd. It's famed for its salt meadow lamb, short ribs and pork Duroc that is roasted for 12 hours at a low temperature, all served in a rustic interior with exposed old brick walls and a pretty courtyard.

25hours Hotel Bikini's buzzy roof top Monkey Bar, with its colourful lounge furniture and fabulous views, has an outdoor terrace and a DJ spinning tunes nightly. Neni next door is a spacious, plant-filled space serving up a yummy mix of Middle Eastern, Israeli and Mediterranean food as small sharing plates and has a fabulous vibe.

Once the American quarter, the multicultural Neukoelln has large Turkish, Arab and Kurdish populations, so it has superb Middle Eastern restaurants and food markets. Once one of the poorest neighbourhoods before Berlin's creatives and students moved in, they brought the area some charm and "hipster" factor. Some fabulous culinary delights can be sampled here, with a drink in the coolest bars and cafes.

飲食

Hackescher Markt區置身迷宮般的庭院中，開設了多間人氣咖啡館和小店。Haus Schwarzenberg是其中一家不錯的小店，坐下喝喝咖啡、啤酒，看著人來人往的繁鬧街景吧。大樓的斑駁外牆和二戰時留下的彈孔，讓結構成了區內少數獲保留原狀的建築。Katz Orange落戶於城堡般的前啤酒廠，也是當地的人氣熱點，以其鹽沼羊、牛肋排骨和低速慢燜12小時的杜洛克豬聞名。

25hours Hotel Bikini熱鬧的天台Monkey Bar擺放了七彩繽紛的傢俱並坐擁美景，晚上可安坐戶外欣賞現場DJ打碟。旁邊的Neni空間感十足，四周種滿植物，菜色糅合了中東、以色列和地中海特色的餐廳，氣氛一流。

現為跨文化區域的Neukoelln曾屬美國人小區，住有大量土耳其、阿拉伯和庫爾德人，開滿一流的中東餐廳和市集。柏林創意工作者和學生搬到Neukoelln前，該區曾是柏林最貧困的區域，他們為小區重注魅力和潮味，當中可找到不少出色的食店、型格的酒吧和咖啡店。



WINE AND DINE

Berlin boasts a host of hip eateries and scenic bars all around town, including Monkey Bar (above), Italian restaurant Cecconi's, Katz Orange (top right) set inside a brewery and Haus Schwarzenberg (bottom right) perfect for a coffee break.

美酒佳釀

柏林擁有多間時尚的餐廳酒吧，如上圖的Monkey Bar、意大利餐廳Cecconi's、右上方建於釀酒廠內的Katz Orange、右下的Haus Schwarzenberg，也是慢下腳步品味咖啡的好地方。



SHOP

Berlin has a fabulous shopping scene. Check out Store 81, located in the former printworks of the Tagesspiegel newspaper on Potsdamer Straße in Tiergarten. It's an expansive industrial space showcasing owner Andreas Murkudis's unique edit of products in a gallery-like environment. The 10,000-square-foot space contains a thoughtful collection of up-and-coming brands along with noted designers, unique beauty products and tasteful home accessories. Sunday in Berlin is flea market day and every neighbourhood across the city has its own local flea market, if not several. The Arkonaplatz flea market in Prenzlauer Berg is in an old square sheltered by beautiful chestnut trees; it's a lovely place to stroll around, with all sorts of retro knick-knacks from the 1950s and '60s, vintage furniture, signage, kitchen utensils and old wares for the home. //

購物

柏林是個購物天堂；不妨到蒂爾加滕區的Tagesspiegel日報印刷廠Store 81逛逛。偌大的工業空間改裝成畫廊般的商店，展示了老闆Andreas Murkudis親身挑選的貨品，品味獨特。佔地10,000呎的商店能找到新進品牌或有名設計師的產品，還有獨一無二的美妝產品以及型格的家品。星期日是柏林跳蚤市場的開幕日，每個小區也有自己的跳蚤市場。位於Prenzlauer Berg的Arkonaplatz跳蚤市場在一個老廣場上舉行，四周被漂亮的栗樹包圍，是溜達的好地方。來自50、60年代不同種類的舊物、古董傢具、招牌、廚具和陶器也能找到！//

CARRIED AWAY

Dotted with plenty of charming stores and buzzy street markets, Berlin is any shopper's haven.

美麗風光

柏林四處也是迷人的商店和繁榮的市集，是每位熱愛購物人士的天堂。