

Berlin

Berlin



Coat of arms

Flag





[Details](#)

Location within [European Union](#) and [Germany](#)



Coordinates

 [52°31′00″N 13°25′00″E](#) / [52.516667, 13.416667](#) **Coordinates:**  [52°31′00″N 13°25′00″E](#) / [52.516667, 13.416667](#)

Time zone

[CET/CEST \(UTC+1/+2\)](#)

Administration

Country

 [Germany](#)

NUTS Region

 [DE3](#)

City subdivisions

12 [boroughs](#)

Governing Mayor

[Klaus Wowereit \(SPD\)](#)

Governing parties

[SPD](#) / [Left](#)

Votes in Bundesrat

4 (of 69)

Basic statistics

Area	892 km² (344 sq mi)
Elevation	34 - 115m
Population	3,416,300 (12/2007)[1]
- Density	3,831 /km² (9,921 /sq mi)
- Urban	3,700,000
- Metro	5,000,000

Other information

GDP/ Nominal	€ 81.7 billion (2007)
Postal codes	10001–14199
Area codes	030
Licence plate code	B
ISO region	DE-BE
Website	berlin.de / 3D Berlin

Berlin is the [capital](#) city and one of sixteen [states](#) of [Germany](#). With a population of 3.4 million within its city limits, Berlin is the country's largest city. It is the second [most populous city](#) and the ninth [most populous urban area](#) in the [European Union](#).^[2] Located in northeastern Germany, it is the center of the Berlin-[Brandenburg metropolitan area](#), comprising 5 million people from over 190 nations.^[3]

First documented in the thirteenth century, Berlin was successively the capital of the [Kingdom of Prussia](#) (1701-1918), the [German Empire](#) (1871-1918), the [Weimar Republic](#) (1919-1933) and the [Third Reich](#) (1933-1945).^[4] After [World War II](#), the city was divided; [East Berlin](#) became the capital of [East Germany](#) while [West Berlin](#) became a [Western enclave](#), surrounded by the [Berlin Wall](#) from 1961-1989.^[5] Following [German reunification](#) in 1990, the city regained its status as the capital of all Germany.^[6]

Berlin is a major center of [culture](#), [politics](#), [media](#), and [science](#) in Europe.^{[7][8]} Its economy is primarily based on the service sector, encompassing a diverse range of [creative industries](#), media corporations, environmental services, congress and convention venues. The city serves as a continental hub for air and rail transport,^{[9][10]} and is the third most visited [tourist destination](#) in the EU.^[11] Other industries include [traffic engineering](#), [optoelectronics](#), [information technology](#), [vehicle manufacturing](#), [biomedical engineering](#), and [biotechnology](#).

The [metropolis](#) is home to world-renowned universities, research institutes, sporting events, orchestras, museums and personalities.^[12] Berlin's urban landscape and historical legacy has made it a popular setting for international film productions.^[13] The city is recognized for its festivals, diverse architecture, nightlife, contemporary arts and a high quality of living.^[14] Berlin has evolved into a global focal point for young individuals and artists attracted by a [liberal lifestyle](#) and modern [zeitgeist](#).^[15]

History



[Frederick the Great](#) was one of Europe's [enlightened monarchs](#).

The name *Berlin*, which is pronounced [/bɚˈlɪn/](#) in English and [/bɛʁˈliːn/](#) ([help](#)·[info](#)) in German, is of unknown origin, but may be related to the Old [Polabian](#) stem *berl-/birl-* "swamp".[\[16\]](#)

The earliest evidence of settlements in today's Berlin central areas is a wooden beam dated from approximately 1192.[\[17\]](#) The first written mention of towns in the area of present-day Berlin dates from the late twelfth century. The settlement of [Spandau](#) is first mentioned in 1197, and [Köpenick](#) in 1209, though these areas did not join Berlin until 1920.[\[18\]](#) The central part of Berlin can be traced back to two towns. [Cölln](#) at the [Fisher Island](#) is first mentioned in a 1237 document, and Berlin, across the Spree in what is now called the [Nikolaiviertel](#), is referenced in a document from 1244.[\[17\]](#) The former is considered to be the "founding date". From the beginning, the two cities formed an economic and [social unit](#). In 1307, the two cities were united politically. Over time, the twin cities came to be known simply as Berlin.

In 1435, [Frederick I](#) became the [elector](#) of the [Margraviate of Brandenburg](#), which he ruled until 1440.[\[19\]](#) His successor, [Frederick II](#), established Berlin as capital of the margraviate, and subsequent members of the [Hohenzollern](#) family ruled until 1918 in Berlin, first as electors of Brandenburg, then as kings of [Prussia](#), and finally as German emperors. In 1448 citizens rebelled in the "Berlin Indignation" against the construction of a new royal palace by Elector [Frederick II Irontooth](#). This protest was not successful, however, and the citizenry lost many of its political and economic privileges. In 1451 Berlin became the royal residence of the Brandenburg electors, and Berlin had to give up its status as a free [Hanseatic](#) city. In 1539, the electors and the city officially became [Lutheran](#).[\[20\]](#)

Seventeenth to nineteenth centuries



Berlin became the capital of the German Empire in 1871 after its proclamation in Versailles-France ([Bismarck](#) at the center in white).

The [Thirty Years' War](#) between 1618 and 1648 had devastating consequences for Berlin. A third of the houses were damaged and the city lost half of its population.^[21] [Frederick William](#), known as the “Great Elector”, who had succeeded his father [George William](#) as ruler in 1640, initiated a policy of promoting immigration and religious tolerance. With the [Edict of Potsdam](#) in 1685, Frederick William offered [asylum](#) to the French [Huguenots](#). More than 15,000 Huguenots went to Brandenburg, of whom 6,000 settled in Berlin. By 1700, approximately twenty percent of Berlin's residents were French, and their cultural influence on the city was immense. Many other immigrants came from [Bohemia](#), [Poland](#), and [Salzburg](#).

With the coronation of [Frederick I](#) in 1701 as king, Berlin became the capital of the [Kingdom of Prussia](#). In 1740 Frederick II, known as [Frederick the Great](#) (1740-1786) came to power. Berlin became, under the rule of the philosophically-oriented Frederick II, a center of [the Enlightenment](#). Following [France's](#) victory in the [War of the Fourth Coalition](#), [Napoleon Bonaparte](#) marched into Berlin in 1806, but granted self-government to the city. In 1815 the city became part of the new [Province of Brandenburg](#). The [Industrial Revolution](#) transformed Berlin during the nineteenth century; the city's economy and population expanded dramatically, and it became the main rail hub and economic center of Germany. Additional suburbs soon developed and increased the area and population of Berlin. In 1861, outlying suburbs including [Wedding](#), [Moabit](#), and several others were incorporated into Berlin. In 1871, Berlin became capital of the newly founded [German Empire](#). On 1 April 1881 it became a city district separate from Brandenburg.

Twentieth century



Berlin in ruins after [World War II](#) (Potsdamer Platz, 1945).

At the end of [World War I](#) in 1918, the [Weimar Republic](#) was proclaimed in Berlin. In 1920, the [Greater Berlin Act](#) united dozens of suburban cities, villages, and estates around Berlin into a greatly expanded city at the expense of Brandenburg. After this expansion, Berlin had a population of around four million.

On 30 January 1933 ([Machtergreifung](#)), [Adolf Hitler](#) and the [Nazi Party](#) came to power. Nazi rule destroyed Berlin's [Jewish](#) community, which had numbered 170,000 before 1933. After the [Kristallnacht pogrom](#) in 1938, thousands of the city's German Jews were imprisoned in the nearby [Sachsenhausen concentration camp](#) or, in early 1943, were shipped to death camps, such as [Auschwitz](#). During the war, large parts of Berlin were destroyed in [the 1943–45 air raids](#) and during the [Battle of Berlin](#). After the [end of the war in Europe](#) in 1945, Berlin received large numbers of refugees from the Eastern provinces. The victorious powers divided the city into four sectors, analogous to the [occupation zones](#) into which Germany was divided. The sectors of the Western Allies (the United States, the United Kingdom, and France) formed [West Berlin](#), while the [Soviet sector](#) formed [East Berlin](#).^[22]



The [Berlin Wall](#) in 1986, painted on the western side. People crossing the so-called "death strip" on the eastern side were at risk of being shot.

All four allies retained shared responsibility for Berlin. However, the growing political differences between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union led the latter, which controlled the territory surrounding Berlin, to impose the [Berlin Blockade](#), an economic blockade of West Berlin. The allies successfully overcame the Blockade by airlifting food and other supplies into the city from 24 June 1948 to 11 May 1949.^[23] In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany was founded in West Germany and consisted of the American, British and French zones, but excluded those three countries' zones of Berlin, while the [Marxist-Leninist](#) German Democratic Republic was proclaimed in East Germany. West Berlin remained a free city that was separate from the Federal Republic of Germany, and issued its own postage stamps. Airline service to West Berlin was granted only to American, British and French airlines.



The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

The founding of the two German states increased [Cold War](#) tensions. West Berlin was surrounded by East German territory. East Germany, however, proclaimed East Berlin (which it described only as "Berlin") as its capital, a move that was not recognized by the Western powers. Although half the size and population of West Berlin, it included most of the historic center of the city. The tensions between east and west culminated in the construction of the [Berlin Wall](#) between East and West Berlin and other barriers around West Berlin by East Germany on 13 August 1961 and were exacerbated by a tank standoff at [Checkpoint Charlie](#) on 27 October 1961. West Berlin was now [de facto](#) a part of West Germany with a unique legal status, while East Berlin was de facto a part of East Germany.

Berlin was completely separated. It was possible for Westerners to pass from one to the other only through strictly controlled checkpoints. For most Easterners, travel to West Berlin or West Germany was no longer possible. In 1971, a [Four-Power agreement](#) guaranteed access across East Germany to West Berlin and ended the potential for harassment or closure of the routes.^[24]

In 1989, pressure from the East German population brought a transition to a market-based economy in East Germany, and its citizens gained free access across the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989, which was subsequently mostly demolished. Not much is left of it today; the [East Side Gallery](#) in [Friedrichshain](#) near the [Oberbaumbrücke](#) over the [Spree](#) preserves a portion of the Wall.

On 3 October 1990 the two parts of Germany were [reunified](#) as the Federal Republic of Germany, and Berlin became the German capital according to the unification treaty. In June 1991 the German Parliament, the [Bundestag](#), voted to move the (West) German capital back from [Bonn](#) to Berlin. In 1999, the [German parliament](#) and government began their work in Berlin.

Geography



Natural and built environment.

Berlin is located in eastern Germany, about 70 kilometers (44 miles) west of the border with Poland in an area with marshy terrain. The Berlin-Warsaw *Urstromtal* (ancient river valley) between the low Barnim plateau to the north, and the Teltow plateau to the south was formed by water flowing from melting [ice sheets](#) at the end of the last [ice age](#). The [Spree](#) follows this valley now. In [Spandau](#), Berlin's westernmost borough, the Spree meets the river [Havel](#), which flows from north to south through western Berlin. The course of the Havel is more like a chain of lakes, the largest being the Tegeler See and [Großer Wannsee](#). A series of lakes also feeds into the upper Spree, which flows through the [Großer Müggelsee](#) in eastern Berlin.^[25]



View over central Berlin.

Substantial parts of present-day Berlin extend onto the low plateaus on both sides of the Spree Valley. Large parts of the boroughs [Reinickendorf](#) and [Pankow](#) lie on the Barnim plateau, while most of the boroughs [Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf](#), [Steglitz-Zehlendorf](#), [Tempelhof-Schöneberg](#), and [Neukölln](#) lie on the Teltow plateau. The borough of Spandau lies partly within the Berlin *Urstromtal* and partly on the Nauen Plain, which stretches to the west of Berlin. The highest elevations in Berlin are the [Teufelsberg](#) and the [Müggelberge](#). Both hills have an elevation of about 115 meters (377 ft). The Teufelsberg is in fact an artificial pile of rubble from the ruins of World War II.

Climate



The hinterland of Berlin is covered with plain woodlands and numerous lakes (Havel river).

Berlin has a [temperate/mesothermal climate](#) (Cfb) according to the [Köppen climate classification](#) system. The mean annual temperature for Berlin-Dahlem (a location within [Steglitz-Zehlendorf](#)) is 9.4°C (48.9°F) and its mean annual precipitation totals 578 millimeters (22.8 inches). The warmest months are June, July, and August, with mean temperatures of 16.7 to 17.9 °C (62.1 to 64.2 °F). The coldest are December, January, and February, with mean temperatures of −0.4 to 1.2 °C (31.3 to 34.2 °F).^[26] Berlin's built-up area creates a [microclimate](#), with heat stored by the city's buildings. Temperatures can be 4 °C (7.2 °F) higher in the city than in the surrounding areas.

[\[hide\]](#)  **Weather averages for Berlin** 

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C (°F)	3 (37)	4 (39)	9 (48)	13 (55)	19 (66)	22 (72)	24 (75)	24 (75)	19 (66)	13 (55)	7 (45)	4 (39)
Average low °C (°F)	-2 (28)	-2 (28)	-1 (30)	4 (39)	9 (48)	12 (54)	14 (57)	14 (57)	11 (52)	6 (43)	2 (36)	0 (32)
Precipitation (inches)	42 (1.65)	33 (1.3)	41 (1.61)	37 (1.46)	54 (2.13)	69 (2.72)	56 (2.2)	58 (2.28)	45 (1.77)	37 (1.46)	44 (1.73)	55 (2.17)

Source: *worldweather.org* 2007-07-26

Cityscape



Berlin along the Spree river and the [TV tower](#) by night.

The city's appearance today is predominantly shaped by the key role it played in Germany's history in the twentieth century. Each of the national governments based in Berlin — the 1871 [German Empire](#), the [Weimar Republic](#), [Nazi Germany](#), [East Germany](#), and now the reunified [Germany](#) — initiated ambitious construction programs, each with its own distinctive character. Berlin was devastated by bombing raids during World War II and many of the old buildings that escaped the bombs were eradicated in the 1950s and 1960s in both West and East. Much of this destruction was initiated by municipal architecture programs to build new residential or business quarters and main roads.

In the eastern part, many [Plattenbauten](#) can be found, reminders of [Eastern Bloc](#) ambitions to create complete residential areas with fixed ratios of shops, kindergartens and schools. The design of little red and green men on pedestrian crossing lights, the [Ampelmännchen](#), are also rather spread in Eastern parts. Berlin's unique recent history has left the city with a highly eclectic array of architecture and buildings.

Architecture



"Haus des Lehrers" and Congress Hall at Alexanderplatz.

The [Fernsehturm](#) (TV tower) at [Alexanderplatz](#) in Mitte is the second highest building in the European Union at 368 meters (1,207 ft). Built in 1969, it is visible throughout most of the central districts of Berlin. The city can be viewed from its 204 meter (669 ft) high observation floor. Starting here the [Karl-Marx-Allee](#) heads east, an avenue lined by monumental residential buildings, designed in the Socialist Classicism Style of the [Stalin](#) era. Adjacent to this area is the [Rotes Rathaus](#) (City Hall), with its distinctive red-brick architecture. The previously built-up part in front of it is the [Neptunbrunnen](#), a fountain featuring a mythological scene.

The [East Side Gallery](#) is an open-air exhibition of art painted directly on the last existing portions of the Berlin Wall. It is the largest remaining evidence of the city's historical division. It has recently undergone a restoration.



The [Brandenburg Gate](#).

The [Brandenburg Gate](#) is an iconic landmark of Berlin and Germany. It also appears on German [euro](#) coins (10 cent, 20 cent, and 50 cent). The [Reichstag building](#) is the traditional seat of the German [Parliament](#), renovated in the 1950s after severe World War II damage. The building was again remodeled by British architect [Norman Foster](#) in the 1990s and features a glass dome over the session area, which allows free public access to the parliamentary proceedings and magnificent views of the city.

The [Gendarmenmarkt](#), a [neoclassical](#) square in Berlin whose name dates back to the Napoleonic occupation of the city, is bordered by two similarly designed cathedrals, the [French Cathedral](#) with its observation platform and the German Cathedral. The Konzerthaus (Concert Hall), home of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, stands between the two cathedrals.



[Potsdamer Platz](#) at dusk.

The [Berliner Dom](#), a Protestant cathedral and the third church on this site, is located on the [Spree Island](#) across from the site of the [Berliner Stadtschloss](#) and adjacent to the [Lustgarten](#). A large crypt houses the remains of some of the earlier [Prussian](#) royal family. Like many other buildings, it suffered extensive damage during the Second World War. The [Cathedral of St. Hedwig](#) is Berlin's [Roman Catholic](#) cathedral.

[Unter den Linden](#) is a tree lined east-west avenue from the Brandenburg Gate to the site of the former [Berliner Stadtschloss](#), and was once Berlin's premier promenade. Many Classical buildings line the street and part of [Humboldt University](#) is located there. [Friedrichstraße](#) was Berlin's legendary street during the [Roaring Twenties](#). It combines twentieth century traditions with the modern architecture of today's Berlin.



The glass dome adorning the roof of the Reichstag.

[Potsdamer Platz](#) is an entire quarter built from scratch after 1995 and was not rebuilt as it was divided by the Wall.[27] To the west of Potsdamer Platz is the Kulturforum, which houses the [Gemäldegalerie](#), and is flanked by the [Neue Nationalgalerie](#) and the [Philharmonic](#). The [Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe](#), a [Holocaust](#) memorial, is situated to the north.[28]

The area around Hackescher Markt is home to the fashionable culture, with countless clothing outlets, clubs, bars, and galleries. This includes the Hackesche Höfe, a conglomeration of buildings around several courtyards, reconstructed around 1996. Oranienburger Straße and the nearby [New Synagogue](#) were the center of Jewish culture before 1933, and regains being it today.

The [Straße des 17. Juni](#), connecting the Brandenburg Gate and Ernst-Reuter-Platz, serves as central East-West-Axis. Its name commemorates the uprisings in East Berlin of 17 June 1953. Approximately half-way from the Brandenburg Gate is the Großer Stern, a circular traffic island on which the [Siegessäule](#) (Victory Column) is situated. This monument, built to commemorate Prussia's victories, was relocated 1938–39 from its previous position in front of the Reichstag. The site is annually used as the center stage for the [Love Parade](#).



[Schloss Charlottenburg](#) is the largest existing palace in Berlin.

The [Kurfürstendamm](#) is home to some of Berlin's luxurious stores with the [Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church](#) at its eastern end on [Breitscheidplatz](#). The church was destroyed in the Second World War and

left in ruins. Near by on Tauentzienstraße is [KaDeWe](#), claimed to be continental Europe's largest department store. The [Rathaus Schöneberg](#), where [John F. Kennedy](#) made his famous "[Ich bin ein Berliner!](#)" speech, is situated in [Tempelhof-Schöneberg](#).

West of the center, [Schloss Bellevue](#) is the residence of the German President. [Schloss Charlottenburg](#), which was burnt out in the Second World War and largely destroyed, has been rebuilt and is the largest surviving historical palace in Berlin.

The [Funkturn Berlin](#) is a 150 meter (492 ft) tall lattice radio tower at the fair area, built between 1924 and 1926. It is the only observation tower, which stands on insulators, and has a restaurant 55 meters (180 ft) and an observation deck 126 meters (413 ft) above ground, which is reachable by an elevator.

As the Berliner Funkturn is an open lattice structure, its elevator has windows.

Government



The [Reichstag building](#) is the site of the German parliament.

Berlin is the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany and is the seat of the [President of Germany](#), whose official residence is [Schloss Bellevue](#).^[29] Since German reunification on 3 October 1990, it has been one of the three [city states](#), together with [Hamburg](#) and [Bremen](#), among the present sixteen [states of Germany](#). The [Bundesrat](#) ("federal council") is the representation of the Federal States (*Bundesländer*) of Germany and has its seat at the former Prussian [Herrenhaus](#) (House of Lords). Though most of the ministries are seated in Berlin, some of them, as well as some minor departments, are seated in [Bonn](#), the former capital of West Germany. The [European Union](#) invests in several projects within the city of Berlin. Infrastructure, education and social programs are co-financed with budgets taken from EU cohesion funds.^[30]

City state



Governing Mayor since 2001, [Klaus Wowereit](#)

The city and state parliament is the House of Representatives (*Abgeordnetenhaus*), which currently has 141 seats. Berlin's [executive](#) body is the Senate of Berlin (*Senat von Berlin*). The Senate of Berlin consists of the [Governing Mayor](#) (*Regierender Bürgermeister*) and up to eight senators holding ministerial positions, one of them holding the official title "Mayor" (*Bürgermeister*) as deputy to the Governing Mayor. The [Social Democratic Party](#) (SPD) and [The Left](#) (Die Linke) took control of the city government after the [2001 state election](#) and won another term in the [2006 state election](#).[\[31\]](#)

The Governing Mayor is simultaneously Lord Mayor of the city (*Oberbürgermeister der Stadt*) and Prime Minister of the Federal State (*Ministerpräsident des Bundeslandes*). The office of Berlin's Governing Mayor is in the [Rotes Rathaus](#) (Red City Hall). Since 2001 this office has been held by [Klaus Wowereit](#) of the SPD.[\[32\]](#) The city's government is based on a coalition between the Social Democratic Party and The Left.

The total annual state budget of Berlin in 2007 exceeded €20.5 (\$28.7) billion including a budget surplus of €80 (\$112) million. The figures indicate the first surplus in the history of the city state.[\[33\]](#) Due to increasing growth rates and tax revenues, the Senate of Berlin calculates an increasing budget surplus in 2008 and 2009. The total budget includes an estimated amount of €5.5 (\$7.7) bn, which is directly financed by either the German government or the German Bundesländer.[\[34\]](#) Mainly due to reunification-related expenditures, Berlin as a German state has accumulated more debt than any other city in Germany, with the most current estimate being €60 (\$84)bn in December 2007.[\[35\]](#)

Boroughs



Map of Berlin's twelve boroughs and their localities.

Berlin is subdivided into [twelve boroughs](#) (*Bezirke*), but before [Berlin's 2001 administrative reform](#) there were 23. Each borough is subdivided into a number of localities (*Ortsteile*), which represent the traditional [urbanized](#) areas that inhabitants identify with. Some of these have been rearranged several times over the years. At present the city of Berlin consists of 95 such localities. The localities often consist of a number of city neighborhoods (usually called [Kiez](#) in the Berlin dialect) representing small residential areas.

Each borough is governed by a Borough Council (*Bezirksamt*) consisting of five Councilors (*Bezirksstadträte*) and a Borough Mayor (*Bezirksbürgermeister*). The Borough Council is elected by the Borough Assembly (*Bezirksverordnetenversammlung*). The boroughs of Berlin are not independent municipalities. The power of borough governments is limited and subordinate to the Senate of Berlin. The borough mayors form the Council of Mayors (*Rat der Bürgermeister*), led by the city's Governing Mayor, which advises the Senate.

The localities have no government bodies of their own, even though most of the localities have historic roots in older municipalities that predate the formation of Greater Berlin on 1 October 1920. The subsequent position of locality representative (*Ortsvorsteher*) was discontinued in favor of borough

mayors.

Sister cities

Berlin maintains official partnerships with 17 cities.^[36] [Town twinning](#) between Berlin and other cities began with Los Angeles in 1967. East Berlin's partnerships were canceled at the time of German reunification and later partially reestablished. West Berlin's partnerships had previously been restricted to the borough level. During the Cold War era, the partnerships had reflected the different power blocs, with West Berlin partnering with capitals in the West, and East Berlin mostly partnering with cities from the [Warsaw Pact](#) and its allies.

There are several joint projects with many other cities, such as [Copenhagen](#), [Helsinki](#), [Johannesburg](#), [Shanghai](#), [Seoul](#), [Sofia](#), [Sydney](#), and [Vienna](#). Berlin participates in international city associations such as the Union of the Capitals of the European Union, Eurocities, Network of European Cities of Culture, Metropolis, Summit Conference of the World's Major Cities, Conference of the World's Capital Cities.

- 1967  [Los Angeles, United States.](#)
- 1987  [Paris, France.](#)
- 1988  [Madrid, Spain.](#)
- 1989  [Istanbul, Turkey.](#)
- 1990  [Moscow, Russia.](#)
- 1991  [Warsaw, Poland.](#)
- 1991  [Budapest, Hungary.](#)
- 1992  [Brussels, Belgium.](#)
- 1993  [Jakarta, Indonesia.](#)
- 1993  [Tashkent, Uzbekistan.](#)
- 1993  [Mexico City, Mexico.](#)
- 1994  [Beijing, China.](#)
- 1994  [Tokyo, Japan.](#)
- 1994  [Buenos Aires, Argentina.](#)
- 1995  [Prague, Czech Republic.](#)
- 2000  [Windhoek, Namibia.](#)
- 2000  [London, United Kingdom.](#)

Demographics

See also: [Berlin population statistics](#)



Berlin's population 1880-2007.

As of December 2007, the city state Berlin numbered 3,416,300 (12,000 increase compared to 2006) registered inhabitants in an area of 891.82 km² (344.31 sq mi).^[37] The population density amounts to 3,831 inhabitants per km² (9,921/sq mi). The [urban area](#) of Berlin stretches beyond the city limits and comprises about 3.7 million people while the metropolitan area of the Berlin-Brandenburg region is home to about 4.3 million in an area of 5,370 square kilometers (2,073 sq mi). The [Larger Urban Zone](#) comprised about 4.97 million people in an area of 17,385 km² in the year 2004.^[38]



Crowd in [Kreuzberg](#)

National and international migration into the city has a long history since the [Edict of Potsdam](#) in 1685. The Edict guaranteed religious freedom and a tax-free status to French Huguenots for ten years. The [Greater Berlin Act](#) in 1920 incorporated many suburbs and surrounding cities of Berlin. It formed most of the territory that comprises modern Berlin. The act increased the area of Berlin from 66 square kilometers (25.5 square miles) to 883 square kilometers (341 sq mi) and the population from 1.9 million to 4 million. Active immigration and asylum politics in West Berlin have initiated waves of immigrants in the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1990s the *Aussiedlergesetze* made immigration from the former [Soviet Union](#) possible. The current decade experiences an increasing influx from various Western countries. Especially young EU-Europeans are settling in the city.

473,117 (14.0%) residents were of foreign nationality in June 2008, coming from 195 different sovereign states.^[39] Another 394,000 (11,7%) citizens are descendants of international migrants and have either become naturalized German citizens or obtained citizenship by virtue of birth in Germany.^[40] The largest groups by foreign nationality are citizens from Turkey (113,779), Poland (44,400), Serbia (23,370), Russia (14,615), Italy (14,446), United States (13,761), France (12,611), Vietnam (12,165), Croatia (11,029), Bosnia and Herzegovina (10,576), UK (9,797), Greece (9,749), Austria (8,813), Ukraine (8,709), Lebanon (7,691), Spain (6,637), the People's Republic of China (6,013), Bulgaria (6,621), Thailand (5,878).

Religion



60% of Berlin's population has no religious affiliation. The largest church in the city is the [Berliner Dom](#).

The majority of Berlin inhabitants have no registered religious affiliation. The largest groupings are [no religion](#) 60%, Protestant (mostly belonging to the [Evangelical Church in Germany](#)) 23% (757,000), [Roman Catholic](#) 9% (312,000), 2.7% other Christian Churches, [Muslim](#) 6% (213,000), [Jewish](#) 0.4% (12,000).^[41]

Berlin is seat of the Roman Catholic bishop ([Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Berlin](#)) and of the Protestant bishop ([Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia](#)). The [Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church](#) (former name: [Old Lutherans](#)) has eight parishes of different sizes in Berlin.^[42]

There are 36 [Baptist](#) congregations, 29 [New Apostolic Churches](#), 15 [United Methodist](#) churches, eight Free Evangelical Congregations, an [Old Catholic](#) church, and an [Anglican](#) church existing in the city. [\[43\]](#) Berlin has eleven [synagogues](#), two [Buddhist](#) temples, and 76 [mosques](#). There are also a lot of [humanist](#) and [atheist](#) groups in Berlin.

Economy

Main article: [Economy of Berlin](#)







The economy of the city is mainly based on the service sector. The ICC and the Funkturm are part of the city's exhibition and congress center.

In 2007, the nominal [GDP](#) of the citystate Berlin experienced a growth rate of 1.8% (2.5% in Germany) and totaled €81.7 (\$114) billion.[\[44\]](#) During the last decade Berlin has experienced significant changes towards a service orientated economy. Reunification related assimilation lead to stagnant nominal GDP growth and high unemployment rates until 2005. Since then the unemployment rate steadily decreased and reached a 13 year-low with 13.3% in September 2008 (German average: 7.4%/September/2008).[\[45\]](#)

Among the [Forbes Global 2000](#) and the 30 German [DAX](#) companies, [Siemens](#) and [Deutsche Bahn](#) control headquarters in Berlin. A multitude of German and international companies established secondary departments or service offices in the city. Among the 20 largest employers in Berlin are the railway company Deutsche Bahn AG, the hospital company Charité, the local public transport company BVG, the service provider Dussmann and the Piepenbrock Group. [Daimler](#) manufactures cars, and [BMW](#) builds [motorcycles](#) in Berlin. BayerSchering Pharma and Berlin Chemie are major pharmaceutical companies headquartered in the city.

Fast-growing sectors are communications, life sciences, mobility and services with information and communication technologies, media and music, advertising and design, biotechnology and environmental services, transportation and medical engineering.[\[46\]](#) The Science and Business Park of Berlin-Adlershof is among the 15 largest technology parks worldwide. Research and development have established economic significance, and the Berlin Brandenburg region ranks among the top three innovative regions in the EU.[\[8\]](#)[\[41\]](#) Berlin is among the top three congress cities in the world and is home to Europe's biggest convention center in the form of the Internationales Congress Centrum (ICC).[\[9\]](#) It contributes to the rapidly increasing tourism sector encompassing 592 hotels with 90,700 beds and numbered 17.3 million overnight stays and 7.5 million hotel guests in 2007. Berlin has established itself as the third most-visited city destination in the European Union.[\[11\]](#)

2005 EUROSTAT [47]	Area	Population	Nominal in billion	GDP Nominal per capita	GDP
 Berlin	892 km ² 344 sq mi	3,400,000	€ 79 / ~\$111	€ 23,292 /~\$32,609	/

 Brandenburg	29,478 km ²	11,382 sq mi	2,550,000	€ 48 / ~\$67	€ 18,781 / ~\$26,294	/
 Germany	357,050 km ²	137,858 sq mi	82,000,000	€ 2,245 / ~\$3,143	€ 27,219 / ~\$38,107	/
 EU27	4,325,675 km ²	1,670,152 sq mi	494,000,000	€ 11,019 / ~\$15,426	€ 22,400 / ~\$31,360	/

[[edit](#)] Education

See also: [Universities, colleges, and research institutions in Berlin](#) and [Education in Germany](#)



Statue of [Alexander von Humboldt](#) outside the [Humboldt University](#)

The Berlin-Brandenburg capital region is one of the most prolific centers of higher education and research in the European Union. The city has four universities and numerous private, professional and technical colleges ([Fachhochschulen](#)), offering students a wide range of disciplines.[\[48\]](#) Around 130,000 students attend the universities and professional or technical colleges.[\[37\]](#) The three largest universities account for around 100,000 students. These are the [Freie Universität Berlin](#) (Free University of Berlin) with around 35,000 students, the [Humboldt Universität zu Berlin](#) with 35,000 students, and the [Technische Universität Berlin](#) with 30,000 students. The [Universität der Künste](#) has about 4,300 students.

The city has a high concentration of research institutions, such as the [Fraunhofer Society](#) and the [Max Planck Society](#), which are independent of, or only loosely connected to its universities. A total number of 62,000 scientists are working in [research and development](#).[\[41\]](#)

In addition to the libraries affiliated with the various universities, the [Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin](#) is a major research library. It has two main locations: one near [Potsdamer Platz](#) on Potsdamer Straße and one on [Unter den Linden](#). There are 108 public libraries to be found in the city.[\[41\]](#)



Canisius-Kolleg Berlin

Berlin has 878 schools teaching 340,658 children in 13,727 classes and 56,787 trainees in businesses and elsewhere.[41] The city has a six-year primary education program. After completing primary school, students progress to one of the four types of secondary schools for six further years: [Hauptschule](#), [Realschule](#), [Gymnasium](#), or Gesamtschule. Berlin has a unique bilingual school program embedded in the "Europaschule". At these schools children get taught the curriculum in German and a foreign language, starting in grammar school and later in secondary school. Throughout nearly all boroughs, a range of 9 major European languages in 29 schools can be chosen.[49]

The [Französisches Gymnasium Berlin](#) which was founded in 1689 for the benefit of [Huguenot](#) refugees, offers (German/French) instruction.[50] The [John F. Kennedy School](#), a bilingual German-American public school located in [Zehlendorf](#), is particularly popular with children of Diplomats and the expat community. There are also four schools ("Humanistische Gymnasien") teaching [Latin](#) and [Classical Greek](#), which are traditionally renowned for highest academic standards. Two of them are state schools (Steglitzer Gymnasium in [Steglitz](#) and Goethe-Gymnasium in [Wilmerdorf](#)), one is Protestant ([Evangelisches Gymnasium zum Grauen Kloster](#) in Wilmerdorf) and one Jesuit ([Canisius-Kolleg](#) in the "Embassy Quarter" in [Tiergarten](#)).

Culture



The [Museum Island](#) is a World Heritage Site.

Berlin is noted for its numerous cultural institutions, many of which enjoy international reputation.[12] [51] The diversity and vivacity of the *Zeitgeist Metropolis* led to an ever-changing and trendsetting image among major cities.[52] The city has a very diverse art scene, and is home to around 420 art galleries.[53] Young Germans and international artists continue to settle in the city, and Berlin has established itself as a center of [youth](#) and [popular culture](#) in Europe.[54]

Signs of this expanding role was the 2003 announcement that the annual Popkomm, Europe's largest music industry convention, would move to Berlin after 15 years in [Cologne](#). [55] Shortly thereafter, the [Universal Music Group](#) and [MTV](#) also decided to move their European headquarters and main studios to the banks of the River Spree in [Friedrichshain](#). [56] Since 2005, Berlin has been listed as a [UNESCO](#) City of Design. [10]

Media



The prestigious [Berlin Film Festival](#) is annually held in February. It is considered the largest publicly-attended film festival worldwide.

Berlin is the home of many television and radio stations; international, national as well as regional.^[57] The public broadcaster [RBB](#) has its headquarters there as well as the commercial broadcasters [MTV Europe](#), [VIVA](#), [TVB](#), [FAB](#), [N24](#) and [Sat.1](#). German international public broadcaster [Deutsche Welle](#) has its TV production unit in Berlin. Additionally, most national broadcasters have a studio in the city.

Berlin has Germany's largest number of daily newspapers, with numerous local [broadsheets](#) ([Berliner Zeitung](#), [Der Tagesspiegel](#)), and three major [tabloids](#), as well as national dailies of varying sizes, each with a different political affiliation, such as [Die Welt](#), [Junge Welt](#), [Neues Deutschland](#), and [Die Tageszeitung](#). The [Exberliner](#), a monthly magazine, is Berlin's English-language periodical focusing on arts and entertainment. Berlin is also the headquarters of two major German-language [publishing houses](#): [Walter de Gruyter](#) and [Springer](#), each of which publishes books, periodicals, and multimedia products.

Berlin is an important center in the European and [German film industry](#).^[58] It is home to more than one thousand film and television production companies, 270 movie theaters, and around 300 national and international co-productions are filmed in the region every year.^[41] The venerable [Babelsberg Studios](#) and the production company [UFA](#) are located outside Berlin in [Potsdam](#). The city is also home of the [European Film Academy](#) and the German Film Academy, and hosts the annual [Berlin Film Festival](#). Founded in 1951, the festival has been celebrated annually in February since 1978. With over 430,000 admissions it is the largest publicly-attended film festival in the world.^[59]

Nightlife, festivals



Karneval der Kulturen.

Berlin has one of the most diverse and vibrant nightlife scenes in Europe.^[60] Throughout the 1990s, twentysomethings from surrounding countries, particularly those in Eastern and Central Europe, made

Berlin's club scene the premier nightlife destination of Europe. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, many buildings in [Mitte](#), the former city center of East Berlin, were renovated. Many had not been rebuilt since the Second World War. Illegally occupied by young people, they became a fertile ground for all sorts of [underground](#) and [counter-culture](#) gatherings. It is also home to many nightclubs, including [Kunst Haus Tacheles](#), [techno](#) clubs [Tresor](#), WMF, Ufo, [E-Werk](#), the infamous [Kitkatclub](#) and [Berghain](#). The Linientreu, near the [Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church](#), has been well known since the 1990s for techno music. The LaBelle discothèque in [Friedenau](#) became famous as the location of the [1986 Berlin discotheque bombing](#).[\[61\]](#)



The city is a center for nightlife and DJ-culture in Europe.

SO36 in Kreuzberg originally focused largely on [punk music](#) but today has become a popular venue for dances and parties of all kinds. SOUND, located from 1971 to 1988 in Tiergarten and today in Charlottenburg, gained notoriety in the late 1970s for its popularity with heroin users and other drug addicts as described in [Christiane F.](#)'s book *Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo*.[\[62\]](#)

The Karneval der Kulturen, a multi-ethnic street parade celebrated every [Pentecost](#) weekend,[\[63\]](#) and the [Christopher Street Day](#), which is Central Europe's largest gay-lesbian pride event and is celebrated the last weekend of June, are openly supported by the city's government.[\[64\]](#) Berlin is also well known for the techno carnival [Love Parade](#), [club transmediale](#) and the cultural festival [Berliner Festspiele](#), which include the jazz festival [JazzFest Berlin](#). Several technology and media art festivals and conferences are held in the city, including [Transmediale](#) and [Chaos Communication Congress](#).

Museums, galleries



The [Jewish Museum](#) presents a standing exhibition on 2,000 years of [German-Jewish history](#).

Berlin is home to 153 museums.[\[41\]](#) The ensemble on the [Museum Island](#) is a UNESCO [World Heritage Site](#) and is situated in the northern part of the Spree Island between the Spree and the Kupfergraben.[\[12\]](#) As early as 1841 it was designated a “district dedicated to art and antiquities” by a royal decree. Subsequently, the [Altes Museum](#) (Old Museum) in the Lustgarten displaying the bust of

[Queen Nefertiti](#),^[65] and the [Neues Museum](#) (New Museum), [Alte Nationalgalerie](#) (Old National Gallery), [Pergamon Museum](#), and [Bode Museum](#) were built there. While these buildings once housed distinct collections, the names of the buildings no longer necessarily correspond to the names of the collections they house.

Apart from the Museum Island, there is a wide variety of museums. The [Gemäldegalerie](#) (Painting Gallery) focuses on the paintings of the "old masters" from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries, while the [Neue Nationalgalerie](#) (New National Gallery, built by [Ludwig Mies van der Rohe](#)) specializes in twentieth century European painting. The [Hamburger Bahnhof](#), located in [Moabit](#), exhibits a major collection of modern and contemporary art. In spring 2006, the expanded [Deutsches Historisches Museum](#) re-opened in the Zeughaus with an overview of German history through the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The [Bauhaus-Archive](#) is an architecture museum.



The reconstructed [Ishtar Gate](#) of Babylon at the [Pergamon Museum](#).

The [Jewish Museum](#) has a standing exhibition on 2,000 years of German-Jewish history.^[66] The [German Museum of Technology](#) in [Kreuzberg](#) has a large collection of historical technical artifacts. The [Museum für Naturkunde](#) exhibits natural history near [Berlin Hauptbahnhof](#). It has the largest mounted dinosaur in the world (a [brachiosaurus](#)), and a preserved specimen of the early bird [Archaeopteryx](#).^[67]

In [Dahlem](#), there are several museums of world art and culture, such as the [Museum of Indian Art](#), the Museum of East Asian Art, the Ethnological Museum, the Museum of European Cultures, as well as the Allied Museum (a museum of the Cold War), the Brücke Museum (an art museum). In [Lichtenberg](#), on the grounds of the former East German Ministry for State Security (*Stasi*), is the Stasi Museum. The site of [Checkpoint Charlie](#), one of the renowned crossing points of the Berlin Wall, is still preserved and also has a museum. The museum, which is a private venture, exhibits a comprehensive array of material about people who devised ingenious plans to flee the East. The [Beate Uhse Erotic Museum](#) near [Zoo Station](#) claims to be the world's largest [erotic museum](#).^[68]

Performing arts



The Berliner Philharmonie is home to the renowned [Berlin Philharmonic](#).

Berlin is home to more than 50 theaters.[41] The [Deutsches Theater](#) in Mitte was built in 1849–50 and has operated continuously since then, except for a one-year break (1944–45) due to the Second World War. The [Volksbühne](#) on Rosa Luxemburg Platz was built in 1913–14, though the company had been founded already in 1890. The [Berliner Ensemble](#), famous for performing the works of [Bertolt Brecht](#), was established in 1949, not far from the Deutsches Theater. The [Schaubühne](#) was founded in 1962 in a building in Kreuzberg, but moved in 1981 to the building of the former Universum Cinema on [Kurfürstendamm](#).



German Cathedral and Concert Hall at the Gendarmenmarkt.

Berlin has three major [opera houses](#): the [Deutsche Oper](#), the [Berlin State Opera](#), and the [Komische Oper](#). The Berlin State Opera on [Unter den Linden](#) is the oldest; it opened in 1742. Its current musical director is [Daniel Barenboim](#). The Komische Oper has traditionally specialized in [operettas](#) and is located at Unter den Linden as well. The Deutsche Oper opened in 1912 in Charlottenburg. During the division of the city from 1961 to 1989 it was the only major opera house in West Berlin.

There are seven [symphony orchestras](#) in Berlin. The [Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra](#) is one of the preeminent orchestras in the world;[69] it is housed in the [Berliner Philharmonie](#) near [Potsdamer Platz](#) on a street named for the orchestra's longest-serving conductor, [Herbert von Karajan](#). [70] The current principal conductor is [Simon Rattle](#). [71] The [Konzerthausorchester Berlin](#) was founded in 1952 as the orchestra for East Berlin, since the Philharmonic was based in West Berlin. Its current principal conductor is [Lothar Zagrosek](#). The [Haus der Kulturen der Welt](#) presents various exhibitions dealing with intercultural issues and stages world music and conferences. [72]

[edit] Recreation



The [Zoologischer Garten Berlin](#) is the most visited zoo in Europe and presents the most diverse range of species in the world.

[Zoologischer Garten Berlin](#), the older of two zoos in the city, was founded in 1844, and presents the most diverse range of species in the world. [73] It is the home of the captive-born celebrity polar bear [Knut](#), [74] born in December 2006. [75] Tierpark Friedrichsfelde, founded in 1955 in the grounds of Schloss Friedrichsfelde in the Borough of [Lichtenberg](#), is Europe's largest zoo in terms of square meters.

[Berlin's Botanischer Garten](#) includes the Botanic Museum Berlin. With an area of 43 hectares

(106 acres) and around 22,000 different plant species it is one of the largest and most diverse gardens in the world.



Cafés are part of the city's bohemian and [hipster](#) lifestyle.

The [Tiergarten](#) is Berlin's largest park located in [Mitte](#) and was designed by [Peter Joseph Lenné](#).^[76] In [Kreuzberg](#) the [Viktoriapark](#) provides a good viewing point over the southern part of inner city Berlin. [Treptower Park](#) beside the Spree in [Treptow](#) has a [monument](#) honoring the Soviet soldiers killed in the 1945 [Battle of Berlin](#). The Volkspark in [Friedrichshain](#), which opened in 1848, is the oldest park in the city. Its summit is man-made and covers a Second World War bunker and rubble from the ruins of the city; at its foot is Germany's main [memorial to Polish soldiers](#).

Berlin is known for its numerous beach bars along the river Spree. Together with the countless cafés, restaurants and green spaces in all districts, they create an important source of recreation and leisure time.^[77]

Sports



The [Olympiastadion](#) hosted the 1936 Summer Olympics and the 2006 FIFA World Cup final.



The annual [Berlin Marathon](#) is known as a flat and fast course.

Berlin has established a high profile reputation as a host city of international sporting events.^[78] Berlin hosted the [1936 Olympics](#) and was the host city for the [2006 FIFA World Cup Final](#).^[79] The [IAAF World Championships in Athletics](#) will be held in the [Olympiastadion](#) in 2009.^[80] The annual [Berlin Marathon](#) and the annual [ÄF Golden League](#) event [ISTAF](#) for athletics are also held here.^[81] The [WTA Tour](#) holds the [Qatar Total German Open](#) annually in the city. Founded in 1896, it is one of the oldest tennis tournaments for women. The [FIVB](#) World Tour has chosen an inner-city site near

[Alexanderplatz](#) to present a [beach volleyball](#) Grand Slam every year.

Open Air gatherings of several hundred thousands spectators have become popular during international football competitions like the World Cup or the [UEFA European Football Championship](#). Fans of the respective national football squads are coming together to watch the match on huge videoscreens. The event is known as the *Fan Mile* and takes place at the Brandenburg Gate every two years.[\[82\]](#)

Several major clubs representing the most popular spectator sports in Germany have their base in Berlin.

Club	Sport	Founded	League	Venue	Head Coach
Hertha Berlin ^{BSC} [83]	Football	1892	Bundesliga	Olympiastadion	Lucien Favre
ALBA Berlin [84]	Basketball	1991	BBL	O₂ World	Luka Pavicevic
Eisbären Berlin [85]	Ice hockey	1954	DEL	O₂ World	Don Jackson
Füchse Berlin [86]	Handball	1891	Bundesliga	Max-Schmeling-Halle	Jörn Uwe Lommel
SCC Berlin [87]	Volleyball	1911	DVB	Sporthalle Charlottenburg	Michael Warm