

An Insider's Guide

by Design Hotels

We Are Berlin

We Are Here



Arena* 2023



Welcome to Berlin! The sprawling metropolis bursting with life that Design Hotels calls home. We're glad you came—there has never been a better time to visit, nor celebrate, than the marking of our 30th birthday and we're entering our thirties with a bang! We simply couldn't without you.

Berlin—a city of artists, brutalist architecture, history, music, and food—is one of the most interesting cultural centers in Europe. Each neighborhood 'kiez' is full of enough distinct character to exist as a city in its own right. Yet what truly makes Berlin shine is the creative minds that inhabit it: from chefs and musicians to dancers, artists, designers, curators, and more.

Our most memorable trips are the ones with tips from those in-the-know. So we collaborated with some of our Berlin-based Arena* contributors, in tandem with our Design Hotels team, to curate an insider's guide on where to go while you're in town.

01 Unité d'Habitation of Berlin |
photo by Tasya Kudryk

Jaja
Run by some of the nicest people in this industry, this is a casual, but extremely tasty restaurant with a very special wine list.

Sgaminegg
Dont expect a hip third wave coffee shop, but its my favorite down-to-earth neighborhood coffee place, they serve great leberkäs bun as well.

Bar 3
Our friends and neighbors from our second restaurant Trio. Best Kölsch in town.

Rocketwine
One of our suppliers—stop by to shop a bottle or have a glass or two.

Several years before opening his debut restaurant, chef Vadim Otto Ursus began exploring how to bring the countryside of Brandenburg to the tables of Berlin. Since opening the doors to otto, his self-foraged, fermented, and invariably local dishes bold in flavor have pushed Berlin’s food scene into the future.



01 A private dinner for friends in Vadim’s test kitchen | photo by Paul Sonntag

02 Vadim Otto Ursus | photo by Paul Sonntag



01 Chelsea Turowsky |
photo by Gabrielė Mišeikytė

02 photo by Lisa Nguyen



Suggestions from our Tastemakers

Chelsea Turowsky

When gastronomic artist and writer Chelsea Turowsky has a day off from conceiving her sensorial dining events, her intention when visiting a space is to be transported for just a few hours to another time, country, or color. The following venues she loves most in Berlin do just that.

Shizuku

One of the more poetic experiences in Berlin. Shizuku is an oasis hidden on Hasenheide. Everything feels personal. They also host pop ups. I recently had the pleasure of spending a Sunday morning doing a Chinese tea ceremony with Tea with Lin, paired with Japanese confections. Go for the delicate menu, stay for the sake list.

Clärchens Ballhaus

I've brought my Omi for schnitzel in the garden, marveling at the tango dancers upstairs. I've danced to Abba in the ballroom on a late Saturday night with strangers. People have been dancing here for 100 years. In terms of Berlin institutions, Clärchens is worth the visit for a tour or, for the ambitious, a dance lesson.

Oh la queca

Because I lived in California for a decade, I forever crave salsa. At Oh la queca, find the sopa azteca (tortilla soup) of your dreams, a 'locals only' vibe with tables covered in bright floral oil cloth. Perfect for a first date or meeting with a friend you haven't seen in years, on the sidewalk, or in the cozy interior on a weeknight evening.

mogg

I suppose because I am from Brooklyn, but also because of the history of this building—a former Jewish girls' school designed in 1927—sitting in mogg's purple upholstery enjoying a cheesecake and sandwich from the deli I find sanctuary here amidst the Mitte hustle; an homage to the past that feels and tastes.

Flohmarkt am Rathaus Schöneberg

The morning treasures I have found in the boxes of this flohmarkt! Nothing transports us quite like an object from the past. Take your time, arrive early, and finish with a Bratwurst.

Andreas Murkudis is considered one of Germany’s most renowned and experienced retailers in the design and fashion sector. The owner of three stores of the same name in Berlin offers in his assortment unique objects, which transcend short-lived trend cycles and are of utmost quality. In the two decades since opening, Murkudis has established himself as an indispensable driving force of Berlin’s creative scene.

Galerie Konrad Fischer

Galerie Konrad Fischer is one of my favorite galleries in Berlin. It’s a shame the Paloma Varga Weisz exhibition has come to an end—her works created an almost magical atmosphere in the space.

Brücke-Museum

The Brücke-Museum out in Dahlem is well-worth a trip. It holds one of the largest collections of expressionist Brücke art and currently shows a very thought-provoking exhibition with works by Polish artist Małgorzata Mirga-Ta.

Erich Hamann Schokolade Store

For top quality chocolates, the Erich Hamann Store in Wilmersdorf is a must. The store itself is equally impressive. It’s a Johannes Itten original built in 1928 and evokes the quintessential Bauhaus style.

Tiergarten Park

The perfect park to get lost in and escape the bustle of Mitte. I love to play football here with my children.

**Engelbecken Restaurant
at Lietzensee**

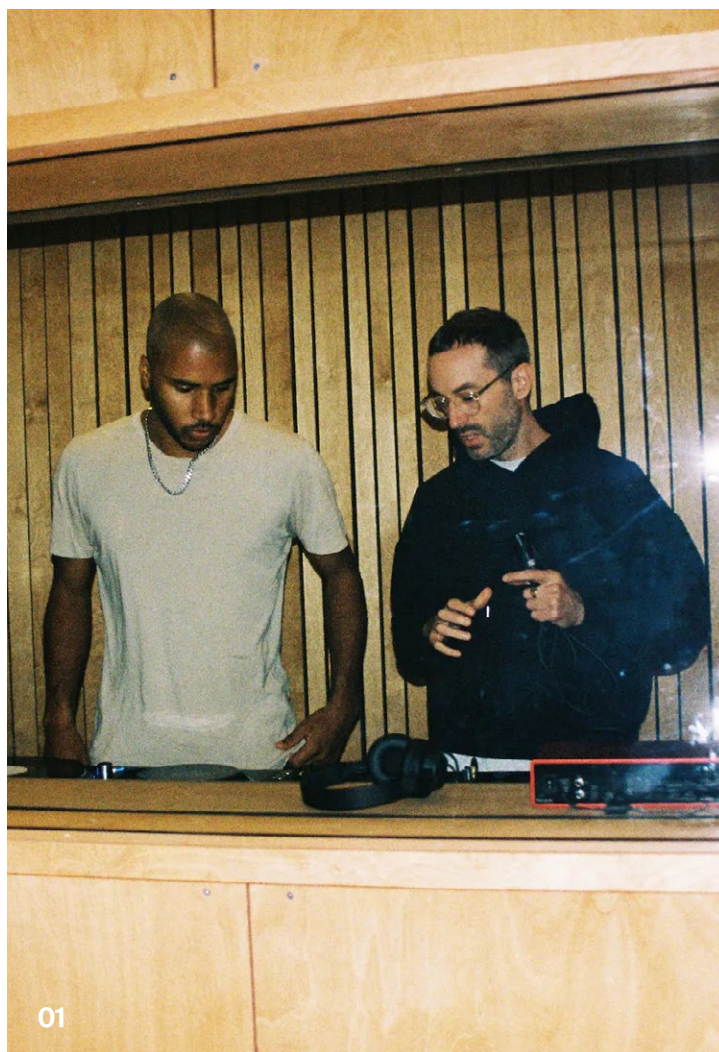
In my opinion they have the best Wiener Schnitzel in town—available in both a small and big portion.



01 Andreas Murkudis |
photo by Heji Shin



02 Andreas Murkudis Store
at Potsdamer Straße 81 |
photo by Schnepf Renou



Suggestions from our Tastemakers

Richard and George
Refuge Worldwide

Richard and George initially launched Refuge as a fundraising platform for social causes. Now a round-the-clock broadcast, live from Neukölln, Refuge Worldwide is a community radio station that works in solidarity with grassroots and non-profit organizations. Their work has supported a young women's center, housing for displaced individuals and a music school for marginalized persons, among others.

Companion Coffee

Looking for tea and specialty coffee in Berlin? Whether you need a freshly brewed Kenyan filter coffee or an oat milk cappuccino, Companion has you covered. From Himalayan Tips to Taiwanese Oolong—their rare tea range is sustainably and responsibly sourced, while the spicy cheese toasties and mochi cookies are both house favourites.

Körnerpark

This idyllic municipal garden has a neo-baroque Orangery, salon, cafe, and gallery space. Have a glass of wine or maybe catch one of the free Salonmusik concerts.

Museumsinsel (Museum Island)

A unique collection of art galleries, museums, and landmarks are located on a small island in the middle of Berlin. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Museumsinsel was the city's original settlement over 800 years ago, and now plays home to an ensemble of beautiful buildings. Spend an hour in the afternoon or early evening strolling through the courtyards, or take a longer look inside the buildings with a Museum Pass (€29).

Oona Bar

The home of Refuge Worldwide. Stop by to check out the live radio shows, stay for a glass of natural wine or a Paloma Slushie and a guarantee of interesting people to chat to.

St Bart

The only place I've found in Berlin with great food and the feel of a traditional pub as I know it.

Senegambia

For authentic West African food, and an authentic experience, it doesn't get better than Senegambia. Come hungry.



01 Richard and George
of Refuge Worldwide |
photo by Wolfgang Ohlert

02 Refuge Worldwide radio
station at Weserstraße 166 |
photo by Ella Yarton

Our Favorites

Culture

- Neue Nationalgalerie
- Fotografiska
- Das Kleine Grosz Museum
- Bröhan Museum
- Hamburger Bahnhof
- C/O
- Helmut Newton Foundation
- Sprüth Magers Galerie
- The Feuerle Collection
- Georg Kolbe Museum
- Galerie Neu
- Esther Schipper

Dining

- ITA Bistro
- KaDeWe 6th floor
- pars Restaurant
- Café Frieda
- Remi
- borchardt
- 893 Ryōtei
- Bar Normal
- Julius
- Grill Royal
- November Brasserie
- Paris Bar
- Trio
- Galão A Pastelaria
- Sofi Bakery
- Aera Bakery
- VOLK

Bars

- Bar Neiro
- ZigZag
- Bar Sway
- Château Royal Bar
- Victoria Bar
- Bar Milano
- Georgia Bar
- Bellboy
- Buck & Breck
- Torbar
- Green Door Bar

Shopping

- Andreas Murkudis Stores
- Voo Store
- Pro qm bookstore
- KaDeWe
- Do You Read Me
- WoodWood
- Schwarzhogerzeil
- Das Neue Schwartz
- SØR
- Civilist
- Beinghunted
- Salbazar
- MDC cosmetic
- Maryam Keyhani
- April First

Find all locations and more information in our [online map](#)



01 Neue Nationalgalerie I
photo by Tasya Kudryk



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