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Berlin Welcomes Families

There are plenty of attractions and activities to keep all members of the family happy when you visit Berlin. So many in fact, that we've put together a sample itinerary of some of the best family-fun to be had in the city, which you can easily customize depending on your time and your budget.

Day 1

If it is your first time in Berlin, a good way to start is to get to grips with some of the top sites, and the history behind them. Which is why it's always good to start with a guided tour – giving you the opportunity to tick off some of the main attractions and get your bearings. Berlin offers plenty of different tours, and no matter which one you choose, you'll definitely make a stop at the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag. When you are there, pop in and take a tour of the Dom – which is not only free, but also offers a 360-degree view of Berlin that's pretty hard to beat.

Getting to the Bundestag or Brandenburg Gate from Miniloft:

Take the U6 from Naturkundemuseum until Französische Straße (3 stops) and walk 10 minutes through Unter den Linden to the Brandenburg Gate. Another option is to take the 100 Bus, which serves the main central tourist sites and is an unofficial and cost-conscious way of taking them in.

Guided Tours:

A huge number of companies will have tours starting near the Brandenburg Gate. One of the most popular options is to take a free walking tour. Running daily and available in English and Spanish, you can pre-book online or turn up on the day. Payment is not obligatory, but the guide will kindly ask for a tip after the tour has finished.

OUR TIP: Want something a little more interesting for the kids? You can check out other options – be it bike, Segway or sightseeing bus – at our office.

Visiting the Reichstag:

The queues for the Dom can get long at the Reichstag ticket office, especially in the summer. Beat the crowds by booking in advance online at:

<https://visite.bundestag.de/BAPWeb/pages/createBookingRequest.jsf?lang=en> (note- booking should be done 3 days in advance of your visit)

Prices and opening hours:

Between 0 and 12 EUR per person, plus the public transport ticket.

Tour: Paid tours normally cost between 12 and 15 EUR per person.

Approximately for 4 people: 75 EUR (based on 2 adults and 2 kids over 6, tours and welcome card for 5 days)

Public transport:

1 day ticket zones AB: 6,70 EUR per person (Kids under 6 for free, until 14 years old 4,70 EUR)

7 days ticket zones AB: 28,80 EUR per person.

OUR TIP: Take advantage of discounts in over 200 places by picking up a Welcome card. At 36,5 EUR for 5 days, 2 adults and 3 kids under 14, you'll be able to save on some of the cities best attractions.

Day 2

Visiting the remains of the wall is a must in Berlin. Try a day excursion to the East Side Gallery and you can also stop off at the nearby Treptower Park, home to an impressive Soviet Memorial. If young minds are getting tired from the sightseeing, you could also try a visit to Tierpark, the second of Berlin's zoos, which house plenty of creatures great and small.

Getting to the East Side Gallery from Miniloft:

Take the U6 from Naturkundemuseum until Friedrichstraße (2 stops) and then, take the S-Bahn (S5 or the S7) to Ostbahnhof. From the station, you will see the Wall next to the river and you can enjoy the street art on it.

From East Side Gallery to Tierpark:

Once you reach the end of the East Side Gallery, you can take the tram M10 from Warschauer Straße until Frankfurter Tor and get the U5 from there to Tierpark.

Founded in 1955, the Tierpark has more than 850 species in an area of 160 hectares. If you decide to visit Tierpark, we recommend checking online for feeding times: <http://www.tierpark-berlin.de>

Getting to Treptower Park:

To reach Treptower Park from Tierpark, take the U5 to Frankfurter Allee and then take the S-bahn (S8, S9, S41 or the S85) to Berlin Treptower Park.

To reach the park from the East Side Gallery, you should take the S7 or S75 from Warschauer Strasse, and after, change to get the S8 or S41 (only 2 stops in total).

Treptower Park is one of the most beautiful parks of Berlin. It is located alongside the river Spree. It is ideal for walking or cycling visiting the Soviet War Memorial, the port and the Judgen Island. At the end of the park, there is an abandoned Amusement Park called the Spree Park, but it's only open on weekends until 4pm.

Prices and opening hours:

Between 0 and 12 EUR per person, plus the public transport ticket.

Tierpark: 12 EUR adults, 6 EUR kids. Opening hours, daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

Approximately for 4 people: Between 0 and 36 EUR (cheaper with the Welcome Card)

***OUR TIP:** You can download Visit Berlin's audioguide to your smartphone and get explanations of where you are visiting. At 4,95, it's a great alternative to a stack of travel books. Download at: <http://www.visitberlin.de/en/feature/audioguide>*

Day 3

Closer to Miniloft – and in fact, round the corner on Invalidenstraße – you can the Natural History Museum (“Naturkundemuseum”). The main exhibits here the largest mounted dinosaur in the world, and an exquisitely preserved specimen of the earliest known bird, Archaeopteryx. Afterwards, try a trip to another main section of the former wall along Bernauer Straße, which has a great trail to follow as well as a museum.

Getting to Bernauer Straße from Miniloft:

Clocking in at around 20 mins, it's a short walk from Miniloft to Bernauer Straße, but if you are dealing with tired legs, take the tram M10 from Northbahnhof (only 1 stop).

Here, you'll find a stretch of the wall where some successful, and some unsuccessful escapes were attempted, both over and underground. Stop by on Sunday and you'll find a one-hour guided tour from 3pm, which is also recommended for children. Further up from Bernauer Strasse, you can also check out Mauerpark, which transforms on Sundays into one of Berlin's busiest flea markets.

Getting to Hackescher Markt and Nikolaiviertel:

Still have some time left? Then visit the Hackescher Markt and the neighbourhood of Nikolaiviertel, the oldest part of Berlin, filled with charming streets perfect for wandering around. To get there from Bernauer Straße, take the U8 to Weinmeistersraße (2 stops away). Hackescher Markt, a very nice square full of shops and restaurants, and the nearby Hackesche Höfe is also good for a spot of splurging.

In Nikolaiviertel, visit the Red City council, the St. Nicholas Church or the Knoblauchhaus.

Prices and opening hours:

Between 0 and 12 EUR per person, plus the public transport ticket.

Naturkundemuseum: 6 EUR adults, 3,5 EUR kids, Family card 6,5 EUR. Opening hours, Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am to 6 pm; Weekends from 10 am to 6 pm.

Bernauer Strasse Tour: 3 EUR adults, kids for free.

Approximately for 4 people: Between 0 and 19 EUR

Day 4

Take in some more culture by exploring the museums – perfect also for a rainy day in the city. Your main stop off point is Museum Insel, which takes some of the hassle out of the day by conveniently housing Berlin's cultural heavy hitters in one place.

Getting to the Museum Insel from Miniloft:

By foot, it's around a 25 minute walk to Museum Insel, going through Oranienburger Strasse and the New Synagogue; but you can also take the U6 from Naturkundemuseum to Friedrichstraße, or the S75 from Nordbahnhof to Hackescher Markt.

If the weather is nice, you could go by boat from the Moltkebrücke bridge below the Hauptbahnhof station (10 minutes walking from Miniloft), which offers a scenic 1-hour tour from the Spree through the city centre.

At Museum Insel, make a beeline for the Pergamon Museum, which is one of the most popular attractions in Berlin. Offering up such architectural delights as the Market Gate of Miletus, the Pergamon Altar, the Ishtar Gate and the Mshatta Façade, it's an impressive glance at the old worlds.

You can also find the Neues Museum, the Altes Museum, the Bodes Museum, the Alte Nationalgalerie and the Cathedral or Dom of Berlin on the Insel.

OUR TIP: Just across the Spree on the banks, the DDR Museum, an interactive museum about the life of the citizens of the Soviet Berlin is a great stop on your museum tour.

Prices:

Between 18 and 30 EUR per adult

Pergamon Museum: 12 EUR adults, kids for free. Open daily, from 10 am to 6 pm, Thursdays until 10 pm.

Boat trip: 11,5 EUR adults, 5,75 EUR kids under 14. Departures every 30 minutes (on the hour and half hour) starting at 10 am.

DDR Museum: 6 EUR adults, 4 EUR kids. Opening hours: Daily from 10 am to 8 pm. Approximately for 4 people: 78 EUR (cheaper with the Welcome Card)

Day 5

Why not treat the kids to a fun family day, courtesy of some sites around Alexanderplatz, including the Aquadom Sea Life centre and, for kids more than 10 years old, the Dungeons show.

Getting to Alexanderplatz from Miniloft:

Take the U6 from Naturkundemuseum to Friedrichstraße, and change onto the S-Bahn (S7 or S75) to Alexanderplatz, and you will be in Alexanderplatz in 3 stops. At Alex, you'll find the Neptune fountain, the Fountain of Friendship between Peoples, and the World clock, an astronomical clock, which displays the time for various cities around the world. Of course, you'll

also find the TV Tower, known to the locals as the “Telespargel” (television asparagus). The tallest building in Germany (368 meters) and one of the highest in Europe, in the middle of the sphere of the TV Tower is a visitor platform, and a restaurant that rotates once every 30 minutes.

Getting to Aquadom Sea Life centre:

Cross Karl-Liebknecht-Straße and about 400m away from Alexanderplatz, you will find the Aquadom Sea Life at Spandauer Straße, 3.

DomAuarée’s Sea Life Centre houses 5,000 animals of 100 types in 40 tanks, each devoted to a specific theme. The main attraction at the Sea Life Centre is the Aquadom, the largest cylindrical tank in the world, containing over 1 million litres of water, coral reef and hundreds of stunning fish.

OUR TIP: If you are planning a trip to the Aquadom and also want to visit Legoland, the Dungeon or the Madame Tussauds wax museum, get a Combi-ticket to save money. Booking online is better than paying for it at the door, where prices are double.

<http://www.thedungeons.com/berlin/en/book-tickets/combi-tickets.aspx>

How to get the Dungeon Berlin:

In the same street as the Sealife, just 2 minutes walk, you will find the Berlin Dungeon building. The Berlin Dungeon offers a darker insight into the history of Berlin. Kids under 10 years old can get scared, so this show is not recommended for the little ones.

Prices and opening hours:

Between 25,5 and 38 EUR per adult

Combi ticket Dungeon+Aquadom Sealife+Legoland: 25,5 EUR adults, 23,5 EUR kids.

Fernsehturm or TV Tower: 12,50 EUR adults, 8 EUR kids between 4 and 16 years old. Open daily 9 am to Midnight.

Aquadom Sealife: 11,35 EUR adult, kids from 3 to 14 years 8,10 EUR (online prices, at least 8 days in advanced). Open daily from 10 am to 7 pm.

Dungeon Berlin: 16 EUR adults, 12,75 EUR kids (online price and booking it in advanced). Open daily from 10 am to 6 pm.

Approximately for 4 people: 98 EUR (with the combi ticket), also visiting the TV tower 139 EUR

Day 6

If you are staying for a week, you’ll have more than enough time to take a day trip to one of the surrounding areas – and our bet is always on Potsdam. As the capital of the Brandenburg region, Potsdam is a pretty and historic World Heritage Site. Must-see’s here include Sanssouci, which is home to both the German Versailles gardens with its English and French style gardens and the world-famous Sanssouci Palace.

How to get Potsdam:

The fastest and easiest way to get Potsdam from Miniloft, is to take the RE7 towards Dessau from S+U Berlin Hauptbahnhof. This train departs every hour from 7 am to 10 pm, and drops you at the Medienstadt Babelsberg Bhf. Your ticket must be valid for at least Berlin zones ABC; however, tickets and travelcards valid for the entire metropolitan area are also valid.

Once you get there, you have different options to visit the city.

Going it alone? Download some recommend tours onto your smartphone here:

<http://www.potsdam-tourism.com/discover-potsdam/discover-potsdam-individually.html>

Alternatively, you can book onto a guided tour with any tourism company in Berlin, but also, you can do a bus sightseeing tour with an explanation in different languages:

<http://www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/germany/potsdam.htm>

OUR TIP: Be aware that, during the winter, the days are short, and for this visit it is important to be there early to make sure you get the most out of it!

Prices and opening hours:

Between 0 and 14 EUR per adult

Potsdam sightseeing tour: 14 EUR adults, 5,50 EUR kids (online bookings). Tours depart every 30 minutes from the train station from 10,10 am to 5 pm.

Guided Tour: the tours depart from different places in Berlin depending on the company you book with. Normally, the prices are between 12 and 15 EUR per person and you should bring with you your ABC transport card.

Approximately for 4 people: 39 EUR

Day 7

With sights for kids and adults alike, round off your week in Berlin with a trip to Potsdamer Platz and the Charlottenburg neighbourhood – and in particular, Schloss Charlottenburg. If you are staying during the Festival of Lights or in the run up to Christmas, you're in luck, as plenty of markets and action happens round this area, and the decorations and lights are guaranteed to offer that festive feeling.

Getting to Potsdamer Platz from Miniloft:

The best way to get Potsdamer Platz from Miniloft is to get the S1, S2 or S25 from Nordbahnhof station.

Once you get to Potsdamer Platz, there's plenty of modern buildings and the sprawling Sony Centre complex. Take a tour around the place with an audioguide that you can download as an MP3, or buy the app for Iphone: <http://potsdamerplatz.de/en/quartier/audioguide/audiotour/>

Your next stop is the Legoland Discovery Center. You will find it easily as there is a giraffe made by lego bricks on the street. With plenty of attractions and themed zones inside, it's a great way to get your little ones expending any extra energy they have!

Also at Postdamer Platz is the Kollhof Tower, the second highest building in the city and home to the Panorama Punkt. Up on the 24th and 25th floors, there is an open-air viewing platform, an exhibition on the history of the area and a café with an outdoor terrace.

How to get Charlottenburg Palace:

From Potsdamer Platz, you only need to jump on the U2 to U Sophie-Charlotte-Platz. From there, you should walk around 1 km. to Spandauer Damm 20-24.

If you go directly from Miniloft, take the U6 at Naturkundemuseum to S+U Wedding, and there, get the S41 towards Ringbahn until S Westend, at 700 meters from the Palace.

The Charlottenburg palace is the largest palace in Berlin and the only surviving royal residence in the city dating back to the time of the Hohenzollern family. You can visit the Palace inside to see the baroque decoration and the crown jewels and the royal silver and fine porcelain tableware.

Outside, the grounds are well worth exploring, complete with huge ponds where you can feed the swans, and a mausoleum and a belvedere.

How to get Kurfürstendamm:

From Miniloft you should get the U6 at Naturkundemuseum until U Mehringdamm (1 stop) and then the U7 to U Adenauerplatz (1 stop).

From Charlottenburg, you can take the U7 from Richard-Wagner-Platz, but the best way is to take the bus 109 at Luisenplatz/Schloss Charlottenburg towards S+U Zoologischer Garten.

Kurfürstendamm or Ku'damm, is one of the most famous avenues in Berlin; It is considered as the Champs-Élysées of Berlin and a great place for shopping lovers.

There, you can visit the Breitscheidplatz and the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and, nearby, it is also interesting to see the zoo, at least its beautiful entrance.

Prices and opening hours:

Between 0 and 31 EUR per adult

Schloss Charlottenburg: 10 EUR adults and 7 EUR kids. Opening hours Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm.

Panorama Punkt: 5,50 EUR adults and 4 EUR kids. Kids under 5, for free. Family ticket 14,50 EUR (2 adults and until 4 children). Open Daily from 10 am to 6 pm

Legoland Discovery Center: 16 EUR, but if you buy it online, the prices are from 8 EUR depending on the hour. Opening hours daily 10 am to 7 pm.

With the Combi tickets with the Aquadom Sealife and Dungeons, you save money in your tickets. Approximately for 4 people: 19 EUR (having paid already the Combi ticket and excluding the entrance to the Charlottenburg Palace)

Other interesting attractions:

Feel free to ask us for more recommendations on sights in the city – and whether you are looking for family-friendly options or a little time out on your own, we'll be happy to offer our tips and suggestions.

Day Trips with Deutsche Bahn:

If you are planning to head beyond the ABC area of Berlin, you'll find discounts a-plenty with Deutsche Bahn, who offer special deals for family travel. Up to three children under 15 travel free of charge with adults, and if a child is under 6, you will not need a ticket for them.

Alternatively, if you are taking three or more children under 15 with you, purchase a Family Pass ("Familienkarte"), which is valid for a year, and available in Deutsche Bahn travel centres. The pass entitles you to take up to 8 children with you.