

EDUCATING • EXPLORING • EXCELLING



# Berlin

Location Guide - Christmas Markets

# EXCEPTIONAL TOURS EXPERTLY DELIVERED



Our location guide offers you information on the range of visits available in Berlin. All visits are selected with your subject and the curriculum in mind, along with the most popular choices for sightseeing, culture and leisure in the area.

The information in your location guide has been provided by our partners in Berlin who have expert ground knowledge of the area, combined with advice from education professionals so that the visits and information recommended are the most relevant to meet your learning objectives

## Making Life Easier for You

This location guide is not a catalogue of opening times. Our Tour Experts will design your itinerary with opening times and location in mind so that you can really maximise your time on tour.

Our location guides are designed to give you the extra information that you need, including the highlights of each visit, suitability and educational resources available to you. We will give you top tips like timings to avoid, great accompaniments and local knowledge; so you can truly get the most out of your visit.

## Peace of Mind

We will state in your initial quote letter which visits are included within your tour price. If there is anything that cannot be pre-paid, we will advise you of the entrance fees so that you know how much money to take along.

You have the added reassurance of knowing that NGT is a member of the School Travel Forum. This means that all the visits we offer comply with the requirements of our externally verified Safety Management System.

# CHRISTMAS MARKETS



In Berlin there is no one single Christmas market, but over 70 of them spread across the city. Whether you're looking for indoor or outdoor markets, one with a historical theme, with a range of food stalls or one with carousels and attractions, we're sure you'll find exactly what you're looking for. Here's a selection of what the city has to offer each Christmas.



## CHRISTMAS MARKET AT ALEXANDERPLATZ

The whole of Alexanderplatz turns into a massive Christmas market with many small wooden huts during the festive season. Under the shadow of the TV Tower, potters, blacksmiths and glassblowers display their work and Christmas treats, crafts and many more gift ideas are on offer. The centrepiece of the market is Europe's largest Christmas pyramid with more than 5,000 lights that add a festive glow to the seasonal bustle. The classic top of the pyramid is decorated with carved figures, tirelessly making their rounds.



## BERLINER WEIHNACHTSZEIT AT THE ROTES RATHAUS

Behind Alexanderplatz is home to the romantic Berliner Weihnachtszeit. Against the backdrop of old Berlin market streets and festively lit wooden pavilions bring back the old Berlin from a century ago. A festive atmosphere is provided by barrel organ music, mulled wine, a wide range of arts and crafts and a life-size nativity at the Marienkirche. Bread is baked in medieval-style bakery bread and hot mead is served in a tavern from clay jars. The centre of the Christmas market is the 600 m<sup>2</sup> ice rink and there are also historic carousels, a train that runs through a snow-covered fairy tale forest and a nostalgic whirligig.



## POTSDAMER PLATZ CHRISTMAS MARKET

In early November, Potsdamer Platz in the heart of the city is transformed into a gigantic winter wonderland. A toboggan run with views of the Brandenburg Gate, an outdoor skating rink, curling and huts offering seasonal treats get the festive season going even before Advent gets started. Lots of lights, handicrafts, music and delicacies in countless huts ensure a reflective atmosphere alongside the handicrafts





## GENDARMENMARKT CHRISTMAS MARKET

In one of the most beautiful squares in the city The Gendarmenmarkt provides an insight into old handicrafts such as flax embroidery, wood carvers and stonemasons work. Jugglers, acrobats, fire artists, dance groups, choirs, Berlin classical, jazz and Gospel ensembles, as well as internationally famous artists, also ensure a varied show programme

## KAISER WILHELM MEMORIAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Every year during Advent it smells of roasted almonds, hot cocoa and mulled wine around the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. Because that's when around 170 craft and Christmas market stands are set up around the historical church in the centre of City West. You'll find everything here, from Christmas decorations and ornaments to toys and delicate accessories. And refreshments are also taken care of: the range extends from cocoa, mulled wine, plus glazed fruit up to grilled sausages. More than two million visitors enjoy the Christmas atmosphere around the 20 metre high Christmas tree every year



## MARKTHALLE IX – MERRY MARKTHALLE

Every Advent weekend this historic market hall sees its traditional weekly market transformed into a Christmas market full of delicious surprises. At the various stands you can taste traditional delicacies such as bakery gingerbread, roasted almonds, deep-fried pastry, handmade sausages, organic wine and baked apples. Panettone from Italy, cheese fondue from Switzerland and other international Christmas specialities will also make your mouth water. The scent of cinnamon and mulled wine is in the air and makes you crave all the fine delicacies.



## SPANDAU OLD TOWN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Berlin's largest Christmas market takes place in the Spandau Old Town with 250 stands during the week and 400 at weekends with entertainment. Highlights are a Christmas crib with living animals on Reformationsplatz, the St. Nikolai Christmas Garden and crafts and design at the historic crafts market on Reformationsplatz – where a medieval plague procession also takes place every Wednesday.



No matter what your study aims are it is impossible to go to Berlin and ignore the city's turbulent history. Many of the groups who travel with us include a range of visits that will help students gain a greater understanding of how Berlin came to be the city it is today

## DDR MUSEUM

The DDR Museum in Berlin is an interactive museum that showcases everyday life in former East Germany (the German Democratic Republic). Located near the River Spree, the museum allows visitors to explore authentic exhibits, including recreated apartments, a Trabant car simulator, and displays about the Berlin Wall and the Stasi. Through hands-on experiences, the museum offers a deeper understanding of the culture, politics, and daily life of people living in East Germany during the Cold War.



## THE REICHSTAG

A guided tour of the Reichstag building is one of the most popular visits in Berlin. It will explain the functions, working methods and composition of parliament whilst also covering the history and architecture of the building. The highlight at the end is the opportunity to visit the famous dome, which has become an iconic image in Berlin and gives a great view of the city.

## MEMORIAL TO THE MURDERED JEWS OF EUROPE

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe is a Holocaust memorial in Berlin dedicated to the six million Jewish victims killed by Nazi Germany. Designed by Peter Eisenman and opened in 2005, it features 2,711 concrete slabs arranged in a grid to create a feeling of confusion and reflection. Beneath the memorial is an information center that shares stories and history of the Holocaust, reminding visitors of the importance of remembrance and human rights.



## GERMAN RESISTANCE MEMORIAL CENTRE

The German Resistance Memorial Center in Berlin honors the people who resisted the Nazi regime during World War II. Located at the site where members of the July 20 plot were executed, the museum presents documents, photographs, and stories of individuals and groups who opposed Adolf Hitler and fought for freedom and justice.



## GUIDED TOURS

Many of Berlin's major sites can be covered on foot, so a walking tour is an ideal way to get to know the city, especially for students seeing it for the first time. Tours can be adjusted to include any particular sights you wish to include.



## THE REICHSTAG

The Reichstag Building is one of Germany's most significant historical and political landmarks and serves as the seat of the German Parliament (Bundestag). Originally completed in 1894, the building has played a major role in German history, including during the reunification of Germany. Its most famous feature is the modern glass dome designed by Norman Foster, which symbolizes transparency and democracy. Visitors can walk along the spiral pathways inside the dome, enjoy panoramic views of Berlin, and look down into the parliamentary chamber below, reflecting the connection between the government and the people.



Berlin offers a great choice of museums and attractions, many of which are an ideal accompaniment to learning and can be free for students.

## EAST SIDE GALLERY

At 1316 metres long, the East Side Gallery is the longest continuous section of the Berlin Wall still in existence. Immediately after the fall of the Berlin Wall, artists from 21 countries began painting murals - many of which commented on the political changes in 1989/90. Officially opened in September 1990 it was given protected memorial status just over a year later.

## THE TV TOWER

The city's most iconic landmarks, offering breathtaking panoramic views from its impressive observation deck. Standing high above the skyline, the tower combines modern architecture with a fascinating history, making it a must-visit attraction for both tourists and locals alike. Visitors can enjoy spectacular daytime scenery or experience the city illuminated at night, while learning about the tower's significance and engineering achievements

## MUSEUM-HAUS AM CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

The museum tells the stories of daring escape attempts from East Berlin to the West through original artefacts, photographs, and interactive exhibits. Visitors can explore personal accounts of courage and resilience while learning about the impact of the Berlin Wall on everyday life. Rich in history and emotion, the museum provides a memorable and thought-provoking experience for anyone interested in Berlin's past.



## Restaurants

Make your evening meal a night out with a restaurant visit. We can book tables at an exciting range of restaurants offering dinner packages to suit all budgets.

### Choose from:

- Al Dente Ristorante
- Der Alte Fritz
- Hard Rock Cafe
- Vapiano
- Pirates Berlin
- Amrit
- Brauhaus-Mitte
- Hofbräu Wirtshaus
- Bbq Kitchen

**Top tip:** These restaurants usually offer a 2 or 3 course menu based on a set meal, please let us know of any dietary requirements in advance.

We can also arrange packed lunches with your chosen accommodation.



## IKONO

This immersive space in the heart of Alexanderplatz provides 14 rooms of creativity, blending art and play to allow for an unforgettable experience. You will dive into eclectic, unseen worlds where art comes alive, technology merges with your creativity, and each step reveals a new surprise.



## GAMESTATE

Indoor entertainment arcade located at Potsdamer Platz. It features over 70-100+ stations, including retro arcade games, Mario Kart, air hockey, virtual reality, and basketball, designed for all ages, with prizes awarded based on game performance.



## THE UPSIDE DOWN

Social media museum near Potsdamer Platz featuring 40+ themed rooms, optical illusions, and upside-down sets designed for photo opportunities. It combines entertainment with Berlin themed colourful art.

## BOWLING CENTRE

A popular centrally located bowling alley in Berlin, Germany, situated at Rathausstraße 5, 10178. It features multiple lanes, including options with bumpers.



## 3D SCHWARZLICHT MINIGOLF + LAZER TAG

Students navigate minigolf courses painted with neon, UV-active graffiti that glows under black light. Players wear 3D glasses to make the 2D wall art appear as vivid, spatial 3D images.

Lazer tag fast-paced team game involving vests and lasers in a specialized arena.

