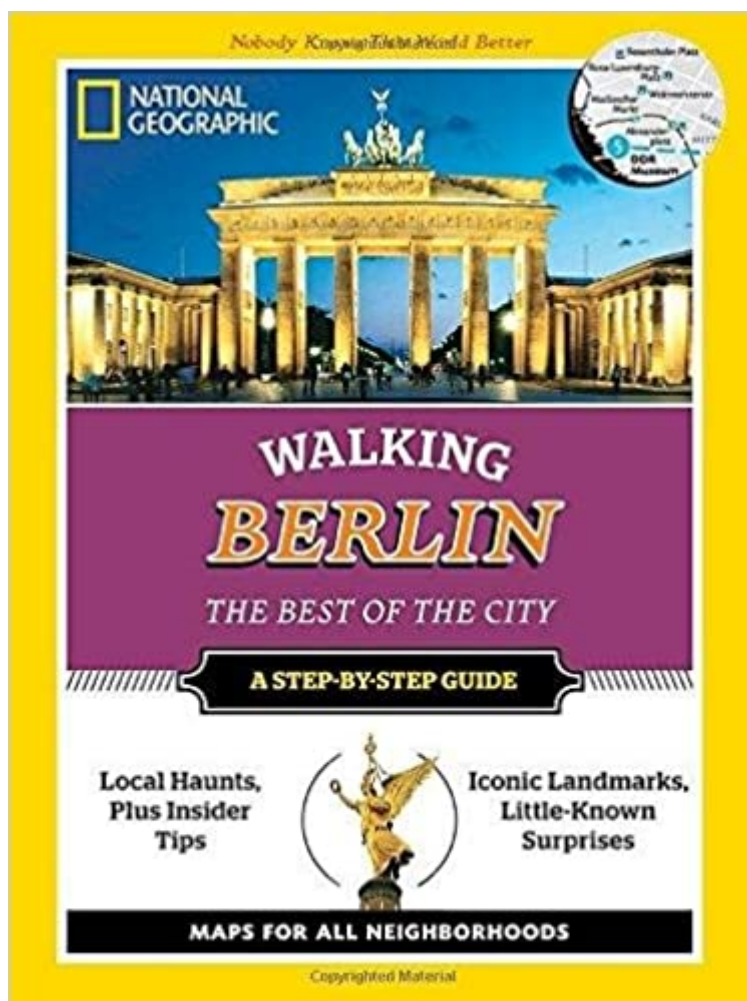


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# National Geographic Walking Berlin: The Best Of The City



## Synopsis

See the best of Berlin with this streamlined walking guide, complete with 15 step-by-step itineraries and maps to help you explore the city like a pro and navigate like a local. Created in a handy, take-along format, this guide is written by a seasoned travel writer to help conjure the spirit of the place in elegant text enhanced by National Geographic's famous eye for good pictures. Including must-do neighborhood itineraries, insider tips on how to visit recommended sights, and indispensable information for the most enjoyable adventure imaginable, *Walking Berlin* is full of information about the city and its people.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

PAUL SULLIVAN is a Berlin-based writer, editor, and photographer. Covering music, travel, and culture, his words and images have appeared in a broad range of international publications, such as the Guardian, the Sunday Times, National Geographic Traveller UK, BBC Travel, and the Wire. He has also written, photographed, and contributed to more than a dozen books, and he has written three books on music.

Great! Helped a lot!

good guide for Germany/Berlin

So helpful for a weekend trip.

looking forward to using this when I go to Berlin.

I've been to Berlin many times in the past 20 years and I was pleased to find a new guide to the city, "Walking Berlin", published by National Geographic. (There's also another book, "Walking Prague" by the same company.) Berlin is a very walkable city, particularly if you stay in the Mitte area. Mitte, part of the old East Berlin, has been developed since the fall of the Wall in 1989, and most of the tourist sites are within walking distance of hotels in that area. This book gives a very good description to all the spots - museums, historic buildings, parks, etc - with Mitte, but doesn't skimp on other neighborhoods of the city. The maps, in particular, are very good. I was impressed by the book. It doesn't give restaurants or hotels, except in a rather cursory manner, but that's not important. There are many other guides - particularly on-line - devoted to eating and sleeping in Berlin. This is a guide to the sights of Berlin, and it does a good job.

I lived in Berlin from 1966 to 1973 when it was a divided city between the British, French and Americans in the western part and the Russians in the east. I attended grade school there. I visited it on and off until 1994 when the last Russians left the eastern part of the city. Even in my much younger days, Berlin was a very walkable city, with distinctive sections. The heart of Berlin, however, is and always will be along the center, from the Brandenburger Tor, Alexander Platz and anywhere along where the Wall once stood. Buses and the U-Bahn (the underground metro) takes anyone anywhere. There's lots of history, great museums, and wonderful restaurants, biergartens and cafes everywhere in Berlin. This guide just gives samples of what one can do either as a diehard walker or as someone with children. It offers a few good hotels, some nice cafes, and a few good tips. The maps show walking tours around several neighborhoods, but they seem rushed and superficial. You can't experience Berlin in just a weekend. I'm disappointed that there is no mention of the biggest shopping area in town: The Kurfuerstendamm (Kuh-Damm) with the huge department store KaDeWe (Kaufhaus des Westens). Berlin is a combination of Paris and Moscow, and with the diverse peoples now moving to the city, it has even become more ethnically diverse with its Turkish and Arab enclaves. This at least gets mentioned. The photographs are beautiful and it makes me want to fly there this summer, but this guide is just the tip of the iceberg

Probably my favorite travel guides are turned out by Fodor but there are some nice features and

advantages that come with National Geographic Walking Berlin guide. Traditional travel guides are arranged by subject – hotels, restaurants, historic and/or cultural sites, monuments, museums, attractions, etc. National Geographic Walking Berlin, on the other hand, is a walking guide with maps and itineraries so that you are told what historic, cultural sites, museums, attractions, restaurants, etc. are on one street you can visit everything that is close to each other. The itineraries in this 92-page guide includes ones for just one day or for a week. The street maps are very good and Sullivan packs his guide with lots of good travel advice. The author, Paul Sullivan, is a writer and photographer who lives in Berlin and has written but National Geographic Travel magazine, the Guardian, Sunday Times, and has written more than a dozen books including on Hamburg, Italy, France, Prague, Iceland and on camping. An excellent guide that helps you locate sites and plan a day's activities much easier than traditional travel guides.

I've not been to Berlin since before the wall came down and am eager to go back. We are planning a trip and this excellent book just whets the appetite. The photography and historical insights are very good. It offers really helpful strategic planning to get the most out of your trip. I was particularly interested in East Berlin and the guide shines with information on where to go and what to see. I'd call this book a supplement to your other Berlin travel planning. It isn't the nuts and bolt of travel but more about how to enjoy yourself once you are there. I'd definitely buy a companion guide like this for any major city I'd visit.

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