



City Guide

BERLIN

QUINTESSENTIALLY

Berlin

Capital of the largest country in Europe, Berlin is a city that has outgrown its past to emerge as a vibrant, adaptive and modern metropolitan centre. It is steeped in rich cultural history, and its legacy of art and striking architecture is visible everywhere. The city stays true to its historic character as a hub for art, culture and creative expression across the board, and Berlin continues to impress visitors with its superb theatres, cinemas and galleries. An enviable array of bars, restaurants and night haunts drives its reputation as a social as well as cultural and political influence, and its wealth, as suggested by the number of high-end shops and exclusive boutiques, is clearly on show.



ACCOMMODATION

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SOHO HOUSE BERLIN

TORSTRASSE 1, 10119 BERLIN

Located in Berlin Mitte, the late-Bauhaus structure has a distinctive symmetrical façade and a notable history. Alongside the usual Soho House offerings of grooming, beauty and barbers, there is a heated rooftop pool with fantastic views, a gym and a plush private screening room. For complete privacy, choose a loft: self-contained apartments with a clean, Modernist feel that can be booked for long or short stays.

SOFITEL AM GENDARMENMARKT

CHARLOTTENSTRASSE 50-52, 10117 BERLIN

On Berlin's Gendarmenmarkt Square, near the Brandenburg Gate and Unter den Linden, the Sofitel's clean, blocky, pared-back style in the foyer gives way to a softer, more sensual feel to the rooms, a nice difference between public and private spaces. Quieter rooms overlook the courtyard, or choose a balcony with a view of the French Cathedral. The Aigner Gendarmenmarkt restaurant offers an international menu alongside Austrian dishes.

WALDORF ASTORIA

HARDENBERGSTRASSE 28, 10623 BERLIN

Just across from the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church and the Zoological Garden, the elegant rooms have panoramic views of this leafy, low-rise city, through slightly dizzying floor-to-ceiling windows. The restaurant ROCA offers unfussy, rustic Mediterranean food with a terrace for watching Berlin go about its day. Have a cocktail in the Art Deco Lang Bar, named for the film director, or tea in the Library Lounge.

PROVOCATEUR HOTEL

BRANDENBURGISCHE STRASSE 21, 10707 BERLIN

This is glamorous, dramatic, sensual and with more than a hint of illicit pleasures. There's a focus on dark stone, velvet and carefully thought through lighting that give the whole place a vampy, sexy style that isn't your usual excellent-conference-facilities sort of place. The inspiration is said to be 1920s Paris, but there's a dash of Weimar Republic here too, making it all very, very Berlin.

HOTEL ZOO BERLIN

KURFÜRSTENDAMM 25, 10719 BERLIN

At Hotel Zoo 1920s glamour is ramped up to 11. In the Grace Bar, exposed brick walls, shady corners, heavy curtains and glossy green plants give a boho, jungle feel. Bedrooms have huge windows framed with soft drapery; meeting spaces are crisp and Modernist. Sophisticated cuisine and classic cocktails are on offer, and you could well catch a world-renowned DJ playing.

Q U I N T E S S E N T I A L L Y



RESTAURANTS

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GRILL ROYAL

FRIEDRICHSTRASSE 105B, 10117 BERLIN

You'll find a sleek but comfortable interior, and a no-frills, no-fuss menu at this, one of Berlin's best steakhouses. For some, the main purpose of visiting this upscale spot is to see and be seen spending money. Others come for the seriously good Argentine, Austrian or German cuts of beef.

BORCHARDT

FRANZÖSISCHE STRASSE 47, 10117 BERLIN

Established in 1853, the restaurant is still a meeting point for the city's elite. The mauve interior, high marble columns and simple, white-tableclothed setting attract politicians, investment bankers and fashionable industry folk. Have a paper-thin, crisp Wiener Schnitzel, available in two sizes, with a bottle from the stellar wine list.

LORENZ ADLON ESSZIMMER

UNTER DEN LINDEN 77, 10117 BERLIN

With two Michelin stars, Lorenz Adlon claims to be inspired by the recipes of his childhood and the simple ingredients that his family grew in the garden, but it's a bit more than that. Fish, meat, fruit and vegetables are reimaged with world ingredients, and the presentation is worthy of an art gallery.

RYOTEI 893

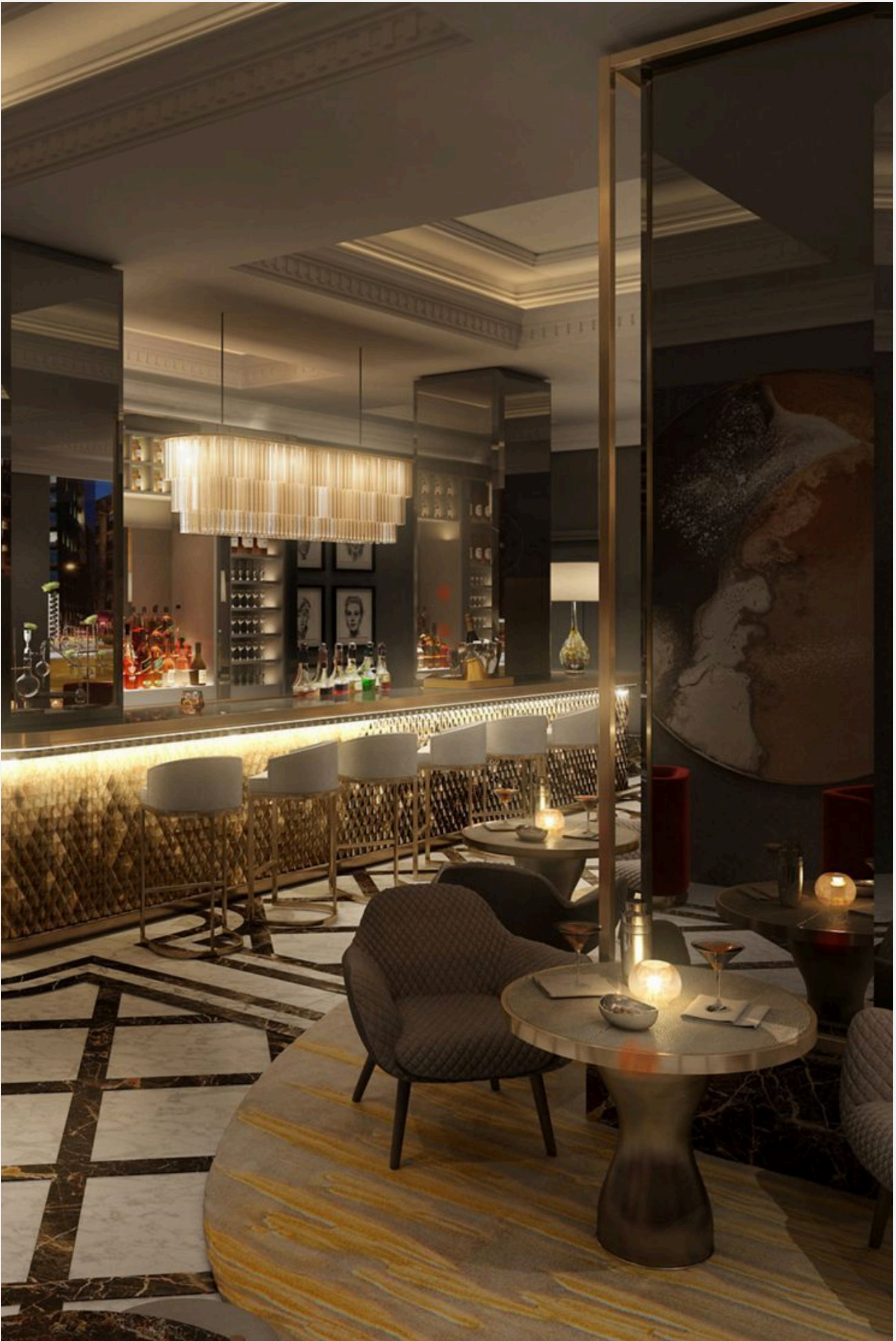
KANTSTRASSE 135, 10625 BERLIN

This upscale Japanese place promises an interesting evening without being lame or snobby. The newest venture from the people behind Cocolo Ramen is in posh Charlottenburg, but the urban exterior and graffiti pulls in the city's hip crowd. Some dishes are more like tapas, great for sharing; others are for keeping to yourself.

RESTAURANT TIM RAUE

RUDI-DUTSCHKE-STRASSE 26, 10969 BERLIN

Tim Raue is a star chef of the second generation. His pan-Asian fusion cuisine, Japanese products and Thai-inspired flavours, served in a casual lounge atmosphere, has been rated since 2012 with two Michelin stars. Don't expect side dishes such as bread, noodles or rice, and the kitchen only uses lactose-free dairy products.



NIGHTLIFE

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THE PEARL

FASANENSTRASSE 81, 10623 BERLIN

This is where Berlin's socialites go to dress up and splash out. The Pearl describes itself as high-class nightlife, which makes sense when you see the crowd in there. Reserve a table for top-notch cocktails, live entertainment and a light show.

FRAGRANCES AT THE RITZ-CARLTON

POTSDAMER PLATZ 3, 10785 BERLIN

A high-concept bar in the Ritz-Carlton, Fragrances is the first bar in the world dedicated to the art of cocktails combined with the world of perfume. Scents inspire unique drinks created by mixologist Arnd Heissen, based on your favourite perfume.

MONKEY BAR AT 25HOURS HOTEL BIKINI BERLIN

BUDAPESTER STRASSE 40, 10787 BERLIN

The top-floor Monkey Bar in the 25hours Hotel offers the perfect sundowner terrace. A wide choice of drinks and fine wine, bar snacks from the Neni kitchen, regular DJs and live music events add up to a serious after-dusk hotspot.

SOLAR

STRESEMANNSTRASSE 76, 10963 BERLIN

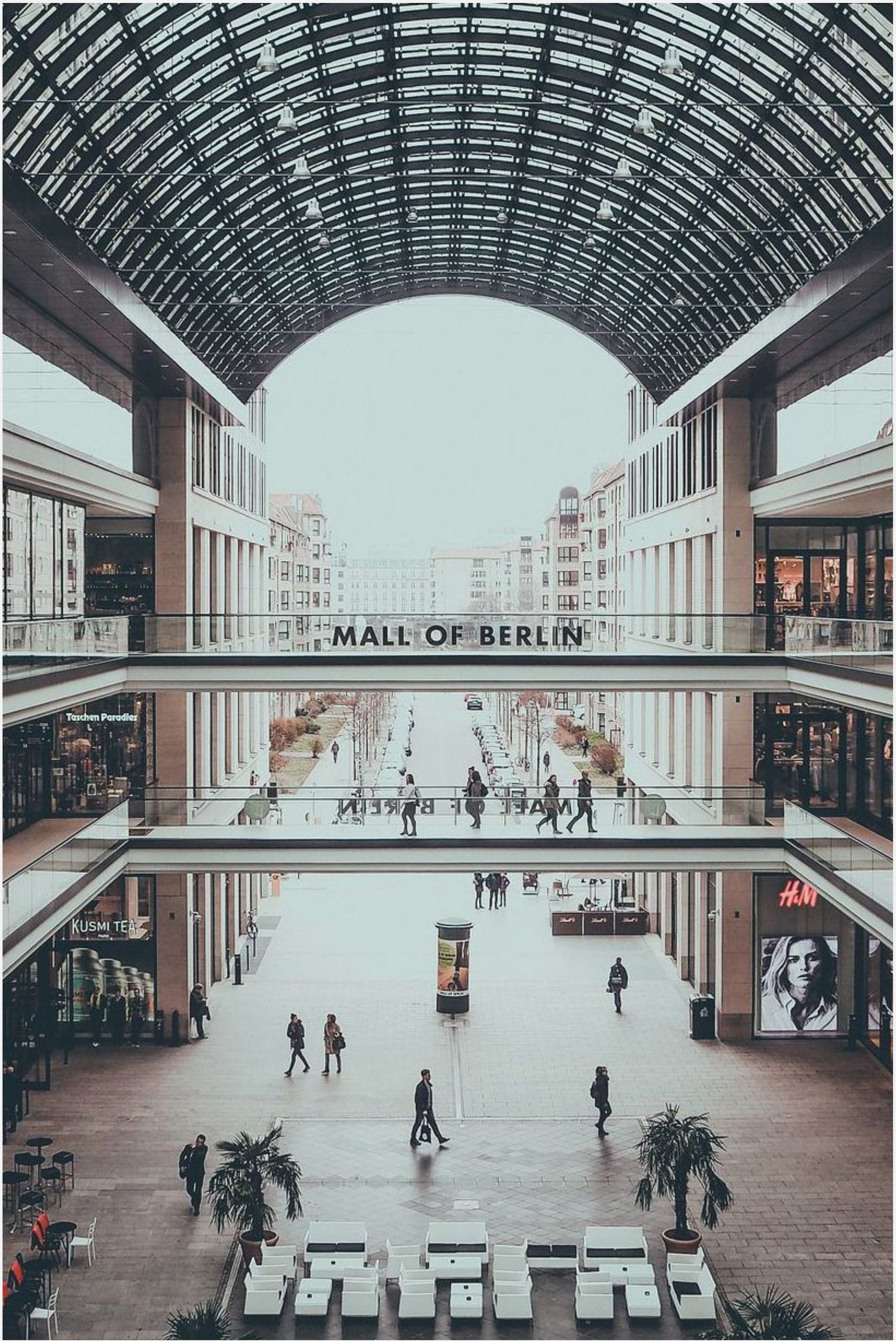
This sky bar, cocktail lounge, restaurant and club is hard to find: go through a black door in a run-down office block behind the Novotel, and the glass lift to the 16th floor is a thrill. Expect innovative cocktails with a well-dressed crowd.

BUCK & BRECK

BRUNNENSTRASSE 177, 10119 BERLIN

One of the best cocktail bars in the world, this speakeasy can only hold 14 customers seated around the long black bar, staffed by one bartender. It lies behind a hidden door on Brunnenstraße, but the cocktails make the hunt worth it.

QUINTESSENTIALLY



RETAIL

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KADEWE

TAUENTZIENSTRASSE 21-24, 10789 BERLIN

The Kaufhaus des Westens (Department Store of the West), usually called KaDeWe, is the second-largest department store in Europe after Harrods in London. The store was founded in 1907, designed by the famous architect Emil Schaudt, and has more than 60,000 square metres of selling space, offering more than 380,000 items.

ANDREAS MURKUDIS

POTSDAMER STRASSE 81, 10785 BERLIN

A veteran of Berlin's art scene, Andreas Murkudis opened this famous concept store in 2003 in Schöneberg. The store is defined by Murkudis' passion for clean, quality aesthetics in a light, airy space that looks more like a gallery. Shoppers looking for simple but well-made clothing and crafts will love it.

THE CORNER BERLIN

FRANZÖSISCHE STRASSE 40, 10117 BERLIN

The Corner Berlin is a boutique concept store for men and women that stocks collections from a serious list of designers, including Valentino, Acne Studios, Vetements and many more. The relaxed, light-filled space offers fabulous accessories and goods, along with the beautiful clothes, which will add to even the wildest wardrobe.

BAERCK

MULACKSTRASSE 12, 10119 BERLIN

Beside unfussy pieces from Berlin-based brands like Reality Studio, Vladimir Karaleev and Malaika Raiss, you'll find selections from Scandinavian labels like Minimarket and Hope, plus a well-curated selection of gifts, accessories and homewares. In the summer, make time to wander out to the shop's leafy backyard for a calming pause.



CULTURE

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BOROS COLLECTION

REINHARDTSTRASSE 20, 10117 BERLIN

A true hidden gem, the private Sammlung Boros (Boros Collection) is in an imposing converted bunker with metre-thick walls in Berlin's Mitte district.

There are no signs outside, and the only way to get in is by booking a guided tour, Thursday-Sunday, from the website (English-language tours start on the half hour). It's well worth the effort, with 300 square metres of exhibition space of contemporary art, including work from Ai Weiwei and Thomas Ruff.

C/O BERLIN

HARDENBERGSTRASSE 22-24, 10623 BERLIN

The C/O is one of the most respected photography galleries in the world and has reopened in a new location in Amerika House, on the Charlottenburg side of Tiergarten. Here, you'll find big names like Annie Leibovitz and Nan Goldin, Robert Frank and Anton Corbijn alongside rising young artists nominated for the future talent awards. There are also exhibitions around themes, such as food or the club culture of Berlin.

DEUTSCHE KINEMATHEK MUSEUM

POTSDAMER STRASSE 2, 10785 BERLIN

Explore the history of German cinema at this museum of film and television. Check out the spectacular mirror room, where you can watch a television programme review on eight-metre-high mirror walls. The museum has a large collection of Marlene Dietrich work and correspondence; drafts for Fritz Lang's 1927 masterpiece of silent cinema, *Metropolis*; and a multimedia time tunnel that allows visitors to travel through the history of East and West German television.

SASHA WALTZ & GUESTS

SOPHIENSTRASSE 3, 10178 BERLIN

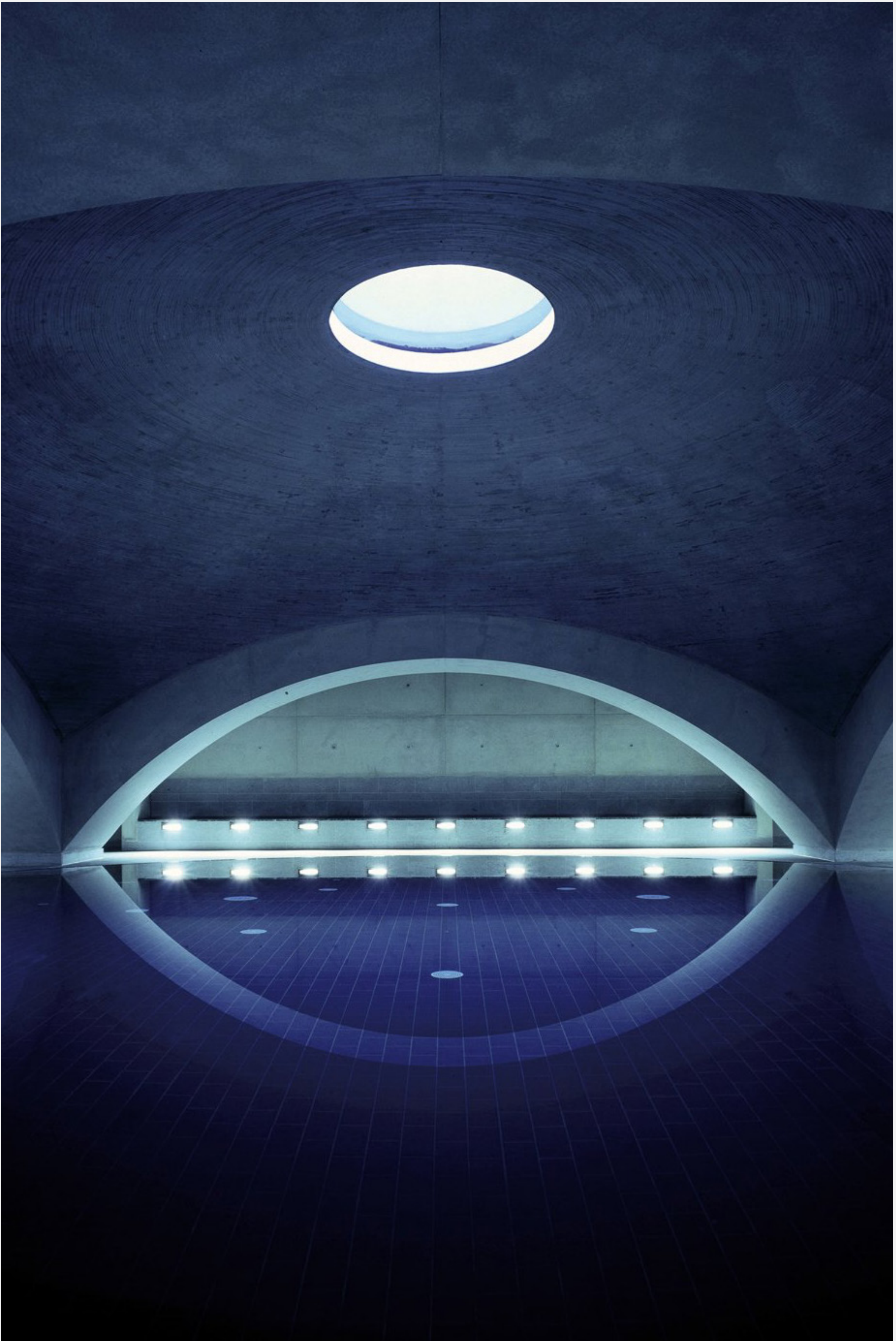
The ensemble Sasha Waltz & Guests is Berlin's most important institution for contemporary dance and has become known for its spectacular productions and sensational choreographies in empty spaces. At the opening of the Neues Museum, dancers went from room to room exploring the empty building; in the production of the opera *Dido and Aeneas*, they dive into a giant pool on the stage. Try to catch a performance if you can.

KOMISCHE OPER BERLIN

BEHRENSTRASSE 55-57, 10117 BERLIN

Berlin's Komische Oper has a long tradition of staging opera, operettas and musicals with a broad appeal – could be *West Side Story*, could be *La Bohème*. From the outside, the Komische Oper on Behrenstrasse, which is parallel to Unter den Linden, looks like a white-cube gallery – but inside, the attractive Neo-Baroque auditorium, which dates from 1882, provides a perfect setting for imaginative performances transporting audiences into the magical world of opera.

Q U I N T E S S E N T I A L L Y



WELLNESS

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DE ROME SPA AT HOTEL DE ROME

BEHRENSTRASSE 37, 10117 BERLIN

As part of the Rocco Forte Hotels family, the De Rome Spa offers treatments fusing science and technology with ancient wisdom, and a love of nature. The spa is inspired by the Mediterranean, and blends Sicilian botanicals, minerals and design with healing techniques and signature spa treatments to get you back on track.

LIQUIDROM

MÖCKERNSTRASSE 10, 10963 BERLIN

Bathe to the beat at Liquidrom, an ultra-modern spa. DJs play, the groove audible underwater, with a fantastic light show too. You can also float in the saltwater pool all the way through to midnight and watch the moon through the dome. Like so much of Berlin, it's a pretty out-there experience.

GENTLEMEN'S CIRCLE

CHARLOTTENSTRASSE 35, 10117 BERLIN

One for the man about town, Gentlemen's Circle offers the perfect classical shave in an atmosphere of an elegant salon, but also everything that a well-groomed man needs: hair styling, pedicure, shoe cleaning, suits and dressing gowns for sale, along with a world-class drink and – on Smoking Fridays – a good cigar.

UDO WALZ

KURFÜRSTENDAMM 32, 10719 BERLIN

Udo Walz has been a star in Germany for decades. His new salon on Kurfürstendamm is 400 square metres of serious hair worship, a clean, streamlined space that caters for men and women. Walz will attend his new salon daily to advise his customers and team. Result: a superb haircut (and colour).

VABALI SPA

SEYDLITZSTRASSE 6, 10557 BERLIN

Vabali Spa is something of an oasis; it's big, too, so you never feel cramped or observed by other visitors. The spa boasts a Balinese-type vibe with sauna, lots of treatments and a gorgeous pool – and it's open until midnight. Timings are flexible: you can drop in for an hour if time is tight.

Q U I N T E S S E N T I A L L Y

Essential Information

Local Office

Kopernikustraße 9, 81679 Munich, Germany

Email

membershipde@quintessentially.com

Telephone

+49 (0) 89 12 18 97 362

Telephone Code

+49

Emergency

112 (fire and ambulance), 110 (police)

Official Language

German

Currency

Euro (€, EUR)

Time

CET (GMT+1)

Electricity

The electricity is 230 V, 50 Hz, AC. The electrical outlets take a two-pronged plug.

Tipping

There is no obligation to tip in restaurants, cafés or bars. All service charges are included in published prices. If you are satisfied with the service, however, you may add 5-10 per cent and round up to the next euro.

Need To Know

Berlin is a safe city. However, as in most European cities, visitors are advised to keep an eye on their belongings and watch out for pickpockets.