

**the unlike guide to**

**berlin**  
Thomas Rentmeister

custom tour  
compiled by  
**Unlike Media, Ltd.**

# Thomas Rentmeister

Fresh from his studies in Düsseldorf, conceptual artist Thomas Rentmeister arrived in Berlin in 1988 with a high-profile Philip Morris scholarship in hand. Later that year Rentmeister had his first solo exhibition at the now defunct Vincentz Sala Galerie, where, fresh from the fall of the Wall, East Berliners made their way to their first-ever West Berlin gallery opening.

Fifteen years later, Rentmeister, who's work has been coined "Dirty Minimalism," moved back to the once divided city only to find massive redevelopment. In his soothsaying words, he predicts that "it will take another 50 years for the city to become gritty again."

A regular at many Berlin haunts, his favorite spot in the city is his Weissensee studio. He describes it as one "like you see in the movies, with beautiful rooms and lots of light." Coincidentally, the space was a former film studio, Filmstadt Weissensee, in which parts of *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920) was shot and Marlene Dietrich and Fritz Lang both flexed their silver screen prowess.

In the footsteps of the cinematic stars and in the shadow of the socialized laundry of the DDR (which inhabited the space before the artist

studios), Rentmeister has made a name for himself. While the artist celebrates exhibitions around the world, he points readers in the right direction here in Berlin.

# Alte Fischerei

Eating the sea

Food | outside city

Daily, From 11:30



The Alte Fischerei is as traditional a fish restaurant as it gets. Situated in a classic log cabin on the shores of the Werbellinsee north of Berlin, the restaurant has a charm that only the most authentic of places can lay claim to. One can dock their boat directly at the restaurant and sit either inside or outside while savoring traditionally prepared fresh fish.

What sets Alte Fischerei apart from other charming country dining choices is its dedication to using fresh ingredients. Their abundant herb sauces are always extremely fresh, they always feature vegetables from the local market and the fish is generally very high quality. While you might not regularly find yourself on the Werbellinsee, if you do, make sure to stop by for a fresh filet followed by some Rote Grütze.

*"I love spending time on the water. Water is like a free space. Nothing can be built there. There's just more imagination."*

**Alte Fischerei**  
Am See 2, 16244 Berlin  
T: +490333633141  
W. [www.alte-fischerei.de/...](http://www.alte-fischerei.de/)  
**fish**

# Strandbar am Weißensee

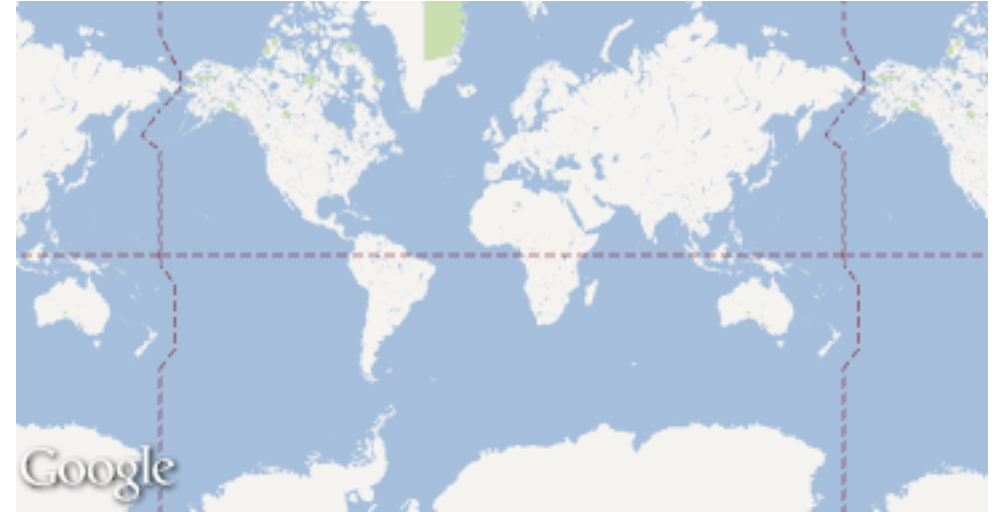
Lakeside drinking



This unassuming little lakeside bar is truly a hidden gem. There is nothing fancy here and they never promise more than they can deliver. It's that back-to-basics feel that has us coming back for more beer.

Just steps away from the lake, order a beer and pretzel and bask in the sun. Sometimes everything feels quite alright.

Bar | Weissensee



*“I go here alone or with friends and just sit on the chairs or in the sand. There’s a lot of open space and it’s just nice to sit and watch the sunset.”*

**Strandbar am Weißensee**  
Bank promenade on Weißensee,  
13088 Berlin  
T: +49309253241  
E. [info@binbaden.com](mailto:info@binbaden.com)  
W. [www.binbaden.com/...](http://www.binbaden.com/)

Transport:  
[Tram]4,12,13

photo © courtesy of Strandbar  
Weißensee

# Hackbarth's

## Old school new school

Bar | Mitte

Daily, 9:00 3:00



Before the influx of galleries and hip cafes on Auguststrasse, there was Hackbarth's. Soon after the fall of the Wall, Hackbarth's moved into a former bakery in the heart of Mitte. Perhaps watching the gentrification of the area explode is what makes the bartenders and waitresses a bit crabby at times. If you can get beyond the attitude, this cafe/bar serves up a awakeningly-strong cup of coffee and perfect fodder for people watching.

Barflies, bookworms and artists congregate for late night drinks, where almost everyone seems to be a regular. The attitude: get cozy or get out.

*“My favorite bar. For many years I have hung out here at least every other day, it’s like my living room. My table: in the back, on the left side, near the bar. If it’s not free, I wait until other customers leave so I can sit there.”*

**Hackbarth's**  
Auguststraße 49a, 10119 Berlin  
T: +49302827704

Transport:  
[U8] at Rosenthaler Platz

photo © Nic Shepherd

# Schwarzwaldstuben

Something to write home about



There's good reason that Schwarzwaldstuben has been written up by nearly every travel guide. With well-prepared traditional German dishes and a toasty dark interior, the beloved eatery offers the chance to savor those basic German flavors without traveling to Swabia. What the tour guides might fail to mention is that while foreigners are treated well, Schwarzwaldstuben's popularity is not due to Americans scavenging for a Wiener schnitzel (that said, it's of particular note, not too greasy and accompanied by a dollop of perfectly prepared potatoes).

So what's the secret? It's simple, really: honest, tastes-like-home fare continually draw the crowds. On a warm day, sit outside and admire Mitte denizens scooting by on their bikes while sipping a crisp beer.

*"Good food, good prices and the waiters are always friendly."*

**Schwarzwaldstuben**  
Tucholskystrasse 48, 10117  
Berlin  
T. +493028098084

Transport:  
[S1][S2][S25] at Oranienburger  
Straße

**Wiener  
Schnitzel  
German  
Austrian**

photo © Nic Steinhilber

# Hufeisensiedlung

Horseshoe home



The Hufeisensiedlung (literally, Horseshoe) is an architectural development in the south-easterly area of Berlin-Britz. The project, which created 1,000 homes, was carried out by famed German architect Bruno Taut in 1925. In 1924 Taut was hired to direct GEHAG (a private real estate developer, who to this day use the horseshoe image as their trademark) in order to inject the city of Berlin with his signature Bauhaus modern designs.

The horseshoe shape created an encompassing spacial effect, which also allowed for a natural pond to hold center stage in the U. Taut's designs were truly for the people—his motto, "light, air and sun," played a key role in his work, which employed flat roofs (often controversially), green space and plenty of window space for the sun to shine through.

Once built, many city residents complained that the developments were too nice for the working class, and the working class were quite pleased. Over 80 years later, some original residents still remain

Culture | Neukölln



and GEHAG continues to rent out the UNESCO site apartments.

*"I come here to look at the buildings. On Sundays I drive around the city and when it's a little misty, it's really beautiful."*

**Hufeisensiedlung**  
Fritz-Reuter Allee 72, 12359  
Berlin  
W.  
[www.hufeisensiedlung-berlin.de/...](http://www.hufeisensiedlung-berlin.de/)  
Transport:  
[U7] at Parchimer Allee

# Weißer See

Far east water



Berlin is a perfect, classical city in that one can easily escape the hubbub of urban life with a short ride (on public transportation, to beat) to sprawling landscapes of green hills and blue lakes.

Lakes in Berlin abound and most boast giant circumferences to get lost around and find private little nooks in. This is where Weißer See breaks away. Situated in the quiet quarter of Weissensee (named for the water we speak of) in the north-eastern side of the city, it is a mere 150 meters in diameter. But given the fact that it is a less popular lake among the lake-going crowd (don't ask us why, as it's just as lovely), the Weißer See is a great escape for some serious peace and quiet.

Thrills | Weissensee



*“My studio is a five minute walk from here. I usually like to jog around the lake three times, though I should do it more often than I have been. Otherwise, I just like to sit on a bench and read.”*

**Weißer See**  
Große Seestraße, Berlin  
W. [www.seen.de/...](http://www.seen.de/)

**lake**  
**outdoor**  
**escape**

photo © mplabs' via Flickr

# Passionskirche

## A Holy Place of Sound



## Culture | Kreuzberg

Varies, Check Website For Show Times



Akanthus is an organization that deals with the planning and execution of different cultural events in the Heili-Kreuz-Kirche and the Passionskirche. Both churches were extensively redeveloped throughout recent years and have been deliberately opened to wordly events ever since.

Through a contemporary use of the location, which still lives up to its expectations, Akanthus seeks to keep churches as part of a cultural heritage. Simultaneously, the audience has the unique possibility to experience the special charm of the holy locale.

*“I’ve seen many shows here including the Magnetic Fields and Bonnie Prince Billy. The ambiance of the church makes the music all the more special.”*

**Passionskirche**  
Marheinekeplatz 1, 10961 Berlin  
T: +493069401241  
E. [passion@akanthus.de](mailto:passion@akanthus.de)  
W. [www.akanthus.de](http://www.akanthus.de)

Transport:  
[U7] at Gneisenaustrasse

**music**  
**unique**

photo © extranoise's via flickr

# Spreepark

Stranded fun



The old amusement park was opened in 1969 as the "Kulturpark Plänterwald," and was, at the time, the only permanent amusement park in the German Democratic Republic. Visiting the park today, it's hard to wrap your brain around the fact that the greens were open to the public as late as 2001.

Since no further investors were found, the park packed shop and was closed down. Mother nature took possession of it. These days, you'll find rusted rides, sprawled along the hairy branches of trees and overgrown bushes. A magical, this-is-undiscovered feeling might crawl over you, especially during the dawn when the park turns into a surrealistic creepy-fun scene—and a true thrill.

Thrills | Treptow



*"I climb over the fence and I look at the rotting plastic dinosaurs. You're not allowed to enter and the guards chase you away with dogs but it's really worth it."*

**Spreepark**  
Kiehnwerderallee 1-3, 12437  
Berlin

Transport:  
[S85] [S9] at Plänterwald

**nature**  
**entertainment**  
**amusement**  
**park**  
**historic**  
**relax**

photo © Till Krech

# Berlin Basics

## All You Need To Survive

### WELCOME

... to a city of many faces.

Europe's renowned cabaret culture, Germany's capital, the world's most fought-over real estate. This bastion of history has proven, like its citizens, resilient. Since its reunification in 1989 Berlin flourishes with fashion, art, and rising young stars—starting from the ground with nowhere to go but up.

And sometimes it doesn't quite make sense: Late-night revelers party amidst the ruins of the Wall. Thai joints and Turkish döners fare better than German restaurants. The number of stroller-strapped babies, art galleries and modern buildings multiply every day. This is the new Berlin—let us guide you through the future.

### ARRIVING

Airport Tegel (TXL) 13405 Berlin (Reinickendorf)

Tegel is situated in the northwest of Berlin, approximately 8 km from the city-center. Apart from the buses 109 and 128, the express bus, TXL, connects the airport to the city's main train station Hauptbahnhof (a 20 minute ride), ending at Alexanderplatz (30

minutes from the airport). The express bus, X9, shuttles between the west's central Zoologischer Garten and the airport. The bus or underground ticket costs 2.10 Euro (fair zone AB) or 2.80 Euros for trips to the surroundings (fair zone ABC). Buses: 109, 128, X9, TXL. Taxis range from 15 to 30 Euros depending on destination.

Airport Schönefeld (SXF) 12521 Berlin (Schönefeld)

Schönefeld is situated slightly outside of Berlin-proper, in the southeast, approximately 18 km from the city center. The airport is connected with the city by the S-Bahn (suburban train) lines S49 and S9 as well as with several AirportExpress trains that run from/to Hauptbahnhof, Zoologischer Garten, Friedrichstraße, Alexanderplatz and Ostbahnhof every half an hour. Tickets for these trains and the S-Bahn cost 2.80 Euro. Trips via the S45 and S9 take approximately 45 minutes to/from central Berlin. The regional express trains take 15 minutes (to/from Ostbahnhof) to 30 minutes (to/from Hauptbahnhof) or 35

# Berlin Basics

## All You Need To Survive

minutes (to/from Zoologischer Garten). All trains and the S-Bahn stop at the station "Flughafen Berlin-Schönefeld." Trains: S9, S45, RE7, RB14. Buses: 162, 163, 171, 736, N46, N60. Taxis range from 25 to 45 Euros depending on destination.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: 3.4 million (city), 4.9 million (metropolitan)

Average Temperature: January 2/-3C (35.6/26.6F); July 24/14C (75.2/57.2F)

Time Zone: GMT+1 ( GMT+2 daylight savings time ); Central European Time ( CET )

Electricity: 220 V, 50 Hz, standard two pin plugs

Country Dialing Code: +49

Area Code: 30

Annual amount of taxes to be paid to own a dog: EUR150

Website: <http://www.berlin.de/international/index.en.php>

### TRANSPORTATION

#### Public Transport

Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (<http://www.bvg.de>) operates nine underground lines (U-Bahn), 28 tram lines (S-Bahn), 163 bus lines and six ferries. Single tickets cost at 2.10 Euros, day passes cost 6.10 Euros and week-long cards cost 25.40 Euros. For information on public transportation

visit: (<http://www.berliner-verkehr.de/traffic.htm>)  
Berlin Linien Bus (<http://www.berlinlinienbus.de>)

#### Bike

In comparison to other German cities, locals find the motorist/cyclist relationship in Berlin rather hostile. For some, however, Berlin is bicycle heaven - wide streets, reserved ( and respected ) bike lanes. Bicycle Station provides bike rentals and tours of Berlin. For more information visit: Pedal Power ( <http://pedalpower.de/> ).

# Notes



- A) Alte Fischerei
- B) Strandbar am Weißensee
- C) Hackbarth's
- D) Schwarzwaldstuben
- E) Hufeisensiedlung
- F) Weißer See
- G) Passionskirche
- H) Spreepark