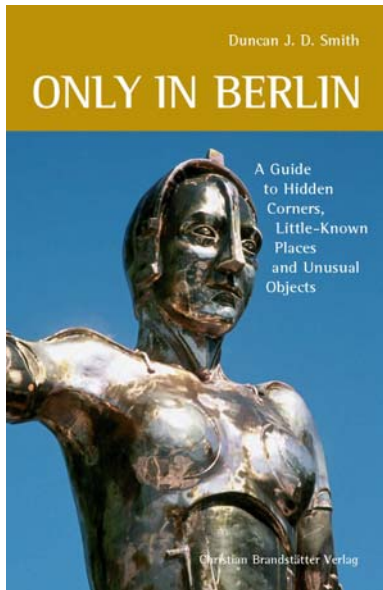


ONLY IN BERLIN – A Guide to Hidden Corners, Little-known Places and Unusual Objects

“Berlin combines the culture of New York, the traffic system of Tokyo, the nature of Seattle, and the historical treasures of, well, Berlin.”

Hiroshi Motomura, U.S. law professor (2004)

Straddling the Spree and Havel rivers, as well as numerous lakes and canals, Berlin is one of the most dynamic and fascinating capital cities in Europe; its tumultuous history over the last century makes it also one of the most



controversial. The spate of guidebooks published since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 offers the undemanding visitor a broad and easily accessible array of museums, churches and buildings – both historic and modern – reflecting the history of the city from the time of the Hohenzollerns and the Weimar Republic, via the Third Reich and the Cold War, up to the present day. However, much of what is proffered to today’s tourists tends to bolster the opinion of Kaiser Wilhelm II (1888-1918) that “there is nothing in Berlin that can captivate the foreigner, except for...museums, castles and soldiers”. With these words in mind this new guide has been written, especially for those who want to discover something more of the

place for themselves. It only takes a few minutes of planning, and a glance at a decent street map, to escape the crowds and the orchestrated tours and discover a very different Berlin.

Based on personal experience, and footslogging the city’s twelve recently reorganised districts (*Bezirke*), the author will point the explorer in a new and unusual direction. This is the Berlin of historic former villages, empty wartime bunkers and little-known public gardens; traditional breweries and ruined churches; quirky museums and grand villas; Oriental tea houses and unusual hotels; colourful market halls and vintage cinemas; not to mention an abandoned pneumatic postal system and a half-buried Second World War anti-aircraft tower, both of which can now be visited. Berlin remains, however, a city with a dark and turbulent past, its myriad memorials to the victims of Nazi and Soviet aggression, forgotten Jewish cemeteries, battle-scarred buildings, and Communist-era statuary still bearing grim witness to terrible times.



Using Berlin's extensive transport network of underground trains (*U-Bahn*), suburban trains (*S-Bahn*), regional trains (*Regionalbahn or RE*), trams (*Strassenbahn/MetroTram*), and buses (*Autobus/MetroBus*), the explorer can quite quickly reach all the places described within the following pages – and that's without detracting whatsoever from the sense of personal discovery that each of these places has to offer. Indeed, directions have been kept to a minimum so as to leave the visitor free to find their own particular path. Whether searching for remnants of Berlin's medieval town walls, tracking down the building where the atom was split, marvelling at Buddhist treasures from the Silk Road, descending into the crypt of the Hohenzollerns, or exploring the follies of Peacock Island, it is hoped that the visitor will experience a sense of having made the discovery for themselves.

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