

Berlin Packing List

A complete checklist for your trip — tick off before you leave and as you pack



BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- ☐ Passport valid for trip duration
EU recommends 3+ months beyond your departure date
- ☐ ETIAS / EES status checked
US citizens: no visa for Schengen stays up to 90 days; check the official EU travel advisory for current status
- ☐ Flights booked
- ☐ First nights' accommodation booked
- ☐ Travel insurance arranged
- ☐ Train tickets booked if day trips planned
Potsdam, Dresden, Hamburg, Prague — all reachable by train
- ☐ Bank notified of travel dates
- ☐ Backup card from a separate bank
- ☐ Document copies saved to cloud
Passport, cards, insurance — Gmail or Dropbox
- ☐ eSIM downloaded or SIM plan arranged

LUGGAGE

- ☐ Backpack or hard-shell suitcase
Spinner wheels recommended — cobblestones throughout Mitte
- ☐ Day bag / daypack
- ☐ RFID travel wallet
- ☐ Packing cubes
- ☐ Waterproof wash bag
- ☐ TSA luggage locks

HEALTH AND GROOMING

- ☐ Toiletries
Buy on arrival — dm and Rossmann drugstores are everywhere
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
German tap water is excellent and safe to drink
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Moisturizer
- ☐ Antihistamines
- ☐ Ear plugs
- ☐ Quick-dry travel towel

CLOTHING

- ☐ Lightweight pants and shorts
Apr–Sep; warm pants for fall and winter
- ☐ Tops and breathable base layers
- ☐ Waterproof jacket / rain jacket
- ☐ Supportive walking shoes
Cushioning essential — Berlin involves serious walking
- ☐ Quick-dry underwear
- ☐ Swimwear
May–Sep: Badeschiff, Plötzensee, Schlachtensee
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Gloves, warm hat, scarf
Nov–Mar; Berlin winters are genuinely cold

ELECTRONICS

- ☐ Type F plug adaptor (Schuko, 230V)
Check device is dual-voltage; hair dryers often are not
- ☐ Cell phone
- ☐ Power bank
- ☐ Noise-cancelling headphones
- ☐ Camera + spare memory cards
- ☐ Kindle

DOCUMENTS AND ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Passport (+ cover with document pockets)
- ☐ Insurance documents
- ☐ Printed tickets and boarding passes
- ☐ Cash — Euros
Many bars, restaurants, and markets are cash only; carry at all times; use Sparkasse or Deutsche Bank ATMs
- ☐ German phrasebook
- ☐ Student / teacher card (if applicable)
ISIC card — museum discounts across the city
- ☐ Emergency bank contact numbers noted

ESSENTIAL BERLIN TIPS

Cash is essential. Many restaurants, bars, and markets are cash only. Withdraw at least €100 on arrival from a Sparkasse or Deutsche Bank ATM — avoid Euronet machines.

Get the BVG app. Covers U-Bahn, S-Bahn, trams, and buses. Download before you leave. Validate your ticket before boarding — inspectors check frequently.

Book in advance. Museum Island sells out — reserve timed entry at the Museum Island booking page. The Reichstag dome is free but requires registration at the official Bundestag website.