

Gat's Central Tour

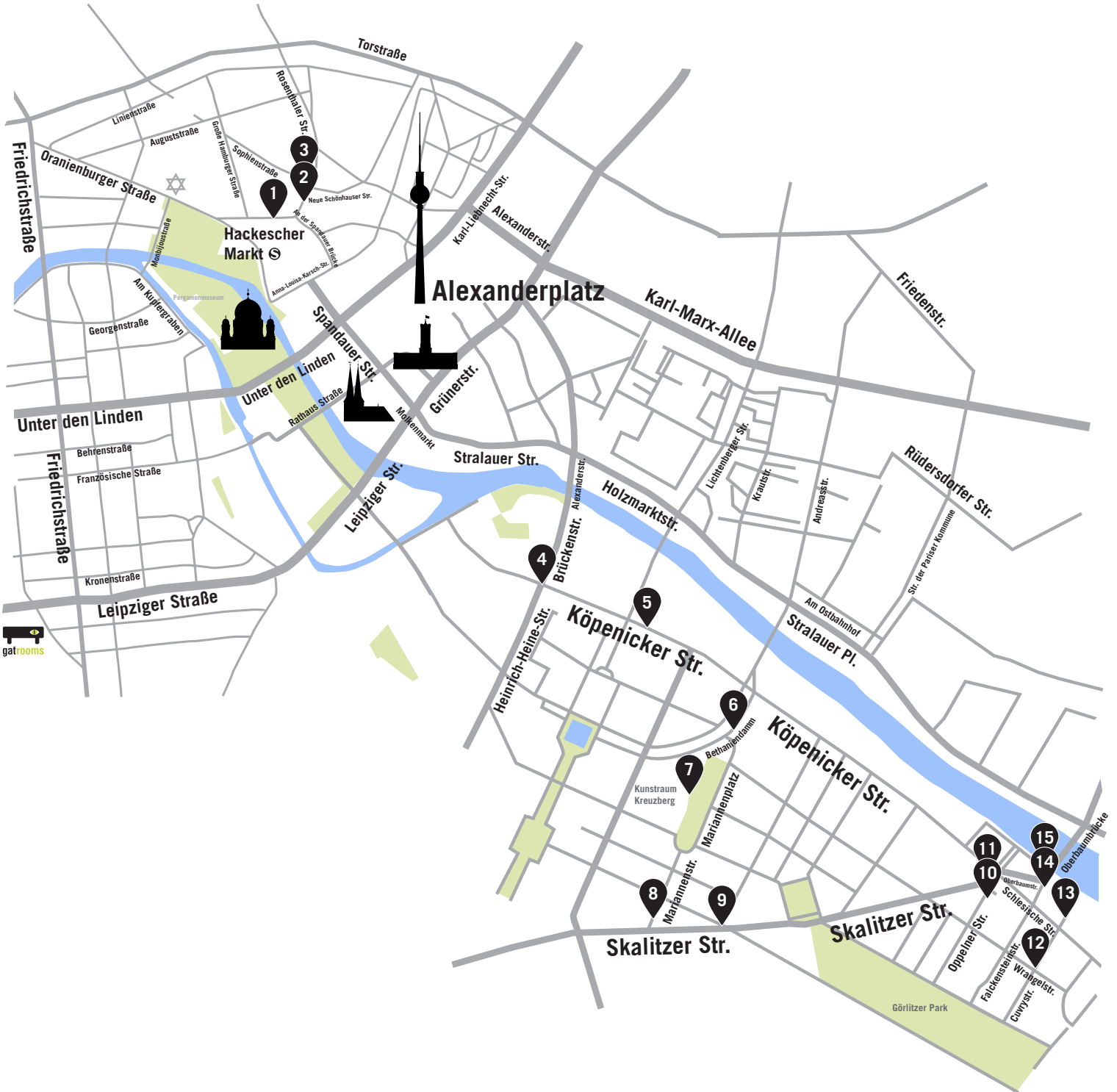




- 1 **FRIEDRICHSTRASSE:** Flair and elegance. The most legendary street in the city; hotels, cafeterias, shops, department stores, and exclusive offices form the core of the Friedrichschaft neighborhood.
- 2 **THE BERLIN STORY BOOKSHOP:** Devotion to the city of Berlin! All kinds of books, DVDs, CDs, posters and marble busts that relate to the city of Berlin are available in different languages.
- 3 **HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY:** One of Berlin's oldest universities, it has educated 29 Nobel price winners and it's considered one of the most prestigious universities in Europe!
- 4 **BEBELPLATZ:** Just across the street, Bebelplatz is one of the most beautiful squares in the capital. It was the site of the infamous "book burning" organized by the Nazis. Stop to see Micha Ullmann's subterranean monument commemorating this incident.
- 5 **GERMAN HISTORY MUSEUM:** The official national history museum of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- 6 **LUSTGARTEN:** The "pleasure park" is a park on Museum Island that was once the site of Nazi rallies. The first potatoes were plant here.
- 7 **THE BERLINER DOM:** Berlin's Cathedral
- 8 **MARX-ENGELS-PLATZ:** Public Park named after two great philosophers, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, authors of the Communist Manifesto.
- 9 **NIKOLAI QUARTER:** Oldest residential area of Berlin, reconstructed in the 1980 (the area was largely destroyed after WWII) Based on historical models, the houses and streets were recreated as accurately as possible; the end result is very satisfactory.
- 10 **ROTES RATHAUS:** Berlin's townhall.
- 11 **ALEXANDERPLATZ:** Layer upon layer of Berlin's urban history is located in Alexanderplatz. Amongst the sights to look out for here, are the 365 TV tower, highest construction topped by a globe with a rotating viewing platform.
- 12 **HACKESCHER MARKT:** This is truly one of Berlin's Hotspots. Around it numerous international brands have opened their head offices and concept stores.
- 13 **MUSEUM ISLAND:** Magnificent work of art itself, involving five world-renowned museums.
- 14 **ALTES POSTAMT:** It was a post office that survived the WWII and is now home to the museum of photography C/O Berlin.
- 15 **NEW SYNAGOGUE:** Was built between 1859 and 1866 as the main synagogue of the Berlin Jewish community.
- 16 **MONTBIJOU PARK:** Shady refuge from the unrelentingly urban landscape of the area. A foot bridge connects the park with the Museum Island.
- 17 **SOPHIENSTRASSE:** Lively Street, interesting collection of shops, bars and restaurants.
- 18 **NEUE SCHÖNHAUSER STRASSE:** This street together with Münzstrasse is a paradise for shoppers. They hold a few of Berlin's best fashion stores.
- 19 **KARL LIEBKNECHT HOUSE:** The Communist Party of Germany purchased this building and it became the seat of its Central Committee.
- 20 **VOLKSBUHNE THEATRE:** This theatre exemplifies the socialist realism style of architecture that characterized much of East Berlin.
- 21 **TORSTRASSE:** Take the main road, Torstraße, drive past Rosenthaler Platz tube station and drive through until you reach Friedrichstraße on your left hand side. Drive Friedrichstraße until you see Kronenstraße on your right hand side, you have arrived!



Gat's Street Art + Graffiti Tour



FULL TOUR 6,5 KM



- 1 HACKESCHER MARKT:** Former Jewish quarter which was left practically abandoned after de WW II. When the wall fell, the ones that lived in this area fled to the West fearful that the wall would be built up again. It was not until the early 90s that young people started exploring the area which later became the most squatted spot in Berlin (it was a legal practice back then). The neighborhood became full of young talented artists & squatters which started demanding restaurants, cafeterias and the like... Years passed by and it eventually became upscale as to what you can see nowadays.
- 2 ROSENTHALER STRASSE'S ALLEYWAY:** On this street remains a little true alternative gem. In this art alleyway on Rosenthaler Straße you can see everything from spray paint art to stencils to graffiti, where not one inch of wall space is left uncovered! Visit this place and you will get to see work from the following artists:
Jimmy C: famous street artist best known for his drip painting technique in which blobs of spray paint drip down to form vibrant pictures.
El Bocho: Most famous street artist in Berlin and one of the world's most renowned street art **personas**. Here you would get to see one of El Bocho's famous characters "Little Lucy" who stems from a Czech TV series from the 70s "Little Lucy fear of the streets". Lucy was reborn in 2003 and started bringing fear to the streets of Berlin, and especially to the cat that always accompanies her in her adventures. This character tries to kill her cat in the most creative ways she can...Come and have a look of your own!
Other artists include: Don John, SP38, Otto Schade, raebk, koala, 6 (who works 6 hours each days drawing the number 6 all over Berlin and has already managed to draw over 18.000 6s) ...
- 3 EXIST TO SOCIETY:** You might want to stop for a drink at this truly alternative and sweet bar in the alley.
- 4 CASE:** German Street Artist Andres von Chranowski a.k.a. case painted this piece in less than a week. He belongs to the graffiti crew Ma'Claim, who are considered as pioneers in photo-realistic representation within the graffiti scene. Word on the streets says this is actually an advertisement for multinational corporation NOKIA, although you won't find the firma's name anywhere in the street art. You will find it in the corner of Köpernickstraße with Brückenstraße.
- 5 BERLIN WALL INTERVENED BLOCKS:** When you reach the number 55 of Köpernick Straße, you will see a few Berlin wall blocks standing on one side of the road. When the wall fell, blocks of concrete were left behind and dumped behind this building which belonged to the council. When a group of young artists found them years later, they contacted the council and started a project working on the blocks. If you come inside New West Berlin Art Gallery, you will get to see a great exhibition and if you go into the inner patio, you will see several wall remains amazingly intervened by street art artists such as beep, Life, Reftu, Patrick Preller and many others.
- 6 GERMANY'S FIRST GUERRILLA GARDENER:** When a little bit of East Berlin got left on the wrong side of the Berlin wall, Osman Kalin built a home on it from scraps of rubbish and cultivated flowers and vegetables. This small triangle of land in Bethaniendamm, a street in West Berlin's alternative Kreuzberg district, is a lasting reminder of that era. Flanked by two roads, this spot marks the victory of one man over the East German authorities. When the wall went up, this piece of land ended up on the wrong side and became a dumping ground. Osman Kalin (who still lives in the house) seized the land in 1982 and spent weekends cleaning it. On it now stands the home he built from scraps of rubbish and a garden that is a buzzing tourist destination. Three decades later, it is covered in brightly colored street art and graffiti. By passers can also appreciate the result of the last time they tried to evict him (he covered all his belongings in concrete so that they could not move anything).
- 7 BETHANIEN KUNSTRAUM:** Art school that promotes and presents the visual arts. It was built as a hospital in 1847 on the orders of Friedrich-Wilhelm IV and designed by Theodor Stein. The building functioned as a hospital until 1970. When it closed, an intense 'struggle for Bethanien' began. There have been plans to demolish the building and replace it with social housing; thankfully these plans have not seen the light of day yet. The corridors of this art house are filled with great street art from various artists.



- 8** **ASTRONAUT COSMONAUT:** Created in 2007 by Victor Ash, a Copenhagen-based artist originally from Paris, France. It is thought to be the biggest stencil in the world, with its bold monochrome frame catching the eye from far and wide.

Victor used the idea of the Cold War as an inspiration. He wanted a piece that would somehow relate to the location he was painting on. On his own words “I made the astronaut in relation to the space race between America and the USSR, to the idea of fighting for something that isn’t with soldiers, that isn’t here on Earth—it’s in another dimension. That’s the kind of idea that inspires me: it’s more global, more human.” Apparently if you are there towards the end of the day the shadow of a flagpole from across the road is perfectly positioned in the astronaut’s hand. Get to the corner of Mariannen Straße and Skalitzer Straße to check it out.
- 9** **NATURE MORTE (OR HANGING DEAD ANIMAL):** In partnership with Skalitzers and KJOSK, Belgian street artist ROA created this massive painting in 2011 as a part of his exhibition, “Transit” which focuses on the native wildlife of Berlin that has been pushed out of the metropolitan landscape. Eerie, but incredibly thought provoking, the painting shows the dead animals gruesomely strung up by ropes or slumped onto a sad pile on the ground. Although the work borders on morbidity, it has a certain beauty to it, illustrating the inevitable cycle of life and death, creation and decay. You will find it in the corner of Oranienstraße and Manteuffelstraße.
- 10** **ROUNDED HEADS BY NOMAD:** This Berlin artist uses pictogram style in his painting “Rounded Heads”. Interesting street art in Oppelner Straße that you cannot miss!
- 11** **YELLOW MAN BY OS GEMEOS:** Os Gemeos are Brazilian street artists and identical twin brothers. The giant mural titled ‘Yellow Man’ is visible on a building facade in Oppelner Strasse. These brothers are strongly influenced both by the hip hop culture and by a peculiar movement developed in Brazil and which is identified by the name of pixação.
- 12** **THE LADS BY LONDON POLICE:** London Police started drawing on the streets back in 1998, so they have been going for over 16 years now; their signature character is this little smiley-face guy called Lad, which has many multiple heads that are added onto the main character. You will find this piece in the corner of Wrangle Straße with Curvy Straße.
- 13** **BROTHERS UPSIDE DOWN + CHAINS BY BLU:** If these two colossal murals on Curvystraße are not on every tourist guidebook’s “Top Ten must-see sights in Berlin,” they should be. In addition to being esthetically spectacular, these two murals by Italian artist Blu completed between 2006-2009 send a shrewd political message illustrating the re-unification of East and West – the two masked figures pulling up each other’s masks while simultaneously brandishing “E” and “W” shapes with their fingers – and the anonymous handcuffed man symbolizing the gentrification after the fall of the Berlin Wall.
- 14** **GLOBAL WARMING BY BLU:** This hourglass in Falckensteinstraße right after Oberbaumbrücke, is by another piece by Italian artist Blu. In this hourglass there is no sand, in the upper part you see a big iceberg which is slowly melting. The melted water drips in to the bottom part which contains a small city where the sea level is constantly rising. By this piece the artist is making us aware of the climate change we are living at the moment.
- 15** **LEVIATHAN (OR PINK MAN) BY BLU:** That pink monster made from many small little humans is one of the most famous Street Art works in Berlin and Germany. This big creature in Falckensteinstraße, right next of the piece we were talking about before, with its dead eyes and wide open mouth is made out of a lot of smaller naked humans, who are looking painful, scared and trying to hold each other together. So all these scared humans are composing a monster, way bigger than any of those humans could ever be. There is just one individual that is painted white, the one standing on the hand of the monster in the direction of its mouth. The white person will get eaten by the creature. It could show That individual is getting eaten by the big monster. The mural could be showing a fascistic system like the Nazi system which is scarring the people until all of them are working together to kill the white individual.



DISCOVER OUR FILM-WORTHY CITY





1 STAATSBIBLIOTHEK (KULTURFORUM):

Setting for the “cinematographic poem” directed by Wim Wenders in 1987: Wings of desire.

2 MUSEUM FOR FILM AND TELEVISION

As part of the Sony Center, in Potsdamer Platz, the Museum offers a very interesting journey through the history of German cinema, with a special focus on Berlin: from Dr. Caligari to Marlene Dietrich. The modern building also has a gift shop specialized on film and music.

3 POTSDAMER PLATZ

Since Berlin, symphony of a great city, it has been the most cinematographic square in the German capital throughout the 20th century.

4 ANHALTER BAHNHOF

Its ruins provided the appropriate atmosphere for Peter Falk's character in his search for a lost Berlin in Wings of desire.

5 WHILHELMSTRASSE CORNER LEIPZIGERSTRASSE

One of the most impressive buildings from the Third Reich served as filming location for Valkyrie, the film about the attempt on Adolf Hitler's life in 1944.

6 CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

The former checkpoint between East and West Berlin was the original setting of several espionage films during the Cold War.

7 BRANDENBURG GATE

Billy Wilder chose this symbol of the city on two occasions, when depicting post-war Berlin: A foreign affair and One, two, three!

8 FRIEDRICHSTRASSE S BAHN STATION

In order to enter East Berlin, Tom Hanks had to get off the train at this station in The bridge of spies.

9 CAFE LEON

This café pays homage to cinema. The perfect place for a break in the heart of Mitte.

10 CLÄRCHENS BALLHAUS

Film location for one of the last scenes in Inglorious basterds.

11 KASTANIENALLEE CORNER SCHÖNHAUSER ALLEE

It's believed that one of the first film tests was done on this corner by the Skladanowsky Brothers in 1895.

12 STRAUSBERGER PLATZ / KARL-MARX ALLEE

Two of the most relevant films about the GDR were filmed in this boulevard, considered to be the best testimony to socialist planned architecture in Berlin: Goodbye, Lenin! and The lives of others.

13 OBERBAUMBRÜCKE

After years of separation, the iconic bridge between Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg finally became the symbol of a reunified city in Run, Lola, run.