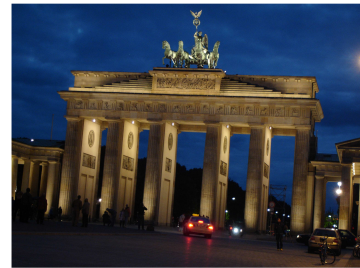




## Berlin

The city's mayor Klaus Wowereit tried to describe Berlin as "poor but sexy". It's impossible to describe Berlin adequately in twenty or so lines, but what we can say is that Berlin offers plenty of everything: history, art, film, music, politics, fashion, sport and much more. Much too much for a short trip...



Of course you will be eager to see the sites of recent historical events: visit the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag building, Checkpoint Charlie, the remains of the wall, the East Side Gallery...

And of course don't miss the 16 museums of our Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation with the famous Museum Island and its Pergamon Museum.

Berlin truly has something for everyone, including:

- over 170 museums, hundreds of galleries and exhibition areas, with exhibitions ranging from the world's art treasures to the latest contemporary works
- three large opera houses, eight major orchestras – including the world-famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
- countless entertainment and live music venues
- more than 60 theatres and off-theatres and even an English theatre
- over 100 cinemas, with some playing movies in original version or with subtitles
- more than 3,000 restaurants, bars and pubs – with something for every palate
- three cathedrals and many churches, some with services in English.

### Practical information

Berlin is a very safe city. Although you can feel secure walking around the city at any time of the day or night, as in every other large city there are pickpockets who target tourists, so do take the usual precautions.

Berlin has one of the best public transport systems worldwide, so you won't need a car. Any help you might need, you will get at the hotel or from the conference staff or just ask a Berliner – they are usually friendly to foreigners.

There are two airports in Berlin: Tegel and Schönefeld. The journey from Tegel Airport to the Maritim hotel in Stauffenberg Straße (NB: there two Maritim hotels in Berlin) will take you approximately 20 minutes by taxi and will cost around 20 €. From Schönefeld Airport it will take 45 minutes to get to the hotel and will cost around 35 €. The public transport system is very convenient. You will find details of the necessary directions on the conference web site.

It is worth noting that credit cards are not nearly as common in Germany as they are in the USA. So it is better to have some cash with you. Those restaurants, theatres, ticket shops etc., which do take credit cards, will have a sign on the door showing which ones they accept. Most taxis take credit cards, but it is always best to ask beforehand.

### Weather

In Europe in January we cannot predict how the weather will be in the summer. In the past we have had a hot June and a cold August in the same year. The summer temperatures can range between 30 °C and 15 °C.

Before you leave home check the weather forecast for Berlin.

(maybe: [www.bbc.co.uk/weather/5day.shtml?world=0050](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/5day.shtml?world=0050))

For any other questions you may have, take a look at: [www.visitberlin.de/index.en.php](http://www.visitberlin.de/index.en.php) or the city's official website [www.berlin.de/english/](http://www.berlin.de/english/) or simply visit: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin).

We'll soon have an FAQ page on the conference site: [www.SALALM2009.de](http://www.SALALM2009.de). For any further queries contact Barbara Kunze: [Kunze@iai.spk-berlin.de](mailto:Kunze@iai.spk-berlin.de).