

BERLIN

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play in Berlin this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



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PACKING TIPS

1. If you don't already speak any German, bring a **phrasebook** to help you along your journey. "Everyone will appreciate if you speak a few phrases in German."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin
2. Bring an **umbrella** and **layers of clothing** to accommodate warm and cool weather. "Every month in Germany can be rainy...it's hard to say what the weather will be like. It's like the wheel of fortune."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin
3. "**Pack light.** Take three to four days' worth of clothes, and make sure they're all of a color family that can be mixed and matched."—TripAdvisor Member, Marne-la-Vallée, France
4. Put **walking shoes** on your packing list, if planning to explore the waterfront at Wannsee or hike up Potsdam's hills.

Inside BERLIN

Berlin has gone through a truly remarkable resurgence. After the destruction of World War II, postwar division and the crushing repression of the communist regime, fresh crops of skyscrapers, clubs, boutiques, parks and gardens sprouted in the wake of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. As Berliners reclaimed both halves of their capital, Berlin bloomed into Europe's coolest city.

However, Berlin's dark history has not been forgotten. It is remembered at sights such as the bombed ruin of the neo-Romanesque Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Jüdisches Museum Berlin (Jewish Museum), the stark Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe and Museum Haus am Checkpoint Charlie (Berlin Wall Museum).

While these important places are vital to understanding this unique city, visitors will also be entranced by Berlin's brighter treasures, such as those presented on the Museuminsel (literally Museum Island), as well as by the city's wide boulevards, fascinating neighborhoods and resilient inhabitants.

Berlin's combination of moderate maritime weather and harsher continental climate brings sunny, pleasant summers and cold, damp winters. December and January call for bundled clothing and boots to fend off the cold and snow. July and August are the warmest months, although unpredictable clouds and rain can ruin a picnic at any time of year.

Top VIEWS



BERLIN'S BEST VIEWS

Open until midnight, Berlin's **TV Tower** (Fernsehturm) offers "brilliant views from the top, and if you're lucky, you can get into the revolving cafe! Queues are likely, so plan carefully."—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Television Tower (Fernsehturm), Alexanderplatz

"We dined one night at **Lorenz Adlon**. The restaurant used to be a reading room, and the hotel has beautifully converted it into a restaurant, retaining the library. From the window seats, there is a wonderful view of the Brandenburg Gate."—TripAdvisor Member

Lorenz Adlon, Hotel Adlon Kempinski, Unter den Linden 77, 030 22 61 19 60

Visit the controversial new dome of the German Parliament building, the **Reichstag**, for the "stunning architecture" by Norman Foster and "wonderful views. You cannot reserve and have to reckon on queuing unless you pre-book for the restaurant."—TripAdvisor Member

Parliament Building (Reichstag), Platz der Republik, 030 22 73 59 08

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Hohenschonhausen Prison, Am Grossen Wannsee 56, 030 80 50 010
2. Museumsinsel (Museum Island), 030 20 90 55 55
3. Neues Museum, Genthiner Strasse 38, 030 266 42 42 42
4. The Holocaust Memorial, Cora-Berliner-Strasse 1, 030 26 39 43 36
5. Pergamon Museum, Museumsinsel, Am Kupfergraben, 030 20 90 55 77
6. Deutsches Historisches Museum, Unter den Linden 2, 030 20 30 40
7. Parliament Building (Reichstag), Platz der Republik, 030 22 73 59 08
8. Topography of Terror, Niederkirchnerstrasse 8, 030 25 45 09 50
9. Berlin Philharmonic, Herbert-von-Karajan-Strasse 1, 030 25 48 80
10. Brandenburg Gate (Brandenburger Tor), Unter den Linden, Pariser Platz



FAMILIES

The **Museum fur Naturkunde** is "a very good natural history museum. The central gallery has the largest articulated dinosaur skeleton anywhere. My kids liked the mineral section and there's a very cool interactive table display in the stuffed-animal section."—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Museum fur Naturkunde (Natural History Museum), Invalidenstrasse 43 der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 030 20 93 85 91

"Worth visiting" is **Spandau Zitadelle**, a dramatic fortress with regularly scheduled entertainment and activities for children. "After, have a wander through the 'old town' of Spandau, Berlin's most westerly district."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

Spandau Citadel (Spandauer Zitadelle), Am Juliesturm, 030 3 54 94 40

Zoologischer Garten (Berlin Zoo) "has a big playground and a little area where you can get close to small animals you can pet."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

Zoologischer Garten (Berlin Zoo), Budapester Strasse 32, 030 25 40 10

"...come to the cabaret, old chum"



ROMANCE

"There is a lovely cafe area opposite the Opera House and University called **OpernPalais**, a cross between a Parisian brasserie and a Viennese coffee house. You can sit outside and have drinks or coffee under umbrellas."—TripAdvisor Member, London England

OpernPalais, Unter den Linden 5, 030 20 26 83

The secluded spots among the English and French landscaping make the "**Schlossgarten Charlottenburg** one of the most romantic places in Berlin."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

Schlossgarten Charlottenburg, Luisenplatz, 030 32 09 11

"Don't sit alone in your room—come to the cabaret, old chum," at **Wintergarten Variete**, offering a "wonderful show and excellent pre-dinner restaurant upstairs."—TripAdvisor Member, Pattaya, Thailand

Wintergarten Variete, Potsdamer Strasse 96, Tiergarten

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

"When the light started to go down, the **Brandenburg Gate** really came to life. It was fantastically lit up to look like gold. The various 'statues' in the square also give the area a little extra bit of atmosphere."—TripAdvisor Member, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Brandenburg Gate, Unter den Linden, Pariser Platz

More than 2,700 gray slabs comprise the **Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe**, a "moving and unmissable" experience.—TripAdvisor Member, Belfast, Ireland

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Cora-Berliner-Strasse 1, 030 26 39 43 36

"...moving and unmissable"

Admission is free at the **Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz** exhibit, "where the 'Final Solution' was devised. Moving stories of how and why the Nazis spread rumor and lies that fuelled the hatred, which then propagated further and further into isolated and organized terror."—TripAdvisor Member, U.K.

Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz, Am Grossen Wannsee 56, 030 80 50 010



ADVENTURE

Take a hike through **Volkspark Friedrichshain**, a "huge park with several playgrounds, as well as two beer gardens, lakes and ponds, ducks and an old WWII bunker turned into a hill. Don't miss the fairytales fountain!"—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

Volkspark Friedrichshain, Am Friedrichshain

Go ice skating in the winter or swimming in the warmer weather on **Schlachtensee**, "a beautiful lake with a very nice garden restaurant in Grunewald."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

Schlachtensee, Am Schlachtensee, Zehlendorf

"What makes Potsdam," a UNESCO World Heritage site, "so special is its outstanding cultural landscape." Hike up "the Pfingstberg hill to the **Belvedere**."—TripAdvisor Member, Nuremberg, Germany

Belvedere, Am Pfingstberg, Potsdam

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EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

"Use your time when you go to the **Pergamon Museum**! Spending three hours there is no problem at all. The building reminds me of an ancient temple. The masterpiece is, of course, the enormous Pergamon Altar. It fills you with respect for the people who made this world wonder."—TripAdvisor Member, Belgium

Pergamon Museum, Am Kupfergraben 5, Museuminsel, 030 20 90 55 77

"My friend and I visited the **Museum of Technology** and really enjoyed the experience. The entrance fee was surprisingly low for an amazing collection of technological history. The telecommunication equipment display included an entire television studio from the '50s. Amazing!"—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

German Museum of Technology Berlin (Deutsches Technikmuseum), Trebbiner Strasse 9, 030 90 25 40

"Leave behind the tourist hubbub and visit the **Topography of Terror**. You will learn so much about a terrible time in the history of Western civilization. The stark design of the exhibition brings home the harsh reality of what occurred in Germany under totalitarian regimes."—TripAdvisor Member, Madison, Wis.

Topography of Terror, Niederkirchnerstrasse 8, 030 25 45 09 50



RELAXATION

"On the other side of **Hackescher Markt**, you've got the Hackescher Höfe, a fancy courtyard system with small boutiques, etc. Hackescher Markt is also where walking tours in Berlin start from, so you can catch a guided tour there."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

Hackescher Höfe, Rosenthaler Strasse 40-41, 030 28 09 80 10

"**Sanssouci** was the highlight of our trip to Berlin and quite refreshing after visiting the more 'heavyweight' buildings, memorials and tours. It really is the most beautiful place. Quite a contrast to many of the more austere places in Berlin. It's quirky in an almost English way, with extravagant follies, gardens and water features. At every other turn, you'll find something unexpected."—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

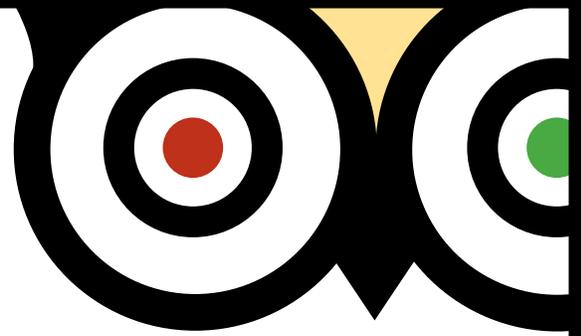
Sanssouci Park, Potsdam, 033 19 69 42 00

Soothe the stress of travel at "one of Berlin's best day spas, located in the Grand Hyatt and open to the public."—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

Club Olympus Fitness Centre & Spa, Grand Hyatt Berlin, Marlene-Dietrich-Platz 2, 030 25 53 12 34

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



"Berlin is a huge and widespread city, without a single center. To be close to 'everything' is not really possible. I would recommend starting with one of the **walking tours** or even your own guide. These tours are really informative and compact."—TripAdvisor Member

On **Kleingruppenkarte** tickets, "up to five people can travel for a day on U-Bahn, S-Bahn and buses."—TripAdvisor Member

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WHERE to eat



"Dinner is served late in Berlin. Visitors can choose to line up with the locals and eat around 8:00, or take advantage of the calm before the culinary storm and have the choice of tables early."—TripAdvisor Member

FAMILIES

Alt-Berliner is a little mom and pop style German restaurant in the heart of Berlin. The food is tasty, quick and plentiful and best of all, the price is right!"—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Alt-Berliner Wirtshaus, Wilhelmstrasse 77, 030 22 48 82 05

"Trying to find THE best burger is one of my hobbies. Whenever somebody tells me that they've found it, I just have to check it out. After searching for ages, who would have guessed that two New Yorkers would deliver it in Berlin at **The Bird**?"—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

The Bird, Am Falkplatz 5, 030 51 05 32 83

Kids will enjoy an inexpensive snack of "brilliant currywurst with chips and mayo at **Curry 36**, always busy with local customers and courteous and good-humored servers."—TripAdvisor Member, York, U.K.

Curry 36, Mehringdamm 36, 030 25 17 36 8

"Extraordinary."

ROMANCE

La Cocotte is tucked away in a quiet neighborhood in West Berlin. It's cozy, like a Paris brasserie. A man at the bar was strumming French tunes on a guitar."—TripAdvisor Member, Aalborg, Denmark

La Cocotte, Vorbergstrasse 10, 030 78 95 76 58

"The **Restaurant Gabriele im Adlon Palais** has a very cosy interior. The atmosphere was very romantic and the service superb. Most of all - the entire menu was fantastic."—TripAdvisor Member, Copenhagen, Denmark

Restaurant Gabriele im Adlon Palais, Behrenstrasse 72, 030 20 62 86 10

"**Facil** is one of Berlin's most elegant establishments. The dining area has an enormous retractable glass roof and overlooks a lush garden. The dishes were beautifully presented, and the taste was just as extraordinary."—TripAdvisor Member, Montreal, Quebec

Facil, Madison Hotel, 3 Potsdamer Strasse, 030 59 0 05 12 34

BUDGET

"If you're over the local meat and potato diet, the inexpensive and tasty burritos at **Dolores** are a nice change."—TripAdvisor Member, Brisbane, Australia

Dolores Gourmet California Burritos, Rosa-Luxemburg-Strasse 7, 030 28 09 95 97

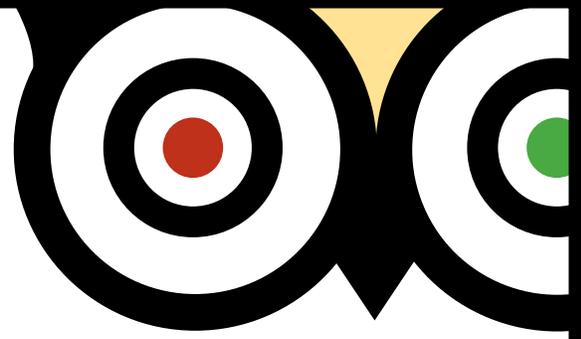
"We ate at **Good Time** our first night in Berlin and had to go back twice. Excellent food, very fresh ingredients and excellent value. Try the weisse rolls and panacotta with mango sauce."—TripAdvisor Member, Madrid, Spain

Good Time, Chausseestrasse 1, 030 28 04 60 15

"Definitely eat at **Monsieur Vuong** for Thai/Vietnamese food. You can go alone and sit at the counter. Super cool area for shopping and the food there is DELICIOUS. Just go!"—TripAdvisor Member, Seville, Spain

Monsieur Vuong, Alte Schonhauser Str. 46, 030 99 29 69 24

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

Samadhi is a “superb Vietnamese vegetarian restaurant,” with a “big non-smoking room separated from the smoking room.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bath, U.K.

Samadhi, Wilhelmstrasse 77, 030 22 48 88 50

Serving fresh pastas, fish, meat and vegetarian dishes, **Die Zwolf Apostel** (The 12th Apostle) is a “delightful Italian restaurant right underneath the rail line, but you can’t hear anything underneath all that brickwork.”—TripAdvisor Members

Die Zwolf Apostel (The 12th Apostle) Georgenstrasse 2, 030 2 01 02 22

“**W-Der Imbiss** is the best vegetarian food I’ve had outside of California. Amazing flavours, absolutely delicious. Do not pass this place up!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

W-Der Imbiss, Kastanienalle 49, 030 44 35 22 06

HIDDEN GEMS

“Order one of the five- or six-course menus and make an evening of it.” **Hugo’s** is “a nice restaurant with great views over the park to Mitte. Leave time for a drink in the bar up there before dinner.”—TripAdvisor Member, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Hugo’s, InterContinental Berlin, Budapester Strasse 2, 30 26 02 12 63

“**Wintergarten im Literaturhaus** is a wonderful place to spend an afternoon discussing literature or art over coffee or an evening at a quaint table with an innovative menu of exquisite taste. There is also a lovely garden that has elegant weekend brunches.”—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin

Wintergarten im Literaturhaus, Fasanenstrasse 23, 030 8 82 54 14

“There is nothing fancy about **Gasthaus Krombach**. It’s a traditional German restaurant serving honest German cuisine. The decor is both charming and cozy. The service is friendly and efficient, and the food is well cooked. Beware the portion sizes, though. They tend to be large!”—TripAdvisor Member, Buckinghamshire, U.K.

Gasthaus Krombach, Meinekestrasse 4, 30 8 81 86 02

SPECIAL EVENTS



Filmmaking takes center stage during the **International Short Film Festival**. Over 400 short films will be featured, as well as themed seminars and The Long Night of the Unexpected, where the audience will choose the best film. (November 15 – 20)

International Short Film Festival, various venues, 030 25 29 13 22, <http://www.interfilm.de>

Don’t let the blues get you down at Berlin’s annual **JazzFest**. Part of the larger Berliner Festspiele, the JazzFest is just one of many culture events filling the city. This year’s JazzFest will bid farewell to the event’s artistic director, world renown Swedish trombonist Nils Landgren. (November 2 – 6)

JazzFest Berlin, Various venues, 030 25 48 90, <http://berlinerfestspiele.de>

Experience the best in body art at the **21st Annual Tattoo Convention Berlin**. Watch master artists from around the world participate in skill contests and demonstrations or enjoy the supporting stage, which features snake charmers, fire-eaters and more. (December 2 – 4)

21st Annual Tattoo Convention Berlin, Arena Berlin, <http://www.tattooconventionberlin.de>

Celebrate the New Year in style at the **Brandenburg Gate New Year’s Eve** party, one of the largest New Year’s events in the world. The program includes performances by international pop and rock artists, laser and light shows and a spectacular fireworks display at the stroke of midnight. (December 31)

New Year at the Brandenburg Gate, Brandenburg Gate, <http://www.silvester-berlin.de>

Suit up and say goodbye to 2011 during the **Berlin New Year’s Eve Run**. The run begins twelve hours before the New Year starts and features several distance competitions, with the final trophy awarded not for the fastest time, but for the best costume. (December 31)

New Year’s Eve Run, Mommsenstadion, 030 30 12 88 10, <http://www.berliner-silvesterlauf.de>

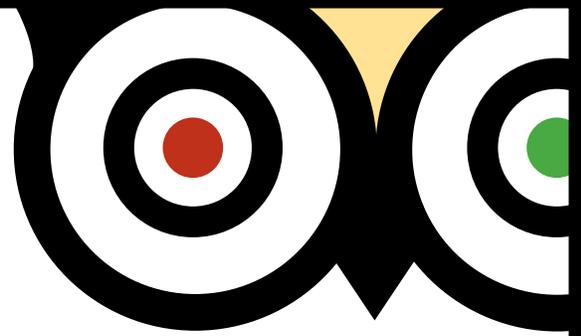
Foodies won’t want to miss **International Green Week**, an exhibition of the latest innovations in food, agriculture and horticulture. Fresh produce, meats and dairy products will be available to sample, as well as the finest in wines and spirits. (January 20 – 29)

International Green Week, Messe Berlin, 030 30 69 69 69, <http://www.gruenewoche.com>

Join the street party during the **Berlin Carnival Parade**, when revelers wearing traditional (and not-so-tradition costumes) take to the streets. From cowgirls to court jesters, the parade is an explosion of color moving through the streets of Berlin. (February 12)

Berlin Carnival Parade, <http://www.karnevals-zug-berlin.de>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

“**Melia Berlin** is the best choice a family could make to have an excellent stay in Berlin, especially when having teenage children with them. The hotel is perfect, very comfortable and within walking distance to everywhere.”—TripAdvisor Member, Salonika, Greece

Melia Berlin, Friedrichstrasse 103, 030 20 60 79 00

The **Mercure** “is a tremendous hotel for sightseeing. It’s also a good value. The family suite we had was spacious, modern, comfortable, quiet and spotless. There was a separate bedroom for our teenage daughter, with a shared bathroom and also a separate toilet with washbasin.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wales

Mercure Hotel & Residenz Berlin Checkpoint Charlie, Schuetzenstrasse 11, 030 20 63 20

The **Moevenpick** “is a perfect mixture of old and new. Service at front desk was perfect, and the location is super. Five points from us!”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Moevenpick Hotel Berlin, Schoeneberger Strasse 3, 030 23 00 60

“Really a rare experience in today’s world”



Have questions about Berlin? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

“What makes the **Ritz-Carlton** truly outstanding is not the facility, although it is grand in the old-world style. Rather, it’s the impeccable service from every single staff member! Really a rare experience in today’s world of pre-packaged microwave service!”—TripAdvisor Member, Tel Aviv, Israel

Ritz-Carlton, Potsdamer Platz 3, 030 33 77 77

“From outside the **andel’s Hotel Berlin** looks like the usual concrete building, but stepping into the reception area is like stepping into the pages of a modern style magazine.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

andel’s Hotel Berlin, Landsberger Allee 106, 030 45 30 53 0

“The **Adlon Kempinski** is a luxury class hotel that successfully combines old charm, modern amenities and style. We were pleasantly surprised to receive a chocolate cake and a bottle of sparkling wine for our anniversary. A very nice touch.”—TripAdvisor Member, Zurich, Switzerland

Hotel Adlon Kempinski, Unter den Linden 77, 030 2 26 10

“...like stepping into the pages of a modern style magazine.”

BUDGET

An easy walk from transit, top floor **Hotel-Pension Bregenz** delighted guests with “spacious and sparkling clean” rooms. Bregenz gets “you right into the atmosphere of this really great city.”—TripAdvisor Member, Athens, Greece

Hotel-Pension Bregenz, Bregenzer Strasse 5, 030 8 81 43 07

“We enjoyed every single day” at **Inn-Berlin**. “The room was new, colorful and super clean. We slept like the dead on new mattresses and pillows like heaven.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kolding, Denmark

Inn-Berlin, Prinzenallee 49, 030 49 30 19 01

“SWEET! PERFECT! **Circus Hostel** is like a cool hotel, not a hostel.” The upbeat address is “clean and well organized, new and fresh.”—TripAdvisor Member, Norway

Circus Hostel, Weinbergsweg 1a, 030 28 39 14 33

“Even our dog got five-star service!”

LUXURY

“When you enter **Schlosshotel Im Grunewald**, you immediately know you’re in one of the most elegant addresses in Berlin. The interiors are just breathtaking, so grand and yet, so intimate. Everything in the hotel is understated elegance.”—TripAdvisor Member, Manila, Philippines

Schlosshotel Im Grunewald, Brahmstrasse 10, 030 89 58 40

The **Grand Hyatt Berlin** “is new, modern, decorated in a minimalist way. Everything functions very well. Service is just excellent. It seems as if they have chosen the prettiest, most polite, smiling and ‘well-groomed’ young professionals in the country to work in the hotel.”—TripAdvisor Member, Athens, Greece

Grand Hyatt Berlin, Marlene-Dietrich-Platz 2, Hoppegarten, 030 25 53 12 34

For “rock star service at a reasonable price,” try **Swissotel Berlin**. “What sets this hotel apart from others is its phenomenal service. Prepare to be treated like rock stars, even if you’re just an ordinary couple visiting for a long weekend. Even our dog got five-star service!”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Swissotel Berlin, Augsburgstrasse 44, 030 22 01 00

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

“The **Casa Camper** is the best hotel I’ve stayed at in Europe. My room was very large, especially the bathroom area and everything was clean and modern. The best feature of this hotel is the the top floor restaurant area. You can go there for snacks anytime you want. There are croissants, fresh fruit, crisps, coffee and tea, a fridge full of sodas, juices and bottled water etc. etc.—all for free.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tampere, Finland

**Casa Camper Berlin, Weinmeister Strasse 1,
030 20 00 34 10**

“The **Johann** has it all: it’s spotlessly clean, very well managed, modern but tasteful, has a very Berlin-style flair and the best (hotel) breakfast in Berlin, friendly staff who know what travelers really need. It’s central, and above all it’s the best place to be in Berlin. Please don’t spoil it!”—TripAdvisor Member, Freiburg, Germany

**Johann Hotel, Johanniterstrasse 8,
030 22 50 74 0**

At **Pension Elefant**, “you don’t feel like you’re in a hotel, but sharing a flat with friends. It’s a very pleasant feeling. My room was as big as my flat in Paris, very comfortable and clean.”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

**Pension Elefant, Welsperstrasse 27,
030 30 60 70 60**

“...a very Berlin-style flair.”

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