

# EXPERIENCE

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TANZANIA GRAND TOUR + HISTORY UNFOLDS AT MASERATI  
PUERTO RICO REVIVAL + A FIRST LOOK AT THE GLOBAL 7000 AND 8000 AIRCRAFT

# THAT BERLIN LOOK

Visiting Germany's exuberant capital today, it's hard to believe it was once a divided city. More than two decades of development have taken the former Soviet-run east from playing catch-up to pushing the cutting edge, and now momentum has swung back west, where cranes again dominate the skyline. In this light-speed change, one thing has persevered: Berlin's love of art. It permeates every aspect of life from the graffiti-clad remnants of the Eastern Bloc to the dining rooms of the finest restaurants. As the city celebrates 25 years since the fall of the Wall, we take a look at this emerging luxury destination and the stories its art-rich spaces have to tell.

BY NATASHA MEKHAIL

### ROOM WITH A VIEW

Berlin's bad boy of fashion Helmut Newton refused to play by the rules when he photographed his fetishist nudes for French *Vogue*. In tribute, **Newton Bar** devotes a wall to one of the artist's head-turning works. The bar does cocktail classics impeccably, and once you've had an eyeful, we suggest retiring to the cigar room upstairs.



NEWTON BAR

### Stay

## Where the Wild Things Are

Berlin's roster of five-star hotels includes classics like the Ritz, the Regent and the Adlon Kempinski but for pure artistic pleasure, look to luxury boutique hotel **Das Stue** (Danish for "living room") tucked discreetly at the edge of the Tiergarten. The former Danish embassy, reimaged by Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola, takes seriously its proximity to Germany's oldest zoo, with wilderness-themed works and a buzzing lobby bar through whose picture window it's not uncommon to see an ostrich stroll by. Meanwhile, the nearby **Waldorf Astoria Berlin** championed the recent revival of West Berlin when it opened last year, bringing with its classic definition of luxury a nod to the city's artistic past in **Romanisches Café**, a recreation of the coffee house where the George Groszes and Billy Wilders of the world once clinked glasses – and still the best place in the city for a Sekt-drenched Sunday lunch.



"MÄDCHEN IM ROMANISCHEN CAFÉ" BY LESSER URY, 1911



PAULY SAAL



FISCHERS FRITZ

### Dine

## Fan Fare

The dining options appear endless in this city of culinary stars – 19 to be precise. Michelin has favored 11 of Berlin's restaurants, and the decor is often as inventive as the menus. Discover the industrial-chic aesthetic the city is famous for in repurposed spaces like **Pauly Saal**, the former gymnasium of a Jewish girls' school, now dominated by oversized chandeliers and a day-glo Cosima von Bonin missile sculpture. At starred chef Tim Raue's **La Soupe Populaire**, a restaurant-gallery in a former brewery, experience a menu themed to match the exhibited artworks. And, for those who prefer fine dining without the flare, find the artistry tableside at chef Christian Lohse's two-starred **Fischers Fritz** where a martini trolley makes the rounds and the country's only lobster press serves up jus for a mousse made while you watch.



KAREN AND CHRISTIAN BOROS

### Do

## Art School Confidential

Learn Berlin's secret handshakes through **Culture Trip**, a bespoke tour service cofounded by former Wall Street financier Virginia Giordano. Tours take place by private car in the company of a cultural expert. So whether you crave a curator-led gallery walk through the Bauhaus Archive, a special-permission stroll through the space-age Frank Gehry-designed DZ Bank headquarters, or the chance to chip your own piece off the Berlin Wall, let Giordano's little black book of contacts turn the key. For standout pieces by Ai Weiwei, Damien Hirst and Wolfgang Tillmans, arrange a private tour of the **Sammlung Boros**. Advertising mogul Christian Boros purchased the Albert Speer-designed former Nazi retreat and transformed it into an appointment-only gallery and live-in penthouse, but left the exterior in its original condition – bullet holes and all. Or visit **Sammlung Hoffmann**, in the former-sewing-machine-factory home of Erika Hoffmann and her late husband Rolf. You might even pass Mrs. Hoffmann as you browse her Basquiats and Beuyses.

SAMMLUNG HOFFMANN

