

Independent Traveler Infos # 02 TGAC

Berlin WelcomeCard – Your explorer ticket for Berlin & Potsdam: There is absolutely no doubt – the best way for independent travellers to discover **Berlin & Potsdam** is to take advantage of the comprehensive public transportation network. To buy the correct tickets can be difficult for foreign tourists and spoil the fun of individual sightseeing trips. There are several ticket zones, different transport systems, time limits, only german speaking sales staff, confusing ticket vending machines etc.. Fortunately there is a perfect solution: the **Berlin WelcomeCard** – an unlimited ticket for the entire **public transportation network** for 48 or 72 hours! It also comes with a convenient guide including maps and a voucher booklet with great savings on over 130 top sights and cultural highlights. Insider's tip: The **public Bus line #100** passes many Berlin sights and with your Berlin WelcomeCard you can get off and back on the bus at any stop any time!
Further information: <http://www.visitberlin.de/welcomecard/index.php?lang=en>

Germany – a Shopper's paradise – Go East: Sure, you can go shopping anywhere in the world. But one thing is certain: in Germany you can expect a very special shopping experience. As you stroll along the streets of Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Weimar, Meissen and Erfurt, gazing into the shop windows, you will be amazed. As well as **German brands** such as BOSS, JOOP!, Jil Sander, Adidas, Puma, Mont Blanc and Glashuette Original, you'll also find an impressive variety of local **German "originals" and handmade treasures:** porcelain in Meissen, garden gnomes in Thuringia, chocolate in Potsdam, christmas pyramids and nutcrackers in Seiffen, Embroidery in Plauen, christmas glitter balls and figures in Lauscha, faience and earthenware in Rheinsberg etc.. **Berlin** has glittering boulevards and brandnew "Arkaden", but also art markets and bohemian boutiques at lively squares and in hidden courtyards. **Leipzig's** completely redeveloped arcades at the main railway station are a great place. Shopping in **Dresden** is a cultural experience. In the town centres of **Erfurt** and **Weimar** carefully restored Renaissance and medieval buildings create a backdrop that transforms a shopping trip into a journey in history. Whenever you get the chance, visit one of the many local **markets** that sell fresh regional produce – mostly food specialties, but also local handcraft. And if you get tired, there are innumerable cafes, bars, restaurants and beergardens to relax and to enjoy **German culinary delights**. Insider's tip: Travellers from non-EU countries can claim back German VAT. **Further information:**
http://www.germany-tourism.de/ENG/culture_and_events/7249.htm

More news & travel tips:
<http://www.tgac-us.com>