

Berlin

[music: *The Passenger* by Iggy Pop]

Hello and welcome to the *nomadamin* English podcast. I'm Amin Bahmani Yeganeh, an English teacher and the founder of *nomadamin*. Every episode, a fascinating subject is chosen to help you improve your English, and gain new perspectives on the world. I, the storyteller, will be using intermediate English with a **pinch of** higher-level language for you to learn. If you miss something, you can always skip back and listen again. Full transcripts are also offered at <http://nomadamin.com/podcast>.

[Introduction]

Welcome to Berlin, the **vibrant** and **cosmopolitan** capital city of Germany. In this episode, we will explore the history, art, music, and so much more.

[Geography]

Berlin is located in northeastern Germany, in the heart of the country's vast lowlands. The city is situated on the **banks** of the river *Spree* and surrounded by beautiful lakes and **lush** forests. It is the largest city in Germany and home to around 3.5 million people.

[History]

Berlin has a rich and **tumultuous** history that **dates back** over 800 years. The city played a **prominent** role in the World War II, as it was the capital of Nazi Germany. After the war, the city was divided into two halves – East and West Berlin – for almost 30 years. In 1989, the *Berlin Wall* was finally **torn down**, and the city was **reunified**. Today, Berlin is a symbol of hope, **resilience**, and unity.

[Architecture]

Berlin is home to some of the most impressive architecture in Europe, with buildings ranging from Gothic to modern glass and steel structures. One of the most iconic buildings is the *Reichstag*. This historic building has been through many changes throughout the years and is now home to the German parliament. It is a symbol of democracy and is an important **landmark** in the city. The building is also known for its **distinctive** glass **dome**, which offers excellent views of the city to the visitors. Another iconic landmark of Berlin is the *Brandenburg Gate*. This impressive structure is more than 200 years old and was built as a symbol of peace. It's located in the heart of the city and is one of those places where a lot of tourists take their Berlin selfies.

[Art]

Berlin is a center of **contemporary** art, with numerous galleries, museums, and exhibitions **showcasing** the work of both **established** and **emerging** artists from

around the world. One of the most popular galleries is the *East Side Gallery*, a section of the *Berlin Wall* that was turned into an open-air gallery after it fell in 1989. It **features** a long **stretch** of the *Berlin Wall* covered in graffiti and **murals**. The **Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe** is also a powerful and **thought-provoking** memorial, which is a **tribute** to the victims of the *Holocaust*. The *Museum* is another **must-visit** place for art lovers. The museum houses an **extensive** collection of works by the **acclaimed** German artist who is best known for her powerful and emotional depictions of the struggles of the working class.

[Music]

[music: *Berlin Song* by Ludovico Einaudi]

Moving on to music, Berlin has a rich musical **heritage** with famous composers such as *Bach*, *Beethoven*, and *Hans Zimmer* all **having ties** to the city. The city has also been the birthplace of many musical movements, including techno and punk. You can still experience the city's musical heritage by visiting some of its famous music **venues**, such as the *Berghain* nightclub or the *Philharmonie* concert hall.

[Food]

Berlin is famous for its street food and traditional German **cuisine**. Some of the must-try dishes include the *currywurst*, a type of sausage served with **curry** ketchup, and the *schnitzel*, a breaded and fried meat cutlet. The city is also known for its diverse food scene, with many international restaurants serving cuisine from all over the world. Another local specialty is the *Berliner*, a type of doughnut that's filled with jam. But, when it comes to drinks, Berlin is famous for its beer, with many local **breweries** producing high-quality **brews**.

[Souvenirs]

Finally, **souvenirs** are a special way to remember a trip to a fabulous city like Berlin. Some popular souvenirs of Berlin include the flag of Berlin featuring a figure of a bear, postcards, magnets, **trinkets**, and the most exciting one: a piece of the *Berlin Wall*, which can be bought online or found at **flea markets**

[Closing]

And **that's it** for this episode. You can also find the photos I've shot in Berlin on my Instagram account, [@nomadamin](https://www.instagram.com/nomadamin). It is a city of incredible art, music, and food that's steeped in history.

The *nomadamin* podcast is and will be free to make enjoyable education accessible to everyone. So, if you enjoy listening to this podcast, please make a donation using the button on the player or the link in the description to support the channel and play your part.

I hope you've enjoyed listening to this episode and have been inspired to visit Berlin. Thank you for tuning in, and until next time, keep exploring!

Words List

a pinch of: a small amount of something
vibrant: full of energy and life
cosmopolitan: including people from many different countries
bank: the land alongside a river or lake
lush: abundant
tumultuous: turbulent, exciting
to date back: to have existed since a particular time in the past
prominent: important
to tear down: to demolish
reunified: together again
resilience: the capacity to recover from difficulties
landmark: a building or place that is easily seen and recognized
distinctive: having a special quality that is different and easy to recognize
dome: a rounded roof on a building
contemporary: modern, present
to showcase: to display, to exhibit
established: respected, recognized, well-known
emerging: beginning to be noticed
to feature: to have as a characteristic
stretch: an area of land or water, especially one that is long and narrow
mural: a painting or other work of art on a wall
memorial: a statue to remind people of a person or event
thought-provoking: making you think a lot about a subject
tribute: something that shows your respect and admiration for someone
must-visit: essential to visit
extensive: large, covering a large area
acclaimed: praised, celebrated
heritage: valuable objects that have been passed down from previous generations
to have ties: to have a connection
venue: the place where something happens, especially an organized event
cuisine: a style or method of cooking
curry: a dish of meat, vegetables, etc., cooked in an Indian-style sauce
brewery: a place where beer is made commercially
brew: a kind of beer
souvenir: a thing that is kept as a reminder of a person or place
trinket: a small item of jewelry that is of little value
flea market: a street market selling second-hand goods
that's it: used when something has ended