

BEST OF BERLIN

BY THE EXBERLINER EDITORIAL TEAM.



Best tour for the lazy

You've done historical walkabouts, street art scavenger hunts and multiple boozy crawls. But have you toured Berlin while parallel to the pavement? Since 2013, Richard Eckes of **BERLIN HORIZONTAL** has been giving visitors a new perspective on the capital's tourist hotspots by wheeling them around in a comfy double bed – pyjamas optional. From his custom-built rickshaw, decked out with duvets and your choice of orange, red or lime-green cushions, you get a panoramic view of the TV Tower, the Brandenburg Gate and more, optionally accompanied by music or Eckes's quirky narration. ("Those massive pink pipes

were installed for our former gay mayor's champagne parties!") You'll ride on pedestrian-littered pavements, cycling paths and in between traffic, attracting both nasty looks (we got called "lazy" and "disgusting") and cheers of encouragement from the Berlin public. A casual 30 minutes in bed is €25, including a photo shoot courtesy of Eckes – and hey, if you've ever wanted to be Photoshopped lying against the backdrop of a romantic full moon or with fire, there's that too. Just make sure to take a loo break beforehand, unless your bladder is immune to bumpy rides. **SB** ▶ Various locations, daily 14-22; book online at berlinhorizontal.de

Best (new) gimmicky Wall museum

Berlin's already got one perfectly good museum dedicated to the Wall (the free-of-charge official Berlin Wall Memorial and documentation centre at Bernauer Straße) and one cheesy one (the confusing privately run Mauermuseum am Checkpoint Charlie). Why build yet another? Opened at the beginning of April, **THE WALL MUSEUM EAST SIDE GALLERY** doesn't exactly answer that question, despite boasting Mikhail Gorbachev's stamp of approval. The former Soviet president is said to have initiated the idea back in 2014, although Slovenian-born Berlin film producer and founder of the glitzy Cinema for Peace charity gala Jaka Bizilj runs the private company. Located in the same building as the touristy Pirates restaurant adjacent to the longest surviving stretch of Wall, the East Side Gallery, the multimedia exhibition uses hundreds of screens to display videos, photos and interviews that chronicle the history and

impact of the Wall from its erection in 1961 to its 1989 demise. In an awkward "high-tech" touch, texts are displayed on screens that alternate between German and English – so be prepared for some congestion as you wait for your chosen language. Bits and pieces are interesting, like a special installation on the East Germans who fled the GDR in 1989 via the West German embassy in Prague. At the very end, a room of projectors and screens plays clips from 1990's "The Wall – Live In Berlin" concert, featuring Roger Waters, Cyndi Lauper, Van Morrison and Scorpions performing by the newly demolished barrier. At the time, some derided the gig as gimmicky and unnecessary. Rather like this museum... unless you've only got one day in Berlin and want to fit in Wall art and Wall history in one go. **HS** ▶ The Wall Museum East Side Gallery, Mühlenstr. 78-80, Friedrichshain, S+U-Bhf Warschauer Str., daily 10-19, admission €12.50