



### Henrik Tidelfjård

Founder of Berlinagenten (p188) – lifestyle, culinary and adventure tours

**You were born in Sweden and have lived in London and Barcelona. Why did you come to Berlin?** Because of its quirky aspects, stunning experiences and diversity of lifestyle in each district. Berlin is not a snobbish, mainstream and conservative city but a creative, sexy and open-minded 'beast'. Everyone is individual. **What makes Mitte fascinating?** The mixture of architecture, fashion, art, history and people of all kinds. Pretty much inspiring and eye-catching. **Favourite hidden spots in Mitte?** Café Bravo (p71), tucked into the courtyard of the Kunst-Werke art space. **Any cool buys in Mitte?** The ICI Berlin shop (p68) is just what Berlin is about: off the beaten track, confusing and great fun. **Anything to avoid?** The 'EasyJetSet' on Oranienburger Strasse and the pub crawls. **Favourite restaurant?** Susuru (p70). **You've lived in Berlin for eight years. How has Mitte changed?** New shops, galleries and restaurants mushroom all the time, especially around Hackescher Markt. Maybe only 10% of all locations existed on my arrival.

## BOAT TOURS

A lovely way to experience Berlin on a warm day is from the deck of a boat cruising along the city's rivers, canals and lakes. Tours range from one-hour spins around the historic centre (from €7) to longer trips to Schloss Charlottenburg and beyond (from €16). Most offer live narration in English and German. **Stern & Kreisschiffahrt** (www.sternundkreis.de) is one of the main operators. The season runs from April to mid-October. The maps in the Neighbourhoods chapters indicate embarkation points.

## SPECIALITY TOURS

**Berlinagen** (☎ 4372 0701; www.berlinagen.com) Get under the skin of Berlin's lifestyle scene with clued-in guides that whisk you off the beaten track and into unique bars, boutiques, restaurants and clubs, even private homes. For an insider's primer on the culinary scene, book its Gastro-Rallye, where you enjoy one course at each of three to five restaurant stops. Also see our interview with company founder Henrik Tidefjärd (p73).

**Berliner Unterwelten** (☎ 4991 0518; www.berliner-unterwelten.de; adult/concession €9/7) Explore Berlin's dark and dank underbelly by picking your way past hospital beds, wartime helmets and filter systems on a tour of WWII-era underground bunkers.

**Fritz Music Tours** (☎ 3087 5633; www.musicstours-berlin.com) Get the low-down on Berlin's legendary music history – from Iggy and Bowie to U2 and Depeche Mode, from cult clubs to the Love Parade – on this dynamic bus tour (€19). Private minibus

tours, walking tours and tours of the Hansa Studios are also available.

**Trabi Safari** (Map p113, B1; ☎ 2759 2273; www.trabi-safari.de; cnr Wilhelmstrasse & Zimmerstrasse; 1/2/3/4 passengers per person €60/40/35/30) Spend an hour exploring Berlin's Wild East behind the wheel, or as a passenger, of a GDR-era Trabant (Trabi for short). Live commentary is piped into your vehicle.

## TELEPHONE

Mobile (cell) phones operate on GSM 900/1800. Check with your carrier about roaming charges. Most public pay phones only work with phonecards such as those issued by Deutsche Telekom or private companies. Buy them at newsagents or discount telephone-call shops.

For key phone numbers, see Quick Reference on the inside cover.

## TIPPING

**Porters** €1 per bag  
**Restaurants** 10%  
**Taxis** 5% to 10%

## TOURIST INFORMATION

The city tourist office, **Berlin Tourismus Marketing** (BTM; www.visitberlin.de), operates four walk-in offices called Berlin Infostores and a **call centre** (☎ 250 025; 🕒 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat & Sun) whose multilingual staff field general questions and make hotel and ticket bookings. From April to October hours at the following may be extended.