

Berlin

THE BUDDY BEARS 🐻 ADOPTED IN 2001

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME BERLIN IS UNCERTAIN. IT MAY HAVE ROOTS IN THE LANGUAGE OF EAST SLAVIC, THE PROTO-SLAVIC ROOT BERL-/BERL- WHICH MEANS "BEAR."



2023

Ethnicity in Berlin

Ethnicity: The social group that a person belongs to based on their cultural, national, or ancestral identity, which may include shared language, religion, or other customs.

Question: How do you think embracing and celebrating one's own ethnicity can contribute to a more diverse and inclusive society?



Firstly, it helps to encourage a sense of pride and self-identity among individuals, allowing them to better understand and appreciate their cultural heritage. This, in turn, promotes self-confidence and a stronger sense of belonging within a diverse society.

In addition, It provides an opportunity for people to share their traditions, values, and perspectives, stimulating a climate of mutual respect and appreciation for cultural diversity.

BACKGROUNDS

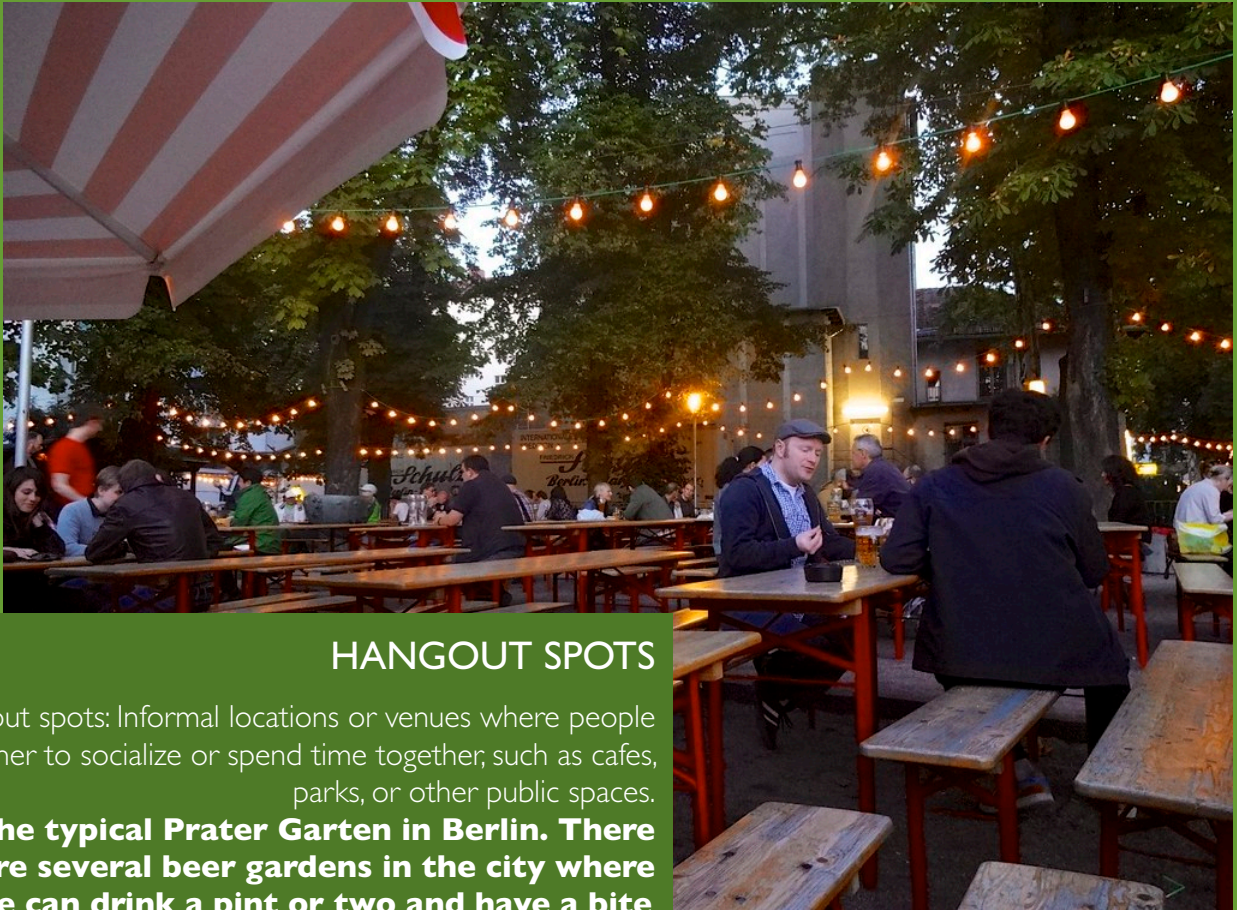
Backgrounds: A person's past experiences, education, and family history that shape their identity and worldview.

How important do you think it is for people to learn about different cultural backgrounds?



Firstly, it promotes cultural understanding and empathy. When we learn about other cultures, we gain insight into their customs, traditions, values, and ways of life. This knowledge helps break down stereotypes, prejudices, and misconceptions, fostering a more inclusive and tolerant society.

Secondly, studying different cultural backgrounds can also lead to personal growth and self-awareness. It allows us to reflect on our own cultural perspectives and biases, challenging us to be more open-minded and adaptable.



HANGOUT SPOTS

Hangout spots: Informal locations or venues where people gather to socialize or spend time together, such as cafes, parks, or other public spaces.

Like the typical Prater Garten in Berlin. There are several beer gardens in the city where people can drink a pint or two and have a bite.

CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Cultural traditions refer to the customs, practices, rituals, beliefs, and behaviors that are passed down from generation to generation within a particular cultural or social group.



Tanz in den Mai, literally "dance into May" is the name of most parties taking place every year on April 30. This celebration originates from *Walpurgisnacht* (or *Hexennacht*, meaning Witches Night), which was the night to get rid of evil spirits and celebrate the arrival of spring. Nowadays, most clubs and bars host special parties and people also often dance around bonfires in parks. May 1 is also highly celebrated in Germany as it is Labor Day. In Berlin, for example, several demonstrations take place and the neighborhood of Kreuzberg turns into a big street festival with open-air stages hosting free concerts.

What do you find most interesting about different cultural traditions?

One of the most fascinating aspects of different cultural traditions is the unique and diverse ways in which they express the values, beliefs, and histories of a particular group of people. From rituals and ceremonies to celebrations and artistic expressions, cultural traditions offer a window into the rich tapestry of human experience.

One captivating aspect is how cultural traditions provide a sense of continuity and connection to the past. They often carry forward ancient practices, passed down through generations, which serve as a bridge between the past and the present. Exploring these traditions can offer insights into the historical roots and evolution of a culture, helping us appreciate the depth of human heritage.

Another intriguing aspect is the symbolism and meaning embedded within cultural traditions. Many traditions incorporate symbolic gestures, colors, music, or specific objects that hold deep significance within the culture. Unraveling the layers of symbolism and understanding the stories behind these traditions can reveal profound insights into the values, spirituality, and collective identity of a community.

Cultural traditions also provide a glimpse into the ways in which different societies mark important milestones and transitions in life. Birth, coming of age, marriage, and death are universal human experiences, but the rituals and customs surrounding them vary greatly across cultures. Discovering the diverse approaches to these significant life events can be both enlightening and thought-provoking.



RUSTIC

Referring to a rural or country-style aesthetic that is simple, natural, or unrefined.

Have you ever stayed in a rustic cabin or cottage surrounded by trees? What was your experience like?

Moabit

First inhabited in 1685 and incorporated into *Berlin* in 1861, the former *industrial* and working-class neighbourhood is fully surrounded by three watercourses



RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES

To take time off or engage in activities that help one to rest and recover from stress or fatigue, in order to regain energy and motivation.

Berlin-Wannsee-

WHEN YOU FEEL STRESSED OR BURNT OUT,
WHAT DO YOU DO TO RECHARGE YOUR
BATTERIES?



Bowie in Berlin

In the three years David Bowie lived in Berlin in the 70s recording the "Berlin Trilogy", he left his mark on the city. When I say "Berlin Trilogy" I'm referring to *Low* (1977), *Heroes* (1977), and *Lodger* (1979). At the very peak of his career in the late 70s, Bowie moved to Berlin mainly to get away from drugs and crazy fame. Bowie played, lived and loved in this city while he worked on three albums.

David Bowie's years in Berlin were together with Iggy Pop in an apartment in Schöneberg. Next to it is Bowie's favourite gay-friendly bar that exists until today.

Heroes is one of Bowie's most famous songs. It tells the story of a young couple who are so driven to be together that they would meet every day under a gun turret on The Berlin Wall.





THE BERLIN YEARS

David Bowie used to live on [Hauptstraße 155](#) in [Schöneberg](#).

He shared his flat with Iggy Pop, and both of them spent a load of time in a beautiful gay-friendly café next door:



NEUES UFER

Andreas Ufer back in the day and [Neues Ufer](#) now. This place is still open, and you can sit down, drink something and admire the permanent exhibition of Bowie's photos on the wall. I have to add that Neues Ufer holds the title of the worst coffee I had in a long time, so make sure you skip the espresso. If you would like to see the building where he lived and maybe get a very vague vibe of what it was David Bowie's Berlin



Heroes

[Song here](#)

[Lyrics here](#)

How does David Bowie's song "Heroes" challenge traditional notions of heroism?

What are some key themes and messages conveyed in the lyrics of "Heroes"?

In what ways does "Heroes" reflect the cultural and political context of its time (1970s)?

What emotions and feelings does "Heroes" evoke in you? How do you think Bowie intended to affect listeners through his music and lyrics?

[Wikipedia entry here](#)