

The U2tour.de

Travel Guide

Berlin

English Version

The U2Tour.de Travel Guide Berlin

You're looking for traces of U2? Finally in Berlin and don't know where to go? Or are you travelling in Berlin and haven't found Kant Kino? This has now come to an end, because now there is the U2Tour.de-Travel Guide, which should help you with your search.

At the moment there are **20 U2 sights** in our database, which will be constantly extended and updated with your help. Original photos and pictures from different years tell the story of every single place. You will also receive the exact addresses, a spot on the map and directions. So it should be possible for every U2 fan to find these points with ease.

Credits

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Maps from: Google Maps, Mapquest.com, Yahoo!, Loose Verlag, Bay City Guide, Downtownla.com, ViaMichelin.com, Dorling Kindersley, Pharus Plan Media, Falk Routenplaner

Screencaps: Rattle & Hum (Paramount Pictures), The Unforgettable Fire / U2 Go Home DVD (Universal/Island), Pride Video, October Cover, Best Of 1990-2000 Booklet, The Unforgettable Fire Cover, Beautiful Day Video, u.v.m.

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*) And in order to keep this travel guide as up to date as possible, we ask for your help: Has anything changed? Do you have new, current and/or breathtaking photos for us that we absolutely have to publish? If so, send us an email to news@u2tour.de. Send us your updates and photos to keep this Travel Guide up to date. Thanks to everyone who walks the paths of U2 and the credits on u2tour.de are guaranteed.

Introduction

Berlin, Berlin – long before the recent hype surrounding the so-called 'Neue Mitte' in Germany's capital ensued, U2 had discovered the city for themselves. Their reason for moving to Berlin, though, was mainly musical – in the legendary Hansa Studios they wanted to follow the footsteps of David Bowie and Iggy Pop. After several weeks the wall fell, and U2 reinvented themselves once again. What remains is not just a mile stone among U2 albums but also their love for the city Berlin.

In our travel guide you will find all the **important places** used and loved by the band. From **Hansa Studios** to the **Siegessäule (victory column)** to **Zoo Station** to the places of their last performances at the **Olympic Stadium** and the **Mercedes-Benz Arena**. Always also in view are those artists whose home is Berlin and who shaped U2's career, such as **Wim Wenders**.

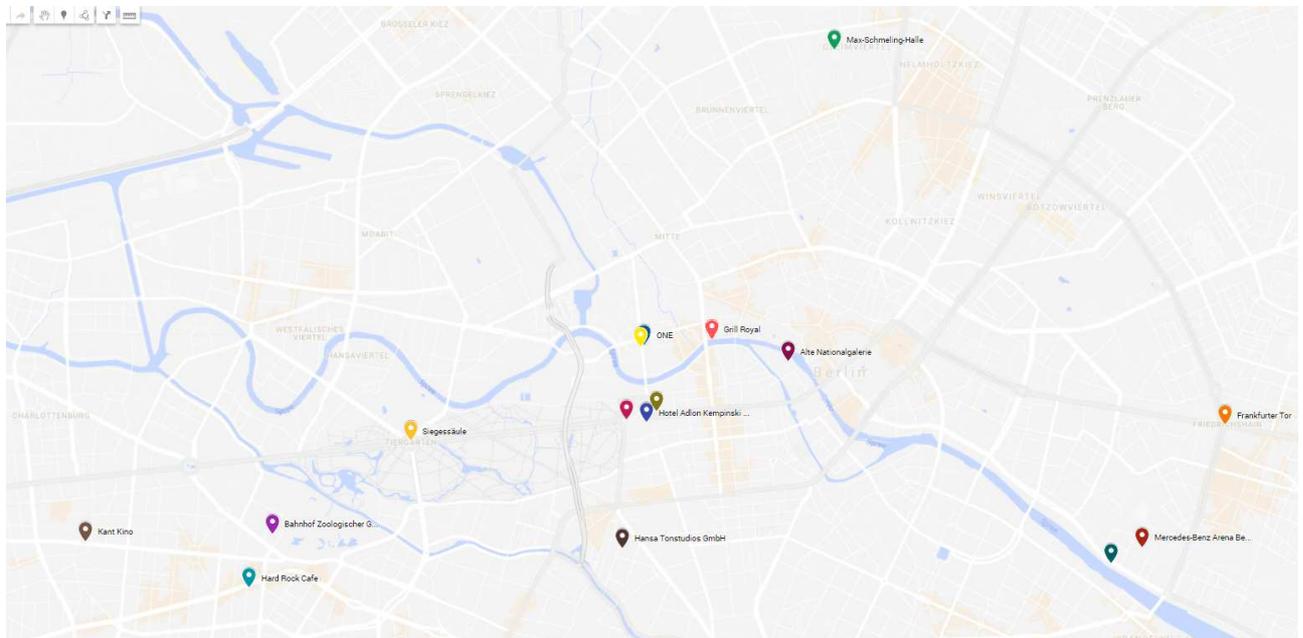
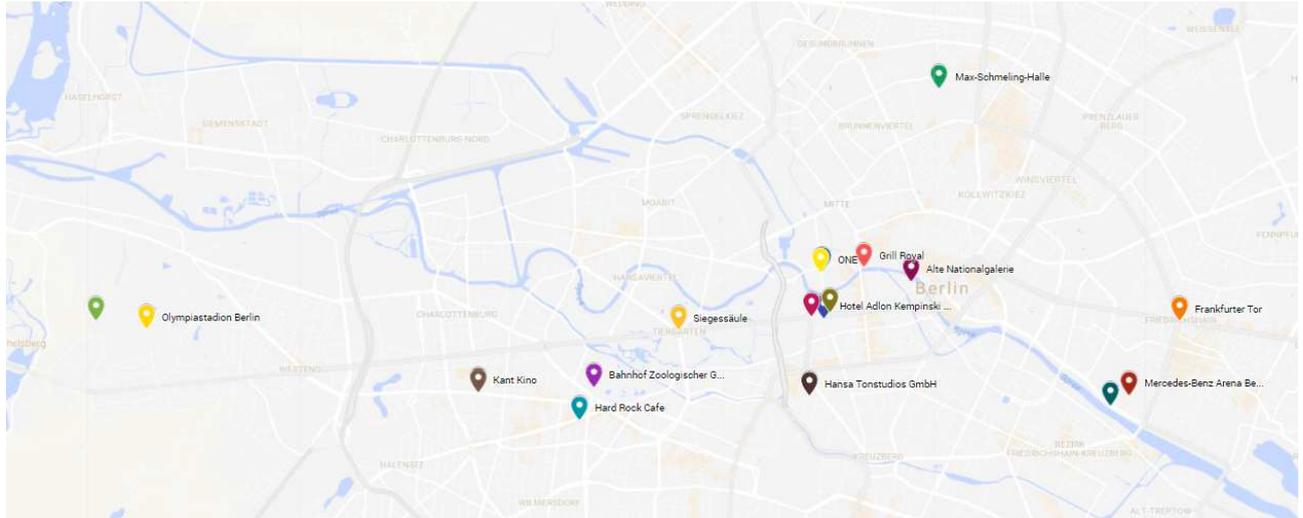
Berlin and its U2 sights are best navigated by its public transport system. The subway system is extensive and trains usually run every five minutes. Simply buy a day ticket and delve into the city's buzz. Several of the sights are also so close to each other that you can easily walk them.

Of course, next to the U2 sights, there is much more to be seen in Berlin. Shopping around **Kurfürstendamm** or along the trendy **Alte Schönhauser Straße**, going out around the hip quarters of Friedrichshain or Prenzlauer Berg, and a visit to the Reichstag (Germany's House of Parliament) or the television tower are obligatory for a trip to Berlin. As a travel guide in print form we recommend Reiseführer 'Dumont Berlin', which gives some useful tips about the city. Small (free) maps of central Berlin are also available at tourist information points (e.g. at Zoo Station).

Musictours Berlin has been around since 2005: they offer city tours in modern busses that bring you directly to all music relevant sights in Berlin. During the nearly 3h trip one can watch exclusive interviews and extra information via DVD on the flatscreens inside the bus. Several U2 related places are visited on this trip. Guide Thilo Schmied also offers on a unregular bases **guided tours throughout the Hansa Studios**. Both trips cost money, but are absolutely worth a try. Further info and dates are available at www.musictours-berlin.de/en/

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1 Hansa Studios

In Berlin's Hansa Studios U2 recorded large parts of 'Achtung Baby'. More precisely, they were recorded in Studio 2, also called 'The Big Hall by the Wall'.

That studio can also be seen in the video for 'One' (Berlin-Version). The building was originally built as a club house for the construction trade guild in 1910-1913. During the Second World War the it was heavily damaged, and after temporary reconstruction was soon forgotten due to its peculiar location – in the Western part of the city, but directly at the Berlin Wall. In 1976 the Meisel-Musik-Verlage (Meisel Music Publishers) bought the house and fitted it with a recording studio, and the Meistersaal ('main hall') was turned into Studio 2. From then on some of music history's greats have used the studio (including David Bowie, Iggy Pop and Depeche Mode), particularly for its allegedly very special sound. U2's producer of many years, Flood (Mark Ellis) was originally the Hansa Studio's sound engineer.



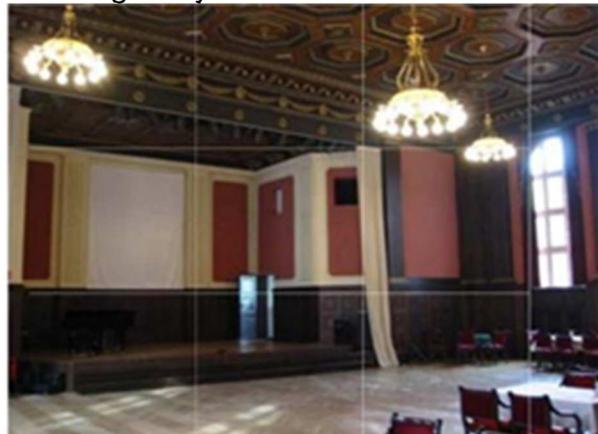
Apart from the studio, U2 also regularly frequented the pub 'Falstaff', located in the same building. Today it has been replaced by an Italian restaurant. Only a short walk away you can moreover find Potsdamer Platz, a further location for Wim Wender's 'Stay' video.

Studio 2 is now once again called Meistersaal, is located on the first floor, and can be hired for all kinds of events. During the day the hall is quite frequently open for the preparation or taking down of such an event, and provides a chance to glimpse a view of the old studio. Have a good look at the still original ceiling lights. On the second floor there are a number of recording studios that are still in use, and thus cannot be visited.

2005, right before the U2 Vertigo-Tour concert in the Berlin Olympiastadion, the team of U2Tour.de and 750 fans celebrate a huge fan-party in the Meistersaal! Bono greets them during the concert in Berlin on the next day.

Also in 2015 and 2017 the Meistersaal was the venue of the official U2 Warm-Up Parties organized by U2tour.de and Berlin Musictours.

In May 2011 U2 returned to Hansa Studios to film parts for the documentary 'From the sky down', released as part of the 20th anniversary edition of Achtung Baby.



Address:	Köthener Str. 38, 10963 Berlin
Directions:	Nearest U- and S-Bahn station: Potsdamer Platz (U2, S1, S2, S25). From the station follow Stresemannstrasse, the Köthener Straße is the first street to your right. The studio is a further 50m down on the left.

2 Adlon Hotel // Brandenburger Tor

Brandenburg Gate, one of the highlights of Berlin, was also the location for a U2 gig on November 5th 2009. Part of it was broadcasted at the MTV European Music Awards, taking place in Berlins O2 World later that evening. About 10,000 Fans at the Pariser Platz witnessed not only a special U2 gig in front of the Brandenburg Gate, but the video animations projected right onto the historical building. This show also set the opening to the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.



Situated right across the Pariser Platz is the five star Adlon Hotel. It became U2's, especially Bono's residence whenever they come to Berlin for concerts, other public appearances for the DATA/ONE campaign or the Berlin film festival Berlinale.

The band also made a shooting footage for the iNNOCENCE+eXPERIENCE Tour in the "Superior Deluxe Room" of the hotel.



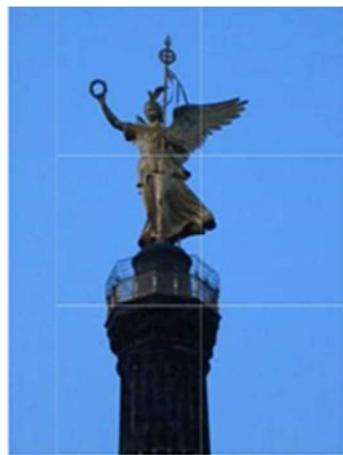
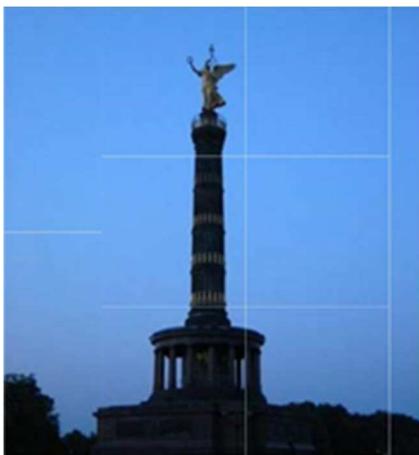
The Adlon Hotel was opened in 1907, but got almost entirely destroyed by a fire towards the end of WWII. Only a side wing was not affected and could be used as a hotel and restaurant until the 1980's. It was meant to be torn down in favor of a residential building, but Germany's reunification

interfered with that plan. Now the widow Adlon was able to regain the property and in 1997 a historically restored Adlon Hotel re-opened. The Hotel, as well as the Brandenburg Gate, is shown in the One video (Corbijn's Version).



Address:	Unter den Linden 77, 10117 Berlin
Directions:	Nearest S-Bahn Station: Brandenburger Tor (S1, S2, S25, U55). The hotel is located directly opposite the stations' northern exit.

3 Siegessäule



The Siegessäule ('victory column') plays a prominent role in Wim Wender's 'Stay'-Video video, and further scenes were filmed in the streets surrounding it.

The Siegessäule was originally built as a national monument to the "Einigungskriege" ('unification wars') on the Königsplatz (now the Platz der Republik right in front of the Reichstag) in 1864–73, to celebrate victory in the Prussian-Danish wars. After further defeats of Austria and France the column was crowned with the 8.3m high golden 'Viktoria' – lovingly called "Goldelse" ('golden old girl') by the locals. During the Nazi period the column was again extended to a total height of 67m and moved to the Grosser Stern in the very centre of the Tiergarten. You can climb up the column to a platform and enjoy a great view of Berlin! Entrance is EUR 3.00 (2017).

Address:	Großer Stern, Straße des 17. Juni
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Directions:	Nearest U-Bahn station: Hansaplatz (U9). From the station follow Altonaer Straße to Großen Stern. The column itself can be reached through numerous bus lines to Großer Stern (lines 100, 106, 187).
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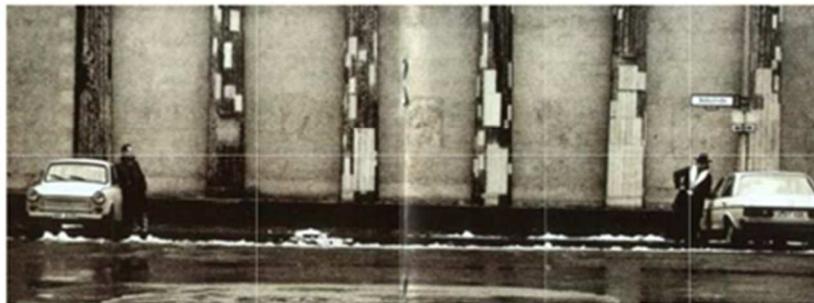
4 Alte Nationalgalerie

In front of the Alte Nationalgalerie (old national gallery), located on the museum island, another photo shoot with Anton Corbijn took place. A number of these photos can be found in the booklet for 'Achtung Baby'. The most famous picture is probably the one with Larry standing next to a Trabant and Bono next to a Mercedes. The wall, visible in the background of the picture, is no longer existing.

The band returned to this place while shooting footage for 'From the sky down'.

Just a short walk from here is the Friedrichsbrücke (Friedrichsbridge), where several foto- and video shootings took place during their Achtung Baby sessions.

The building itself hosts a collection of 19th century paintings and sculptures (from Caspar David Friedrich, Adolph Menzel, Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir or Auguste Rodin) that is well worth visiting.



Address:	Bodestraße 1-3 , 10178 Berlin
Directions:	Hackescher Markt. From the station follow Neue Promenade toward the river Spree up to the Burgstrasse, and follow Burgstrasse. To the right cross the bridge into Bodestrasse. The photos were taken in the atrium to the right.

5 Max-Schmeling-Halle

In this arena director Joseph Kahn and U2 filmed parts of the American 'Stuck In A Moment' Videos (the football version). Later on the recording was put together with a digital stadium audience and football scenes filmed in Houston.

The recording in Berlin took part with around 100 extras, among them German comedian Michael Mittermeier. Originally the Max-Schmeling-Arena was a pure sports arena, e.g. for Berlin's basketball team 'Alba'. For some time now, however, it has also been used for various music events.

With a capacity of around 12,000 spectators, it is one of the largest event halls in Berlin.



Address:	Am Falkplatz, 10437 Berlin
Directions:	Nearest U- and S-Bahn station: Schönhauser Allee (S41, S42, S8, S85, S9, U2). From the S-Bahn walk south along the Schönhauser Allee until you reach Gleimstrasse. Turn right here, and then take the second left into Am Falkplatz. The Max-Schmeling-Arena is at the end of this street.

6 Frankfurter Tor

Right in the middle of the GDR's former main boulevard, the Karl-Marx-Allee (formerly Stalin-Allee), stands the so-called Frankfurter Tor (Frankfurt Gate) – two facing tower blocks with two further corner turrets. Anton Corbijn used this location for his 'One' video (Berlin-Version). A still shot from the video also serves as background for the menu for the 'One' videos on 'The Best Of 1990-2000'-DVD.



Address:	Karl-Marx-Allee / Warschauer Straße
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Directions:	Nearest U-Bahn Station: Frankfurter Tor (U5). As soon as exiting the U-Bahn station you can already see the distinctive towers at the end of Karl-Marx-Allee.
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7 East Side Gallery

Along the East Side Gallery you will find paintings by Thierry Noir, similar to those on the covers of 'The Fly' and 'Mysterious Ways'. In addition, parts of the 'Achtung Baby Video' were shot here.

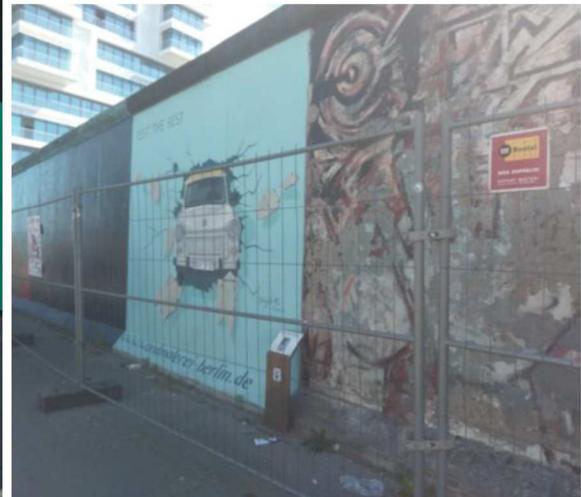
Between the Oberbaumbrücke and the Ostbahnhof, along the former border strip, stretches this



unique sequence of paintings. Following the fall of the wall in 1989, over a hundred artists from across the world came here and transformed this until then inaccessible part of the wall with their art.

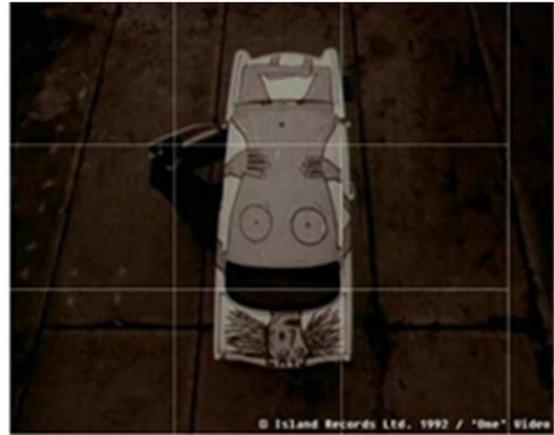
In spring 2013, protests took place, which were also accompanied by David Hasselhoff, among others. A building plot behind the East Side Gallery needed access. Some segments of the wall were removed for a 6m wide access.

The paintings are redone regularly by the artists themselves.



Address:	Mühlenstrasse
Directions:	Nearest S-Bahn Station: Ostbahnhof or Warschauerstraße.

8 Galerie Noir



Frenchman Thierry Noir, who has been living in Berlin since the early 80es, painted two of the trabants used during both the ZooTV and Zooropa Tours and also featured on the cover of the Achtung Baby singles.

Various types of the easily recognisable figures unique to Noir's art can be found in his small gallery in the Nollendorfstrasse, and works are affordable even for those with a somewhat thinner wallet. The gallery is open Monday to Friday, 5 to 10pm, and Saturdays, 1 to 10pm. Thierry is usually around and after a few cups of coffee even happy for a chat.

He also opened up a French restaurant there, where you can grab a bite and enjoy a glass of wine.

Address:	Europa-Center, Tauentzienstrasse 9, 10789 Berlin Former location: Nollendorfstrasse 10, 10777 Berlin
Directions:	S-+U-Bhf Zoologischer Garten (S5, S7, S75, U2, U9)

9 Metropol

The location of U2's second gig in Berlin – on 04 November 1981 they played their first German TV gig for the WDR show Rockpalast. In front of a mere 350 fans (with a capacity of 2,000) the band played a mixed set, broadcast to the public on 06 March 1982.



Starting in the golden 1920es the Metropol had been planned and used as a theater, cabaret, musical hall, cinema and much more. Only towards the end of the 1970es it was also used for dance and concert events. For a short time there was an upper-class club inside, that went bankrupt after a few months. Since then, concerts or parties have taken place in the building on an irregular basis.

In 2019 it reopened under its original name Metropol with various events.

Address:	Nollendorfplatz 5, 10777 Berlin
Directions:	Nearest U-Bahn station: Nollendorfplatz (U1, U2, U4). The Metropol is located directly opposite the U-Bahn station.

10 Kant-Kino



U2's first Berlin concert took place here in the Kant Cinema in Berlin-Charlottenburg on 17 February 1981. With Hamburg and Munich it was the first time ever the band played in Germany.

Built in 1912, the Kant Cinema originally featured a large hall with a gallery on both sides, but was later transformed into several smaller cinemas. In the 1970es and 1980es the cinema was increasingly used as a concert hall as well. In 2001 a threat of being closed down was prevented by Wim Wenders, the movie distributor Christoph Ott and the owners of the cinema in the Hackeschen Höfe, Gerhard Groß and Burkhard Voiges. It reopened in 2002 under the name Neue Kant-Kinos (New Kant Cinemas).

Address:	Kantstraße 54, 10627 Berlin
Directions:	Nearest U-Bahn station: Wilmsdorfer Str. (U7). From the station turn into Kantstraße. The cinema is right there on the left.

11 Bahnhof Zoo

West Berlin's (Central-) Station was name sake for the song 'Zoo Station'. In addition the 'Achtung Baby' booklet features a photo from one of the station's subways. Zoo Station is also the starting point of the bus journey in the 'Stay'-Video.

The station became world famous already years earlier following the drug novel and film of the same name, 'Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo' ('Christiane F.').

The building has been extensively renovated in the meantime, and the historical rooms of the terraces at the zoo are now home to a specialist in system catering.



During the 2nd half of the Europa Leg of the eXPERIENCE + iNNOCENCE tour U2 added the song Zoo Station to their setlist. The station-sign Bahnhof Zoologischer Garten appeared on the monitor below the catwalk.

Address:	Hardenbergplatz
Directions:	Nearest S- and U-Bahn Station: nearly all of Berlin's U- and S-Bahn lines go via Zoo Station (S5, S7, S75, U2 und U9).

12 Hard Rock Café



Berlin's Hard Rock Café, which is located at the KuDamm since 26th of April 2010 (from 1992-2010 it was located in the Meinekestrasse), hosts a number of U2 -memorabilia. The most remarkable one is surely the trabant, stemming from the Zoo-TV/Zooropa Tour, and located right at the entrance. The restaurant is open daily from 11.30am and offers typically American, and slightly overpriced, food.



Address:	Kurfürstendamm 224, 10719 Berlin
Directions:	Nearest U-Bahn Station: Kurfürstendamm (U15) or Uhlandstraße (U1). Kurfürstendamm corner Meinekestraße.

13 Olympiastadion

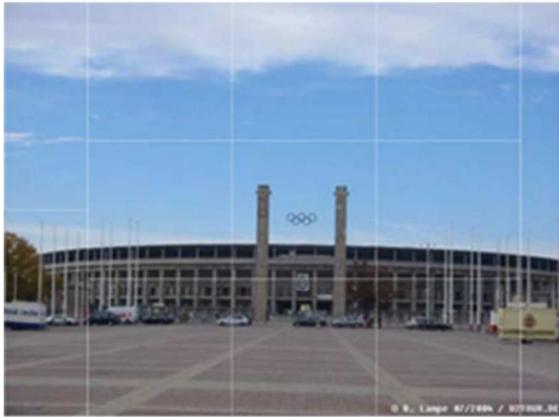
The Olympic Stadium served as backdrop for U2's Zooropa Tour in Berlin in 1993, 2005 during the Vertigo-Tour, the 360° Tour in 2009 and The Joshua Tree Tour 2017. The Leni Riefenstahl outtakes shown during the opening of the Zooropa show – shown, that is, at the original location of their recording – developed a particularly stifling intensity. A day before the concert U2 recorded the 'Numb' video in Berlin. On the 7th July 2005 the Vertigo-Tour stops in Berlin, Bono greets the fans from the U2tour.de-Party last night in the Hansa-Studios.

In 2009 U2 broke the audience record with over 90.000 spectators attending their 360° show.

The Olympic Stadium was build 1934-36 and originally could hold more than 100,000 people. It has recently been more or less completely rebuilt for the Football Worldcup 2006.

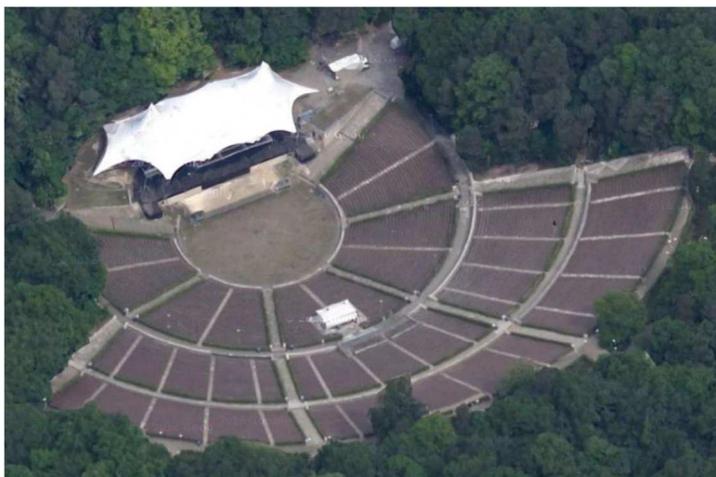
The stadium also served Anton Corbijn as backdrop for some of the photos in the Achtung Baby booklet and the final scene of his 'One'-Video (Berlin Version).

If not hosting events, the stadium is open to the public daily from 9am to 7pm.



Address:	Olympische Allee
Directions:	Nearest S- and U-Bahn station: Olympiastadion (U2, S5, S75). From the station follow the signs to the stadium.

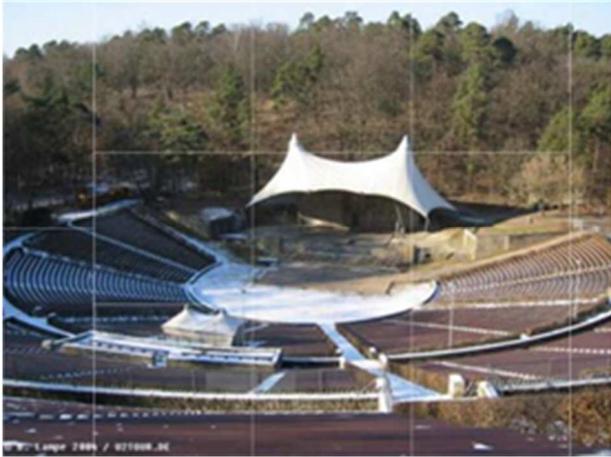
14 Waldbühne



U2 performed on the legendary Waldbühne ('Forest Stage'), near the Olympic Stadium, during their Elevation Tour.

The Waldbühne was fitted into a natural canyon in 1934-36 and initially served as a theatre stage for the Nazis. During the Olympic Games 1936 and after the Second World War it was moreover used as a boxing arena, and only later also as a concert stage.

The Waldbühne was temporarily shut in 1965, after a concert by the Rolling Stones that ended in a mass brawl and partial destruction of stage and seating area. Regular concerts have only returned to the Waldbühne since 1978. It is held in high esteem by musicians and fans alike for its special atmosphere. The best view of the Waldbühne is from the Glockenturm (bell tower) opposite.



Address:	Glockenturmstr . 1, 14035 Berlin
Directions:	Nearest S-Bahn station: Pichelsberg. From there follow the signs to the Waldbühne.

15 Büro ONE (former DATA)



Placed at Luisenstrasse 40 in Berlin-Mitte, almost in sight of the Federal Chancellery building and the Reichstag, Bonos organization ONE.org (formerly DATA - Debt AIDS Trade Africa) has its German offices. A small team is working here for organising the lobbying and PR activities of ONE in the German-speaking region. In addition, Bonos meetings with German politicians are prepared here and visits the offices on such occasions accordingly.

Address:	Luisenstraße 40, 10117 Berlin
Directions:	Former location: Reinhardtstr. 47, 10117 Berlin Karlsplatz (Bus TXL)

16 Madame Tussauds

Berlin now also has an offspin of the world famous' Madame Tussauds' wax figures Cabinet.

In the immediate vicinity of the Brandenburg Gate, you will find on 2500qm, spread over two floors, eight subject areas with currently around 100 wax figures to see.

In addition to music stars like Elvis Presley or Madonna you can also spot Bono.



Madame Tussauds is open daily from 10am to 7pm, admission for adults is EUR 25.00 (2019), cheaper tickets are available if you order online via the official website.

Address:	Unter den Linden 74, 10117 Berlin
Directions:	Nearest S-Bahn Station: Unter den Linden (S1, S2, S25, U55). Madame Tussauds is located directly at the stations' northern exit, opposite the Adlon Hotel.

17 Grill Royal



The posh restaurant Grill Royal, a regular hot spot for celebrities, opened up in 2007 just beneath the Spreebrücke on Friedrichstraße in central Berlin. U2 are known to have thrown their private Echo-Aftershowparty (at which Michael Mittermeier was present) at this very location on February 21st, 2009. As the evening progressed and the drinks kept on coming, Bono and Mittermeier apparently climbed the tables half-naked (the less private half!) to encourage guests to dance with them. Unfortunately (?) no evidence is to be found of that peculiar night until today.

The band and some of their tour staff visited this place also after their 2009 show at the Olympic Stadium.

Address:	Friedrichstraße 105 b, 10117 Berlin
Directions:	S-Bahnstation Friedrichsstraße and head 200m north. Or Metro Station U6 Friedrichsstraße and head 300m north.

18 Mercedes-Benz Arena (former O2 World)

Opened under the name "O2 World" in September 2008, the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin is the second largest multifunctional arena (total capacity of 17,000) in Germany after the Lanxess Arena in Cologne.



The arena was renamed Mercedes-Benz Arena in July 2015. The band has paid its visit to the arena three times: On February 21st, 2009 U2 performed their newly released single "Get On Your Boots" at the Echo Awards, while a couple months later on November 5th, the band accepted the "Best Liveact" award at the MTV EMA's an hour after playing a short gig in front of the Brandenburg Gate.

During the iNNOCENCE+eXPERIENCE Tour, U2 visited the arena for four sold out shows in September 2015. On August 31, 2018 U2 opened the European Leg of the eXPERIENNE+iNNOCENCE Tour in this arena. At the 2nd concert the next day Bono lost his voice after three to four songs and the concert had to be stopped. It was made up on November 13th and filmed completely for the official film of the e+i tour.

Address:	Mühlenstraße 12-30, 10243 Berlin-Friedrichshain
Directions:	<p>Station Warschauer Straße (lines S3, S5, S7, S75, S9, U2 all stop at "Warschauer Straße" station, as well as bus numbers 347 and N1 and tramway lines M10 and M13). The station is connected to the Arena by a pedestrian bridge.</p> <p>East Central Station (Ostbahnhof): The Mercedes-Benz Arena is located in the immediate vicinity of East Central Station. For your convenience it may be advisable to take the suburban railway lines S3, S7, S5, S75 and S9 or bus number 140, 240, 347 or N40. There is a walkway leading from East Central Station to the Arena.</p>

19 Die Möwe



Today the representation of the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt is found in Luisenstraße number 18. But back in the days of the seperated Berlin, this was the location of "Die Möwe" (The Seagull), a club mainly frequented by artists. The name was taken from Anton Tschechow's Drama. The building, known as „Bülowsches Palais“ (Palace of Bülow) had a moving history: it was used for instance as a hospital or even a house of pleasure. Director Anton Corbijn used it for interior shots for his One Video, when U2 was dressed up as women. The furniture was taken from the "Grüner Salon" (Green Lounge) of the Hansa Studios. The lounge was shut down soon after (which had nothing to do with lending the furniture for video shots!)

Address:	Luisenstraße 18, 10117 Berlin
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Directions:	Near the ONE Bureau. Or after the visit at "Grill Royal" follow Schiffbauerdamm and turn into die Luisenstraße. Next Metro-stations: Bundestag (U55), Friedrichstraße and Oranienburger Tor (U6).
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20 Breschnew-Villa

Located in Potsdam's Nauen suburb, you will find the Mirbach Villa, built in 1874. Still shown by a writing on the balcony, Chamberlein Ernst Freiherr von Mirbach called it "Villa Camilla" after his wife. The von Mirbach family was close to Empress Auguste and the Prussian Army and, in 1945, was evicted by Soviet soldiers.

Due to its location in an upscale neighbourhood close to Cecilienhof Castle and the park around a lake (Heiliger See), the villa soon attracted the attention of Soviet civil servants and was used as guesthouse by the KGB. Among others, Leonid Brezhnev stayed here during his visits to Berlin.

During the Achtung Baby sessions in Berlin in fall/winter 1990, Bono followed Brezhnev's footsteps and also stayed in the Mirbach Villa. Several sources consistently report that one night, when on his way to the bathroom or kitchen and being in his "birthday suit" (or simply: butt naked), Bono met some strangers in the hallways, stating that this villa was their property. They turned out to be descendants of Mirbach, who - following the German re-unification - wanted to reclaim their predecessors property. And it can be assumed that they probably were rather surprised to meet a famous rock star there.

However, it took until 1994 to untangle the legal situation and to return the property to the Mirbach family. Today, the villa is completely refurbished and the individual apartment units are available to rent.

Address:	Am neuen Garten 25, 14469 Potsdam
Directions:	S7 to Potsdam Hauptbahnhof, then bus 603 to Potsdam Glumestraße. The villa is just a 2-3 minutes walk from the Glumestraße.

21 U-Bahnhof Deutsche Oper

06.12.2017 ...

Address:	Bismarckstraße, 10625 Berlin
Directions:	Subway line U2 or nightliner bus N2 to Deutsche Oper.