

The Naturpark Westhavelland is one of the darkest places in Germany. Stargazers can observe what is known as the “airglow” here, a weak illumination of upper atmospheric strata.

Unter der Laterne, Silent Movie by Gerhard Lamprecht (1928)

When the day empties itself in the twilight, when the imageless time begins, the lonely voices join together.²

Aus Asphalt und Licht wird Elfenbein.¹

Und sehr weit blitzt Berlin.¹

The Berliner Schlüssel was designed to force people to close and lock their doors at night.

Lichter wie Fahnen, helle Menschenmassen: Die Stadtbahnzüge ziehen ein.¹

When the day empties itself in the twilight, when the imageless time begins, the lonely voices join together.²

Berlin is generally not dangerous in terms of serious criminal acts, but some neighbourhoods have increased risk of violence and should be avoided, especially at night.

Autos, eine Herde von Blitzen, schreien Und suchen einander in den Straßen.¹

Der Asphalt dunkelt und das Gas schmeißt sein Licht auf ihn.¹

April 29, 1925, Berlin's last lamplighter completes its last day of service.

Where the nightlife happens: Mostly in the former districts “Mitte” (middle), north of it in Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain (east) and Kreuzberg (south).

The distance between two lanterns is approximately 14.5 meters.

You might consider to take advantage of the 11 BVG night bus lines that will take you right to your door. N55, N59, N53, N60, N62, N64, N68, N69, N91, N95 and N97.

Insects die to millions on the heat shield of street lighting.

Bats are damaged, migratory fish do not get over illuminated bridge elements.

Little tender mother song, from childhood's days remembered. The night is dark and I am lonely, I've strayed so far away from home.³

The history of Berlin street lighting began with an order of the Great Elector. In 1648, according to Friedrich Wilhelm's will, the citizens had to hang a light on every third house at night. At that time oil lamps were common. As the citizen followed the order only hesitantly it had to become Prussian-official: The authorities wanted more light and ordered the installation of fixed lanterns. The burning order of 1682 rationalized the lighting period to moonlight-poor winter nights. Lantern guards walked around with long poles, lighting, extinguishing, refilling oil. Only in 1826 the first gas lanterns flared up at Unter den Linden. It took another 100 years and the invention of the Auerbachbrenner until a pressure wave technology permitted the central ignition of all individual luminaires connected via a compressed gas pipe system. In 1945 80 % of Berlin's street lighting was destroyed. East and West went different ways in the reconstruction. While most West German cities switched from gas to electric in the 1960s, West Berlin modernized the gas system – also because city gas offered independence against possible power blockades. Even today in both halves of the city, the highly efficient, but still expensive LEDs are hardly common. Rather, sodium lamps were used in the eastern part – they glow in warm yellow tones. In the western part, on the other hand, mercury vapor lamps and fluorescent tubes were used – they glow in cool white. Gradually, the existing lighting will be replaced and thus be standardized.

Towards enlightened mapping

Door Policy: This is also a very hard club to get in. The bouncers are strict and the line is usually long, so prepare yourself!

Licht im Osten is a Christian Missionary Society.

The distance between two lanterns is approximately 28.9 meters.

¹ From 'Junge Pferde! Junge Pferde!' (1914) by Paul Boldt.
² From 'Wenn der Tag leer wird' (1968) by Nelly Sachs.
³ From the Song 'Mother' (1916) by Sigmund Romberg & Rida Johnson Young.



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