

# Information for participants

## INURA Annual meeting in Berlin

### June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

## How to get around Berlin

The following covers questions that frequently arose during recent email correspondence. We hope it answers the more urgent questions, but do not hesitate to come back to us if you have any further questions.

### Logistical Info

#### Location and Audience

The conference will take place in different locations, most them being easily accessible by public transportation.

The audience consists of participants like you and members of local movement groups, activists, politicians and the like.

Conference language is English but we will provide translation as needed.

#### Media Needs

We will provide a beamer, overhead projectors, flip charts and the like. Please let us know in advance if you plan to do a PowerPoint presentation. If you will do a traditional slide show, make sure not to bring ultra-thin slides since they tend to slip through our projector.

#### Accommodation

In Berlin we booked a hostel, which is close to a major transportation hub. In Trebnitz we opted for a castle. Follow the links below for further information.

#### Child Care

No such luck, but it usually works fine on an informal basis.



## Info about Berlin

If you want to get to know Berlin, we recommend buying a copy of Lonely Planet's Berlin City Guide. It is fairly decent. They also have a version for your Palm Pilot but we do not know if it is worth the money.

### Transportation

This is a rail-based city, no need to rent a car! We suggest that you buy a three day ticket for 19 €. Cabs are easy to get but tend to be expensive. If you arrive at the Airport, a cab is your most convenient option. If you plan to travel by train within Germany, be prepared to book well advance, otherwise it will become very expensive.

### Legal Stuff

You need a passport to enter Europe but as Americans and Canadians you are exempt from visa requirements. **This is important: Since we plan to travel to Poland during the retreat bring your passport!!!** Your passport must be valid for the whole duration of your stay. Your driver's license is valid here.

### Communication

If your cell phone supports GSM 900/1800 check with your provider for rates. Most public phones work with cards these days, not with coins. You can buy phone cards in post offices, news kiosks and at some gas stations.

### Money

Credit cards are accepted in more and more places but it is safe to carry some cash or

traveler's checks. Euros and Dollars are approximately on parity. Telling machines are frequent but may be an expensive way to get cash. Check back with your credit card company for details.

### Food

Some meals are covered by your fee, others are not. Most restaurants provide vegetarian food within their menu. Food has improved a lot over the last 20 years.

### Culture

You will not have much time to enjoy it, but there is culture. Culture is available, both high-brow and off and off-off. *Time Out* has an English online guide on what is happening in town (see below). If you are into reading, start with Alfred Döblin's cornerstone of Modernism *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1929)

### Weather

June is usually nice but evenings can be cold and rainy.

### Beware

Shops are closed on Sundays and after 8 pm during week days. If you are from outside Europe, you will most likely need special adapters to charge your batteries (i.e. laptops); buy an adapter before you leave, they tend to be expensive at airports. There is no way to tell in advance if your laptop's modem will work here.

Be prepared to have people smoking everywhere, there are non-smoking areas at some places but they are usually of little use.

Berliners are not the most polite people and do not speak much English (at least in the former East), but are usually easy to deal with. If you or your company belongs to a visible "minority", you might want to check back with us before venturing places around Berlin.

**Important Phone Numbers:**

Berlin's area code is 030; calling from North America it is 0049-30. Unlike in the States cell phones do not have an area code.

**Organizing team:** 030 838 52887

**Emergencies:**

Police Department: 110

Fire Department: 112

**Useful Links (English):**

Berlin Tourist Information:

<http://www.btm.de/index.html.en>

[www.inura.org](http://www.inura.org) (English)

[www.inura-berlin.de](http://www.inura-berlin.de) (English)

<http://www.schloss-trebnitz.de/mainindex.htm>

(German, this is the castle)

<http://www.sunflower-hostel.de/en/english.html>

(English, the Hostel)

General Berlin Information:

<http://www.berlininfo.com/main.htm>

<http://www.sunflower-hostel.de/en/english.html>

(English, the Hostel)

General Berlin Information:

<http://www.berlininfo.com/main.htm>

Public Transportation:

[http://www.bvg.de/e\\_index.html](http://www.bvg.de/e_index.html)

The train company (Bahn AG):

[http://www.bahn.de/pv/uebersicht/die\\_bahn\\_international\\_guests.shtml](http://www.bahn.de/pv/uebersicht/die_bahn_international_guests.shtml)

Time Outs online Guide:

<http://www.timeout.com/berlin/intagenda.html>