

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 blüzt
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).

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.

The distance between
two lanterns is
approximately
14.5 meters.

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 edict, citizens were obliged to hang a light on every third house at night. At that time oil lamps were common. Citizens did not always reliably comply, so a Prussian regulation soon came to pass. The authorities wanted more light and ordered the installation of fixed lanterns, and the 'burning order' of 1682 rationalised the prescribed lighting periods with the need to brighten the moonlight-poor winter nights. Lantern guards walked around with long poles – lighting, extinguishing, refilling oil. Only in 1826 did the first gas lanterns flare up at Unter den Linden. It took another 100 years and the invention of the Auerbachbrenner before pressure wave technology permitted the central ignition of all individual luminaires connected via

a compressed gas pipe system. On April 29, 1925, Berlin's last lamplighter in Friedrichshain completed their last day of service. In 1945, 80% of Berlin's street lighting was destroyed. East and West went different ways in the urban reconstruction. While most West German cities switched from gas to electric in the 1960s, West Berlin chose to modernise the gas system – partly because city gas offered security against possible power blockades. Even today, in both halves of the city, the highly efficient but still expensive LEDs are quite uncommon. Rather, sodium lamps were used in Berlin's eastern parts – lights glowing in warm yellow tones. In the western parts, in contrast, mercury vapour lamps and fluorescent tubes prevailed – glowing in cool white. Gradually, the existing lighting will be replaced and become standardised.

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.

