



Travel Guide Lonely Planet Berlin 2004

wood, thick carpets and granite washbasin. Leisure facilities include a sauna, solarium and casino. Gay-friendly.

PENSION MITART Map pp128-9 Pension

Tel 2839 9430; mitart.de; www.friedrichstrasse127.de; +49 30 461 4 688-110; U-Bahn **Oranienburger Tor**
Modern-art fans who are on a budget should try snagging one of the five top rooms in this combination guesthouse/gallery. It's on the 2nd floor of a typical 19th-century townhouse with high stucco ceilings that have been carefully restored to their former glory. Amenities are basic, but you'll be surrounded by art, and the lunch organic breakfast buffet is a special treat indeed. Gay-friendly.

TALINUS HOTEL Map pp128-9 Hotel

Tel 281 5254; www.hotel-talinus.de; **Weddingplatz 1**; +49 30 130; +49 30 130; U-Bahn **Nachdorfer Markt**
In a converted textile factory, this small hotel puts you right into the thick of the Scheunenviertel. The 18 rooms are clean, if nothing special, although some enjoy views of the TV Tower or the Berliner Dom and the massage shower heads are an unexpected perk. Light sleepers are likely to find the adjacent tram terminus a drawback.

CHEAP SLEEPS

CIRCUS HOSTEL WEINBERGSWEG

Map pp322-4 Hostel

Tel 2839 1433; www.circus-hostel.de; **Weinbergsweg 1a**; 3-8-bed dm €15-20, s/d €32/48, linen €2, 2-/4-person apartment €75/130 with 2-night minimum, discounts Nov-Feb; U-Bahn **Rosenthaler Platz**

Beg, borrow and/or steal to secure a bed at this hostel, now in two excellent locations with easy access to sights and nightlife. Clean, cheerfully painted rooms, excellent showers,



Circus Hostel Weinbergsweg (above)

free lockers and competent and helpful staff are just a few factors that put these places at the top of the hostel heap.

The penthouse apartments with private facilities, a full kitchen and a terrace with killer views offer excellent value. The café downstairs serves up inexpensive breakfast, drinks and small meals, and the basement bar has different activities nightly. Good wheelchair access, too.

The **Circus Hostel Rosa-Luxemburg-Strasse** (Map pp328-9; **Tel** 2839 1433; Rosa-Luxemburg-Strasse 39; U-Bahn Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz) has the same prices and similar facilities.

HOTEL-PENSION MERKUR

Map pp122-4 Hotel-Pension

Tel 282 8287; www.hotel-merkur-berlin.de; **Tentzen 136**; +49 30 78; +49 30 78; U-Bahn **Rosenthaler Platz**

The friendly people running this little pension, in business since GDR days, know they're not offering you the bits, but they'll still try to make you feel comfortable. Breakfast, for instance, is not a buffet affair but delivered to your table along with a smile. Rooms are small and only those at the back have full private bathrooms.

MITTE'S BACKPACKER HOSTEL

Map pp122-4 Hostel

Tel 2839 8963; www.kooper.de; **Chausseestrasse 102**; dm €15-18, s/d €30-36, d with bathroom €36, discounts Nov-Mar, except holidays; U-Bahn **Zossener Strasse**

Quite a bit of imagination has gone into the décor of this well-established hostel in a former hat factory. The best rooms are designed by artists and have unique themes. Choices include the Arabic Room, the Underwater Room and the Honeymoon Suite (lots of hearts but why the twin beds?). Other welcome features include a communal kitchen, bike rental, Internet access, laundry and women-only dorms.

TIERGARTEN

You'll be mixing it up with moguls, movie stars and power mongers when staying in Tiergarten, which offers easy access to the government and embassy quarters. The ritziest accommodation options are on Potsdamer Platz.