

BUZZY BARMY BERLIN

Germany's capital hosts the Euro 2024 final on Sunday - and the city is proving to be a winner

BERLIN has much to celebrate. Not only is this the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, but the city will also host the final of the Euros this weekend. (Let's hope England are in it.) Here's what to do and see:

CYCLE THE WALL

TAKE a guided bicycle tour with Berlin on Bike (berlinonbike.de). See the East Side Gallery - the longest (near one-mile) remaining stretch of the wall, featuring murals of everything from an East German Trabant car to the famous 1979 Leonid Brezhnev-Erich Honecker 'fraternal kiss'. A visit to the Wall Museum (thewallmuseum.com) puts the concrete eyesore in historical context.

CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

THIS is a tourist hotspot, but an impressive 60ft-high panorama

exhibition across the road offers an immersive look at what life was like in the shadow of the wall. Shame about the McDonalds.

THE OLYMPIC STADIUM

TAKE the highlight tour of Berlin's Olympic Stadium (olympiastadion.berlin), built for the 1936 Games, where much to Hitler's chagrin, the black American athlete Jesse Owens won four gold medals. The venue was designed

in the neoclassical style favoured by the Nazis.

ISPY A MUSEUM

THE German Spy Museum (deutsches-spionagemuseum.de) is a must for anyone interested in espionage, taking in everything from the legendary female World War I spy Mata Hari to the assassination of Georgi Markov and Alexander Litvinenko in London. It also features some of the Bond-

style gadgets developed in Britain during World War II, such as a tobacco-pipe pistol, as well as bonkers Stasi spying gadgets.

A CULTURAL WALK

TAKE a stroll from Alexanderplatz, home to the 1,200ft Television Tower, to the Brandenburg Gate. You'll pass through Museum Island, a UNESCO world heritage site, and see a statue of Frederick the Great. The Reichstag, Ger-



Playing a blinder: The Museum Island on the banks of the Spree and, inset, graffiti



many's parliament building, is a short walk from the Gate.

FOOD AND DRINK

ON ORANIENBURGER Street is the restaurant Veronika (veronika-berlin.com), in what used to be a squat. Graffiti is still on the walls and there's also a photo gallery. You won't find sauerkraut here.

A RETAIL RAMBLE

FOR high-end shopping, head to the department store KaDeWe, or visit the Mall of Berlin, a glitzy 300-store shopping complex near Potsdamer Platz.

TRAVEL FACTS

DOUBLES at NH Collection Berlin Mitte Friedrichstrasse from £125 B&B (nh-hotels.com). EasyJet flights from Gatwick from £85 return (easyjet.com). More information at visitberlin.de.

YORK MEMBERSHIP