

Biking in Berlin

Executive Summary

Berlin is one of Europe's most bike-friendly cities: flat terrain, over 1,000 km of bike lanes, and roughly as many bicycles as people in Germany (~82 million bikes for ~84 million residents). As a new expat, you have five main paths to getting on two wheels:

- **Bike subscriptions** (Swapfiets, Dance/Brompton) — all-inclusive monthly fee, ideal for newcomers not ready to commit to ownership.
- **Employer bike leasing** (JobRad, BusinessBike) — save up to 40% via salary conversion and tax benefits; ask your employer.
- **On-demand sharing** (Nextbike, Lime, Tier/Dott, Voi, Bolt, Donkey Republic) — pay-per-ride via app, best for occasional use.
- **Buying** (new or second-hand) — cheapest long-term; used city bikes start around EUR 50-150.
- **Jelbi app** — BVG's multi-modal app that connects all sharing services in one place.

Contents

1. [Bike Subscription Services](#)
2. [Bike Leasing Through Your Employer](#)
3. [On-Demand Bike & Scooter Rentals](#)
4. [Buying a Bike \(New & Second-Hand\)](#)
5. [Essential Cycling Rules in Berlin](#)
6. [Practical Tips](#)
7. [Cost Comparison](#)
8. [Sources](#)
9. [Research Journey](#)

1. Bike Subscription Services

Subscription services give you a dedicated bike for a monthly fee. All maintenance, repairs, and theft protection are included. No upfront purchase cost. Cancel with one month's notice. This is the best option if you are new to Berlin and want to try cycling without a big investment.

Swapfiets Most Popular

The world's first bike-as-a-service company, recognizable by the **blue front tire**. Available across 70+ European cities including Berlin. Recently acquired Dance (May 2026), making it Europe's largest e-bike subscription provider.

Pricing (Berlin, June 2026)

Model	Monthly Fee	Type	Details
Deluxe 7	EUR 15.90	City bike	7 gears, ideal for daily commuting
Power 1	EUR 54.90	E-bike	Single-speed, 120 km battery range
Power 7	EUR 64.90	E-bike	7 gears, 150 km battery range

Subscription terms:

- **Monthly (Flex):** One-time joining fee (EUR ~19.50), cancel anytime with 1 month notice
- **6-month:** No joining fee, cancel after 6 months
- **12-month:** Lowest monthly rate, cancel after 12 months

Sign-up: Online at [swapfiets.de](https://www.swapfiets.de) or visit a Berlin store. Free home delivery or in-store pickup. Need a valid payment method (credit card or SEPA).

Pros

- All repairs free; if not fixed in 10 minutes, they swap the bike
- Theft protection included (EUR 60 deductible if double-locked)
- Built-in double lock — no need to buy a separate lock
- Distinctive blue tire deters theft
- Student discounts available
- Flexible cancellation
- Good Trustpilot rating (4.6/5 from 2,600+ reviews)

Cons

- Bikes feel heavy for experienced cyclists
- No step-through frame for Deluxe 7
- Basket only mounts on front (EUR 4/month extra)
- Long-term cost exceeds buying your own bike
- Chat support can be slow
- Back tire flap is flimsy

Expat Tip Swapfiets is ideal for your first months in Berlin. At EUR 15.90/month (~EUR 0.53/day), you can test if cycling works for your commute before investing in ownership. Multiple reviewers who used Swapfiets for 6-12 months eventually bought their own bike once they felt confident navigating Berlin traffic.

Dance Acquired by Swapfiets May 2026

Premium e-bike and e-moped subscription, Berlin-based. Acquired by Swapfiets in May 2026; existing subscriptions continue but new pricing may change.

Pricing (pre-acquisition)

Vehicle	Monthly Fee	Notes
Dance One (e-bike)	EUR 69+	Step-through also available
Dance Moped	EUR 89-119	Requires valid German driving license

Free delivery, app-based management, all maintenance included. Available in Berlin, Hamburg, Munich. Trustpilot: 4.0/5 from 600+ reviews.

Note on Acquisition Since Swapfiets acquired Dance, it is worth checking both websites for the latest combined offering. Dance subscribers may be migrated to Swapfiets plans.

Brompton Folding Bike

If you commute by train + bike (common in Berlin), a folding bike subscription may be perfect. Brompton's iconic folding bikes are available on subscription in Berlin.

Plan	Monthly Fee	Commitment
Brompton subscription	from EUR 41-59	12-month minimum

Includes repair service, maintenance, and theft protection. Ideal for mixed S-Bahn/U-Bahn + cycling commutes. Folds in under 20 seconds, fits under a desk.

2. Bike Leasing Through Your Employer

Why This Matters for Expats If you are employed in Germany (including on a Blue Card), you may be eligible for tax-advantaged bike leasing. This is one of the cheapest ways to get a high-quality bike or e-bike. Ask your HR department if they offer a company bike program (Dienstrad / Jobrad).

How It Works

1. **Employer sets up a framework agreement** with a leasing provider (JobRad, BusinessBike, Lease a Bike, Bikeleasing, Eurorad)
2. **You choose a bike** from any participating retailer — any type: city bike, e-bike, cargo bike, road bike (up to ~EUR 10,000+ depending on provider)
3. **Monthly payments are deducted from your gross salary** (salary conversion / Gehaltsumwandlung), reducing your taxable income
4. **Contract runs 36 months** (standard)
5. **At the end**, you can buy the bike at residual value (~18% of list price via JobRad) or return it

Tax Benefit: The 0.25% Rule

When provided via salary conversion, the taxable benefit-in-kind is only **0.25% of the bike's gross list price per month** (rounded down to nearest EUR 100). This is far lower than the 1% rule for company cars.

Example Calculation A EUR 2,500 e-bike: taxable monthly benefit = $0.25\% \times \text{EUR } 2,500 = \text{EUR } 6.25/\text{month}$. Your actual lease payment (~EUR 70/month) comes from gross salary, saving you income tax and social security contributions on that amount. Total savings: **up to 40% vs. buying outright**.

If your employer provides the bike as a **salary supplement** (on top of your salary, not as salary conversion), the private use is **completely tax-free** for you.

Major Leasing Providers

Provider	Notes
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JobRad	Market leader, ~500,000 leased bikes in Germany. Available to employees and self-employed. Purchase option at 18% residual value.
BusinessBike	Popular with larger companies, includes insurance and mobility guarantee.
Lease a Bike	Comprehensive packages including annual inspections.
Bikeleasing Service	Full-service including wear-and-tear repair budget.
Eurorad	Focus on e-bikes, includes insurance package.

What Is Eligible?

- Standard bicycles (city, racing, mountain, gravel)
- E-bikes / pedelecs (motor assist up to 25 km/h, 250W) — treated as regular bikes
- Cargo bikes
- **NOT eligible:** S-Pedelecs (up to 45 km/h) — classified as motor vehicles

For Expats / Blue Card Holders You are eligible for bike leasing as long as you have a German employment contract. If your employer does not yet offer it, you can suggest they set it up — it costs employers nothing (or very little) and is a popular employee benefit. Bring it up during your next team meeting or salary review.

3. On-Demand Bike & Scooter Rentals

For occasional rides, use app-based bike and scooter sharing. Find a vehicle nearby, unlock with your phone, ride, and park in the service area. No commitment, pay per ride.

Regular Bikes

Nextbike **Cheapest <30 min**

Pricing: EUR 1 per 15 minutes. Daily max EUR 15.

Day pass: EUR 3 (first 30 min free, then EUR 1 per 30 min, max EUR 15/day)

App: [Nextbike](#) (iOS/Android)

Bikes: 3-gear city bikes, docking station-based (flexible zones +EUR 0.50). Up to 4 bikes per account.

Coverage: Wide across Berlin; available in hundreds of cities across Europe with same account.

Donkey Republic **Best for 15 min-4 hours**

Pricing: EUR 1.80 (15 min) / EUR 2.30 (30 min). Per-minute cost decreases with longer rentals.

App: Donkey Republic (iOS/Android)

Unique: Only bike share with a built-in phone holder. Up to 5 bikes per account. Flexible drop-off zones.

Discount code: `5B81D5` for a free 15-minute ride.

Call a Bike (Deutsche Bahn)

Pricing: EUR 1 unlock + EUR 1 per 15 min. Daily max EUR 9.

App: Call a Bike (iOS/Android)

Bikes: 7-gear bikes (more gears than competitors). Return required at S-Bahn stations. Available in 50+ German cities.

Best for: Rides over 2 hours (cheapest 7-gear option). Penalty EUR 1-25 if returned outside stations.

E-Bikes & E-Scooters

Provider	Unlock Fee	Per Minute	Day Pass	Standout Feature
Tier / Dott (e-bike)	EUR 1	EUR 0.25	EUR 7.99 (100 min + unlocks)	Phone holder + wireless charging; front basket

Lime (e-bike)	EUR 1	EUR 0.27	—	Also accessible via Uber app; front basket
Voi (e-bike)	EUR 1	EUR 0.24	EUR 8.00 (100 min + unlocks)	Cheapest per-minute rate
Bolt (e-bike + scooter)	EUR 1	~EUR 0.25	—	Also does ride-hailing and food delivery

Discount Codes (as of early 2026)

- Tier: `APH3ZBB` — 50% off next five rides
- Lime: `R24FEDZ` — EUR 3 ride credit
- Voi: Referral from existing user — EUR 5 credit

Jelbi: All-in-One Mobility App

Pro Tip for Newcomers Download **Jelbi** (by BVG, Berlin's public transport operator). One app, one registration — access to all sharing services: bikes, e-bikes, e-scooters, e-mopeds, car sharing, and taxis. Over 60,000 vehicles across Berlin. It also integrates BVG public transport route planning. This is the single most useful transport app in Berlin.

Quick Decision Guide

Trip Duration	Best Option	Approx. Cost
Under 15 minutes	Nextbike	EUR 1
15 min - 4 hours	Donkey Republic	EUR 1.80-6
Full day (manual bike)	Call a Bike	EUR 9 max
Full day (e-bike)	Tier day pass	EUR 7.99
Daily commuter	Swapfiets subscription	EUR 15.90/month
E-bike commuter	Swapfiets Power or leasing	EUR 55-65/month

4. Buying a Bike

New Bikes

For new bikes, visit independent bike shops for personalized service (they will fit the bike to you). Major options:

Shop Type	Examples	Price Range	Notes
Independent shops	Little John Bikes (Prenzlauer Berg, English-friendly), Rad-Spannerei, Bikedudes	EUR 300–3,000+	Best for advice and fitting
Large retailers	Decathlon, Stadler, Radhaus	EUR 200–5,000+	Wider selection, less personal service
Online	bike-discount.de, Canyon, Rose	EUR 300–10,000+	Often cheaper; no test ride
Used bike shops	bikePARK (from EUR 39), Urby Bike (Mitte), Radwelt Berlin	EUR 39–1,500	Refurbished with warranty

Price Strategy Browse models at Decathlon to identify what specs you want, then search for the same or similar model used on Kleinanzeigen. A EUR 500 new city bike can often be found used for EUR 150–250.

Second-Hand Bikes

Online Platforms

- [Kleinanzeigen](#) (formerly eBay Kleinanzeigen) — Largest selection. Filter by "Privater Nutzer" (private seller) to reduce stolen bike risk.
- **Facebook Marketplace** — Smaller selection. Higher stolen bike risk. Join "Sell Your Bike Berlin" group (30,000+ members).
- [Bikeflip](#) — Curated used bike marketplace.
- [gebrauchtesfahrrad.de](#) — Verified used bikes.

In-Person Markets (April–October)

Market	Locations	Frequency
Berliner Fahrradmarkt (BFM)	Friedrichshain, Steglitz, Kreuzkolln, Moabit, Neukolln, Prenzlauer Berg	Monthly at 6 locations
Fietsenboerse	Winterfeldtplatz (Schoneberg)	Monthly, March–October

Sellers at these markets must sign a contract and provide ID, significantly reducing stolen bike risk. The Berliner Fahrradmarkt has 600+ bikes per event.

Avoiding Stolen Bikes

Critical: Verify Before You Buy

1. Ask for a **Kaufvertrag** (purchase contract) — legitimate sellers will sign one with ID
2. Check the **frame number (Rahmennummer)** against theft databases:

- rahmennummern-check.de
- bikefinder.de
- fahrradnummer.de

3. Meet at the seller's verified address (not a random street corner)
4. Be suspicious of very low prices, no receipt, or refusal to show ID

What to Inspect When Buying Used

- **Frame:** Cracks, rust, alignment, correct size for your height
- **Tires & rims:** Tread wear, wheel trueness, spoke tension
- **Brakes:** Pad material, lever responsiveness, cable condition
- **Drivetrain:** Gear shifting smoothness, chain wear, cable tension
- **Lights & reflectors:** Must be StVZO-compliant (see rules section)
- **Test ride:** Listen for unusual noises, test all gears and brakes

Other Ways to Get a Bike

- **Bikesurf Berlin:** Pay-what-you-can bike borrowing
- **fLotte Berlin:** Free cargo bike lending (community project)
- **Toll office auctions:** Recovered/abandoned bikes auctioned by the city

5. Essential Cycling Rules in Berlin

Coming from the Philippines? Germany's cycling rules are strict and enforced. Fines are real (EUR 5–180), and police do ticket cyclists. Unlike in Manila where traffic rules for cyclists are loosely enforced, Berlin takes cycling infrastructure and compliance seriously.

Key Traffic Rules

Rule	Details	Fine
Ride on the right side of the road	Germany is right-hand traffic. Stay on the right side of the lane.	—
Use mandatory bike lanes	Blue circular signs with a bike symbol = mandatory . You must use these lanes.	EUR 20
No riding on sidewalks	Adults may never ride on sidewalks unless marked "Fahrrad frei." Children under 8 <i>must</i> use sidewalks; ages 8–10 may choose.	EUR 25–55

Stop at red lights	Use bike-specific traffic lights where available. Running a red light is a serious offense.	EUR 60-180
Signal before turning	Extend your arm to indicate turns. Look over your shoulder before changing lanes.	EUR 10-35
Ride single file	Two abreast only if traffic is not obstructed.	EUR 20
No phone use	Holding a smartphone while cycling is prohibited.	EUR 55
Both hands on handlebars	Keep both hands on the bars at all times.	EUR 5
Overtake from the left	Always pass other cyclists and vehicles on the left side.	—

Alcohol Limits

BAC Level	Consequence
Below 0.3 per mille	Legal
0.3-1.59 per mille	Fines possible if riding is visibly impaired; potential driver's license suspension (yes, for cycling!)
1.6 per mille or above	Criminal offense: fine equal to ~1 month net salary, 2 Flensburg points, mandatory psychological evaluation (MPU), possible driver's license revocation

Yes, You Can Lose Your Car License for Drunk Cycling This catches many expats off guard. Getting caught cycling above 1.6 per mille can result in losing your car driving license AND being required to pass an expensive MPU (Medizinisch-Psychologische Untersuchung, ~EUR 500+) to get it back.

Required Equipment

Equipment	Requirement	Fine if Missing
Front light	White, StVZO-compliant, steady (not blinking)	EUR 20-35
Rear light	Red, StVZO-compliant, steady	EUR 20-35
Front reflector	White	EUR 20
Rear reflector	Red, large "Z" type	EUR 20
Pedal reflectors	Yellow, on both pedals	EUR 20

Wheel reflectors	Yellow spoke reflectors OR reflective tire sidewalls	EUR 20
Bell	Audible bell, easily reachable	EUR 15
Brakes	Two independent brakes (front + rear)	EUR 10

Blinking lights are NOT legal as primary lights in Germany. You need a steady (non-blinking) StVZO-approved light. Many cheap bike lights from Amazon are not StVZO-compliant. Look for the wavy "K" mark on the light. Dynamo-powered lights are always compliant.

Helmet Rules

- **Regular bikes and pedelecs (up to 25 km/h):** No helmet legally required, BUT strongly recommended
- **S-Pedelecs (up to 45 km/h):** Helmet mandatory
- **E-bikes with throttle (no pedaling):** Helmet mandatory

E-Bike Categories

Type	Speed	License	Insurance	Bike Lanes	Helmet
Pedelec (most common)	≤25 km/h assist	None	None required	Yes	Not required
S-Pedelec	≤45 km/h	Class AM	Required + plate	No (road only)	Required
E-bike (throttle, no pedal)	≤25 km/h	Mofa certificate	Required	Limited	Required

Dangerous Situations to Watch For

- **Right-turning vehicles:** The #1 cause of serious cyclist injuries. Always assume drivers do not see you at intersections.
- **Door zone (Dooring):** Keep 1 meter distance from parked cars. Doors can open suddenly into your path.
- **Tram tracks:** Cross at a sharp angle to avoid getting your wheel caught. Very common in Berlin (Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg, Friedrichshain).
- **Cobblestones:** Many Berlin streets have rough cobblestones (Kopfsteinpflaster). Reduce speed and grip firmly.

6. Practical Tips

Theft Prevention

Berlin has a significant bike theft problem — over 271,500 bikes stolen in Germany in 2019 alone, with Berlin being one of the highest-risk cities.

1. **Use a quality lock:** Budget approximately 20% of your bike's value for the lock. Use a D-lock/U-lock or heavy-duty chain. *Never* use cable locks or cheap combination locks alone.
2. **Lock to a fixed object:** Lock frame AND wheel to an immovable post or bike rack. Quick-release wheels should be locked separately or replaced with locking skewers.
3. **Bring it inside at night:** Never leave a bike locked outside overnight if you can avoid it. Train stations and street poles are high-theft zones.
4. **Register with police:** Berlin police offer free bike labeling and registration at events around the city. This helps recovery if stolen. Record your frame number (Rahmennummer).
5. **Get insurance:**
 - **Hausratversicherung** (household contents insurance) — may cover bike theft from your apartment/cellar. Check your policy.
 - **Fahrradversicherung** (dedicated bike insurance) — covers theft anywhere, vandalism, parts theft. Required for newer/expensive bikes. Example providers: Hepster, ADFC-Versicherung, Bikmo.
6. **Make your bike identifiable:** Custom stickers, unique paint, or unusual accessories deter theft and aid recovery.
7. **Use a beater for daily commuting:** Keep an inexpensive bike for daily use; save the nice bike for weekend rides.

If Your Bike Is Stolen

1. Report to Berlin police online at internetwache-polizei-berlin.de within 24 hours
2. Notify your insurer immediately
3. Check the police recovered bicycles list at berlin.de/polizei
4. Post on social media and local groups (Facebook "Fahrrad gestohlen Berlin")

Winter Cycling (November–March)

Berlin winters are cold (often -5 to 5 degrees C) with occasional ice and snow. Many Berliners cycle year-round. Here is what you need:

- **Clothing layers:**
 - Merino wool base layer (regulates temperature, wicks moisture)
 - Windproof jacket (not necessarily waterproof — rain is less common than cold wind)

- Warm gloves (cycling-specific with grip)
- Balaclava or neck gaiter for face protection
- Overshoes or warm waterproof shoes
- **Bike setup:**
 - Lower tire pressure for better traction on wet/icy surfaces
 - Consider wider or knobby tires for winter months
 - Ensure lights work well (days are very short, dark by 4 PM)
 - Clean and lubricate chain more frequently (salt and grit accelerate wear)
- **Riding technique:**
 - Reduce speed on wet leaves, ice, and tram tracks
 - Brake earlier and more gently
 - Avoid sudden turns on icy patches
 - Use main roads that are more likely to be salted/cleared
- **E-bike note:** Cold weather reduces battery range by 20–30%. Store the battery indoors overnight. Swapfiets offers winter-specific tires on their e-bikes.

Filipino Expat Survival Tip Coming from a tropical climate, your first Berlin winter on a bike will be a shock. Start with short rides. The hardest part is the first 5 minutes until your body warms up. Once you are moving, you will heat up quickly. Over-dressing leads to sweating which makes you colder. A good windproof layer matters more than a thick layer.

Bike Maintenance

- **Professional repair shops (Fahrradwerkstatt):** Every neighborhood has several. Check Google reviews. Basic tune-up: EUR 30–60.
- **Self-service workshops (free/low-cost):**
 - ADFC bicycle workshop (Kreuzberg)
 - Berliner Fahrradmarkt repair station
 - Regenbogenfabrik (Kreuzberg)
 - FURad (FU Berlin campus)
- **Public bike pumps:** Map at pumpsofberlin.com
- **ADFC (Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad-Club):** Germany's main cycling advocacy org with 200,000+ members. Offers workshops, legal advice, insurance, and cycling maps. Worth joining (EUR ~56/year).

Useful Apps

App	Purpose
Jelbi	All-in-one: public transport + all sharing services
Komoot	Cycling route planning with turn-by-turn navigation; Berlin region free

Google Maps	Bike routing (select cycling mode); shows bike lanes and elevation
BVG Fahrinfo	Public transport schedules (for mixed bike + train commutes)
Nextbike / Lime / Tier / Voi / Bolt	Individual sharing service apps
Swapfiets	Manage subscription, book repairs

7. Cost Comparison

Monthly Cost Overview

Option	Monthly Cost	Upfront Cost	Includes	Best For
Swapfiets Deluxe 7	EUR 15.90	EUR 0-19.50	Repairs, lock, theft protection	New expats, <1 year
Swapfiets Power 1 (e-bike)	EUR 54.90	EUR 0-19.50	Repairs, lock, battery, theft protection	E-bike without commitment
Dance e-bike	EUR 69+	EUR 29	Repairs, delivery, app management	Premium e-bike experience
Brompton folding	EUR 41-59	EUR 0	Repairs, theft protection	Train + bike commuters
Bike leasing (EUR 2,500 bike)	~EUR 50-70 (gross)	EUR 0	Insurance, inspections, purchase option	Employed expats, 3+ years
Own used city bike	~EUR 5-10 (maintenance)	EUR 50-300	Nothing — you handle everything	Budget-conscious, long-term
Own new city bike	~EUR 5-10 (maintenance)	EUR 300-800	Warranty (usually 2 years)	Long-term residents
On-demand sharing (daily)	EUR 30-150+	EUR 0	Everything per ride	Occasional/tourist use only

Break-Even Analysis: Subscription vs. Buying

Scenario	Swapfiets Cost	Buy Used Cost	Break-Even
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Basic city bike (EUR 150 used + EUR 50 lock)	EUR 15.90/month	EUR 200 + EUR 10/month maintenance	~34 months (~3 years)
Good city bike (EUR 400 new + EUR 80 lock)	EUR 15.90/month	EUR 480 + EUR 10/month maintenance	~81 months (~7 years)
E-bike (EUR 2,000 new)	EUR 54.90/month	EUR 2,000 + EUR 20/month maintenance	~57 months (~5 years)

Recommendation for Filipino Expats New to Berlin

1. **Month 1-3:** Use on-demand sharing (Nextbike, Tier) to learn the city and routes
2. **Month 3-12:** Get a Swapfiets subscription to commit to daily cycling without risk
3. **After 1 year:** Buy a used bike (EUR 100-300) from the Berliner Fahrradmarkt. Ask your employer about bike leasing if you want an e-bike.

This staged approach minimizes risk and cost while you settle in.

8. Sources

1. [Swapfiets Berlin](#) — Official pricing and plans
2. [Nomad and In Love: Berlin Bike Sharing Comparison](#) (updated March 2026)
3. [Nomad and In Love: Swapfiets Review](#) (10+ months usage)
4. [ENGWE: Swapfiets Berlin Review](#)
5. [NAVIT: Company Bike and Bike Leasing in Germany Explained](#)
6. [NAVIT: Fahrrad Abo Vergleich 2026](#) (subscription provider comparison)
7. [Rotwild: Everything About Bike Leasing](#)
8. [Simple Germany: Cycling Rules](#) (updated March 2025)
9. [Live in Germany: Cycling Rules & Regulations 2026](#)
10. [All About Berlin: How to Buy and Ride a Bicycle](#) (updated May 2026)
11. [Recycles: Complete Guide to Buying a Used Bike in Berlin](#)
12. [Formatera: 7 Tips to Avoid Bike Theft in Germany](#) (October 2025)
13. [visitBerlin: 15 Tips for Safe Cycling](#)
14. [Berlin.de: Bike Sharing Overview](#)
15. [Trustpilot: Swapfiets Deutschland Reviews](#) (4.6/5, 2,600+ reviews)
16. [Trustpilot: Dance Reviews](#) (4.0/5, 600+ reviews)
17. [Jelbi: Berlin's Multi-Modal Mobility App](#)
18. [Circuly: Leading Bike Subscription Companies 2025](#)
19. [Trending Topics: Swapfiets Acquires Dance](#) (May 2026)

20. [Berliner Fahrradmarkt](#) (used bike markets)
21. [Fietsenboerse: Second Hand Bikes Berlin](#)
22. [Reddit r/berlin: Nextbike quality discussion](#) (June 2025)
23. [Reddit r/berlinsocialclub: Swapfiets experience thread](#)
24. [Reddit r/berlin: Winter cycling tips](#)
25. [German Road Safety Council: Cycling in Germany \(PDF\)](#)

Research Journey

Date: June 6, 2026 • **Searches conducted:** 10+ via SearXNG (bitmagnet-de, bitmagnet-nl, bitmagnet-lax) • **Pages fetched and analyzed:** 14

Search queries executed:

- `Swapfiets Berlin bike subscription review 2025 2026` (bitmagnet-de) — 14 results
- `bike leasing Germany Jobrad BusinessBike employer` (bitmagnet-de) — 10 results
- `Berlin bike sharing Nextbike Lime Tier scooter` (bitmagnet-nl) — 10 results
- `buying second hand bicycle Berlin` (bitmagnet-de) — 14 results
- `Berlin cycling rules traffic laws beginners expat` (bitmagnet-de) — 10 results
- `bike rental subscription Berlin comparison` (bitmagnet-nl) — limited results
- `Berlin bike theft prevention register bicycle police tips` (bitmagnet-de) — 10 results
- `Dance ebike subscription Berlin pricing 2025 2026` (bitmagnet-nl) — 10 results
- `winter cycling Berlin tips cold weather` (bitmagnet-de) — 10 results
- `Jelbi Berlin app bike scooter multimodal transport` (bitmagnet-de) — 8 results
- `Berlin new bike shop buy bicycle price range 2025 2026` (bitmagnet-de) — 8 results

Key sources deep-fetched:

- [swapfiets.de/en-DE/berlin](#) — official pricing
- [nomadandinlove.com](#) — comprehensive Berlin bike sharing comparison + Swapfiets review
- [navit.com](#) — bike leasing explained + subscription comparison
- [simplegermany.com](#) — cycling rules
- [liveingermany.de](#) — cycling regulations and fines
- [allaboutberlin.com](#) — comprehensive Berlin cycling guide
- [recycles.com](#) — used bike buying guide
- [rotwild.com](#) — bike leasing process details
- [formatera.com](#) — theft prevention tips
- [visitberlin.de](#) — 15 safe cycling tips
- [engwe.com](#) — Swapfiets review with ownership comparison
- [dance.co/blog](#) — Dance acquisition status

- berlin.de/en/getting-around/bikesharing — official provider list
- jelbi.de — multi-modal app information

Decision points:

- Two SearXNG servers (bitmagnet-lax for cycling rules, bitmagnet-nl for comparison) returned empty results — retried on bitmagnet-de successfully
- Dance pricing was hard to pin down since the Swapfiets acquisition (May 2026) is changing their offering — used pre-acquisition pricing with a note about the merger
- Reddit threads provided valuable real-user perspectives on Swapfiets (heavy bikes), Nextbike (declining quality), and winter cycling (balaclava recommendation)

Revision #3

Created 2026-06-05 23:36:20 UTC by Ben Adrian Sarmiento

Updated 2026-06-06 06:17:46 UTC by Ben Adrian Sarmiento