

**WO KANN MAN ESSEN UND TRINKEN?
(Where can you get something to eat and drink?)**

fast food: das Fastfood
fast food restaurant: das Fastfood-Restaurant, die Fastfood-Restaurants

How the humble Döner kebab evolved into Berlin's go-to fast food snack

A specialty born in Berlin?

But where did this ground-breaking culinary invention come from? The most widely held assumption is that the *Döner* was invented by Kadir Nurman, a Turkish *Gastarbeiter* (guest worker) who emigrated to West Germany in the 1960s as part of the post-war reconstruction effort.

After moving from Stuttgart to Berlin in 1966, Nurman quickly noticed that there was a distinct lack of convenient lunch foods for the city's busy workers.

That was when the idea struck him. He thought that kebab meat, which had been served on plates with rice in Turkey since the mid-1800s, could be sold in a portable sandwich form to people on the street.

Shortly after, in 1972, he decided to leave his job as a mechanic and set up an *Imbiss* (snack bar) near the Zoo in former West Berlin.

The *Döner* sold in this kiosk would be unrecognisable to many Germans today: rather than the familiar trimmings of salad and sauce, Nurman's flatbreads were filled only with kebab meat, onion and some lettuce.

Nevertheless, hungry Berliners soon warmed to the idea, and before long new *Döner* shops started to pop up across Germany and worldwide.

As Nurman did not patent the idea, he did not benefit financially from the *Döner's* later success. In an interview with *Frankfurter Rundschau*, however, he expressed his joy that so many Turkish people have been able to make a living by selling the fast-food snack.

In 2011, two years before his death, he was given a lifetime achievement award by the Association of Turkish Döner Manufacturers, and he has since been widely credited as the "inventor" of the beloved dish.

Whilst the *Döner's* global appeal remains undisputed, however, the accuracy of this origin story has been thrown into doubt in recent times.