



ENGLISH

# Come face to face with Leipzig

LIFESTYLE – BUSINESS – SCIENCE – CULTURE

# Leipzig

Johann Sebastian Bach was appointed choir master and director of music here in 1723. His duties included teaching music at St Thomas's School, where his post was traditionally combined with that of a Latin tutor. However, as Bach was not much of a Latinist, he bribed another teacher to take over these duties – leaving him free to do what he did best.

Germany's most famous poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, studied in Leipzig. Today it is one of the country's most popular centres of higher education, with over 40,000 students enjoying the academic opportunities it offers – and of course the lifestyle.

Driving enthusiasts from all over Europe come here to collect their new Porsches in person. While they're at it, they can also put their new vehicle through its paces on the company's private test track.

Every day, hundreds of thousands of packages from all over Europe pass through here, on their way to every corner of the earth – because Deutsche Post World Net has its European DHL air-freight hub at Leipzig/Halle Airport.



Richard Wagner, one of Germany's greatest composers, was born here, in the "Red and White Lion" inn – although that building no longer exists. Today, the site is part of the "Höfe am Brühl" shopping centre. However, the Church of St Thomas, where Wagner was baptized shortly afterwards, is still very much standing.

Prospective gallery-owner Gerd Harry Lybke met unknown painter Neo Rauch here. Lybke is now a leading figure on the German art scene, while Neo Rauch is one of the country's most influential contemporary artists.

Angela Merkel, the first female chancellor of Germany, studied physics here and loved every minute of the student lifestyle. Today's students feel exactly the same way, thanks to institutions such as the Moritzbastei, Germany's biggest student club, which is set in a complex of vaulted cellars. Dating from the Middle Ages, the vaults were excavated in the 1970s by students – with a certain Ms. Merkel among their number.

Felix Mendelssohn not only founded the Conservatory in Leipzig, he also composed one of his most famous works here, the oratorio *Elijah*.





**Leipzig – the city with no limits**



“I praise my Leipzig,” wrote the “German Shakespeare”, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe – and with good reason. The city has a charm that few can resist, including the great writer. That’s why we call Leipzig the “city with no limits”. It has played a vital role in recent European history. The demonstrations that took place here in September 1989 ultimately led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany, events that would affect the whole continent, giving birth to the Europe of today. And the people of Leipzig still have this same desire to take control of their own destiny – as you’ll see when you visit.

Leipzig of course remains a symbol of democracy and freedom, but it is much more than that. As well as being the economic engine room of central Germany, it is also an important transport hub. With a long tradition of commerce, the city has seen corporations from all over the world relocate here, drawn by the well-qualified, highly motivated workforce provided by the wide variety of first-class educational institutions.

Business success often goes hand in hand with cutting-edge research, and Leipzig enjoys an international reputation as a centre for science and technology. But excellent as the opportunities for work are here, the quality of life is even better. Few German cities can offer such a rich cultural heritage as Leipzig, combining centuries of traditions with a vibrant, contemporary scene. And it’s all there to be enjoyed, day after day, night after night.

Experience Leipzig – a city that is bursting with ideas. A city that never tires of reinventing itself, and that combines a youthful energy with a deeply felt respect for its traditions. A city with a love of freedom that has defined its history, and will continue to shape its development in the years to come. The future starts here, so isn’t it time you came face to face with Leipzig? Leipzig is a city where knowledge, business and culture come together as one – so come to Leipzig, and meet the world.

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- ① 89 is a hugely important number for Germany as a whole, and Leipzig in particular. Each year on 9 October, the Leipzig Festival of Lights celebrates the “Peaceful Revolution” of 1989, which first took hold in the city.
- ② Few people have had as much impact on Leipzig’s musical history as Johann Sebastian Bach. His work continues to draw crowds to the city today, whether at the annual Bach festival, or here at Bach on Air.
- ③ As well as being an architectural marvel, the glass hall represents the heart of the new of the Leipzig Exhibition Centre, and as such, is a meeting point for businesses and ideas from around the world.
- ④ The Cospudener See lake, which lies just outside the city, offers a host of sport and leisure options. It is just one of no fewer than 19 lakes waiting to be discovered in the Leipzig Neuseenland district.

# Lifestyle





### A space to live and dream

No other German city offers a quality of life quite like Leipzig. It is home to over 100,000 elegant 19<sup>th</sup> century apartments, often with stucco plasterwork, high ceilings, fine parquet floors and imposing double doors. The properties have been sensitively renovated in recent times, to create a unique and beautiful environment. In addition, the city boasts many parks, gardens and waterways, so there's usually an open space no more than a minute or two's walk from the front door.

- ❶ *Where waterways meet stunning architecture – despite its sense of space, Leipzig's compact city centre is crammed with varied and beautiful buildings.*
- ❷ *There are plenty of unusual, outgoing characters to be met in the city, such as the friendly zebras in Leipzig Zoo. Since it opened in 1878, it has become one of the most renowned zoos in Europe, and every year it keeps getting better.*
- ❸ *Leipzig is nothing if not green. In most cities, a concrete jungle is as good as it gets, but in Leipzig, an urban forest reaches in almost to the very centre.*
- ❹ *The Südsee lake: immediately beyond the Auenwald forest is a unique leisure area, made up of 19 lakes that are perfect for unwinding. From vibrant sandy beaches to shaded woods, there really is something for everyone.*
- ❺ *Leipzig is often referred to as "Little Venice", thanks to its 550 bridges and 200 kilometres of waterways.*





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### A city with style

A shopaholic's paradise of chic boutiques and cutting-edge stores awaits in Leipzig city centre. Should you be unlucky enough to come on a day when the sun isn't shining, you can still stay dry and warm. Leipzig is renowned for its enchanting galleries and arcades, which boast some stunning atriums and offer a unique atmosphere – no matter how wet and windy it may be outside. If the excitement gets too much, you can take a break in one of the many cafés and open-air bars that give the city an almost Mediterranean feel. And you needn't worry about the time – bars, pubs and cafés have always stayed open a little later in Leipzig.

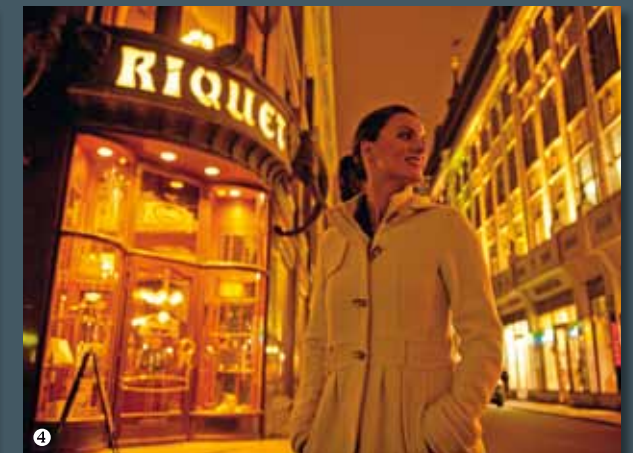
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- 1 *The Church of St Thomas in spring.*
  - 2 *Auerbachs Keller is always worth a visit, serving traditional German cuisine in atmospheric and historic surroundings.*



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- ③ *How about a glass of mulled wine at Leipzig's picture-postcard Christmas market?*
- ④ *Decisions, decisions: a coffee in the traditional Riquet Café, or more shopping in Specks Hof?*
- ⑤ *Among the many galleries and arcades in Leipzig, the Mädlers-Passage is the most famous.*
- ⑥ *Whether you're sat outside or in, a portion of Quarkkeulchen (Saxon curd potato cake) and a Gose (a speciality Leipzig beer) are always a treat .*
- ⑦ *Leipzig's old town hall is one of the most beautiful and important Renaissance buildings in Germany.*







Magnificently preserved Wilhelmine-era (late 19<sup>th</sup> century) architecture is a distinguishing feature of Leipzig. Districts such as the Waldstraßenviertel and Musikviertel are home to a uniquely harmonious collection of elegant buildings. What is more, this world-class architectural ensemble has recently been lovingly restored to its original glory.

If industrial chic is more your thing, you'll also be very well catered for – apartments and studios in converted factory buildings abound, ensuring a unique place to work and live.

- ① *Both on the outside ...*
- ② *... and in, Leipzig's homes offer unparalleled elegance – and are surprisingly affordable.*



Science

## The science of creativity

The University of Leipzig has a proud history that stretches back over 600 years. Many of Germany's foremost men of letters have left their mark here – Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock, Johann Christoph Gottsched, and Goethe himself all spent a significant amount of time in Leipzig. Philosophers Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Friedrich Nietzsche and Ernst Bloch have shaped the city's thinking, as have scientists including Wilhelm Ostwald and Werner Heisenberg.

Leipzig today is a modern centre of research. Thousands of scientists are employed at Leipzig University, the city's six other institutes of higher education, and almost 20 independent research centres.



- 1 Leipzig is home to several cutting-edge research institutes, as well as world-class research universities.
- 2 The city is full of bright scientists. The Max Planck Institute is just one of several major employers.
- 3 The new city centre university campus. The site is home to a library that is open to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 4 The old exhibition centre has been transformed. Among other things, it now houses the Bio City business incubator, where start-up companies work with researchers to break new ground in biotechnology, biomedicine and healthcare.





### Innovating in science and business

Almost 40,000 students make Leipzig their home, with many of these going on to pursue a career in research and development. The city has firmly established itself as a centre of innovative thinking, and boasts a wealth of young scientific talent. What's more, the research carried out in the city has a firm practical focus, which is why so many youngsters create their own start-ups. From researcher to entrepreneur – in Leipzig, it's almost a natural progression.



- 1 *The wind of change: the first ever artificial cloud was created in Leipzig, at a specially designed laboratory belonging to the Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research.*
- 2 *Big-hearted: the Leipzig Heart Centre has earned a global reputation for its successes in heart surgery and cardiology.*

- 3 *Electrifying: energy companies have a particularly strong presence in Leipzig. The city's strong scientific and entrepreneurial culture makes it the perfect place for research into new technology.*
- 4 *The impressive Neo-Renaissance library of the University of Leipzig houses over five million publications. It's hard to imagine a more inspiring place to study.*





**A centuries-old passion for commerce**

Leipzig has been staging trade fairs longer than almost any city in the world – merchants and entrepreneurs have met here to trade goods and share ideas for over 800 years. The new exhibition centre with its striking glass hall is one of the most modern facilities of its kind, and is as admired by lovers of great architecture as it is by trade show goers.

# Business





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### An industry with a future

Leipzig is a motor city – BMW produces its 3 Series Saloon, 1 Series and X1 models here. BMW's Leipzig plant is also at the heart of the company's strategy for the future: as well as carrying out important research into electric vehicles, work to expand the site is currently underway. Once this is complete, the plant will build BMW's electric-powered range. Porsche has also chosen Leipzig to manufacture two of its most popular models – the Cayenne and the Panamera.

### From Leipzig to the world

Over a very short period of time, Leipzig's airport has become an important airfreight hub, and this has attracted the world's largest logistics company, DHL, to the city. Every night, thousands of tons of cargo pass through the DHL facility, which is the most modern airfreight transshipment centre in Europe. What Hamburg is to shipping, Leipzig is to airfreight. But then again, the city has always been a natural home for high-flyers.



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- 1 Leipzig is one of the most important trade fair and congress centres worldwide. Discover for yourself why Leipzig makes the perfect meeting place, whatever your line of business.
- 2 The architecture of the Zara Hadid-designed BMW plant is as eye-catching as the cars rolling off the production line.
- 3 Leipzig boasts outstanding rail, road and air links.
- 4 Life in the fast lane: drivers can show their skills on the Porsche test track, which is open to the public.

### A creative hub

Leipzig today is a centre for the creative industries, which employ over 30,000 people here. The city's flair, sophistication, unique lifestyle and vibrant cultural scene make it a magnet for young creative talent from across Europe.

A huge number of designers, writers, musicians, artists, actors and advertising professionals have made their home in Leipzig. This gives the city a reputation as a hotbed of creativity, which business leaders are irresistibly drawn to. Because in Leipzig, culture and commerce are definitely two opposites with a strong attraction.



- 1 Since the success of Leipzig-born painter Neo Rauch, the city's vibrant contemporary art scene has found worldwide recognition.
- 2 Works by other members of the New Leipzig School (or "Neue Leipziger Schule"), such as Matthias Weischer, are just as highly sought after.



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- ③ Leipzig's cultural and creative scene is booming. From fashion ...
  - ④ ... to bespoke furniture design, the city offers the perfect canvas for creative endeavours.
  - ⑤ A creative twist on the trade fair tradition: young designers also have their own forum in the city, the Designers' Open. It is held at the same time as the Grassmesse, an international event for applied art and product design.
  - ⑥ Leipzig is increasingly popular among film and TV companies, who love the dramatic yet still unfamiliar settings it offers for their productions.

# Culture



### A heritage to savour

Leipzig is synonymous with music. As well as being home to Johann Sebastian Bach, the city was the birthplace of Richard Wagner, and is where Felix Mendelssohn founded the first German conservatory. This rich tradition is continued today by the world-famous Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. As well as giving concerts in the Gewandhaus concert hall, it also regularly accompanies the choir in the Church of St Thomas, and performs in every production staged at the opera house. Among its past conductors are some of the greatest practitioners of the art in history, including Felix Mendelssohn, Wilhelm Furtwängler, Franz Konwitschny, Kurt Masur, Herbert Blomstedt and Riccardo Chailly.



- 1 The Gewandhaus concert hall: home of the Gewandhaus Orchestra and the symbol of Leipzig's musical tradition.
- 2 The Schumann House: the one-time home of Robert and Clara Schumann is a popular attraction, both for its importance in musical history and for its architectural merits. It is one of the few remaining neoclassical buildings in Leipzig.
- 3 Old St Nicholas' School was one of the first municipal schools in Leipzig. Richard Wagner was once a pupil there.
- 4 The Mendelssohn House is the only surviving home of the composer Felix Mendelssohn. Today it is a museum dedicated to his memory.
- 5 A performance by the St Thomas boys' choir is an experience never to be forgotten. The choir was founded as far back as 1212. Today, the boys regularly tour the world, but the best place to see them is in Leipzig's Church of St Thomas.

### Get on the scene

If you want to get to know the Leipzig art scene, you should definitely give yourself a few days. Leipzig has a rich cultural life, with something for music lovers, literature buffs, theatre goers and opera aficionados, as well as those with an interest in architecture and contemporary art and photography. From high art to pop culture, all tastes are catered for.



- ① *It's all right here: the Leipzig Opera house is on the Augustusplatz square, just opposite the Gewandhaus concert hall.*
- ② *All the city's a stage: with the Central Theatre and a host of independent playhouses, Leipzig's theatre scene is particularly impressive.*



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- 3 The Spinnerei is a complex of galleries and studios in western Leipzig that represents the epicentre of German contemporary art. Photography too is often exhibited here.
- 4 Eye-catching outside and in: the Museum der bildenden Künste (Museum of the Visual Arts) is a Mecca for art lovers and is found in the very centre of the city.
- 5 Many artists have set up studios in converted industrial buildings in the western suburbs of Leipzig.
- 6 The Grassi Museum is in fact three different museums under one roof. These are dedicated to the applied arts, social anthropology and musical instruments.



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### The place to be

Leipzig's nightlife is full of surprises. Night after night, alternative theatres, clubs and project spaces offer an incredibly varied programme of events. Whether you're into electronic music, readings, film showings or jazz concerts, there is always something new to discover. It's all going on in Leipzig.



- 1 Read all about it: the Buchmesse is Europe's largest literary festival. It sees readings performed round the clock in all manner of venues, some of them highly unusual.
- 2 Pop Up is a celebration of pop culture. With a host of discussion forums and gigs in clubs across the city, it has become a key event in the independent music calendar.
- 3 Café Grundmann is the city's only remaining art deco coffeehouse, and is a favourite meeting spot among artists and writers. It also hosts jazz concerts, by acts such as Hot Club d'Allemagne – get there early to avoid disappointment.
- 4 Offering a stage for music, theatre and film, "naTo" is found on Karl-Liebknecht-Straße. Commonly known as Karli, the street is at the centre of Leipzig's nightlife.



**2012** 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Leipzig St Thomas boys' choir



**2013** 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Nations  
100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Monument to the Battle of the Nations

# Anniversaries



**2013** 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Richard Wagner



**2014** 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Peaceful Revolution", which led to German reunification



**2015** 1,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded mention of Leipzig

## Celebration and commemoration

Leipzig has an incomparable musical tradition. The St Thomas boys' choir is a key part of this, and in 2012, the institution celebrates its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Richard Wagner is another proud product of the city. He was born here and received his musical education in Leipzig. In 2013, the city will be celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

The Battle of the Nations was a pivotal moment in European industry, and as such its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, also in 2013, will resonate far beyond Leipzig. It will also be 100 years since the monument to this battle was inaugurated. But Leipzig has played a vital role in the recent history of Europe too. The demonstrations of 1989 against East Germany's communist rulers are more closely connected with the city than anywhere else, and 2014 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Peaceful Revolution" – when the people of Leipzig helped to change the course of history. These events are celebrated every year on 9 October, in the Festival of Lights. Finally, 2015 will mark the 1,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded mention of Leipzig in history, with the words "in urbe libzi".

# See you in Leipzig!



**Want to know more about Leipzig?**  
**Simply drop us an email at**  
**[info@leipziger-freiheit.de](mailto:info@leipziger-freiheit.de)**

**Credits:**

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Stadt- und Standortmarketing  
Augustusplatz 9 / City-Hochhaus, 04109 Leipzig, Germany  
Tel.: +49 (0) 341 7104 350, Fax: +49 (0) 341 7104 359  
Email: [info@leipziger-freiheit.de](mailto:info@leipziger-freiheit.de), [www.leipziger-freiheit.de](http://www.leipziger-freiheit.de)  
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