Leipzig

A World-Class City of Music

Experience the fascinating power of music

www.leipzig.travel
Leipzig – where music calls the tune
Gewandhaus Orchestra
Leipzig Opera. Over 300 years of da capo!
Johann Sebastian Bach – his heirs, his followers
Experience authentic historic places
Leipzig Music Trail
Organ building in the Leipzig Region
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Leipzig – where music calls the tune

In Leipzig you can feel the fascinating power of music everywhere – in the streets and squares, in churches, concert halls and in the many authentic places where famous composers and musicians lived and worked. A long-standing tradition: over 500 composers have lived here over the centuries including the greatest names in music history – Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and the married couple Clara and Robert Schumann, as well as Richard Wagner, Edvard Grieg, Albert Lortzing, Gustav Mahler and Hanns Eisler.

Music comes to life here
The rich musical heritage also includes the Gewandhaus Orchestra and the world-renowned St. Thomas Boys Choir, which can look back over 800 years of history. And don’t forget the Opera, which has always sought to preserve Wagner’s heritage and is one of the oldest civic venues for musical theatre in Europe. In the “Capital City of Music”, top-class ensembles and soloists perform to an audience fascinated by music, whether at concerts, ballets, the Summer Organ Festival or the world-renowned Bachfest. www.leipzig.travel/music

Music and belief
2017 marks 500 years since the Reformation – and Leipzig will, of course, be joining in the celebrations, because it was here that Martin Luther came for his Disputation, an event which eventually lead to the split from the papacy. But not only did the reformer have a great influence on the church’s politics, he also changed its music. Some 200 years later, Johann Sebastian Bach used his hymns as the basis for his own polyphonic choral and organ arrangements. In doing so, Bach, himself a devout Lutheran, found a way to express the gospel through his compositions.

Visit Leipzig during the Reformation celebrations and experience how music and belief can inspire each other – whether you attend a choral concert or a performance on one of the many outstanding organs across the region.
Leipzig’s Gewandhaus Orchestra is one of the world’s top ensembles and boasts a rich history dating back over 250 years. It was founded by a group of sixteen merchants in 1743 as the “Großes Concert”, and set the stage for Leipzig to become one of the world’s most important centres for music. The name “Gewandhaus” refers to the trade fair building used by the fabric merchants where its first concert was held. Today, the Orchestra is based at the New Gewandhaus on Augustusplatz, which is home to two concert halls, both with excellent acoustics.

A world-class orchestra
The Gewandhaus is one of Leipzig’s most famous cultural institutions, astounding around half a million visitors each year. Artists including Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Arthur Nikisch, Kurt Masur and Riccardo Chailly have all held the position of “Gewandhaus-kapellmeister”, adding their own personal touches to its distinct culture. In 2017/2018, this position will be taken up by the Latvian Andris Nelsons. The Gewandhaus Orchestra has accompanied the Leipzig Opera for over 200 years. It also supports the St. Thomas Boys Choir when it sings the motets at St. Thomas Church every week. It is one of the key institutions behind Leipzig’s international reputation as a city of music.
Leipzig’s opera tradition dates back to 1693. The Opera House is the third oldest civilian music theatre stage in Europe. Its history is closely linked to the life and work of famous composers including Leipzig-born Richard Wagner, Georg Philipp Telemann, Heinrich Marschner, Albert Lortzing and Gustav Mahler.

The Opera and Leipzig Ballet are located in Leipzig Opera House on Augustusplatz, which opened in 1960. An international ensemble of soloists, the award-winning Opera Choir and the Gewandhaus Orchestra, which traditionally accompanies the operas and ballets, guarantee musical performances of the highest quality. Under Artistic Director and General Music Director Prof. Ulf Schirmer, the works of Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss in particular are being brought back into the centre of the repertoire. Each year, the Leipzig Opera’s Wagner Festival draws Wagner fans from Germany and around the world to the composer’s birthplace. In 2017, the Festival will revolve around the new Leipzig rendering of “Der Ring des Nibelungen”, which was performed across four consecutive days in May 2016 to rapturous praise from its audience.

Mario Schröder, ballet director and head choreographer of a young company with dancers from 23 different countries, focuses on his dancers’ strong personalities and looks to create a direct dialogue with the audience. The Musical Comedy Theatre is the place to go for musicals, operettas and light opera in the Lindenau area of Leipzig.
After stops in Arnstadt, Weimar and Köthen, in 1723 the great composer and organist of the Baroque Era assumed the position as choirmaster of St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, a post which he held until his death in 1750. In addition to organ pieces, motets and cantatas, during this time he also composed such outstanding works as the Christmas Oratorio, the St. John Passion and the St. Matthew Passion. To this day these compositions have not lost any of their charisma and are quite naturally included in the yearly repertoire of many Leipzig choirs. Bach’s legacy lives on here like in no other city!

The Leipzig Bach Museum
The permanent exhibition in the Leipzig Bach Museum presents Bach’s life and work in many different ways: sound experiments, multimedia stations and interactive elements as well as precious originals are to be found. A highlight of the exhibition is the Treasure Chamber, in which the original Bach manuscripts and other rarities are on display. At concerts and during guided tours the baroque Summer Hall with its unique sound chamber is also accessible for visitors. The annual highlight in Bach-related events, however, is the international Leipzig Bachfest in June hosting some 100 events in historical venues such as St. Thomas and the Old City Hall. Even jazz interpretations of Bach’s works can be heard.
St. Thomas Boys Choir (Thomanerchor)
Dating back over 800 years, the St. Thomas Boys Choir is Leipzig’s oldest cultural asset. The boys choir has been in existence since 1212, when the Margrave of Meissen founded the St. Thomas Augustinian Canons (Augustiner-Chorherrenstift zu St. Thomas). Much has changed over the centuries, but even today the choirboys of St. Thomas still live in the boarding school and attend St. Thomas School. With the choirmaster of St. Thomas, Gotthold Schwarz, the young choristers are dedicated to the upkeep of sacred music and, of course, of Bach’s legacy. They are not only to be heard here in Leipzig; they also carry the sound of the city all over the world on their regular concert tours.

St. Thomas Church
The St. Thomas Boys Choir can be heard three times a week in Bach’s former workplace, mainly performing motets and Bach cantatas. And where else, indeed, could one experience the great composer so intimately? His tomb lies in the sanctuary of the 800-year-old Late-Gothic church. In front of the church, in the St. Thomas Churchyard (Thomaskirchhof), stands the Bach Monument, erected in his honour by Leipzig sculptor Carl Seffner in 1908, and a popular snapshot for music lovers from all over the world.
Mendelssohn House
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy was a major influence on European musical history – and he in turn was influenced by his experience of Leipzig. Under his musical direction, the Gewandhaus Orchestra became a first-class orchestra. Moreover, Mendelssohn is renowned for his rediscovery of Bach. The performance of the St. Matthew Passion under his musical direction in 1829 initiated the “Bach Renaissance”. He is also credited for the foundation of the “Conservatory of Music” in 1843, Germany’s oldest music academy. Famous contemporaries such as Schumann and Wagner were frequent visitors to his home on Goldschmidtstraße. Today, it is home to the world’s only Mendelssohn museum. Visitors can do more than just take a look around the rooms in the Mendelssohn House. The museum reopened in February 2014 after a complete renovation and now offers a number of interactive stations to help explore the life and work of the composer. And if you’ve always wanted to conduct a symphony orchestra, you can now make your dream a reality in the world’s only “Effektorium”. It’s almost like being in the Gewandhaus!

Richard Wagner, Leipzig born and bred
Richard Wagner was born here on 22 May 1813. As a youth he attended St. Nicholas School, and later St. Thomas School. At the age of 16, in his home town, he decided to devote his life to music. In 1831 he enrolled as a music student at the University of Leipzig, and also took instruction in composition with the St. Thomas choirmaster,
Schumann House
Robert Schumann and Clara Wieck may be Leipzig's most famous lovers from the 19th century. After their wedding on 12 September 1840 in the village church at Schönefeld near Leipzig, the celebrated female pianist and the still unknown composer moved to Inselstraße. Among other things, the “Spring Symphony” and the first movement of the piano concerto in A minor were created during this period. Today the Schumann House presents an exhibition on the life and work of the musician couple. In addition, concerts and readings take place regularly.

Edvard Grieg Memorial Place
Throughout his life, Edvard Grieg retained close ties to Leipzig’s music academy, the “Konservatorium”, first enrolling there in 1858. His encounters with Brahms and Tchaikovsky in Leipzig inspired him for decades, and it was here that Grieg wrote his first compositions. His publisher, C. F. Peters, lived in Talstraße 10, where Grieg stayed regularly and where today an exhibition commemorates the composer's work.

GRASSI Museum of Musical Instruments
It holds one of the biggest collections of its kind – the Museum of Musical Instruments of the University of Leipzig. Its exhibitions offer insights into the magic of musical instruments and instrument making since the 16th century. Its 5,000 or so precious exhibits include the oldest known clavichord (1543) and the world's oldest surviving original pianoforte (1726). In the museum's sound lab you can try out some of the instruments yourself.
Leipzig has a concentration of authentic famous composers’ homes and workplaces that is unique in the world – a sparkling musical past that laid the foundations for a vibrant musical present. The aim of Leipzig’s Music Trail initiative is to make this treasure visible and tangible. The “Leipzig Music Trail” is a signposted route connecting...
the most important original sites of relevance to musical history in the city centre. Curved stainless-steel shapes set in the ground mark the “ribbon” that winds its way through the city centre and highlights the musical tradition within the cityscape.

The innovative audio guide plays a number of musical pieces and audio clips from the great composers, thus allowing visitors to listen to Leipzig’s musical history as they follow the five kilometre tour. Information panels as well as themed tours provide fascinating insights into the lives of Bach, Wagner and others. For individuals, the audio guide (available to hire from the Museum of Fine Arts during opening hours) and the Notenspur app are a wonderfully informative guide to the “Leipzig Music Trail”.

www.leipzig.travel/musictrail

Currently certified as accessible – detailed information available at: www.sachsen-barrierefrei.de
Organ building in the Leipzig Region

The king of instruments always provides an unforgettable musical experience, both in Leipzig and the surrounding area. Leipzig Region is home to an amazing variety of outstanding organs. The great organ builders such as Silbermann, Hildebrandt, Kreutzbach and Ladegast have left behind instruments that still set the standards today and inspire organ lovers the world over. The little town of Rötha to the south of Leipzig is home to two famous Silbermann organs from the baroque period. The two-manual organ at the St. George Church was made by Gottfried Silbermann and his apprentice Zacharias Hildebrandt in 1721. Just one year later, the Marienkirche in Rötha also received one of these precious instruments. None other than Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy sang the praises of the two organs when he visited Rötha in 1840.

Silbermann’s heritage
Zacharias Hildebrandt had only just completed his apprenticeship with Silbermann when he was asked to build an organ for the Kreuzkirche in Störmthal. The church’s accounts show that the instrument was “accepted, examined and tested, then vaunted and declared to be sound and consistent by Mr Johann Sebastian Bach, Cantor of Leipzig” in November 1723.
Another wonder of the organ world can be found at the castle chapel at Hubertusburg in Wermsdorf. Although it cannot be seen from outside, the castle features a magnificent chapel with a Schramm organ, richly decorated in a rococo style. It has been completely restored to its original tonality and still astounds concert-goers today. Another great name is just as inseparable from the organ-building industry in the Leipzig Region: Friedrich Ladegast. His imposing organs in the Altleisnig church in Polditz and the Stadtkirche Naunhof are still considered highlights of the musical landscape today.

Restoring former glory
Extensive restoration has meant that the majority of organs in the Leipzig Region have now been brought back to their original state so that music-lovers can once again experience their unique, beautiful music. There are also a number of excursions, church tours and individual opportunities to gain an insight into the historical development of organ building in the Leipzig Region. www.faszination-orgel.de (German only)
Event highlights in Leipzig and the region (Selected)

3 September 2016
Grand Concert: Opening of the 236th Gewandhaus Season
Leipzig Gewandhaus
www.gewandhausorchester.de

10 September 2016
22nd Leipzig Opera Ball
Leipzig Opera
www.leipziger-opernball.com

10 – 18 September 2016
Schumann Festival Week
Schumann House, Leipzig
www.schumann-haus.de

15 – 25 September 2016
Mendelssohn Festival
Various locations, Leipzig
www.gewandhausorchester.de

24 September 2016
Ballet premiere: “The Nutcracker”
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

29 September – 8 October 2016
40th Leipzig Jazz Days
Various locations
www.leipziger-jazztage.de

22 October 2016
Opera premiere: “Turandot” – Giacomo Puccini
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

31 October 2016
“A Mighty Fortress” – Evening celebrating the 100th anniversary of Max Reger’s death
Naunhof Church
www.stadtkirche-naunhof.de

4 – 5 November 2016
Gothic meets Klassik
Haus Auensee/Gewandhaus
www.mawi-concert.de

9 – 11 December 2016
The Christmas Oratorio (BWV 248) – J.S. Bach
St. Thomas Church
www.thomaskirche.org

29 – 31 December 2016
Grand Concert for the New Year
Leipzig Gewandhaus
www.gewandhausorchester.de

31 December 2016
New Year’s Eve Gala
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

3 February 2017
Ballet premiere: “Van Gogh” – Mario Schröder
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

25 – 26 März 2017
“Siegfried” and “Götterdämmerung” (”Twilight of the Gods”) – Richard Wagner
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

13 – 14 April 2017
“St. John Passion” (BWV 245) – J. S. Bach
St. Thomas Church
www.thomaskirche.org

21 – 30 April 2017
“a cappella” 2017 – International Festival of Vocal Music
Various locations
www.a-cappella-festival.de
6 May 2017
- **Premiere: Hape Kerkeling’s “Kein Pardon”** – Thomas Hermanns
  - Musical Comedy Theatre
  - [www.oper-leipzig.de](http://www.oper-leipzig.de)

11/12 May and 18/19 May 2017
- **Grand Concert** – with the new Gewandhaus Conductor, Andris Nelsons
  - Leipzig Gewandhaus
  - [www.gewandhausorchester.de](http://www.gewandhausorchester.de)

20 – 21 May 2017
- **Festival of Central German Baroque Music**
  - Grimma town centre
  - [www.grimma.de](http://www.grimma.de)

2 – 5 June 2017
- **Wave Gotik Treffen 2017**
  - Various locations
  - [www.wave-gotik-treffen.de](http://www.wave-gotik-treffen.de)

9 – 18 June 2017
- **Leipzig Bachfest 2017 “Ein schoen new Lied”**
  - Leipzig and the surrounding area
  - [www.bachfestival-leipzig.de](http://www.bachfestival-leipzig.de)

17 June 2017
- **Opera premiere: “Salome”** – Richard Strauss
  - Leipzig Opera
  - [www.oper-leipzig.de](http://www.oper-leipzig.de)

**Regular Music Events**

**Fridays 6 pm**
- **Motets with St. Thomas Boys Choir**
  - St. Thomas Church
  - [www.thomaskirche.org](http://www.thomaskirche.org)

**Saturdays 3 pm**
- **Motet and Cantata by J. S. Bach with St. Thomas Boys Choir and the Gewandhaus Orchestra**
  - St. Thomas Church
  - [www.thomaskirche.org](http://www.thomaskirche.org)

**23 – 24 June 2017**
- **Grand Concert “Klassik airleben”**
  - Open-air stage in Rosental Park
  - [www.gewandhausorchester.de](http://www.gewandhausorchester.de)

**28 June – 02 July 2017**
- **Wagner Festival Leipzig with “Der Ring des Nibelungen”** – Richard Wagner
  - Leipzig Opera, various locations
  - [www.oper-leipzig.de](http://www.oper-leipzig.de)
  - [www.wagner-verband-leipzig.de](http://www.wagner-verband-leipzig.de)

**30 June – 2 July 2017**
- **New Lakeland Music Festival**
  - Zwenkau harbour
  - [www.lso.de](http://www.lso.de)

June – September 2016/2017
- **Culture festival on the Biedermeier beach**
  - Hayna/Lake Schladitz
  - [www.biedermeierstrand.de](http://www.biedermeierstrand.de)

June – September 2016/2017
- **Musical theatre**
  - Performances on the floating stage at the Kriebstein Dam
  - [www.mittelsaechsisches-theater.de](http://www.mittelsaechsisches-theater.de)

August 2017
- **Summer of Open Air Culture with musicals and classics**
  - Hartenfels Castle, Torgau
  - [www.kulturhaus-torgau.de](http://www.kulturhaus-torgau.de)

**More information at [www.leipzig.travel/events](http://www.leipzig.travel/events)**
Travel Offer

Leipzig – City of Music

- Three nights with breakfast in a hotel in Leipzig
- LEIPZIG CARD: 3-day ticket for free travel on public transport within the city of Leipzig, as well as a variety of discounts at museums, restaurants, cabarets, etc. (all discounts can be found at www.leipzig.travel/leipzigcard-en)
- Public combined city tour (1-hour walking tour + 1.5-hour riding tour) on the 2nd day of your stay (1.30 pm)
- Entrance ticket to the Bach Museum
- Entrance ticket to the Mendelssohn House
- Entrance ticket to the GRASSI Museum of Musical Instruments
- Johann Sebastian Bach Menu (3-course meal not including drinks) at the historic Barthels Hof inn on the 2nd evening of your stay (6 pm)
- A musical surprise for each room
- Tourist street map in each room

Offer valid: March to December, subject to availability
Museums are closed on Mondays
January + February: public guided walking tour at 11 am
Registration deadline: four weeks prior to arrival
2017 prices are subject to change

We would be happy to provide a group offer for you.

Please send your enquiry to:
Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH
Augustusplatz 9, 04109 Leipzig
Phone: +49 (0)341 710 4 275
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incoming@ltm-leipzig.de

Other offers are available at www.leipzig.travel/packages

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