Leipzig

A World-Class City of Music

Experience the fascinating power of music

www.leipzig.travel
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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 Gewandhaus Orchestra is part of Leipzig’s rich musical heritage. Originally founded by both the nobility and the citizens of Leipzig, in 2018 it will be celebrating its 275th anniversary with its new principal conductor, Andris Nelsons. Leipzig Opera also has reason to celebrate in 2018. At 325 years of age, it is one of the longest-standing civic opera houses in Europe. The company feels a particular obligation to preserve Richard Wagner’s legacy – after all, the composer was born in Leipzig.

And the City of Music can boast many more first-class ensembles – the St. Thomas Boys Choir with its long tradition, and the MDR Symphony Orchestra, to name but two. Music lovers will also derive a lot of pleasure from a day out in the surrounding countryside, where many of the little towns are home to prime examples of the organ builder’s art. Visit Leipzig and experience for yourself the musical variety of the city and the region.

More detailed information about Leipzig City of Music is available online at: [www.leipzig.travel/music](http://www.leipzig.travel/music)
Leipzig’s Gewandhaus Orchestra is a world-class ensemble, and in 2018 it is celebrating its 275th anniversary. 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 “Gewandhauskapellmeister”, adding their own personal touches to its distinct culture. Latvian Andris Nelsons takes over as principal conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra in 2018. 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 civic 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. So the first six months of 2018 will see three complete performances of Wagner's Ring Cycle, one of which will take place as part of the Wagner Festival at the Leipzig Opera in May. The festival brings Wagnerians from home and abroad to the composer's birthplace every year.

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 concert 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”.

On the Leipzig Music Trail
Grieg Memorial Place, Talstraße 10
Leipzig Music Trail leads the way through the city

1 New Gewandhaus concert hall
2 Mendelssohn House
3 Grieg Memorial Place
4 Former Peters Music Library
5 GRASSI Museum of Musical Instruments
6 Old St. John’s Cemetery
7 Schumann House
8 Graphic arts quarter – music publishers
9 Wagner Memorial
10 Leipzig Opera House
11 St. Nicholas School
12 St. Nicholas Church
13 Old City Hall
14 Museum of Fine Arts
15 Zum Arabischen Coffe Baum (Germany’s oldest coffee house)
16 Former Hôtel de Saxe
17 St. Thomas Church
18 Bach Archive, Bach Museum
19 Clara Wieck’s birthplace
20 Location of the old Music Academy (Konservatorium)
21 Location of the first Gewandhaus concert hall
22 Paulinum – Auditorium and University Church St. Pauli
23 MDR Cube – Radio Orchestra
* Sound installation

Currently certified as accessible – detailed information available at: www.sachsen-barrierefrei.de

www.leipzig.travel/musictrail
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 (Selected)

Leipzig

2 September 2017
Grand Concert: Opening of the 237th Gewandhaus Season
Leipzig Gewandhaus
www.gewandhausorchester.de

2 September 2017
Premiere: “Au Revoir, Euridice” – C. Monteverdi, G. Ligeti
Schaubühne Lindenfels
www.oper-leipzig.de

9 – 17 September 2017
Schumann Festival Week
Schumann House, Leipzig
www.schumann-haus.de

30 September 2017
Opera premiere: “Don Carlo” – G. Verdi
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

12 – 21 October 2017
41st Leipzig Jazz Days
Various locations
www.leipziger-jazztage.de

27 – 31 October 2017
Organ Festival
“Reformation – Revolution”
Leipzig Gewandhaus
www.gewandhausorchester.de

27 October 2017
Ballet premiere: “St. John Passion” – M. Schröder/J. S. Bach
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

4 November 2017
Opera Ball “Moscow Nights”
Leipzig Opera
www.leipziger-opernball.com

3 December 2017
Opera premiere: “Rusalka” – A. Dvořák
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

15 – 17 December 2017
The Christmas Oratorio (BWV 248) – J. S. Bach, with the St. Thomas Boys Choir and the Gewandhaus Orchestra
St. Thomas Church
www.thomaskirche.org

29 – 31 December 2017
Grand Concert for the New Year
Leipzig Gewandhaus
www.gewandhausorchester.de

31 December 2017
New Year’s Eve Gala
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

27 January 2018
Musical premiere: “Doctor Zhivago” – Lucy Simon/Michael Weller/Michael Korie/Amy Powers
Musical Comedy Theatre
www.oper-leipzig.de

22, 23 and 25 February 2018
Grand Concert: Inaugural concert of the 21st Gewandhaus Principal Conductor, Andris Nelsons
Leipzig Gewandhaus
www.gewandhausorchester.de

11 March 2018
Gala Concert: 275 Years of Gewandhaus Orchestra
Leipzig Gewandhaus
www.gewandhausorchester.de

17 March 2018
Opera premiere: “Tannhäuser” – R. Wagner
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de
23 March 2018
Ballet premiere: “Alice in Wonderland” – M. Mahr
 Musical Comedy Theatre
 www.oper-leipzig.de

13 – 14 April 2018
“St. John Passion” (BWV 245) – J. S. Bach
St. Thomas Church
 www.thomaskirche.org

4 – 12 May 2018
“a cappella” 2018 – International Festival of Vocal Music
Various locations
 www.a-cappella-festival.de

6 May 2018
Ballet premiere: “Swan Lake” – P. Tschaikowsky
Leipzig Opera
 www.oper-leipzig.de

29 June – 1 July 2018
New Lakeland Music Festival
Zwenkau harbour
 www.neuseenlandmusikfest.de

Leipzig Region

May – September 2018
Culture festival on the Biedermeier beach
Hayna/Lake Schladitz
 www.biedermeierstrand.de

June – September 2018
Musical theatre on the floating stage
Kriebstein Dam
 www.mittelsaechsisches-theater.de

August 2018
Summer of Open Air Culture
Hartenfels Castle, Torgau
 www.kulturhaus-torgau.de

Regular Music Events in Leipzig

Fridays 6 pm
Motets with St. Thomas Boys Choir*
St. Thomas Church
 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

Sundays 11 am
Sunday Concert
Music salon of Mendelssohn House
 www.mendelssohn-stiftung.de

July – August, Mondays 7 pm
Monday Concert at the Bach Monument
in front of St. Thomas Church
 www.bachkonzerte.eu

* except during school holidays and concert tours

More information at
 www.leipzig.travel/events

9 – 14 May 2018
Wagner Festival Leipzig with “Der Ring des Nibelungen” – R. Wagner
Leipzig Opera, various locations
 www.oper-leipzig.de
 www.wagner-verband-leipzig.de

8 – 17 June 2018
Leipzig Bachfest 2018 “Zyklen”
Leipzig and the surrounding area
 www.bachfestleipzig.de

15 – 17 June 2018
Gala weekend: 325 Years of Leipzig Opera
Leipzig Opera
 www.oper-leipzig.de

29 – 30 June 2018
Grand Concert “Klassik airleben”
Open-air stage in Rosental Park
 www.gewandhausorchester.de

29 June – 1 July 2018
New Lakeland Music Festival
Zwenkau harbour
 www.neuseenlandmusikfest.de

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 bus tour)
- Entrance ticket to the Bach Museum, Mendelssohn House and the GRASSI Museum of Musical Instruments
- Johann Sebastian Bach Menu (3-course meal not including drinks) at the historic Barthels Hof inn
- A musical surprise for each room
- Tourist street map in each room

Offer valid: year round, subject to availability
Museums are closed on Mondays
Registration deadline: four weeks prior to arrival
2018 prices are subject to change

We are happy to offer group rates and can arrange tickets for a visit to the Gewandhaus or to the Opera.

Please send your enquiry to:
Leipzig Tourismus und Marketing GmbH
Augustusplatz 9, 04109 Leipzig
Phone: +49 (0) 341 710 4275
Fax: +49 (0) 341 710 4251
incoming@ltm-leipzig.de

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

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