Leipzig

A World-Class City of Music

Experience the fascinating power of music

Music salon at the Schumann House
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
The rich musical heritage also includes the Gewandhausorchester and the world-renowned St. Thomas Boys Choir, which can look back on over 800 years of history. Leipzig Opera, which has always sought to preserve Wagner’s heritage, is the third oldest civic venue for musical theatre in Europe. In the Capital of Music, top class ensembles and soloists perform to a delighted audience at concerts, ballets, the Summer Organ Festival and the world renowned Leipzig Bach Festival.

A 19th century music star
Known as a piano wunderkind from early on, she became a celebrated pianist performing across Europe, the wife of composer Robert Schumann and the mother of eight children. Clara Schumann, born in Leipzig on 13 September 1819, shaped her era as almost no other woman had done. In 2019, Leipzig will celebrate the 200th birthday of this outstanding musician with a range of special events, including the Schumann Festival Weeks.

World-famous historic organs
Music lovers will also derive a lot of pleasure from a trip to the Leipzig Region, where many of the little towns are home to prime examples of the organ builder’s art. Natural scenery and castles transform into impressive stages for the musical highlights of the BurgenLandKlänge festival. Visit Leipzig and experience for yourself the musical variety of the city and the region.

Further information about Leipzig, City of Music, is available online at: www.leipzig.travel/music
Leipzig’s Gewandhausorchester is a world-class ensemble that celebrated its 275th anniversary in 2018. 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 Gewandhausorchester 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 took over as music director of the Gewandhausorchester in 2018. The Gewandhausorchester 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 Leipzig Opera House on Augustusplatz opened in 1960 and is home to the opera and Leipzig ballet company. An international ensemble of soloists, the award-winning Opera Choir and the Gewandhausorchester, 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. The spring of 2019 will once again see two 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 near and far to the composer’s birthplace every year.

Mario Schröder, ballet director and head choreographer of the young company with dancers from 23 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 district of Leipzig.

Leipzig Opera. Over 300 years of da capo!
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. As cantor and director of music, one of his roles was to arrange the music for services at St. Thomas Church and St. Nicholas Church. During his time in Leipzig he also composed such outstanding works as the Christmas Oratorio, the St. John Passion and the St. Matthew Passion or the Mass in B minor. To this day these compositions have not lost any of their charisma and are 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. At concerts and during guided tours the baroque Summer Hall with its unique sound chamber is also accessible for visitors. The annual Bach highlight is the international Leipzig Bach Festival in June hosting some 100 events in historical venues such as St. Thomas Church and the Old Town Hall. Even jazz interpretations of Bach’s works can be heard.
Dating back over 800 years, 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). Although much has changed over the centuries, 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 preserving the heritage 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 final resting place is 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.

St. Nicholas Church
Bach began his tenure in Leipzig with a cantata performed during a service at the oldest church in the city on 30 May 1723. Nowadays, the Leipzig Bach Choir celebrates the composer with performances of his works in church services and concerts. The 19th-century Ladegast organ in St. Nicholas Church is the biggest church organ in Saxony, and can be heard in the regular organ music concerts “Orgelmusiken” hosted by the church every Saturday.
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 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. The museum will be celebrating Clara Schumann’s 200th birthday throughout 2019, which has given it the opportunity to redesign the exhibition and shift its focus more towards Clara’s artistic career and private life. This year of celebrations will also include many special events, such as the Schumann Festival Weeks in September. www.leipzig.travel/clara

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 Gewandhausorchester 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. As well as taking a look around the rooms in the Mendelssohn House, visitors can also explore interactive exhibits about the composer’s life and works. 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, Christian Theodor Weinlig. His first works were performed in the Gewandhaus, such as his Symphony in C Major in 1833. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth in May 2013, Leipzig finally unveiled its Wagner Memorial, created by sculptor Stephan Balkenhol. The Old St. Nicholas School has also opened a permanent exhibition entitled “The Young Richard Wagner, 1813 to 1834”, which highlights Wagner’s early life and musical education.

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 Music Trail

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 and “audio scenes” 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”. In March 2018, nine of Leipzig’s musical heritage sites and the Music Trail were awarded the European Heritage label.

www.leipzig.travel/musictrail

The entire Music Trail is wheelchair accessible – detailed information available at: www.sachsen-barrierefrei.de
UNESCO has listed Germany’s organ music and organ building as intangible cultural heritage. There are approximately 2,500 organs in Saxony alone, including 150 historic instruments. 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.

Restoring former glory
Thanks to extensive restoration the majority of organs in the Leipzig Region has been brought back to their original state. Music lovers can once again experience their unique, beautiful sound. A number of excursions and church tours show the history and tradition of organ building in the Leipzig Region.

www.leipzig.travel/organs
BurgenLandKlänge festival

BurgenLandKlänge festival is an events series that combines medieval music, classical concerts and modern pop, jazz & blues at spellbinding locations across the Saxon Land of Castles. From imposing castles to magnificent palaces, from venerable churches to old monastery ruins – the venues’ historic walls make for a truly spectacular backdrop for inspiring musical performances. Unique stages like the “Butterfly” in Bad Lausick’s spa gardens or Saxony’s only floating stage on the Kriebstein reservoir offer an equally beautiful natural setting. In the Leipzig Region monumental venues such as the Kreuzfelsen fairground in Waldheim and the former quarry on the Rochlitzer Berg mountain turn performances with fire and light shows into unforgettable experiences.

www.leipzig.travel/burgenlandklaenge
Event highlights (Selected)

Leipzig

31 August 2018
Grand Concert: Opening of the 238th Gewandhaus Season
Leipzig Gewandhaus
www.gewandhausorchester.de

8 – 16 September 2018
Schumann Festival Week
Schumann House, Leipzig
www.schumann-haus.de

11 – 20 October 2018
42nd Leipzig Jazz Days
Various locations
www.leipziger-jazztage.de

12 – 14 October 2018
European Music Trails Festival
Various locations
www.notenspur-leipzig.de

13 October 2018
Leipzig Opera Ball
Leipzig Opera
www.leipziger-opernball.com

27 October 2018
Ballet premiere: “Beethoven I Ravel” – Uwe Scholz, Stanton Welch and Mario Schröder
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

30 October 2018
Opera premiere: “Carmen” – Georges Bizet
Leipzig Opera
www.oper-leipzig.de

14 – 16 December 2018
The Christmas Oratorio (BWV 248) – J. S. Bach, with the St. Thomas Boys Choir and the Gewandhausorchester
St. Thomas Church
www.thomaskirche.org
Regular Music Events in Leipzig

**Fridays 6 pm**

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

**Saturdays 3 pm**

- **Motet and Cantata by J. S. Bach with St. Thomas Boys Choir and the Gewandhausorchester**
  - Location: St. Thomas Church
  - Website: [www.thomaskirche.org](http://www.thomaskirche.org)

**Sundays 11 am**

- **Matinée concert**
  - Location: Music salon of Mendelssohn House
  - Website: [www.mendelssohn-stiftung.de](http://www.mendelssohn-stiftung.de)

**July – August, Mondays 7 pm**

- **Monday Concert at the Bach Monument**
  - Location: in front of St. Thomas Church
  - Website: [www.bachkonzerte.eu](http://www.bachkonzerte.eu)

*except during school holidays and concert tours*

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

**Leipzig – City of Music**

- Three nights at the Seaside Park Hotel**** in a prime city-centre location
- Public guided walking tour (1.5 hours)
- 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.
Other offers are available at
www.leipzig.travel/packages

**Price p. p. in DR**

- Single room supplement from € 90.00

from € 289

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