

Leipzig



Angelic voices soar at the revered St. Thomas Church as the Boys Choir performs Johann Sebastian Bach's Mass in B Minor. The great German composer's influence on this jubilant Saxon town has been vast, and throughout the past several centuries, Leipzig has enjoyed acclaim as a dynamic center of art and culture. The Museum of Fine Arts' extraordinary glass cube leads to one of Europe's most emblematic town halls. Red geraniums tumble from the windows of this 16th century building at the head of Market Square, a cobblestone expanse once trod by the likes of Wagner, Mendelssohn, and Schuman. Home of the Peaceful Revolution of 1989, Leipzig resonates with the legacies of some of history's greatest intellectuals.

Memorable Experiences

Local Hero

Pay your respects to Bach and visit his tomb at St. Thomas Church.

Winter Magic

See the largest Advent calendar in the world at Leipzig's Christmas Market.

Classical Evenings

Hear chamber music and symphony orchestras at the historic Gewandhaus.

Alluring Brews

Savor the aroma at Europe's oldest coffeehouse, Zum Arabischen Coffee Baum.

Distinctive Details

Shortbread, almonds, and strawberry jam combine within miniature pies. Adorned with a little pastry bird and formed with dough in the shape of a lark, the Leipziger Lerchen is the city's trademark delight.

Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends

Leipzig's Canals

Red canoes float along peaceful canals past historic factories in Leipzig's western region, while blue-hulled rowboats ply the forest-fringed waters of the River Elster. Explore Leipzig by boat for another view of the city.

Destination Information

Country Germany
Province Saxony
Elevation 143 meters
Population 511,252
Language German



Area Code: 341
Country Code: 49



Leipzig/Halle Airport (LEJ)



Transportation:
Car, Taxi, Train (ICE)



Euro

Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



Hotel Fuerstenhof

Torendlinring 8
Leipzig, 4105
Phone: (49)(341) 1400



Culture

Intriguing details of Greece's classical history emerge in authentic abodes.

Highly Recommended



Museum of Fine Arts

A trio of majestic ships sails into a lavender horizon beneath a glowing swath of dandelion-hued sky. The serene image, by 19th century German romanticist Casper David Friedrich, joins a vivid collection of paintings in the gracious rooms of this revered museum. Housed in a stunning modern building of smooth glass, Leipzig's Museum of Fine Arts is one of the nation's oldest art museums. Founded in 1848 with one hundred works, the museum has grown to include tens of thousands of paintings, sculptures, and drawings dating from the late Middle Ages.

Address: Katharinenstr. 10
Phone: (49)(341) 216 990



Gewandhaus Leipzig

As the red velvet seats begin to fill in the magnificent Great Room, a palpable energy permeates the air. Soon, a hush descends upon the audience as the esteemed members of the Gewandhaus Orchestra delve into the opening movement of a symphony by one of its founders, Felix Mendelssohn. One of Europe's most acclaimed concert houses, this modern hall features a façade of glass. As night falls, the dramatic nuances of Leipzig artist Sighard Gille's dazzling ceiling fresco "Song of Life" emerges from behind crystal clear panes.

Address: Augustusplatz
Phone: (49)(341) 127 0280



Halle 14

Vast floorboards glow in the afternoon sunlight. The outlines of factory windows fall against golden wood from which steel posts rise. Once a cotton spinning mill filled with the whirl of a hundred machines, this historic red brick building now hosts inspiring exhibitions of contemporary art. Beneath soaring industrial ceilings, striped with painted girders, extraordinary sculptures and installations excite the imagination with their sophisticated creativity while over twenty thousand art books fill the center's impressive library.

Address: Spinnereistrasse 7
Phone: (49)(341) 492 4202

Local Charms



Grassi Museum

Strings of daisies form along intricate iron gates that lead to shaded courtyards. Art deco towers crown the grand 1920s building that surrounds these grassy lawns and flagstone walks. Three museums, one devoted to applied arts, another to ethnography, and a third to musical instruments, reside within this renowned institution. Elegant galleries are filled with graceful lutes and cellos, displays of masks and jewels from Africa, Oceania, and the Orient, and collections of exquisite porcelain and furniture.

Address: Johannisplatz 5-11
Phone: (49)(341) 222 9100



Shopping

Encounter the most revered names in fashion, style, and craftsmanship.

Local Charms



Mädler Passage

An extensive row of skylights stretches across the thirteen-meter-high ceilings of a spacious hall. Cherubic figures, carved from stone, gaze down from lofty balconies while a glockenspiel plays in the background. A picturesque emporium of belle époque grandeur, this historic gallery was constructed in 1912 on a site that dates back to the 16th century. Once an exhibition hall for porcelain, wine, and leather, this gracious arcade is now home to sought-after brands such as Faber-Castell, Aigner, Lacoste, and Swarovski.

Address: Grimmaische Strasse 2-4

Phone: (49)(341) 216 340



Promenaden at Leipzig Central Station

A glass elevator rises between the marble arches and emblematic clocks of an immense train station. The glass barriers of modern mezzanines offer impressive vistas of one of the city's most dynamic spaces. Merging 19th century opulence with 20th century technology, Leipzig's Central Station is the largest in Europe. Opportunities for exceptional shopping abound within its light-filled interior. From clothing boutiques like Mango and Esprit, to dozens of jewelry, watch, tobacco, and bookstores, nearly one hundred fifty shops fill three levels.

Address: Willy-Brandt-Platz 7

Phone: (49)(341) 141 270

Shops & Boutiques



Wempe

An oval pendant of Brazilian tourmaline dangles from a rope of bronze Tahitian pearls. It glistens with mesmerizing hues of olive, emerald, and amber. Around a band of rose gold, a ring of oak leaves unfurls in the classical, organic form of an authentic 1920s Art Nouveau design. An exquisite collection of necklaces, bracelets, rings, and watches fill the glass vitrines of this sophisticated boutique in the heart of old Leipzig. What began as a small family business in 1878 has grown to become one of the most revered names in jewelry and watchmaking.

Address: Mädler-Passage/Corner Grimmaische Str.2-4

Phone: (49)(341) 211 3112



Cuisine

Extraordinary skill combines with rare environments for exceptional dining experiences.

Acclaimed



Restaurant Villers

Pale blue drapes frame the high arched windows that surround a stunning 18th century salon. A gentle palette of peach and pale gold adorn its aristocratic walls. Fresh bouquets form elegant centerpieces upon tables where enticing international cuisine is served by an attentive staff. Traditional dishes combine with experimental fare on chef Till Weiss' menu. From the rich bounty of nearby farms, he creates artful meals. An extensive wine list includes over one hundred seventy premiere selections.

Address: Hotel Fuerstenhof
Phone: (49)(341) 1400



Falco

Roasted octopus is served with a coconut and grapefruit tapioca, while celery, apple, cocoa vanilla sauce is drizzled over a duck breast. Exotic gastronomic adventures transpire at Falco. White leather chairs, surrounded by the intimate atmosphere of warm wood, provide an ambience of modern sophistication. As the tantalizing scents of Chef Peter Maria Schnurr's magnificent gourmet cuisine fills the room, unrivaled views of a city, swathed in the blue of twilight, stretches out below.

Address: The Westin Hotel, Gerberstrasse 15
Phone: (49)(341) 988 2727

Local Specialty



Drogerie

Stacks of tomatoes, onions, eggplants, and asparagus fill the counters of a charming kitchen as simple country recipes are prepared. Each day, a bounty of meats, cheeses, fruits, and vegetables, collected from the morning market, dictate the menu at this delightful bistro, just north of the city center. A cheerful dining room of natural wood is an inviting place to enjoy classic dishes like buffalo mozzarella and steak served with baked potatoes. Wine bottles line up along a pine bar like the potions and tonics that once filled this former drugstore.

Address: Schillerweg 36
Phone: (49)(341) 590 6309



La Cachette

Art Nouveau beauties pose gracefully upon pale yellow walls, their fluid forms wrapped in sumptuous iridescent rust and jade silk. In this traditional kitchen, lamb, sausage, potatoes, saffron, and arugula are combined into radiant feasts, permeating the air with their rich aromas. A transporting restaurant of unparalleled style, La Cachette recalls a time when joie-de-vivre accompanied every spectacular meal. Gastronomic specialties from the German hinterland are served in an elegant dining room of dark oak floors and tall green palms.

Address: Pfaffendorfer Strasse 26
Phone: (49)(341) 562 9867



Noteworthy

Once in a lifetime experiences transpire in Leipzig's surprising locales.

Recreation



Porsche Leipzig Pilot

A sleek Porsche Boxster glides around the track, accelerating out of an exhilarating bend, as it cruises into a home straight. With its Pilot program, Leipzig's Porsche factory makes automotive fantasies a reality. Begin with a tour of the plant, where the world's most skilled automobile engineers demonstrate how these extraordinary cars are constructed. Once tutored on the mechanics, learn the basics of racecar driving before taking the wheel of a Porsche Cayenne, Boxster, Cayman or 911.

Address: Porschestr. 1

Phone: (49)(341) 9990

Day Excursions



Freyburg

Medieval church towers rise above tree-lined squares and baroque houses. A tranquil atmosphere pervades a picturesque 17th century setting in this charming village in the heart of Saale-Unstrut, Germany's northern wine region. Leafy vines sweep across vineyard terraces that spread across the countryside. Renowned for fruity, sparkling wines, this exquisite region specializes in white varieties such as Müller-Thurgau, Weissburgunder, and Silvaner, and is home to Rotkäppchen Sekt. Each September, Freyburg honors the harvest with a joyous festival.

Address: 60 kilometers west of Leipzig

Further Afield



Erfurt

Brown and white half-timbered houses surround a magnificent gothic cathedral. Enchanting streets link historic quarters brimming with authentic restaurants and beer gardens. This Thuringian capital preserves the medieval essence of its radiant past with unparalleled scenery and fascinating sites. Stroll across the 14th century bridge Krämerbrücke, lined with terracotta-roofed houses before visiting Egapark. One of Europe's most stunning garden landscapes, it blooms with fragrant roses and tropical plants, giving Erfurt the nickname "City of Flowers."

Address: 140 kilometers southwest of Leipzig

Adventure



Auenwald Floodplain Forest

A deer leaps briskly through thick groves of maple and ash trees while a flock of pheasants scurries through the underbrush. The sound of honking ducks fills the air near the riverbank, where graceful willow branches bow down to glistening waters. Just north of Leipzig, the Weisse Elster River branches off from the Elbe River. As it divides into the Pleisse and the Luppe, it forms a distinctive ecosystem known as a floodplain forest. Wooden bridges, shaded footpaths, and horseback riding trails wind through this remarkable oasis.

Address: Stretching in a wide band from north to south through Leipzig