

## LEIPZIG

Only a three-hour train ride from Hamburg, the vibrant city of Leipzig awaits you with its impressive architecture, its historical sites and its friendly and open-minded citizens.

While Goethe once called this town his “Little Paris”, Leipzig is today often referred to as the “New Berlin”, or, as the New York Times put it in 2020, “The newest cool-kid town”.

**So what is Leipzig exactly? Come and find out by yourself!**



Cruising the rivers and canals of Leipzig



The glamorous Mdler Passage

### Leipzig is: On the water

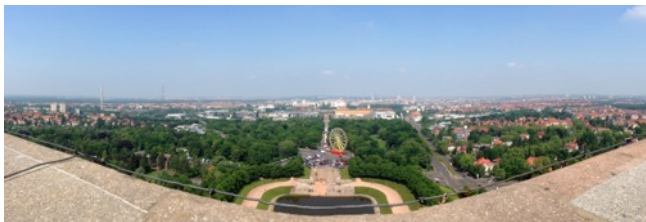
Leipzig's foundations were laid around 1000 years ago into the floodplains of a complex system of small rivers. Today, particularly the western part of town is veined by watercourses, of which many can be cruised by boat. Take a guided sightseeing tour on one of the small electric tour boats and enjoy the different perspective on the city. Do you prefer to be more sportive? Rent a kayak or a canoe and explore the city and adjacent floodplain forests on your own. Don't forget to count all bridges – you will count more than in Venice!

<https://www.leipzig.travel/en/leisure/water-city-leipzig/>

### Leipzig is: A system of historical commercial arcades

Conveniently located in the very heart of Europe, and equipped with imperial trade privileges dating back to medieval times, the city of Leipzig has a long history of international trade. Typical trade-fair palaces of the outgoing 19<sup>th</sup> century with drive-through passages for the horse-drawn carriages of local and foreign traders still witness these old times, nowadays housing selected shops, restaurants, and artisans' boutiques. Come and stroll through a complex system of classy arcades in the midst of the lively town, and enjoy the beauty of this unique architecture.

<https://www.leipzig.travel/en/culture/architecture/courtyards-and-arcades/>



View from the Battle of Nations Monument of the city of Leipzig

### Leipzig is: The Battle of the Nations Monument

The Battle of the Nations Monument was built between 1897 and 1913 to commemorate the victory of the united Austrian, Russian, Prussian and Swedish armies over Napoleon on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1813. It was built as a reminder that the European nations had come together to fight against oppression by Napoleon. With its 91-meter height it is one of the largest monuments in Europe. At the top is a viewing platform offering great views across the city and surroundings.

<https://www.stadtgeschichtliches-museum-leipzig.de/en/visit/our-museums/monument-of-the-battle-of-the-nations/>

### Leipzig is: Music

For more than 800 years Leipzig lives for, and with music. It celebrates its musicians every single year, from classical to modern. Leipzig is not only the home of the famous Thomaner Choir of St. Thomas church; a choir, which was founded in 1212 and was significantly shaped by its cantor Johann Sebastian Bach in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. No royal sovereign, but wealthy citizens of Leipzig funded the first local orchestra in 1743 to perform regular 'Great Musical Concerts', which ultimately laid the foundation of the world-famous Gewandhaus Orchestra with Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy as one of many renowned music directors.

Musicians like Clara and Robert Schumann, Johannes Brahms, Gustav Mahler and many others worked here. Today, visitors can follow the unique Leipzig 'Music Trail' connecting 23 places of work and life of famous musicians. Clearly, Leipzig is a MUST for every music aficionado.

<https://notenspur-leipzig.de/en/music-routes/leipzig-music-trail/route-and-stations/>



The monument of J.S. Bach in front of St. Thomas church

### Leipzig is: Fine arts

The so-called 'Leipzig School' roots in the city's fine art scene of the 1960ies with its unique, quirky imagery, making Leipzig a German center of fine arts already at the time. Based on this history the 'New Leipzig School' that emerged in the year 2004, has gained international reputation due to painters like Neo Rauch, Miriam Vlaming, Rosa Loy, Kathrin Landa and many more. Although you will find plenty of small galleries spread all over the town, there is one hot spot you should not miss: the atmospheric premises of the abandoned cotton spinning mill 'Spinnerei' in Leipzig-Lindenau, where many international artists settled. With this thrilling mixture of industrial architecture, art production and topical galleries, this site has quickly gained the attention of the international art scene. The Gallery 'Eigen+Art' may be called the heart of the 'Spinnerei', representing many artists of all kinds, including those of the New Leipzig School.

<https://www.spinnerei.de/home-95.html>



The ancient cotton mill 'Spinnerei' is now the place to be for art lovers



### Leipzig is: The Women's Rights Movement

Leipzig is considered the cradle of Women's Liberation in Germany. It was here that the writer and editor Louse Otto Peters and the pedagogues Auguste Schmidt and Henriette Goldschmidt founded the Association for Women's Education in spring 1865 and called the 1st Women's Conference that ended with the foundation of the General German Women's Association (ADF) on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1865. The ADF campaigned for women's rights to professional education and women's vote, but also fought for many social interests of women. The politician Clara Zetkin, peace activist and women's rights campaigner educated in Leipzig, is considered the instigator of International Women's Day. Thus it comes as no surprise that since 1992, Leipzig is the home of the first Zonta Club in the former GDR.

<http://www.dhm.de/blog/2017/09/20/equal-rights-equal-duties-womens-suffrage-in-germany/>

Monument of Clara Zetkin in Leipzig's Clara-Zetkin-Park

### Leipzig is: The City of the Peaceful Revolution

Long before the Berlin wall collapsed on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1989, thousands of people took to the streets of Leipzig to join the series of peaceful 'Monday-Demonstrations' for weeks to come. Chanting "We are the people", the Leipzig citizens phrased their aspiration to live in freedom and democracy. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1989, when over 70,000 people demonstrated in peace, showing their nonviolence by carrying candles in their hands, the movement achieved a turnaround in the official policies. This 'Day of the Decision' is being celebrated each year.

In Leipzig's inner city, 20 steles mark important sites of The Peaceful Revolution, where incidents occurred that ultimately resulted in the fall of the GDR regime. The app 'Leipzig'89' offers an audio guide on the peaceful revolution in many languages.

<https://www.leipzig.travel/en/culture/history/peaceful-revolution/autumn-89/>



The 'Zeitgeschichtliches Forum' offers an instructive exhibition on Dictatorship and Democracy after 1945 in East Germany

### Leipzig is: ZONTA!

Leipzig, with around 600,000 inhabitants, is the home of two Zonta Clubs that use to collaborate locally on the important Zonta missions like 'Zonta Says No' and 'Orange the World'. We would love to meet you here and show you exiting and interesting places. **Feel welcomed and cared-for by your fellow-Zontians in Leipzig, a city you might not know yet – but you will never forget!**

