

*Frisch Auf*

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**NATURPARK  
DÜBENER HEIDE**



**Welcome to  
Leipzig**





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# Leipzig



**Leipzig is a city in the federal state of Saxony.**

**It has a population of 551,871 inhabitants ; 1,001,220 residents in the larger urban zone**

**Leipzig has been a trade city since at least the time of the Holy Roman Empire. The city sits at the intersection of the Via Regia and Via Imperii, two important trade routes.**

**Leipzig was once one of the major European centers of learning and culture in fields such as music and publishing**

**Leipzig became a major urban center within the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) after World War II, but its cultural and economic importance decline despite East Germany being the richest economy in the Soviet Bloc. Leipzig later played a significant role in instigating the fall of communism in Eastern Europe through events which took place in and around St. Nicholas Church.**

**Since the reunification of Germany Leipzig has undergone significant change with the restoration of some historical buildings, the demolition of others, and the development of a modern transport infrastructure .**

**Leipzig today is an economic center, and the most livable city in Germany.**



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# Thomanerchor



**The Thomanerchor (English: St. Thomas Choir of Leipzig) is a boys' choir in Leipzig. The choir was founded in 1212. At present, the choir consists of 92 boys from 9 to 18 years of age. The members, called *Thomaner*, live in a boarding school, the *Thomasalumnat*, and attend Thomasschule zu Leipzig a Gymnasium school with a linguistic profile and a focus on musical education. The younger members attend the primary school 76. *Grundschule in der Manetstraße*.**

**Johann Sebastian Bach served as Thomaskantor director of the choir and church music in Leipzig, from 1723 to 1750.**

**The Thomanerchor offers concerts across all of Germany (at least two big tours a year) and abroad. The choir also sings three times a week in the Thomaskirche "Motette" every Friday evening at 6 and every Saturday afternoon at 3, service on Sundays at 9 o'clock. The choir also sings at Protestant festivities. The children have vacations during the summer school vacations.**



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# St. Thomas Church



**The Thomaskirche (St. Thomas Church) is a Lutheran church in Leipzig. It is most famous as the place where Johann Sebastian Bach worked as a Kapellmeister, and as the current location of his remains.**

**There has been a church at the current site of the Thomaskirche since the 12th century. Between 1212 and 1222 the preceding church became the new St. Thomas Monastery of the Augustinian order. In 1217, The Minnesinger, or troubadour Heinrich von Morungen bequeathed to the church a relic of St. Thomas as he entered the order of canons after a trip to India. After several reconstructions (remains of an earlier Romanesque church were found during archaeological excavations), the current building, an example of late Gothic architecture, was consecrated by Thilo of Trotha, the Bishop of Merseburg, on April 10, 1496. The reformer Martin Luther preached here on Pentecost Sunday in 1539. Today, it is a Lutheran church.**

**The tower was first built in 1537 and reconstructed in 1702, leading to its current height of 68 meters.**

**The composer Johann Sebastian Bach was choir director at St. Thomas Church from 1723 until his death in 1750 and taught at its affiliated school. A statue of Johann Sebastian Bach by the Leipzig sculptor Carl Seffner that stands next to the church was dedicated in 1908.**



# Johan Sebastian Bach



**Johann Sebastian Bach (31 March 1685 – 28 July 1750) was a German composer and musician of the Baroque period. He enriched established German styles through his skill in counterpoint, harmonic and motivic organisation, and the adaptation of rhythms, forms, and textures from abroad, particularly from Italy and France. Bach's compositions include the *Brandenburg Concertos*, the *Goldberg Variations*, the Mass in B minor, two Passions, and over three hundred sacred cantatas of which nearly two hundred survive. His music is revered for its technical command, artistic beauty, and intellectual depth.**

**Bach was born in Eisenach, into a great musical family. His father, Johann Ambrosius Bach, was the director of the town musicians, and all of his uncles were professional musicians. His father and his brother probably taught him to play the violin, harpsichord, the clavichord and exposed him to much contemporary music. Apparently at his own initiative, Bach attended St. Michael's School in Lüneburg for two years. After graduating he held several musical posts across Germany: he served as Kapellmeister, director of music, to Leopold, Prince of Anhalt-Köthen, Cantor of the Thomasschule in Leipzig, and Royal Court Composer to Augustus III. Bach's health and vision declined in 1749, and he died on 28 July 1750. Modern historians believe that his death was caused by a combination of stroke and pneumonia.**

**Bach's abilities as an organist were respected throughout Europe during his lifetime, although he was not widely recognised as a great composer until a revival of interest and performances of his music in the first half of the 19th century. He is now generally regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time.**



# Nikolaikirche



**The St. Nicholas Church (in German: Nikolaikirche) has long been one of the most famous in Leipzig, and rose to national fame in 1989 with the Monday Demonstrations when it became the centre of peaceful revolt against communist rule.**

**The church was built in about 1165 around the same time Leipzig was founded. It is named after St. Nicholas, the patron saint of merchants and wholesalers, and is situated in the very heart of the city at the intersection of two then important trade roads, the Via Regia and Via Imperii. It is built partially in the Romanesque style but was extended and enlarged in the early 16th century with a more Gothic style. In 1794 the interior was remodeled by German architect Johann Carl Friedrich Dauthe in the neoclassical style. The church has been a Protestant seat since 1539 after the Protestant Reformation, but the Catholic Church is allowed to use it too.**

**The church saw four of the five performances (including the premiere) of the *St John Passion* by Johann Sebastian Bach on Good Friday in 1724, 1728, 1732, and 1749 as well as many of his cantatas and oratorios performed by the Thomanerchor.**



# The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra

(Gewandhausorchester Leipzig) is a German symphony orchestra based in Leipzig. The orchestra is named after the concert hall in which it is based, the Gewandhaus). The orchestra's origins can be traced to 1743, when a society called the *Grosses Concert* began performing in private homes. In 1744 the *Grosses Concert* moved its concerts to the "Three Swans" Tavern. Their concerts continued at this venue for 36 years, until 1781. In 1780, because of complaints about concert conditions and audience behavior in the tavern, the mayor and city council of Leipzig offered to renovate one story of the Gewandhaus (the building used by textile merchants) for the orchestra's use. The motto *Res severa est verum gaudium* ("a serious concern is true pleasure", or "true pleasure is a serious business" – from the Roman author Seneca was painted in the hall, suggesting the priorities of the sponsors. The orchestra gave its first concert in the Gewandhaus in 1781. The orchestra thus has a good claim to being the oldest continuing orchestra in Germany founded by the bourgeoisie, while older orchestras were part of royal suites. In 1835, Felix Mendelssohn became the orchestra's music director with the traditional title of *Gewandhauskapellmeister*, and held the position with only one year's interruption until his death in 1847. The present Gewandhaus is the third building with the name. It was opened in 1981. Aside from its concert duties, the orchestra also performs frequently in the Thomaskirche and as the official opera orchestra of the Leipzig Opera.



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# Gewandhaus



**Gewandhaus is a concert hall in Leipzig , the home of the Leipzig gewandhouse Orchestra . Today's hall is the third to bear this name; like the second, it is noted for its fine acoustics.**

**The first concert hall was constructed in 1781 by architect Johan Cral Friedrich Dauthe inside the *Gewandhaus*, a building used by textile merchants.**

**The second Gewandhaus was designed by Martin Gropius. It opened on 11 December 1884, and had a main concert hall and a chamber music hall. It was destroyed in the fire-bombings of World War II between 1943 and 1944.**

**The third Gewandhaus on Augustusplatz opened on 8 October 1981, two hundred years after the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra moved into the original hall.**



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**Auerbachs Keller, Auerbach's Cellar in English, is the best known and second oldest restaurant in Leipzig dating to at least the first half of the fifteenth century. It was already one of the city's most important wine bars by the 16th century and is described in Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's play *Faust I* as the first place Mephistopheles takes Faust on their travels.**

**Auerbach's Cellar is located below the Mädlerpassage, a shopping arcade, at Grimmaische Straße 2 in Leipzig's historical district near the market.**

**The restaurant has five historical dining rooms: the *Fasskeller (Barrel Cellar)*, *Lutherzimmer (Luther Room)*, *Goethezimmer (Goethe Room)*, *Alt-Leipzig (Old Leipzig)*, and, since 1913, the *Großer Keller (Large Cellar)*. There is also the *Mephisto Bar* on the floor above available for drinks.**



## **Famous composers and musicians Who stayed in Leipzig**

**Johann Sebastian Bach  
Richard Wagner  
Felix Mendelsohn Bartholdy  
Robert and Clara Schumann  
Edvard Griek  
Gustav Mahler  
Erwin Schulhoff  
Kurt Masur**

**The path of Notes, a 5 km walk, connects all places of their work and live**

...Thank you!



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## VEREIN DÜBENER HEIDE e. V.

Naturparkbüro Sachsen – Anhalt

OT Tornau Krinaer Str. 2

06772 Gräfenhainichen

Telefon: 03 42 43 / 50881

Telefax: 03 42 43 / 34 20 09



Internet: [www.naturpark-duebener-heide.com](http://www.naturpark-duebener-heide.com)

E-Mail: [E.Maennel@naturpark-duebener-heide.com](mailto:E.Maennel@naturpark-duebener-heide.com)