



Leipzig, City of Music – A Musical Tour

Leipziger Freiheit

Leipzig Tourismus
und Marketing GmbH

Leipzig – where music calls the tune.



Bach Festival at Augustus Square

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: St. Thomas choir-master Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Philipp Telemann, Gewandhaus music director 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. In addition, Leipzig's rich musical heritage includes the Gewandhaus Orchestra – presently working under star conductor Riccardo Chailly – and the world famous St. Thomas Boys Choir which celebrates its 800th anniversary in 2012.



Members of Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and St. Thomas Boys Choir in St. Thomas Church

Music comes to life here

Leipzig is a city where music is savoured with passion! Be it at the Opera, at the Ballet or the Musical Comedy Theatre, at the Summer of Organ Music or the internationally renowned Bach Festival – and, in a more casual atmosphere at the Jazz Festival or Opera Ball. In the “capital of music” inspiring ensembles and soloists perform for enthusiastic audiences.

800 Years THOMANA

THOMANA, the triad of St. Thomas Boys Choir, St. Thomas Church and St. Thomas School, is celebrating its 800th anniversary in 2012. The cycle of celebratory motets begins on 6 January 2012 with the Epiphany Service. Works have been commissioned for this in the form of festive music from famous composers such as Sofia Gubaidulina (RUS), St. Thomas choir-master Georg Christoph Biller, Hans Werner Henze, Heinz Holliger (CH) and Brett Dean (AUS). The St. Thomas Boys Choir festival week starts on 19 March 2012 with an exhibition in the Museum of City History. The highlights of this festival week are the International Boys Choir Meeting with the Regensburger Domspatzen, King's College Choir Cambridge and the Dresdner Kreuzchor (Choir of the Church of the Holy Cross) and the ceremony on 20 March 2012 in St. Thomas Church with the Federal President. www.thomana2012.com



Gewandhaus Orchestra



Riccardo Chailly and the Gewandhaus Orchestra

Gewandhaus Orchestra

Gewandhaus Orchestra is one of the world's most famous orchestras. Its many premieres at the Gewandhaus concert hall made musical history, including some of the most famous works of the greatest European composers such as Beethoven, Brahms and Bruckner. The orchestra performs its “Grand Concerts” at the Gewandhaus, it is Leipzig's opera orchestra and it accompanies the Bach cantata performances at St. Thomas Church. This means that the Gewandhaus Orchestra plays some 200 concerts per season at its three Leipzig venues and on its various international tours. Its current and 19th musical director is star conductor Riccardo Chailly.

Gewandhaus – “Res severa verum gaudium”

The concert hall has gained considerable international renown as the venue of the famous Gewandhaus Orchestra. About half a million music lovers from all over the world come to the Gewandhaus every year.

Merchants from Leipzig founded the orchestra in 1743. It is Europe's oldest civilian concert orchestra. Its name comes from its original venue – the hall of the trading house of the cloth-makers' guild, the “Gewandhaus”. Its legendary fame came through its musical directors, including Johann Adam Hiller, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Arthur Nikisch, Kurt Masur, Herbert Blomstedt and Riccardo Chailly.



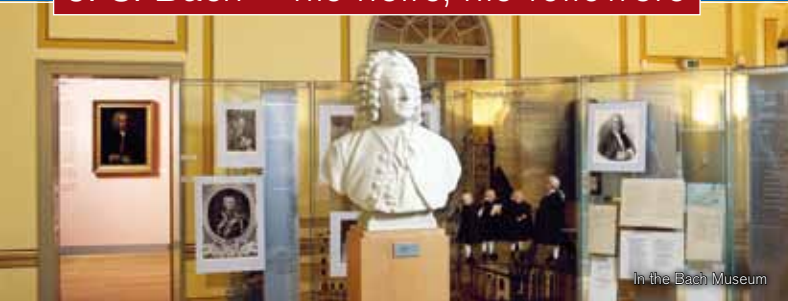
Leipzig Gewandhaus

Festival dates 2012

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|------------|--|
| 06/01/2012 | Epiphany – First Celebratory Concert – premiere, composer: S. Gubaidulina |
| 19/03/2012 | Opening of the annual special exhibition ‘Jauchzet – Frohlocket!’ in the Museum of City History |
| 21/03/2012 | Leipzig celebrates Bach's birthday and St. Thomas Boys Choir 800 th anniversary with a major event in the Arena Leipzig |
| 24/03/2012 | International Boys Choir Meeting: St. Thomas Boys Choir Leipzig, Dresdner Kreuzchor, King's College Choir Cambridge, Regensburger Domspatzen |
| 08/04/2012 | Second Celebratory Concert – premiere, composer: St. Thomas Boys choir-master G. C. Biller |
| 27/05/2012 | Whitsun – Third Celebratory Concert – premiere, composer: H. W. Henze |
| 19/09/2012 | Theatre festival as part of the “800 Years St. Thomas School” jubilee week |
| 22/09/2012 | 800 Years of THOMANA anniversary ball at the St. Thomas School Leipzig |
| 31/10/2012 | Reformation festival – festive service and Fourth Celebratory Concert – premiere, composer: H. Holliger |
| 01/11/2012 | Concert for the festival week, J. Hnilička: Missa Jazz |
| 25/12/2012 | Christmas – Fifth Celebratory Concert – premiere, composer: B. Dean |



J. S. Bach – his heirs, his followers



In the Bach Museum



St. Thomas Church

Johann Sebastian Bach

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 Bach Museum Leipzig

The permanent exhibition in the Bach Museum Leipzig 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 Bach Festival ("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.



The Bach Museum

St. Thomas Boys Choir (Thomanerchor)

This choir is Leipzig's oldest "cultural asset". Since the Margrave of Meissen initiated the foundation of the Augustinian Canons of St. Thomas in 1212, the world famous choir has weathered many a stormy year. In 2012 the choir will celebrate its 800th anniversary. To this day, the choirboys attend the boarding school of St. Thomas (Thomasschule). And as ever, their work with the choirmaster of St. Thomas, Prof. Georg Christoph Biller, provides the musical frame-work for their education, where there is naturally a special focus on sacred music – and, of course, on Bach's heritage.

St. Thomas Church

The St. Thomas Boys Choir can be heard three times a week in Bach's former place of activity: with "motets" and Bach cantatas. And where else can you get so close to the great composer? His grave lies in the sanctuary of the 800 year-old Late Gothic church.



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.

Event Highlights – Music

September 2011

- 02–16/09/2011 Mendelssohn Festival 2011: "Mendelssohn and England", various venues, www.gewandhaus.de
- 02/09/2011 Grand concert: opening of the 231st Gewandhaus season and the 2011 Mendelssohn Festival "Mendelssohn and England", Gewandhaus, www.gewandhaus.de
- 03/09/2011 Day of the Gewandhaus, city centre, www.gewandhaus.de
- 07–10/09/2011 "Con Guitarra" 2011 Festival – Latin American music festival, various venues, www.conguitarra.de
- 09–18/09/2011 35th Leipziger Jazztage, various venues, www.leipziger-jazztage.de
- 10/09/2011 Leipzig Opera House Open Day to mark the new season, Leipzig Opera, www.oper-leipzig.de
- 10–18/09/2011 "Virtuosos and Poets" – 10th Schumann Festival Week, Schumann House Leipzig, Memorial Church Leipzig Schönefeld, www.schumann-verein.de

October 2011

- 01/10/2011 2011 Leipzig Opera Ball, Leipzig Opera, www.operball-leipzig.de
- 06–14/10/2011 Beethoven Cycle to mark "30 years of the New Gewandhaus", Gewandhaus, www.gewandhaus.de
- 08/10/2011 "MATRIX LIVE – film in concert": MDR Symphony Orchestra plays live to the original film, Arena Leipzig, www.sportforum-leipzig.de
- 15/10/2011 Opera premiere: "Tosca" – Puccini, Leipzig Opera, www.oper-leipzig.de
- 22/10/2011 Operetta premiere: "Das Fürstenkind" (semi-staged) – Lehár, Musical Comedy Theatre, www.oper-leipzig.de

November 2011

- 16/11/2011 Opera premiere: "Siegfried" – Wagner (concert performance), Leipzig Opera, www.oper-leipzig.de

December 2011

- 09–11/12/2011 Christmas Oratorio (BWV 248) with the St. Thomas Boys Choir, St. Thomas Church, www.gewandhaus.de
- 10/12/2011 Opera premiere: "Macbeth" – Verdi, Leipzig Opera, www.oper-leipzig.de

Experience authentic historic places



Mendelssohn House



In the Schumann House

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, which bears his name today. Mendelssohn’s domicile became a meeting place for famous contemporaries such as the Schumanns and Wagner. It is the composer’s last remaining private residence and today accommodates the worldwide unique Mendelssohn Museum.

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.



Richard Wagner, born in Leipzig

Richard Wagner was born here on 22 May 1813. From 1828, he attended St. Nicholas School, where a Wagner memorial can now be found. Wagner’s musical education began in 1831 at the University of Leipzig and as a student of Theodor Weinlig, the then choirmaster of St. Thomas.

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.

Leipzig. A celebration for the senses!

Not only musicians felt attracted to Leipzig, but also poets, philosophers and visual artists. To this day the city offers an extraordinary cultural variety in a league of its own: colourful, creative and replete with innovative ideas – to experience with open-air concerts, in the galleries of the Spinnerei (a former cotton mill) or the trendy pubs which have no closing time. But shopping friends also get their full money’s worth. An extensive stroll through the lovingly restored passages, small speciality shops and department stores is worthwhile here. And quite incidentally, you can marvel at the city’s architectural treasures. Well, open your eyes!



Museum of Fine Arts



Barthels Hof

- 29–31/12/2011 Grand Concerts to mark the Turn of the Year, Gewandhaus, www.gewandhaus.de
- February 2012**
04/02/2012 Musical premiere: “The Count of Monte Christo” – Wildhorn, Musical Comedy Theatre, www.oper-leipzig.de
- March 2012**
09/03/2012 Ballet premiere: “Murder Ballads”, Leipzig Opera, www.oper-leipzig.de
24/03/2012 Operetta premiere: “Der Zarewitsch” – Lehár, Musical Comedy Theatre, www.oper-leipzig.de
- April 2012**
05–06/04/2012 St. Matthew Passion (BWV 244), St. Thomas Church, www.gewandhaus.de
20–21/04/2012 8th Leipzig Operetta Ball, Ballroom in the Marriott Hotel Leipzig, www.leipzigeroperettenball.de
- 27–29/04/2012 2012 International Reformation Music Festival Leipzig, Church music groups from all over the world come to Leipzig on the occasion of the theme year “Reformation and Music”, www.tourconsultgermany.de

- 28/04/2012 Opera premiere: “Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny” – Brecht, Leipzig Opera, www.oper-leipzig.de
- May 2012**
12/05/2012 Opening of the Leipzig Music Trail, various venues, www.notenspur-leipzig.de
12/05/2012 Opera premiere: “Der Wildschütz” – Lortzing, Musical Comedy Theatre, www.oper-leipzig.de
13–22/05/2012 7th Leipzig Wagner Festival 2012, various venues, www.wagner-festtage.com
25–28/05/2012 2012 Wave-Gotik-Treffen, various venues, www.wave-gotik-treffen.de
- June 2012**
02/06/2012 Opera premiere: “Iphigenia in Tauris” – Gluck, Leipzig Opera, www.oper-leipzig.de
07–17/06/2012 2012 Leipzig Bach Festival, various venues, www.bachfestleipzig.de
22/06/2012 Ballet premiere: “Catulli Carmina” – Scholz/Schröder, Leipzig Opera, www.oper-leipzig.de

Orchestras and Choirs



MDR radio choir

Sound & Body – the “Choir Spirit” of Leipzig

Though probably the most famous St. Thomas Boys Choir is not the only vocal ensemble worthy of note in Leipzig. The city is home to more than 30 choirs of all kinds and genres including the Bach Choir, the Gewandhaus and Opera House Choir, the Choir of the Monument to the Battle of the Nations, the University Choir, the Leipzig Vocal Ensemble, the vocal quintet Amarcord and the youth choir “Crazy Generation Leipzig” and the Gospel choir “Little Light of LE”.

Orchestras of all kinds and ages

Put four Leipzig musicians in a room and they will found a string quartet the next day – or so a saying goes. Give them a week, and they will set up an orchestra. One thing, however, is certain: the city’s orchestras are legendary. Take the MDR Symphony Orchestra, for example, one of the oldest radio orchestras in the world. Together with the radio choir and the unique children’s choir, the orchestra can be frequently heard performing at the Gewandhaus and at the MDR studios in Augustus Square. Its repertoire ranges from famous classical works to experimental music. Also celebrated among music lovers are the Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra, the Academic Orchestra Leipzig, the Leipzig University Orchestra and Salonorchester Cappuccino. To sum up – Leipzig is first class.



Youth Symphony Orchestra Leipzig

Leipzig Opera



Ballet of Leipzig Opera House

Over 300 years of da capo!

Leipzig’s opera tradition dates back to 1693. The Opera House is the third oldest civilian 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 Lortz and Gustav Mahler.

The Opera and Leipzig Ballet are located in the new Opera House, which opened in 1960. In addition to the ensemble and the award-winning choir, the international reputation is owed to the Gewandhaus Orchestra, which accompanies all performances. The “Musikalische Komödie” (Musical Comedy Theatre) is the much-vaunted second venue for operettas and musicals. The current General Music Director Ulf Schirmer, who also holds the post of Director for the 2011/12 season and Head Artistic Director Peter Konwitschny have put their own stamp on Leipzig Opera and its lively music theatre. Mario Schröder, Ballet Director and Head Choreographer, feels obligated to maintain the tradition of the late Ballet Director Uwe Scholz and at the same time to strike a new path with personal choreographies.



Leipzig's Opera House in Augustus Square

Regular Music Events

Fridays 6 pm	Motets with St. Thomas Boys Choir in 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 in St. Thomas Church*, www.thomaskirche.org
Sundays 11 am	Sunday Concert in the music salon of Mendelssohn House, www.mendelssohn-stiftung.de

July–August 2012

Mondays 7 pm	Monday Concert at the Bach Memorial in front of St. Thomas Church, www.bachkonzerte.eu
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* except during school holidays and concert tours

Reason to celebrate – outlook for 2013

2013 Richard Wagner’s 200th birthday

The composer was born in Leipzig on 22 May 1813. During his youth he made the decision here to become a musician. He studied composition with St. Thomas choirmaster Theodor Weinlig and registered to study music at the university. His early compositions were also performed in Leipzig. Even today Leipzig Opera is committed to maintaining the Wagner legacy, as the programme proves time and again.

His native city will be dedicating numerous concerts and events to the composer in the anniversary year 2013 such as the Leipzig Wagner Festival from 12 until 26 May 2013, a Wagner exhibition as well as the International Richard Wagner Congress. There will also be a cooperation between the Leipzig Opera and the Bayreuth Festival.



Leipzig Music Trail



Searching for Bach in Leipzig

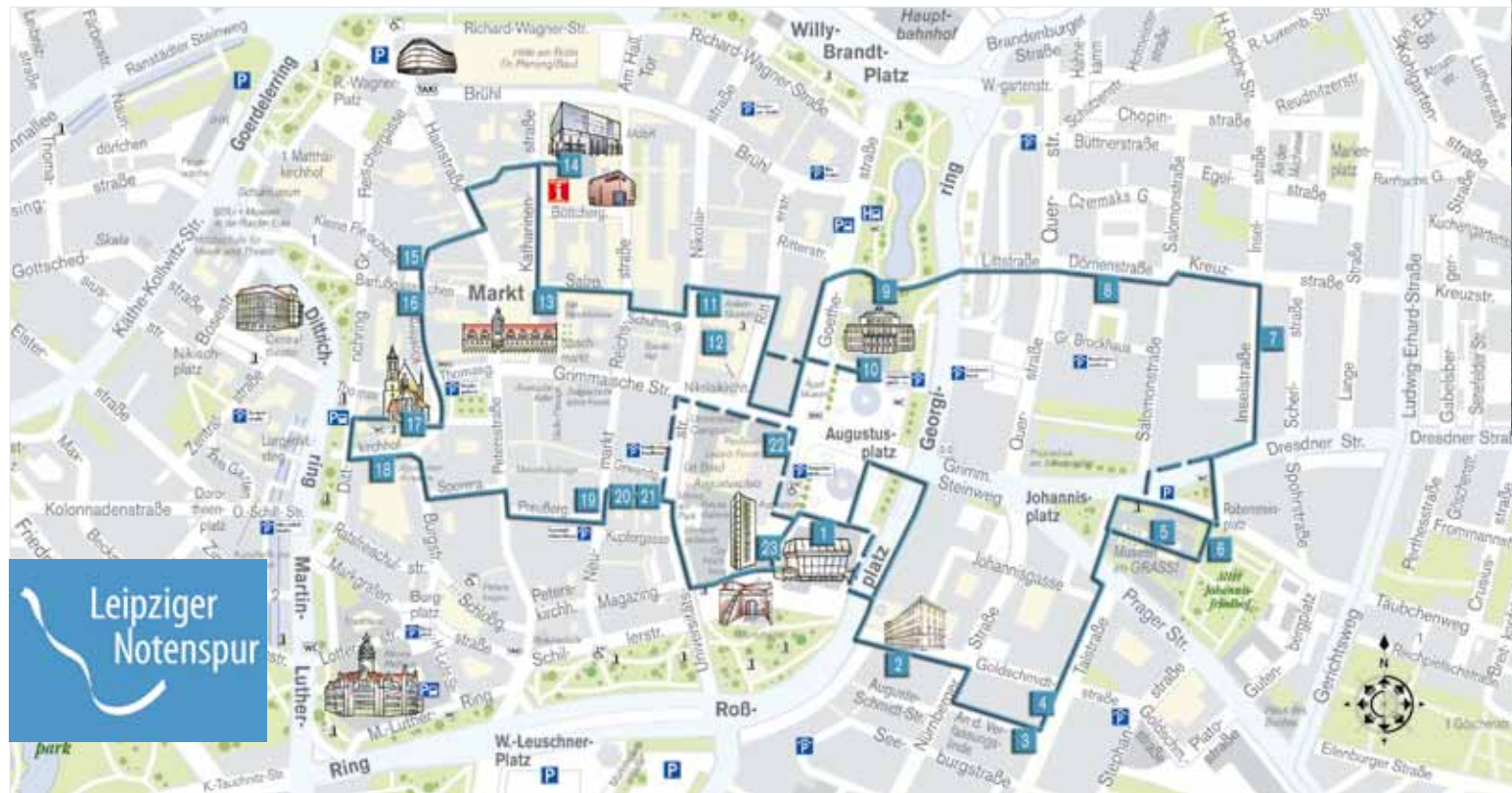


Concert in a Leipzig arcade

Leipzig's music trails

Leipzig has a unique density of original residential and working places of famous composers. There is musical history at virtually every corner – a brilliant musical past which laid the foundations for the vibrant musical present. The aim of Leipzig's Music Trail initiative is to make this treasure visible and tangible. A music and guidance system with three forays serves this purpose: two walking trails ("Leipziger Notenspur" and "Leipziger Notenbogen") and a cycle trail ("Leipziger Notenrad"). "Leipziger Notenspur" will be a 5.1 km long trail which connects the most significant historic sites in the city centre. The "Leipziger Notenspur" will be officially opened on 12 May 2012. To make Leipzig even more popular as a city of music, the initiative is also compiling an application for the much-coveted title of UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- 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 first Gewandhaus concert hall
- 22 Paulinum – Auditorium and University Church St. Pauli
- 23 MDR Cube – Radio Orchestra



Travel offers



Bird's eye view of Leipzig

For individual travellers – “In the Footsteps of Bach”

Benefits:

- 2 nights with breakfast in a first-class hotel in Leipzig
- Admission to the Bach Museum
- “Organ Feast”: traditional banquet menu formerly served after Bach's organ examination (5-course menu without drinks) at “Barthels Hof” restaurant
- Tourist map

Offer valid: year round, subject to availability, museum closed on Mondays

Price p.p. in DR
from **129 €**
Price p.p. in SR
from **164 €**

For groups (from 20 persons) – “Leipzig, City of Music”

Benefits:

- 2 nights with breakfast in a first-class hotel in Leipzig
- Tour guide for a special guided walk “Music City of World Fame – a Walk on the Leipzig Music Trail” (2 hours)
- Visit to the Mendelssohn House including a guided tour
- Visit to the Bach Museum including a guided tour and a small concert in the Summer Hall (30 min. on three keyboard instruments)
- Sale of tickets for Leipzig Gewandhaus or Leipzig Opera
- Tourist map

Offer valid: year round, subject to availability, museums closed on Mondays, events depending on schedule

Price p.p. in DR
from **145 €**
Price p.p. in SR
from **164 €**
tickets not included

Booking and information through

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www.twitter.com/leipzigtourist

Cover photo: Dirk Brzoska

Photos: Bach-Archiv, Michael Bader, Dirk Brzoska, Gewandhaus, GRASSI Museum für Musikinstrumente, LTM GmbH (Schmidt, Mothes, Hochmuth), Mendelssohn-Haus, PUNCTUM/Zeyen, MDR/Christiane Höhne (MDR Rundfunkchor)
Plan: Atelier für Kommunikation & Design / Gaby Kirchof

Leipziger Freiheit

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