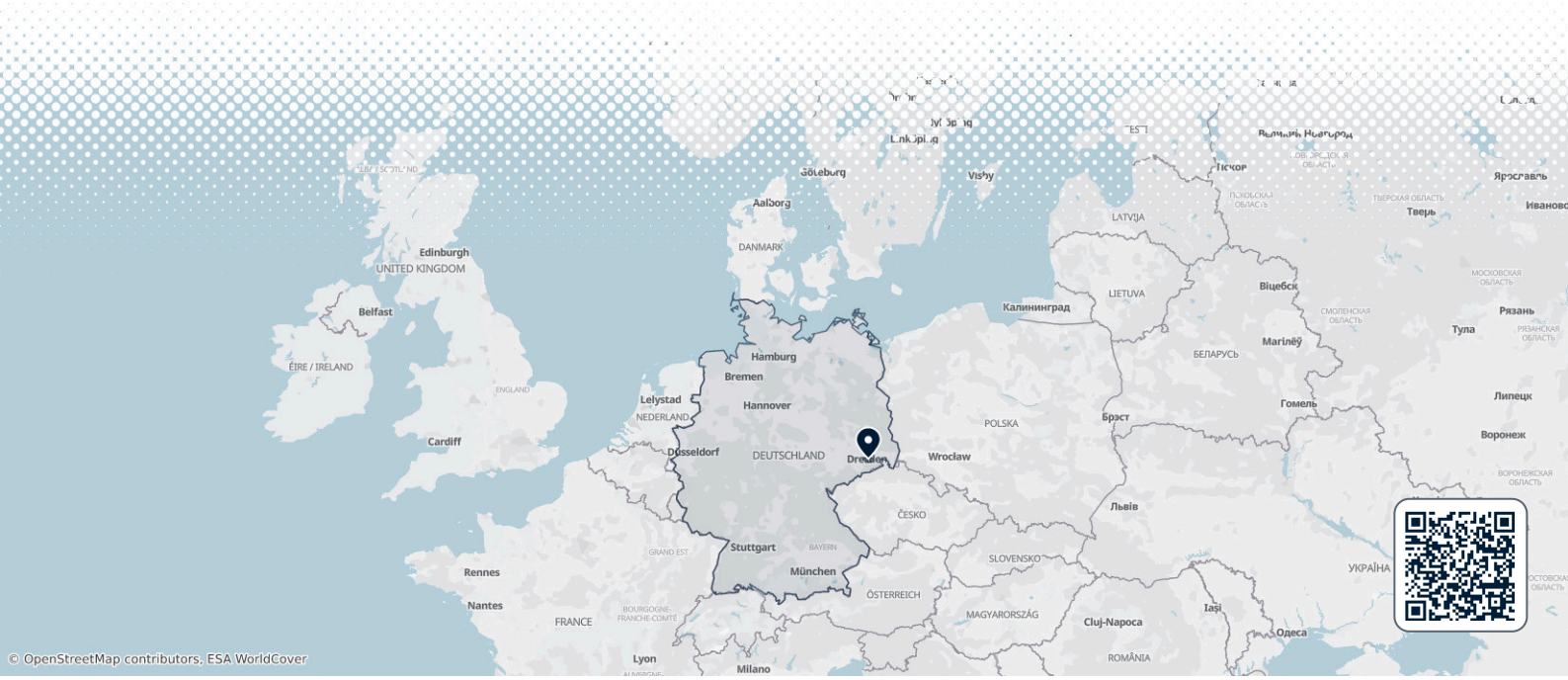


Dresden

Saxony · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Dresden is the capital of Saxony. It sits on the Elbe river and is known for its Baroque old town. Much of it was destroyed in 1945 and rebuilt, so the skyline you see today is largely a careful reconstruction.

The city suits art, music and architecture fans. Museums and the opera are among the best in Germany. Green parks and river meadows run through the centre, and the New Town across the river has a lively, creative scene. Two or three days cover the highlights.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the most comfortable times. Summer is warm and good for the river meadows, with some rain. Winter is cold and grey, but the Advent season is the main draw.

The biggest event is the Striezelmarkt, one of Germany's oldest Christmas markets. It is held on the Altmarkt during Advent and has been running since 1434. Book hotels early for December weekends.

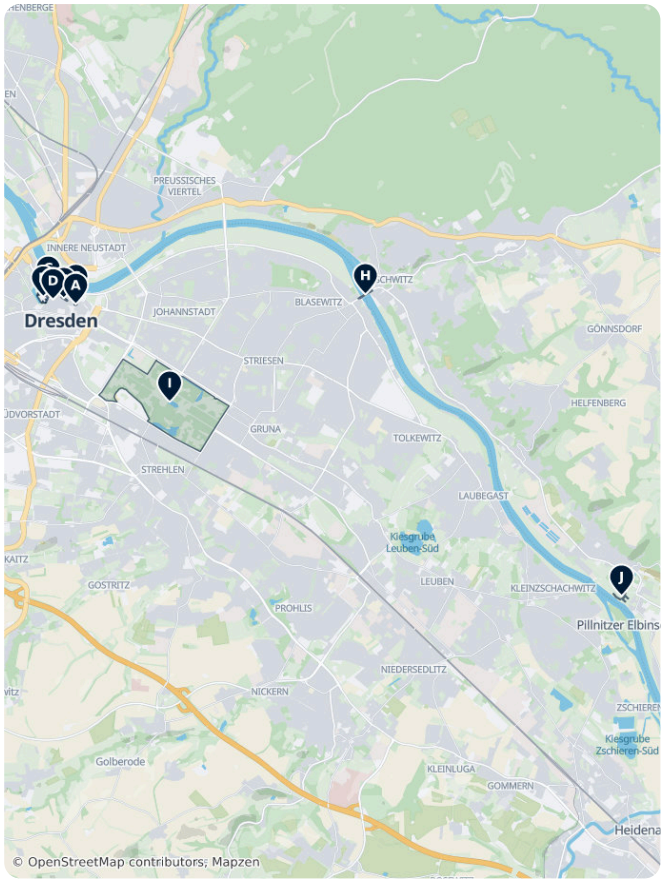
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -3°	-3° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like -1°	-2° / -11°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 17° Feels like 4°	1° / -7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	4° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 27°	9° / 4°	13 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 33°	15° / 11°	16 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 10°	12 rainy days
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 29°	11° / 6°	Dry air
October	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	7° / 0°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	8° / 15° Feels like 4°	2° / -4°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like -2°	-1° / -11°	13 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Church of Our Lady is the symbol of the city. The Baroque church was rebuilt from its ruins and reopened in 2005. You can climb the dome for views over the old town.
- B Zwinger is a Baroque palace complex with courtyards, pavilions and gardens. It houses museums, including the Old Masters picture gallery and the porcelain collection.
- C Semperoper is the city's opera house. Go for an evening performance or take a guided tour.
- D Historisches Grünes Gewölbe holds the treasury of the Saxon rulers. It displays jewels, ivory and gold in rooms laid out as they were in the 18th century.
- E Neues Grünes Gewölbe shows more royal treasures in the same palace. The two collections can be visited together.
- F Procession of Princes is a long wall mural of Saxon rulers on horseback. It is made of porcelain tiles and is hard to miss.
- G Brühl's Terrace is a terrace above the river. It is a popular walk with wide views of the Elbe.
- H Loschwitzer Brücke is the blue steel bridge across the Elbe in the Loschwitz district. It is a good start for a walk on the quieter east side.
- I Großer Garten is a large Baroque park south-east of the centre. It has a palace, gardens and a small railway.
- J Schloss Pillnitz is a riverside summer palace with Asian-style roofs. You can reach it by boat from the centre.



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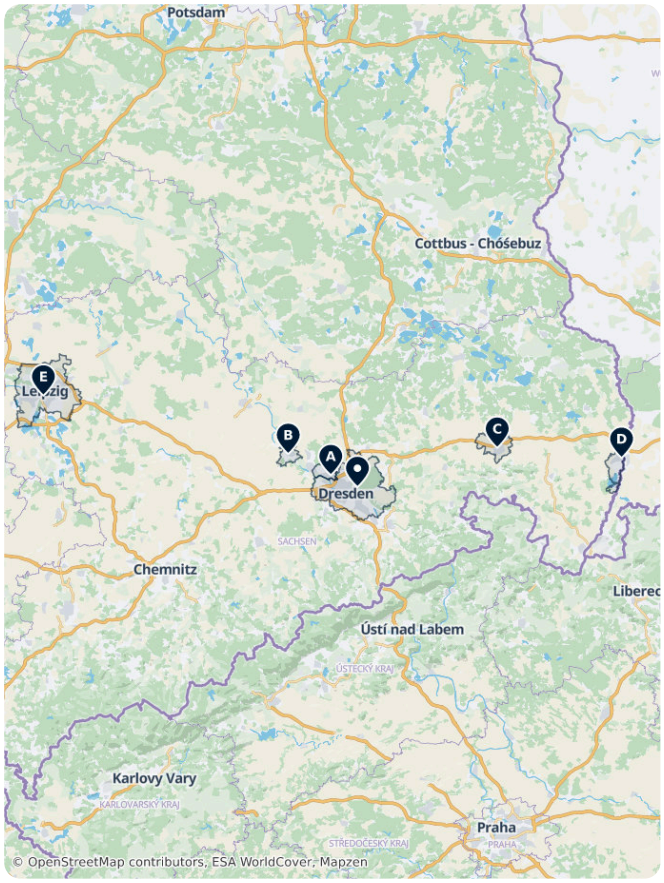
What to experience

Dresden has a few activities that are specific to the city.

- Take a historic paddle steamer on the Elbe in the warm season. Boats run from the old town to Pillnitz and to Saxon Switzerland.
- Ride the Loschwitz funicular and the suspension railway for the hill views above the river.
- Watch the sunset from the Elbe meadows. Locals bring picnics in summer.
- Visit the Striezelmarkt in Advent. Try a hot drink and the local Stollen.
- Attend a performance at Semperoper. Opera, ballet and concerts run for most of the year.
- Take the small railway in Großer Garten.

Day trips

These places are close and easy to reach. Most can be done by train, tram or boat.



- A Radebeul is about 20 min by tram or S-Bahn. It is a wine town with vineyards and a Karl May museum.
- B Meissen is about 40 min by S-Bahn. It is the home of Meissen porcelain and has a hilltop castle and cathedral.
- Moritzburg is about 30 min by bus. It is a Baroque hunting palace on a lake.
- Pirna and Saxon Switzerland are about 30 to 60 min by S-Bahn. This national park has rock towers, the Bastei bridge and the Königstein fortress. It is the best choice for hiking.
- C Bautzen is about 1 hour by train. It has a hilltop old town and is the centre of Sorbian culture.
- D Görlitz is about 1.5 to 2 hours by train. It has a well-kept old town on the Polish border.
- E Leipzig is about 1 hour by train. It is a large city with a strong music and history scene.

Where to explore

Several nearby destinations are worth adding to a longer trip.

- Towns on the Elbe: Radebeul and Meissen.
- East towards Poland: Bautzen and Görlitz.
- Cities and regions: Leipzig, Zwickau and the Ore Mountains.

Getting there

- **By air**: Dresden Airport (DRS) has a limited choice of flights. It is about 9 km from the centre. The S-Bahn line S2 reaches the main station in about 20 minutes. Many visitors also fly to Berlin or Prague.
- **By train**: Dresden Hauptbahnhof is the main station. Direct trains run to Berlin (about 2 hours), Leipzig (about 1 hour), Prague (about 2.5 hours) and Frankfurt. Book on Deutsche Bahn.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches stop near the main station. They connect Dresden with Berlin, Prague and other cities.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Trams and buses cover the city. The operator also runs river ferries, a funicular and a suspension railway. Buy tickets at machines or in the DVB app. See DVB for fares and maps.
- **On foot and by bike**: The old town is compact and flat. A cycle path runs along both banks of the Elbe.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and flat, and most sights are within walking distance.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Cycle paths run along both banks of the Elbe, and the city is mostly flat.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: No, not for the city. Trams, trains and boats cover most trips. A car helps only for remote spots in the Ore Mountains.
- **Parking**: Underground car parks near the old town charge by the hour. Park-and-ride lots at the edge of town are cheaper.
- **Restrictions**: The area around the Frauenkirche is mostly for pedestrians.

Food & drink

Saxon food is hearty. Try Sauerbraten with dumplings, Quarkkeulchen (fried quark pancakes) and Eierschecke, a custard cake. Dresdner Stollen is the famous Christmas bread and is sold in bakeries in winter.

Good places to eat are clustered in a few areas. The Neustadt, around Alaunstraße and Louisenstraße, has many small restaurants, cafes and bars. The streets around Neumarkt and the Frauenkirche have restaurants with outdoor tables. For a special stop, visit Pfunds Molkerei, a famous dairy shop with painted tiles.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

Dresden is safe for visitors. Violent crime against tourists is rare.

- Pickpockets work in crowds, such as the Christmas market and busy trams.
- Watch for bicycles on shared paths and trams on the streets.
- Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Dresden became a royal city under the Saxon rulers. *Augustus the Strong* built much of the Baroque city in the early 1700s. Zwinger was built between 1710 and 1728, and Dresden Castle was the seat of the Saxon rulers.

On 13 to 15 February 1945, bombing destroyed most of the old town. The dome of Church of Our Lady collapsed on 15 February. Reconstruction of the church began in 1994 and it was reconsecrated in 2005. You can still see dark original stones in the new walls.

During the East German period, the city rebuilt in a socialist style. Many old buildings returned only after 1990. The rebuilt Neumarkt shows this recent work.

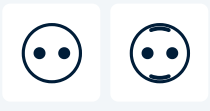
Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Walks

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The Best of Dresden

1h 20min · 1.7 km · 10 stops



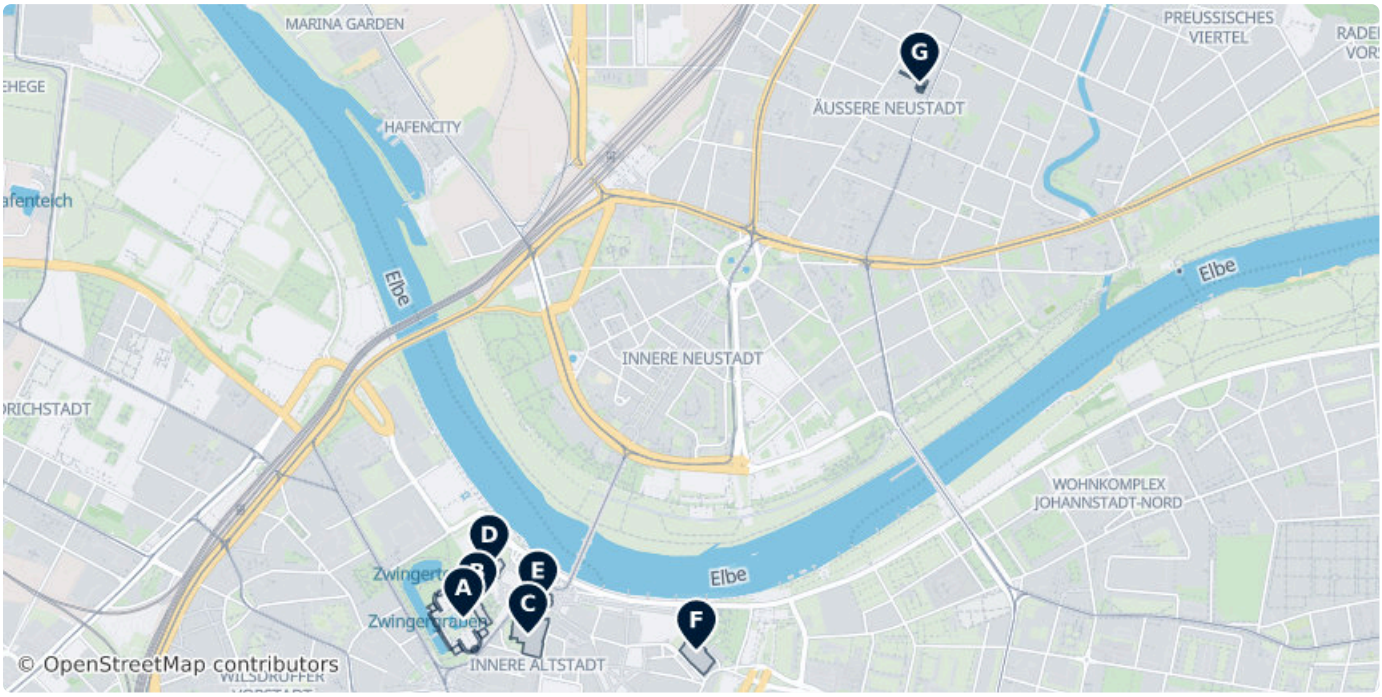
1. Zwinger
2. Semperoper
3. Dresden Castle
4. Procession of Princes
5. Brühl's Terrace
6. Albertinum
7. Frauenkirche
8. Neumarkt
9. Altmarkt
10. Kreuzkirche

Dresden was the Baroque capital of Saxony, and it was rebuilt from ruins after 1945. This walk visits the sights that define it: the Zwinger courtyard, the Semper opera house, the castle of the Saxon rulers, the Procession of Princes, Brühl's Terrace above the Elbe, the Albertinum, the Church of Our Lady, the rebuilt Neumarkt, the Altmarkt and the Kreuzkirche. Ten stops, about an hour and twenty minutes on foot with the audio. The walk starts in the Zwinger courtyard, a few minutes on foot from Postplatz, the central tram stop, and ends beside Altmarkt, where the same trams run back.



Editor's Picks — Dresden

A compact guide to central Dresden highlighting key historic and cultural sites: the Zwinger's Baroque courtyards and galleries, the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister with its 15th–18th-century paintings, and the Residenzschloss with its layered architectural styles. Also included are the 19th-century Semperoper, the 18th-century Katholische Hofkirche, the modern-art collections at the Albertinum on Brühl's Terrace, and the decorated courtyards of the Kunsthofpassage.





A Zwinger

Visit the impressive Baroque palace which was originally built as a part of a former Dresden fort.

Theaterplatz 1, 01067 Dresden, Germany (51.05304, 13.73403)

Mo–Su 06:00–20:00

der-dresdner-zwinger.de/en/homepag..., +49 351 49142000



B Old Masters Gallery

The Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister in Dresden, Germany, displays around 750 paintings from the 15th to the 18th centuries.

Theaterplatz 1, 01067 Dresden (51.05347, 13.73464)

Tu–Su 10:00–17:00

skd.museum/de/museen-institutione... , +49 351 49142000



C Dresden Castle

You will find layers upon layers of different architectural styles on this fascinating palace.

Taschenberg 2, 01067 Dresden, Germany (51.05259, 13.73689)

Mo	10:00–18:00
Tu	Closed
Su	10:00–18:00

skd.museum/de/museen-institutione... , +49 351 46676610



D Semper Opera House

This imposing 19th-century opera house was named after its architect who built in in 1841 and then also oversaw its reconstructions after...

Theaterplatz 2, 01067 Dresden, DE (51.05450, 13.73517)

semperoper.de, +49 351 49110



E Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

The majestic 18th-century cathedral is one of Dresden's most prominent sights.

Schloßstraße 24, 01067 Dresden, DE (51.05350, 13.73732)

Mo–Th	10:00–17:00
Fr	13:00–17:00
Sa	10:00–17:00
Su	12:00–16:00

bistum-dresden-meissen.de/front_con... , +49 351 484 4712



F Albertinum

The Albertinum is a modern art museum. The sandstone-clad Renaissance Revival building is located on Brühl's Terrace in the historic center...

Tzschirnerplatz 2, 01067 Dresden (51.05214, 13.74432)

Tu–Su	11:00–17:00

skd.museum, +49 351 49142000



Kunsthofpassage

This courtyard with strangely decorated buildings and artsy boutiques is a truly intriguing place.

Görlitzer Straße 20, 01099 Dresden, Germany
(51.06788, 13.75417)

Mo–Th	06:00–23:00
Fr	06:00–24:00
Sa	08:00–24:00
Su	08:00–23:00

kunsthof-dresden.de, +49 351 8106617

Dresden's Hidden Gems

A compact selection of lesser-known Dresden highlights featuring distinct architectural and cultural details: Pfunds Molkerei's lavish hand-painted tile interiors and gilded counters that earned it a Guinness record; Yenidze's early-20th-century cigarette factory façade with Moorish-style dome and minaret-like tower; the Dreikönigskirche with origins in the 15th century; the Großer Garten, a 1.8 km² rectangular Baroque city park; and the Asisi Panometer housed in a former gasometer showing large 360° panoramic paintings.





A Pfunds Dairy

The world's most beautiful dairy (included in the Guinness Book of Records) looks more like a palace than a dairy shop.

Bautzner Straße 79, 01099 Dresden, DE (51.06380, 13.75982)

Mo–Sa 10:00–18:00

pfunds.de, +49 351 808080



B Yenidze

Yenidze is a former cigarette factory building in Dresden, Saxony, Germany built between 1907 and 1909.

Weißeritzstraße 3 (51.05897, 13.72672)



C Epiphany Church

The history of this church goes all the way back to the first half of the 15th century.

Hauptstraße 23, 01097 Dresden, DE (51.06096, 13.74320)

hdk-dkk.de, +49 351 81240

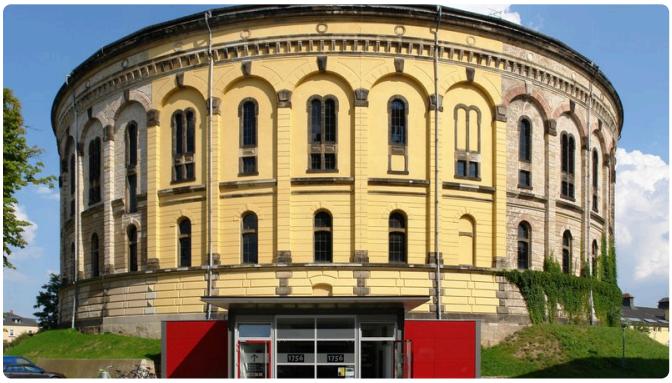


D Great Garden

The Großer Garten is a Baroque style park in central Dresden. It is rectangular in shape and covers about 1.8 km².

Hauptallee, 01219 Dresden, Germany (51.03740, 13.76385)

grosser-garten-dresden.de, +49 351 4456600



E Asisi Panometer Dresden

The Dresden Panometer is an attraction in Dresden, Germany. It is a venue displaying one of two panoramic paintings of Austrian-born artist...

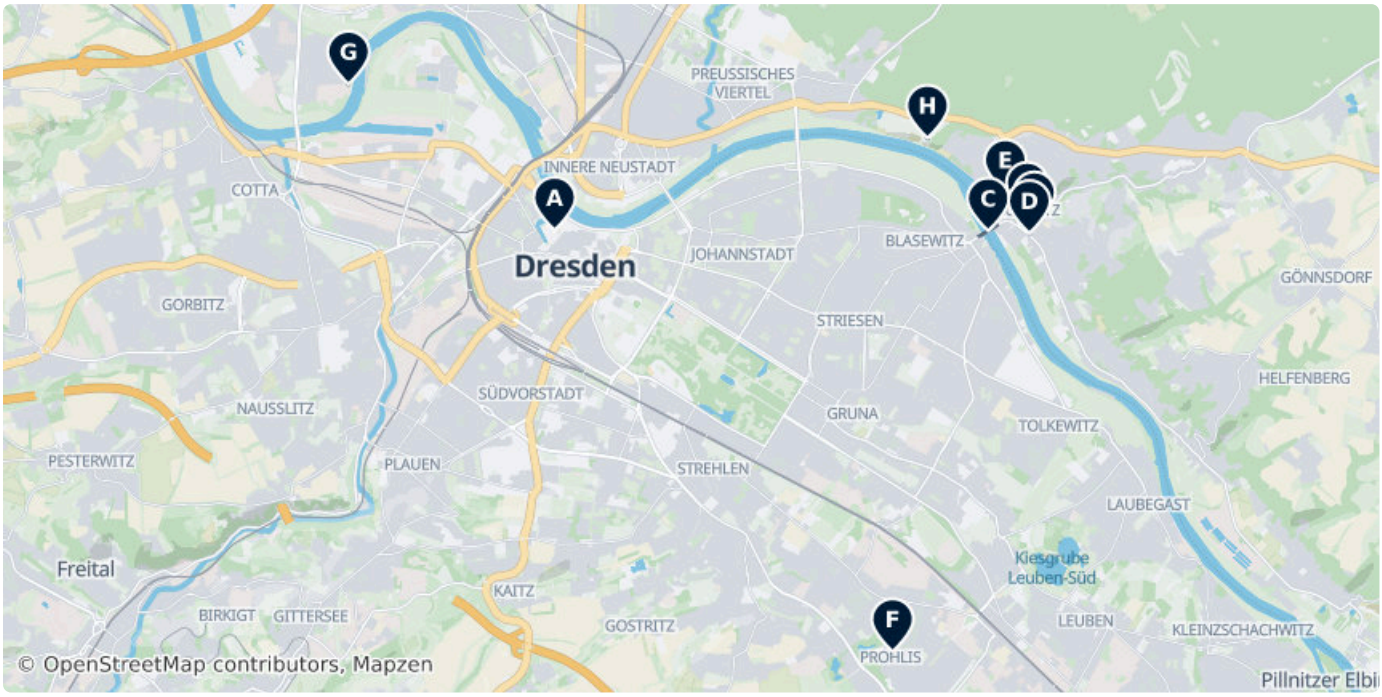
Gasanstaltstraße 8b, 01237 Dresden, Germany (51.02551, 13.78840)

Mo–Fr	10:00–17:00
Sa–Su	10:00–18:00

panometer-dresden.de, +49 351 48644242

Must-See Heritage & Sights

A compact selection of Dresden highlights focused on art, riverfront landmarks and local history. Features the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister's 15th–18th-century paintings, the suspended Schwebebahn linking Loschwitz across the Elbe, the cantilever Blue Wonder bridge, baroque Loschwitz church and riverside Elbe castles. Also included are literary and local-history museums housed in period villas and a museum tracing Prohlis's 7,000-year settlement history.





A Old Masters Gallery

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Theaterplatz 1, 01067 Dresden (51.05347, 13.73464)

Tu–Su 10:00–17:00

skd.museum/de/museen-institutione... , +49 351 49142000



B Dresden Suspension Railway

The Dresden Suspension Railway is a suspended funicular located in Dresden, Germany, and connects the districts of Loschwitz and...

Pillnitzer Landstraße 5, 01326 Dresden, Germany (51.05404, 13.81816)

+49 35 18 57 24 10



C Blue Wonder Bridge

Loschwitz Bridge is a cantilever truss bridge over the river Elbe in Dresden the capital of Saxony in Germany.

Blaues Wunder, 01326 Dresden, Germany (51.05338, 13.81009)



D Kirche zu Dresden-Loschwitz

Baroque Protestant church in Loschwitz; notable for its 18th-century architecture and hilltop position near the suspension railway.

Pillnitzer Landstraße 7a, 01326 Dresden, DE (51.05311, 13.81727)

loschwitzer-kirche.de



E Schillerhäuschen

Small literature museum dedicated to the life and works of Friedrich Schiller.

19 Schillerstraße, Dresden 01326, Germany (51.05755, 13.81307)



F Heimat- und Palitzsch-Museum Prohlis

Local-history museum covering the 7,000-year settlement history of Dresden's Prohlis district.

Gamigstraße 24, 01239 Dresden, DE (51.00734, 13.79345)

We–Su 12:00–17:00

tsd.de/de/mm/museum/palitzsch-mus... , +49 351 7967249



G Schloss Übigau

Baroque riverside palace built 1724–1726 for Reichsgraf Jacob Heinrich von Flemming.

Rethelstraße 47, 01139 Dresden, DE (51.06942, 13.69876)



H Castle Eckberg

One of the three Elbe castles, located on the right Elbe bank about 3 km upstream from central Dresden.

134 Bautzner Straße, Dresden 01099, Germany (51.06352, 13.79954)

schloss-eckberg.de



I Leonhardi Museum

The impressive villa built in the style of a medieval mansion was home to Dresden's Edouard Leonhardi, famous painter of romantic...

Grundstraße 26, 01326 Dresden, DE (51.05509, 13.81690)

Tu–Fr	14:00–18:00
Su	10:00–18:00

leonhardi-museum.de, +49 351 2633346

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