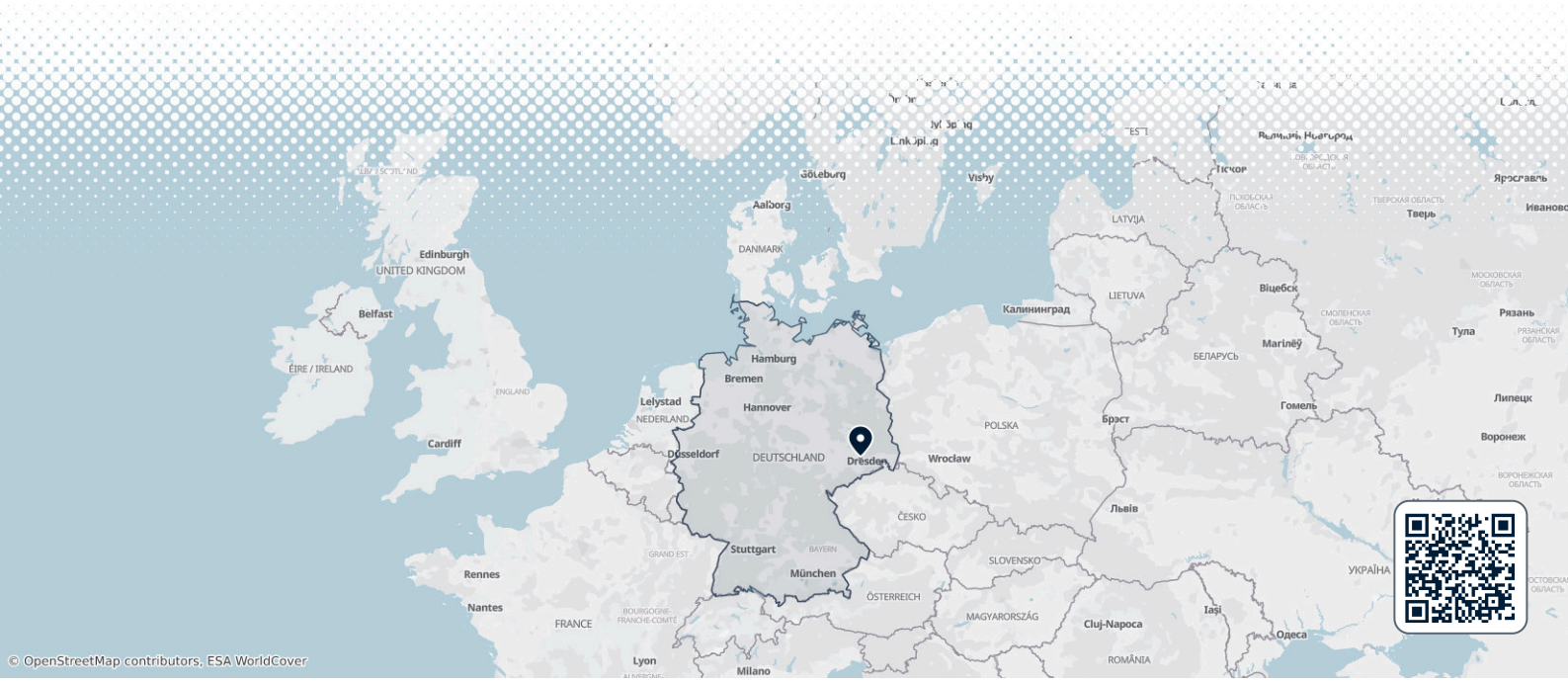


Meissen

Saxony · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Meissen is a small town on the Elbe, about 25 km northwest of Dresden. It is known for its castle hill and for European porcelain, which was first made here.

The old town sits below the hill, with steep lanes, small squares and views over the river. Vineyards line the Elbe valley nearby. Meissen suits a day trip from Dresden or a quiet night or two.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time for walking the hill and the old town. Summer can bring short rain showers. Winters are cold and grey, with frost and short days.

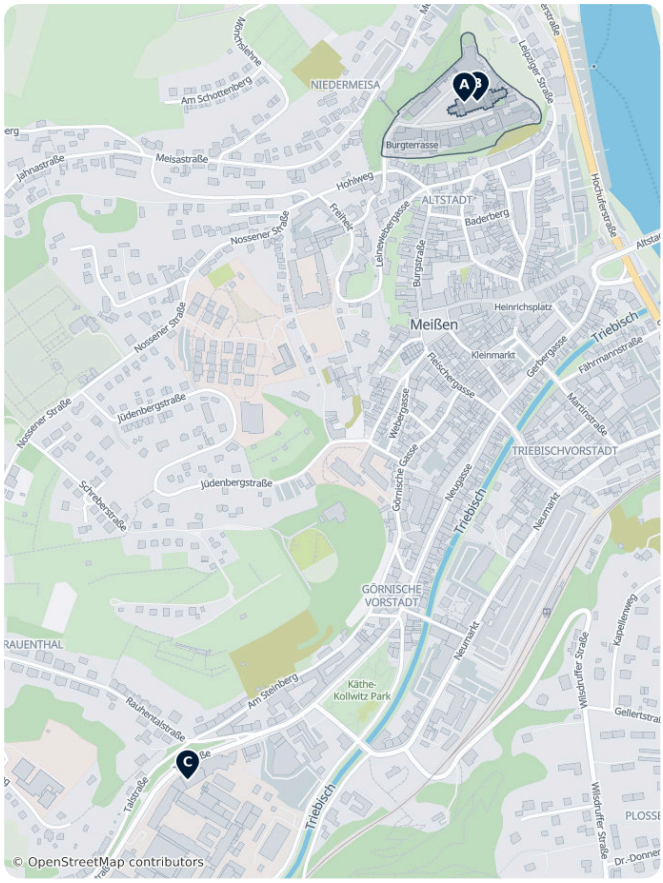
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -3°	-3° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like -1°	-2° / -11°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 17° Feels like 4°	1° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	5° / -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	26° / 33°	15° / 11°	16 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 10°	12 rainy days
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 30°	11° / 6°	Dry air
October	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 23° Feels like 12°	7° / 0°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 15° Feels like 4°	2° / -3°	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 Burgberg Meißen is the hill above the old town. The Albrechtsburg, a late Gothic castle with a museum, stands on it.
- B Dom zu Meißen stands next to the castle. It is a Gothic church with tall towers that you can see from across the Elbe.
- C Meissener Porzellanmanufaktur is the home of Meissen porcelain. The museum shows how porcelain is made.



Meissen – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

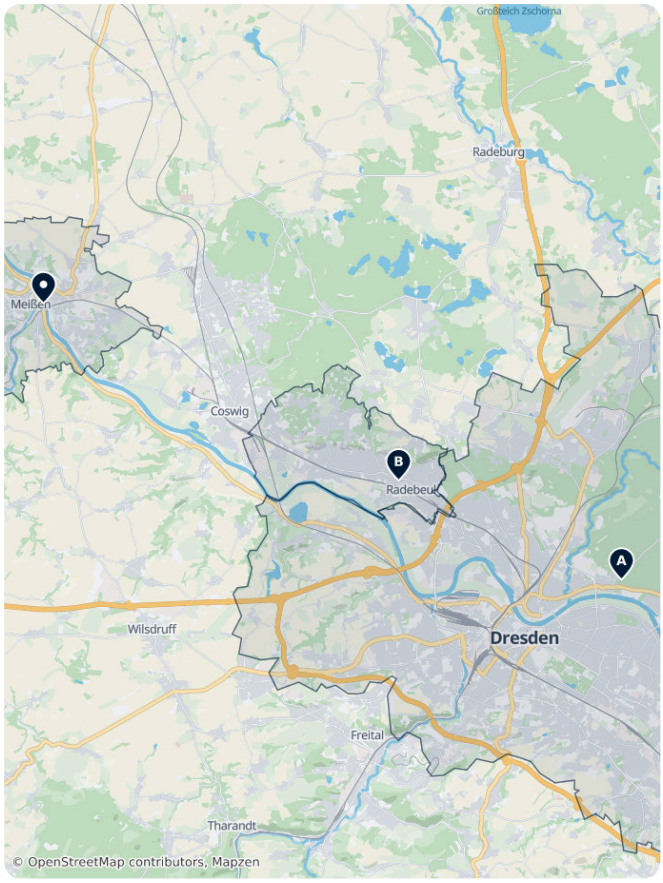
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Listen to the porcelain carillon in the tower of the Frauenkirche. Its bells are made of porcelain.
- Walk or cycle along the Elbe and the vineyards on the Saxon wine route.

Day trips

- A Dresden is the nearest large city, reached by S-Bahn. It has a rebuilt Baroque old town, a large art collection and many museums.
- B Radebeul lies between Meissen and Dresden. It is a wine town with vineyards and a Karl May museum.
- Moritzburg is a Baroque hunting palace on a lake near Dresden.



Getting there

- **By air**: Dresden Airport (DRS) is the nearest airport. Leipzig/Halle (LEJ) and Berlin Brandenburg (BER) are other options. From any of them, travel on by train.
- **By train**: Regional trains and the S-Bahn run from Dresden to Bahnhof Meißen. Book long-distance tickets on Deutsche Bahn.

Getting around

- Public transit: Local buses and the S-Bahn belong to the VVO network. Tickets are sold in the FAIRTIQ app and online. See VVO.
- On foot: The old town and the castle hill are best explored on foot.
- Cycling: The Elbe cycle path runs along the river.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The old town is compact. Lanes to the castle hill are steep and cobbled.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The Elbe cycle path is flat. The old town and hill are steep.

Food & drink

Meissen belongs to the Saxon wine region, one of the northernmost in Europe. Look for local white wine from the Elbe valley vineyards.

Cafés and restaurants cluster in the old town around the Markt and the lanes below the castle hill.

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.

Meissen – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

- Steep cobbled lanes and stairs lead up to the castle hill. Wear sturdy shoes, especially in wet weather.

History

King Henry I built a fortress on the hill in 929. A margraviate was founded here in 965, and the town received its town rights in 1332.

Work on Dom zu Meißen began in 1260. The Albrechtsburg on Burgberg Meißen was built between 1472 and 1525.

In 1710 Augustus the Strong founded a porcelain works in the castle. *Johann Friedrich Böttger* worked on the first European porcelain. The works moved to the Triebisch valley in 1861 and is today Meissener Porzellanmanufaktur.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

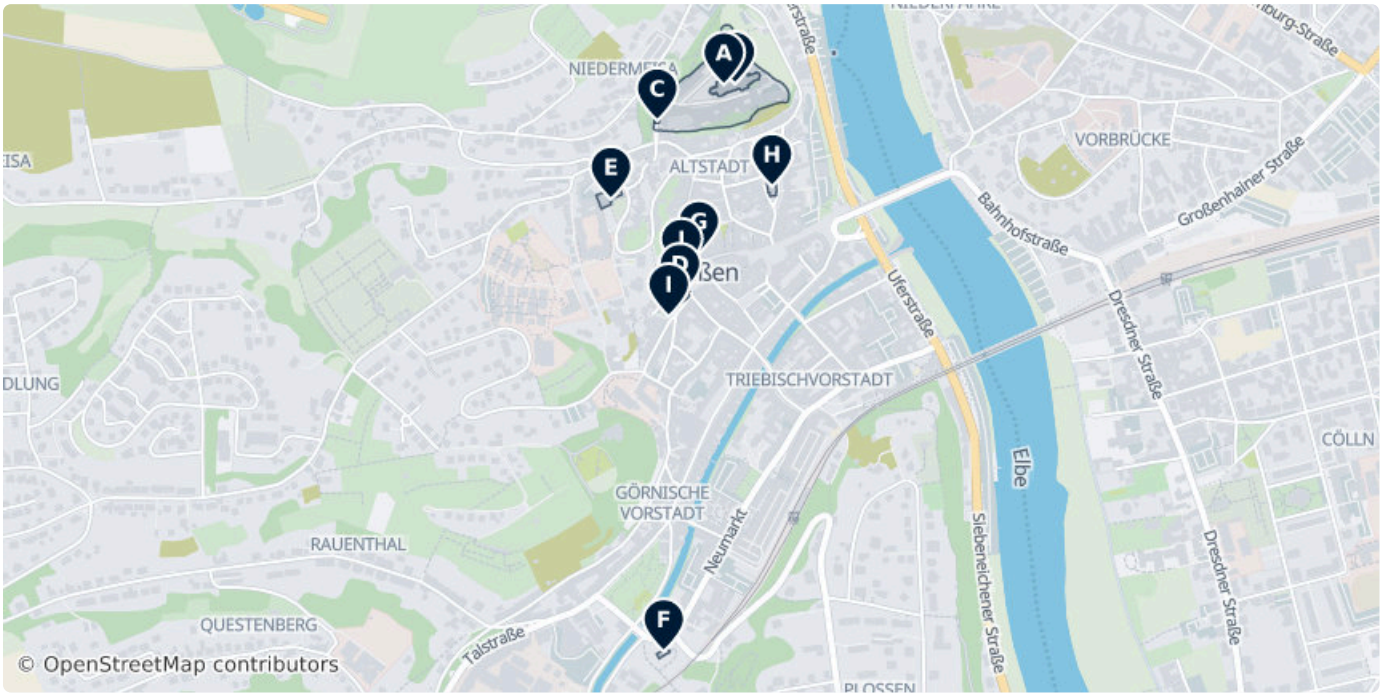
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Meissen Essentials

Meissen, the "cradle of Saxony," is defined by its medieval architectural heritage overlooking the Elbe River. This collection features the Albrechtsburg, Germany's oldest castle built between 1471 and 1495, alongside the neighboring Gothic Cathedral of St. John and St. Donatus. The list highlights the town's religious history through the 13th-century Nikolaikirche and St. Afra, as well as civic landmarks like the Late Gothic Town Hall and historic city gates such as the Torhaus and Tuchmachertor.





A Albrechtsburg

The Albrechtsburg is a Late Gothic castle erected from 1471 till about 1495.

Domplatz 1, 01662 Meißen, Germany (51.16623, 13.47118)

Mo–Su 10:00–18:00

albrechtsburg-meissen.de, +49 35 21 47 070



B Meissen Cathedral

Meissen Cathedral or the Church of St John and St Donatus is a Gothic church in Meissen in Saxony.

Domplatz 2, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16624, 13.47147)

dom-zu-meissen.de



C Torhaus

Late Gothic city gate and tower providing historical access to the castle district.

Domplatz 14, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16563, 13.46941)



D Frauenkirche

Late Gothic hall church on the market square featuring the world's first tunable porcelain carillon.

An der Frauenkirche 13, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16271, 13.47001)



E St. Afra Kirche

Founded in 1205 as an Augustinian monastery, this church combines Romanesque and Gothic elements.

Freiheit 13, 01662 Meißen (51.16433, 13.46818)

sankt-afra-meissen.de



F Nikolaikirche

Documented since 1220 as the town's oldest church, it houses a memorial with large-scale porcelain figures.

Neumarkt 29, 01662 Meißen (51.15679, 13.46958)

G Rathaus Meißen

Late Gothic administrative building constructed between 1470 and 1486, featuring a massive high-pitched roof.

Markt, 01662 Meissen, Germany (51.16342, 13.47052)

Mo	09:00–12:00
Tu	09:00–12:00, 14:00–18:00
We–Fr	09:00–12:00

stadt-meissen.de, +493521 4670

H Theater Meißen

Historic performance venue and cultural hub housed in a 19th-century heritage building.

Theaterplatz 15, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16454, 13.47246)

theater-meissen.de, +49 3521 41550

I Tuchmachertor

Ornate Renaissance-style gateway representing the historical significance of the local clothmakers' guild.

3 An der Frauenkirche, Meißen 01662, Germany
(51.16237, 13.46971)

stadtwiki-meissen.de/wiki/Tuchmachertor

J Bennohaus

One of the town's oldest residential buildings, dating to the 15th century, now serving as a restaurant.

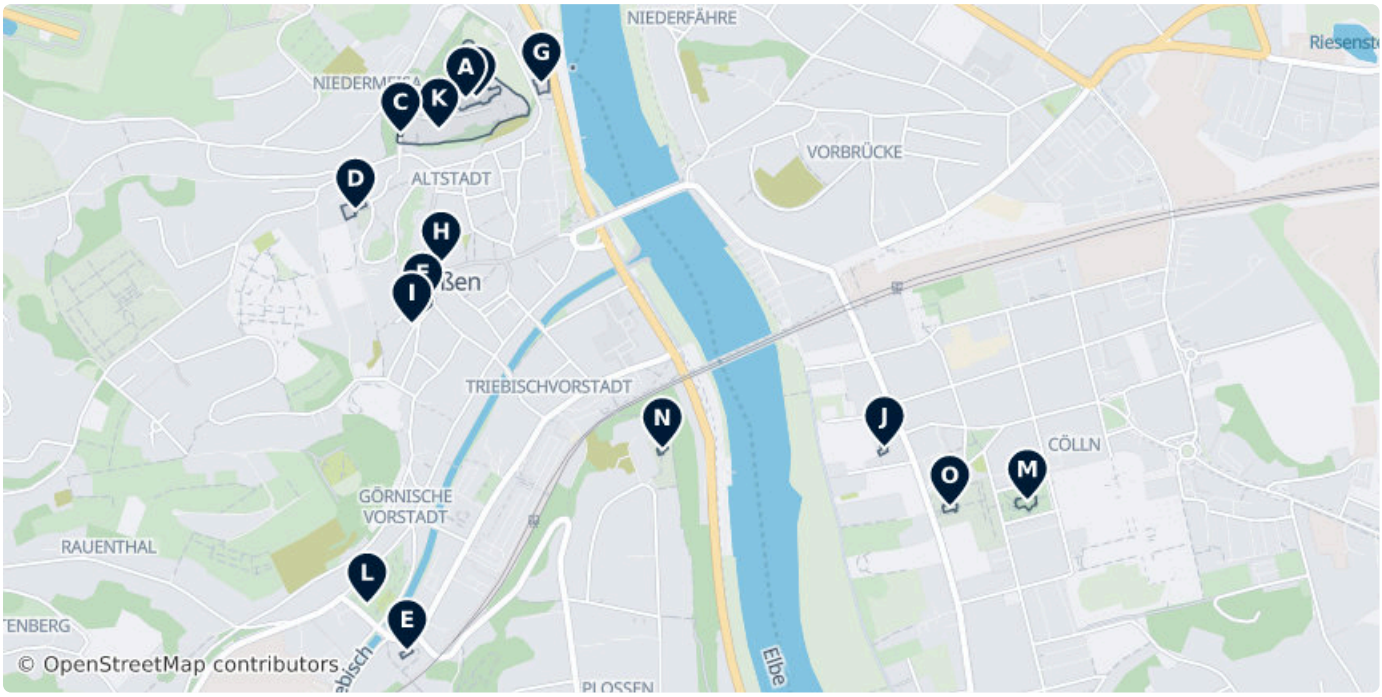
(51.16313, 13.47005)

Mo–Su 11:30+

benno-restaurant.de, +49 3 521 40 87 41

Meissen Heritage Sites

Meissen, often called the "Cradle of Saxony," showcases over a millennium of history through its concentrated medieval and Renaissance architecture. This collection centers on the Burgberg district, featuring the 15th-century Albrechtsburg—Germany's oldest castle—and the adjacent Gothic Meissen Cathedral. The list also highlights the town's civic heritage, including the 15th-century Renaissance Rathaus and historic structures like the Frauenkirche, home to the world's first porcelain carillon.





A Albrechtsburg

The Albrechtsburg is a Late Gothic castle erected from 1471 till about 1495.

Domplatz 1, 01662 Meißen, Germany (51.16623, 13.47118)

Mo–Su 10:00–18:00

albrechtsburg-meissen.de, +49 35 21 47 070



B Meissen Cathedral

Meissen Cathedral or the Church of St John and St Donatus is a Gothic church in Meissen in Saxony.

Domplatz 2, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16624, 13.47147)

dom-zu-meissen.de



C Torhaus

A late Gothic gatehouse that serves as the historic main entrance to the Albrechtsburg castle complex.

Domplatz 14, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16563, 13.46941)



D St. Afra Kirche

Founded in 1205 as an Augustinian monastery, this church features a mix of Romanesque foundations and Gothic expansions.

Freiheit 13, 01662 Meißen (51.16433, 13.46818)

sankt-afra-meissen.de



E Nikolaikirche

Meissen's oldest church, first documented in 1220. It houses a unique memorial featuring over-life-sized Meissen porcelain figures.

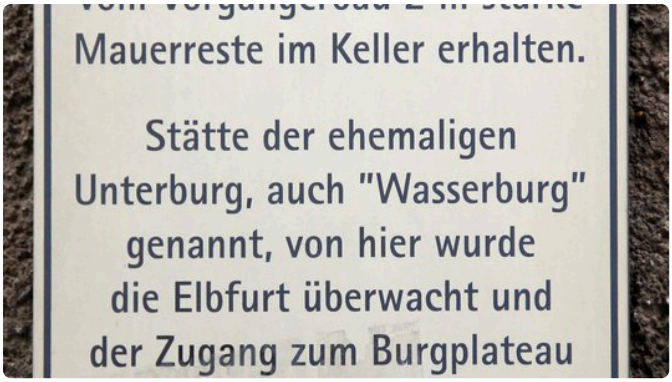
Neumarkt 29, 01662 Meißen (51.15679, 13.46958)



F Frauenkirche

A late Gothic hall church on the market square, famous for its porcelain carillon—the first in the world—installed in 1929.

An der Frauenkirche 13, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16271, 13.47001)



G Jakobskapelle

A small medieval chapel located on the castle hill, originally part of the Albrechtsburg's religious and defensive structures.

Leipziger Straße 30, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16648, 13.47325)

H Rathaus Meißen

Built between 1470 and 1486, this late Gothic building is one of Saxony's oldest town halls, notable for its massive 13,000-square-foot roof.

Markt, 01662 Meissen, Germany (51.16342, 13.47052)

Mo	09:00–12:00
Tu	09:00–12:00, 14:00–18:00
We–Fr	09:00–12:00

stadt-meissen.de, +493521 4670

I Tuchmachertor

An ornate Renaissance-style city gate dating to 1614, originally used as a ceremonial entrance for the local clothmakers' guild.

3 An der Frauenkirche, Meißen 01662, Germany (51.16237, 13.46971)

stadtwiki-meissen.de/wiki/Tuchmachertor

J Gutshaus Cölln

A historic manor house in the Cölln district featuring Baroque architectural elements.

Dresdner Straße 24b (51.16026, 13.48259)

K Kerstinghaus

A Baroque-era building once home to Georg Friedrich Kersting, the chief painter of the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory.

(51.16570, 13.47045)

L Gedenkstätte für die Opfer des Faschismus

A memorial site located in the Nikolaipark dedicated to the victims of the Nazi regime.

4 Kerstingstraße, Meißen 01662, Germany (51.15759, 13.46849)

stadtwiki-meissen.de/wiki/Gedenkst%C3%A4tte_f%C3%B...

M Johanneskirche

A 19th-century Neo-Gothic brick church known for its extensive interior frescoes and altar painting by Sascha Schneider.

Johannesplatz 1, 01662 Meißen (51.15936, 13.48649)

johannesgemeinde-meissen.de/styled-... , +49 3521 732270

N Sankt Martini

A historic parish church in the Zscheila district with foundations dating back to the 12th century.

4A Kapellenweg, Meißen 01662, Germany (51.16024, 13.47654)

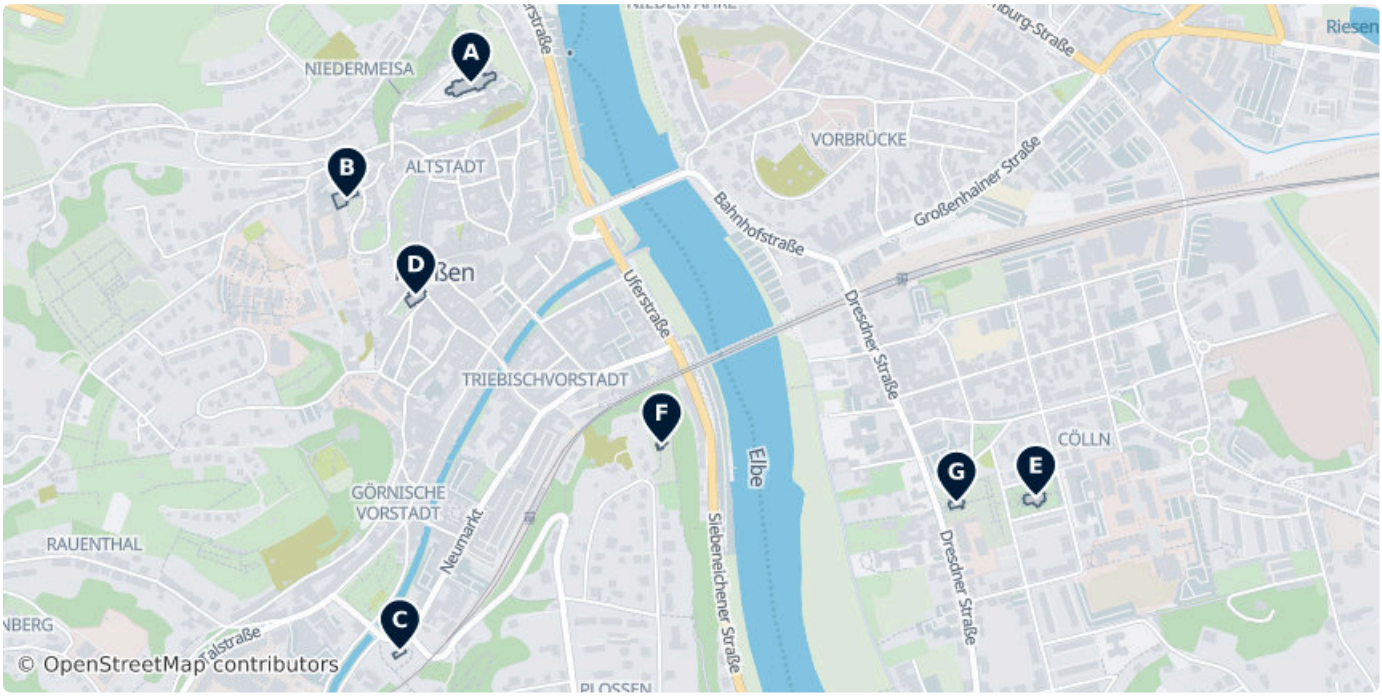
St. Urbanskirche

An ancient church dedicated to the patron saint of winegrowers, reflecting Meissen's long-standing viticultural history.

21 Dresdner Straße, Meißen 01662, Germany
(51.15926, 13.48438)

Historic Churches of Meissen

Meissen's skyline is dominated by the Albrechtsburg castle and the adjacent Meissen Cathedral, a masterpiece of German Gothic architecture. Beyond the cathedral, the town preserves a collection of historic religious sites dating back to the 13th century. These include the Nikolaikirche, the town's oldest church, and the late Gothic Frauenkirche, situated in the heart of the Old Town. The list also features the St. Afra monastery church, founded in 1205, showcasing a range of Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque stylistic elements.





A Meissen Cathedral

Meissen Cathedral or the Church of St John and St Donatus is a Gothic church in Meissen in Saxony.

Domplatz 2, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16624, 13.47147)

dom-zu-meissen.de



B St. Afra Kirche

Originally founded in 1205 as an Augustinian Canons' monastery by Bishop Dietrich II of Kittlitz, this church is one of Meissen's oldest religious sites. It features a mix of architectural styles and serves as a significant example of the region's early ecclesiastical history.

Freiheit 13, 01662 Meißen (51.16433, 13.46818)

sankt-afra-meissen.de



C Nikolaikirche

First documented in 1220, this is the oldest church in Meissen. It currently serves the Evangelical Lutheran St. Afra parish and stands as a preserved monument of the town's early 13th-century development.

Neumarkt 29, 01662 Meißen (51.15679, 13.46958)



D Frauenkirche

A late Gothic hall church located in Meissen's historic Old Town. Part of the St. Afra parish, the building is a prominent example of regional ecclesiastical architecture from the late Middle Ages.

An der Frauenkirche 13, 01662 Meißen, DE (51.16271, 13.47001)

E Johanneskirche

A historic Lutheran place of worship and protected heritage site reflecting the town's religious architecture.

Johannesplatz 1, 01662 Meißen (51.15936, 13.48649)

johannesgemeinde-meissen.de/styled-... , +49 3521 732270

F Sankt Martini

A historic church and heritage site in Meissen.

4A Kapellenweg, Meißen 01662, Germany (51.16024, 13.47654)

G St. Urbanskirche

A traditional place of worship and designated heritage site.

21 Dresdner Straße, Meißen 01662, Germany (51.15926, 13.48438)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Albrechtsburg — "Albrechtsburg01", CC BY-SA 2.0
- Meissen Cathedral — "Meißen - Albrechtsburg and cathedral" by Unukorno, Public domain
- Torhaus — "Torhaus (auch mittleres Burgtor genannt) und Bogenbrücke in Meißen" by Radler59, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Frauenkirche — "Turm der Frauenkirche in Meissen" by Adornix, Public domain
- St. Afra Kirche — "Meissen, Saxony (Germany), church St. Afra, photo 2012" by Uwe Barghaan, CC BY 3.0
- Nikolaikirche — "Meißen, Saxony, church Nikolaikirche" by Unukorno, CC BY 4.0
- Albrechtsburg — "Albrechtsburg01", CC BY-SA 2.0
- Meissen Cathedral — "Meißen - Albrechtsburg and cathedral" by Unukorno, Public domain
- Torhaus — "Torhaus (auch mittleres Burgtor genannt) und Bogenbrücke in Meißen" by Radler59, CC BY-SA 3.0
- St. Afra Kirche — "Meissen, Saxony (Germany), church St. Afra, photo 2012" by Uwe Barghaan, CC BY 3.0
- Nikolaikirche — "Meißen, Saxony, church Nikolaikirche" by Unukorno, CC BY 4.0
- Frauenkirche — "Turm der Frauenkirche in Meissen" by Adornix, Public domain
- Jakobskapelle — "Memorial plaque, Jakobskapelle, Leipziger Straße, Meißen, Germany" by OTFW, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Meissen Cathedral — "Meißen - Albrechtsburg and cathedral" by Unukorno, Public domain
- St. Afra Kirche — "Meissen, Saxony (Germany), church St. Afra, photo 2012" by Uwe Barghaan, CC BY 3.0
- Nikolaikirche — "Meißen, Saxony, church Nikolaikirche" by Unukorno, CC BY 4.0
- Frauenkirche — "Turm der Frauenkirche in Meissen" by Adornix, Public domain

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 22, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.