

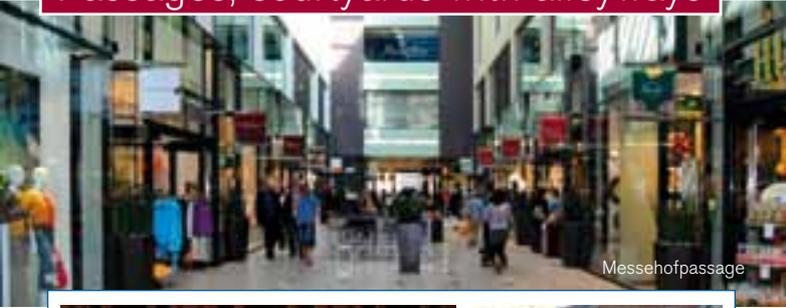


Leipzig's unique courtyards and passages

Leipziger Freiheit

Leipzig Tourismus
und Marketing GmbH

Passages, courtyards with alleyways



They are places to wander, a shopping paradise, places of art and culture or architectural gems – Leipzig's unique arcades, courtyards and trade fair palace. For about 500 years they have dominated Leipzig's city centre. Their history is closely connected to Leipzig's development into an up-and-coming trade and fair city. Other European cities have examples of passages with shops too, but only Leipzig has such a closed system in the city centre. The city of Leipzig feels especially obliged to this unique feature of city planning so the historical passages and alleyways are not only preserved, but new ones are also being built.

Probably one of the most famous passages is the Mädler Passage with the Auerbachs Keller (cellar), rich in tradition, where Goethe also spent some time. But there is much more to discover – preferably with an extended walk around the city: wander through the passages, courtyards and trade fair buildings and be enchanted by their charm and architectural diversity!

Barthels Hof

The last remaining trade court from the trade fair period in the 18th century is one of the city's most notable buildings. In the indoor courtyard, the cranes that were used to hoist goods up to the storage rooms can still be seen. The Neo Baroque street facade and the wide alleyway were added in 1870/71 during renovations. Since then, the renaissance bay window from 1523 has been situated here – it is the oldest surviving piece of a facade from a Leipzig residence.



From the beginnings ...



Almost 500 years of architectural presence

The first trade court in Leipzig was built by Heinrich Stromer von Auerbach from 1530 to 1538. During the trade fair's heyday, especially from the 16th to the 18th century, the famous Auerbachs Hof was of massive importance to the fair ground. Traders sold mostly luxury items in up to 70 vaults. Such a network of passageways was an advantage because it provided protection from wind, heat and rain, and carriages could pass through without having to make difficult manoeuvres. As Auerbachs Hof connected several very different buildings, there were many different facades at this time.

In the 18th century the Baroque alleyway building dominated. Unlike its forerunner from Renaissance times it had a uniform style and a coherent design. Stone facades increasingly replaced the more simple wooden frameworks. The only remaining example of this type of Baroque architecture is Barthels Hof, right at the market place.



Auerbachs Hof around 1780

Mädler Passage

From 1912 to 1914 the leather manufacturer Anton Mädler had this five-storey combination of exhibition halls and shopping arcade built according to plans by the architect Theodor Kösser. For this to happen, Auerbachs Hof, so rich in history, had to give way. However, the inn "Auerbachs Keller" (cellar), where part of Goethe's drama "Faust" took place, was kept. A Meissen porcelain carillon bears witness to the fact that the Mädler Passage was originally used for trading porcelain, ceramics and stoneware.





New shapes in the trade fair city of Leipzig

At the end of the 19th century, the city became sophisticated and stylish: Leipzig was the first city in the world to introduce a sample trade fair. Impressive trade fair palaces were built, such as the Städtische Kaufhaus or Steibs Hof, which were custom-built to serve the needs of the new sample trade fairs of the industrial period. Between the years of 1893 and 1938, a total of 30 of these mostly monumental buildings were erected, taking up half a square kilometre in the Leipzig city centre area alone. During the heyday of the trade fair in Leipzig, in 1927, there were 50 trade fair buildings in operation.

The classic arcade also became fashionable at the end of the 19th century: As a pedestrian zone with small shops on both sides, it connects several streets of houses. The glass roof provides protection from the wind and rain. The Mädler Passage, which was built on the site of the former Auerbachs Hof, is today the largest and most important passage from the passage's heyday.

Well-preserved cultural assets that bring culture to life

During GDR times, many of the historical passages increasingly fell into a state of disrepair. But after the fall of the Berlin wall, they gradually recovered their old shine. They were lavishly renovated in full compliance with the requirements of monument protection and new shops moved in. Today they are a big attraction for tourists and locals alike. Alongside a sophisticated shopping atmosphere with designer shops there are also bookshops, small speciality shops, restaurants and cafés as well as cabarets, theatres and cinemas.

The Leipzig Passagenfest (passage festival)

As unique as the buildings themselves: Leipzig's passages and courtyards host a festival with many a culinary and cultural delight every autumn. Enjoy the unique flair of the passages during extended opening times until midnight and marvel at the impressive architecture.



1 Old City Hall (Markt)

The Old City Hall built by Hieronymus Lotter in 1556/57 is one of the most outstanding examples of German Renaissance architecture. An alley, which includes an entrance to the Stadtgeschichtliches Museum (Leipzig museum of city history), provides a link between market square and Naschmarkt with the Alte Handelsbörse (old exchange).

2 Mädler Passage (Grimmaische Straße / Neumarkt)

This 140 metre long, elegant street of shops is a real tourist magnet: it is home to exclusive shops, as well as the Sanftwut cabaret and the famous Auerbachs Keller, which ranks number 5 of the world's most famous restaurants. Together with the Königshauspassage and the Messehofpassage, the stretch of shops builds a unique system of passages.

3 Königshauspassage (Markt)

Königshaus at the market square owes its Baroque facade to a renovation in 1706/07. During the 18th century the Saxon rulers regularly spent time here during trade fairs, especially Augustus II the Strong. Other famous people such as the Russian Tsar Peter I the Great and Napoleon stayed at the Königshaus. In 1932, the Leipzig architect Curt Schiemichen built the passage in the building which was converted into a sample trade fair building.

4 Messehofpassage (Petersstraße / Neumarkt)

Opened in 1950 for the autumn trade fair, the Messehof was the first completed new trade fair building after the war. The internal 80 metre long street of shops was recently remodelled. However, the mushroom-shaped column in the hall at the Petersstraße entrance, made of marble from the Jura mountains, serves as a reminder of the old passage.

5 Bauwenshaus (Burgplatz)

With its natural stone facade, the Bauwenshaus on Burgplatz is an example of modern architecture in commercial buildings. The hall of the building, completed in 1994, continues the tradition of alleyway courtyards in Leipzig.

6 Petersbogen (Petersstraße / Schloßgasse)

As a replacement for the Juridicum-Passage, which was destroyed during the war, Petersbogen recreates the historical connection between Schloßgasse and Petersstraße. The elegantly curved passage contains retail shops, a cinema multiplex with 8 screens, a casino and more.



7 Stentzlers Hof* (Petersstraße / Peterskirchhof)

The monumental ferroconcrete skeleton construction, built by Leopold Stentzler from 1914 to 1916 is eye-catching from the outside due to its opulent decorative figures made of shell-bearing limestone. Covered by a glass roof, the inner courtyard contains an attention-grabbing, delicately worked bay window from around 1690.

8 Dresdner Hof (Neumarkt)

This impressive trade fair palace was once used by pharmaceutical, chemical and cosmetical industries to exhibit their goods. The Art Deco entrance area from the 1920s is unique in Leipzig. Since 1980, the Cabaret "academixer" has played at the Dresdner Hof.



9 Städtisches Kaufhaus (Neumarkt)

After the transition from trade fair to sample fair at the end of the 19th century, new forms of trade fair buildings appeared. The world's earliest example of this is the Städtische Kaufhaus built between 1893 and 1901. Incorporating the former town library with its Baroque facade, the building became a magnificent trade fair palace. The glass industry once used the 4500 square metres of space to display their products. The historic concert hall of the Gewandhaus had to make way for the building.

10 Handelshof (Grimmaische Straße)

Finished in 1909, the Handelshof was the second trade fair building built in Leipzig after the Städtische Kaufhaus. Once renovation works are finished, a new hotel will be situated in the building from 2011 onwards. The passage connecting Naschmarkt with Reichstraße will then also have a new shine.

11 Speck's Hof (Reichstraße)

The passage connected to the Hansa Haus in Speck's Hof is the oldest remaining alleyway in Leipzig. Before the trade fair building was built between 1908 and 1929, a department store belonging to the Baron of Speck was situated here. Up to 1989, Speck's Hof was used as a place to exhibit leather goods and jewelry. Since renovations in the 90s, the interior sunlit courts have been decorated by fantastic wall murals, paintings and ceramic medallions by the artists Bruno Griesel, Johannes Grützke and Moritz Götze. The successful combination of old and new makes this trade fair building one of Leipzig's architectural highlights.



12 Hansa Haus (Grimmaische Straße)

The Hansa Haus, completed in 1906, was destroyed in the Second World War and was then rebuilt in a more simple form. In the 90s, it was completely rebuilt with a modern facade design. The impressive glass-covered indoor court with Art Nouveau elements is unique in Leipzig and was reconstructed true to the original. There is also a water-filled singing bowl based on the Chinese design which can be used to create extraordinary sounds.

13 Inner courtyard of the University* (Grimmaische Straße)

Since 2009, the newly constructed building of the Leipzig University has its own row of shops. The Leibnitz monument made by sculptor Ernst Julius Hänel is situated at the inner courtyard and creates an interesting contrast to the modern backside of the Paulinum.

14 Theaterpassage (Goethestraße/Ritterstraße)

The Theaterpassage was first created as a shortcut to the former Neues Theater (new theatre) on Augustusplatz square – now the opera house. The narrow alley was integrated into Leipzig's first multi-storey building, the Krochhochhaus.

15 Strohsackpassage (Nikolaistraße/Ritterstraße)

The very high mushroom-shaped metal columns are the hallmark of the Strohsackpassage. Since the new commercial building was opened in 1997, restaurants, shops and the cabaret "Leipziger Funzel" are united in one building.



16 Oelßners Hof** (Nikolaistraße/Ritterstraße)

The former fur-trading building was built by Max Pommer in 1907/08 and has been awaiting renovations for some time. Now the four-storey sandstone facades in the Neo Baroque style and the artistically forged gates are very impressive.

17 Blauer Hecht* (Nikolaistraße)

This former building (built in 1911/12) has its animal name "blue pike" from the former Leipzig guesthouse, "Zum Blauen Hecht", which was first mentioned in 1551. The blue pike at the passage entrance still reminds of this time.



18 Steibs Hof/Dussmann-Passage (Nikolaistraße/Brühl)

This trade fair palace was named after the Leipzig master builder Felix Steib, who built the commercial building in 1907. The richly decorated sandstone entrance is an especially beautiful example of historicism in Leipzig. The passage with its white and blue-tiled courtyards has been connected to the Dussmann-Haus at the Brühl.

19 Ritterpassage (Richard-Wagner-Straße/Brühl)

One eye-catching feature in the modern "street canyon" that runs from the central station to the city centre is the moving art-object. This installation displays a writing by Johann Sebastian Bach.

20 Brühl-Arkade (Brühl/Richard-Wagner-Straße)

The internal passage in this five-storey new building combines alleys with two glass-covered, sunlit courts. It is home to the studio of the Leipzig artist Michael Fischer-Art. His colourful pictures decorate the passage as well as the east facade of the building complex.

21 Höfe am Brühl (Brühl, still under construction)

At the beginning of 2010, the building works started on the "Höfe am Brühl", which are due to open in 2012. When the construction works are finished, visitors will have access to shops at a central location. Access via four sunlit courts make the "Höfe am Brühl" easily accessible.

22 Kretschmanns Hof* (Katharinenstraße)/Blauer und goldener Stern (Hainstraße)

The commercial building Kretschmanns Hof, completed in 1912, has recently been undergoing restoration in full compliance with the requirements of monument protection. The space around the broad, white-tiled alleyway is being modernised. The cabaret "Leipziger Pfeffermühle" will move there in 2011. Kretschmanns Hof is connected to Hainstraße via an alleyway and a courtyard belonging to the house called "Blauer und goldener Stern" (blue and golden star).



23 Jägerhof (Große Fleischergasse / Hainstraße)

Commissioned by the Councillor of Commerce, Chr. Jäger, the sample trade fair building was built between 1911 and 1920 according to plans drawn up by the Leipzig architect Alfred Müller. The passage in Jägerhof connects Hainstraße and the Große Fleischergasse. Decorated with

white tiles, the three sunlit courts create an elegant, friendly atmosphere – in the first inner courtyard, the decorative wall fountain captures attention with its water-sputting mask. The cinema in the passage attracts many cinema-lovers each day.

24 Kleines Joachimsthal** (Hainstraße / Kleine Fleischergasse)

The Kleine Joachimsthal exists since about 1906. The alley leading to the building, which was originally built for residential and storage purposes, is no longer passable, but due to be used again in the future.

25 Großer Joachimsthal (Katharinenstraße / Hainstraße)

The historic sandstone facade on Hainstraße was built in 1906. It has an impressive two-storey bay window over the alleyway. The buildings on each side of the passage are connected through a bridge on the inside of the passage.

26 Hof Neubau (Böttchergäßchen / Salzgäßchen)

This residential building, to which belongs an internal courtyard with a fountain, originates from GDR times. It houses flats as well as bistros and cafés.

27 Webers Hof / 28 Barthels Hof (Hainstraße / Kleine Fleischergasse)

The Barthels Hof dates back until 1750. This exceptional example of a Baroque alleyway building is a tourist hotspot. Barthels Hof and Webers Hof have been connected since 1997 via internal courts. Webers Hof still retains a stair tower from 1662 when the front-building was built.

29 König-Albert-Haus (Markt / Barfußgäßchen)

In 1913 this building and its alleyway were built by architect Emil Franz Hänsel.

The facades of the ground floor and the mezzanine are decorated with varnished ceramics, adding a unique feature to the building. In 2009 the Leipziger Central Cabaret opened in the König-Albert-Haus.

30 Handwerkerpassage (Markt / Klostergasse)

This late classical building right on the market square originates from the middle of the 19th century and is one of the last remaining examples of the alleyway buildings of the trade fair today. The alleyway to Klostergasse once had 41 sales-rooms. The "Handwerkerpassage" was inaugurated in 1989 and is in-keeping with this tradition. Be sure to take a look at the fancy fountain!



31 Marktgalerie (Markt / Klostergasse)

Completed in 2005, this is the newest of the Leipzig passages. The interior displays elegance with granite floors and columns on the facade made of Elbe sandstone from Cotta. The Marktgalerie promises "first-class shopping" with high-quality shops and culinary establishments.

A Karstadt* (Neumarkt)

This department store with an underground car park and supermarket was re-opened in 2006 after renovations. The historic facade was kept intact completely and was complimented by modern elements. In the internal sunlit courtyard one can marvel at the fountain.

B Galeria Kaufhof* (Neumarkt)

This department store was newly built in 2001 and has six floors and blends in both structurally and architecturally with the system of passages around Leipzig. Wide aisles and an impressively high ceiling provide access to the surrounding passages via four entrances and exits.

C Petershof* (Petersstraße)

Where Petershof is now, there once was a guesthouse called "Zum Engel", where Johann Friedrich Böttger displayed his porcelain in 1710 for the first time. Today, the court-like entrance area is integrated in a department store. The design of the facade is worth a mention: the seven larger-than-life sculptures made by the Leipzig sculptor and painter Johannes Konstantin Gödel are portraits of people who were involved in the building process of the Petershof.

Also worth a visit:

The Promenaden in Leipzig's central station offer a variety of shopping opportunities. The three floors with shops are similar to the many passages around Leipzig. Europe's biggest terminal station has a lively shopping area and is also used as a venue for a variety of events.



View over Leipzig

For those travelling alone – “Get to know Leipzig ...”

Includes:

- 2 x nights / breakfast in one of our partner hotels
- taking the public city tour
- 1 dinner (three course meal excluding drinks) in the restaurant “Auerbachs Keller” in the Mädler Passage
- tourist map

Valid: year-round, subject to availability,

Booking: 4 weeks before arrival

Price p. p. in DR
129€
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SR surcharge from € 35

For groups (from 20 people) – “Leipzig, its courtyards and passages”

Includes:

- 2 x nights / breakfast in a first-class hotel
- tour guide for an individual tour of the town, “Leipzig’s courtyards and palaces” (2.5 hours) incl. coffee in Barthels Hof guesthouse
- 1 evening meal (three course meal excluding drinks) in the restaurant “Auerbachs Keller” in the Mädler Passage
- tourist map

Valid: year-round, subject to availability,

prices for groups less than 20 are available on request.

Price p. p. in DR
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