

LEIPZIG BASICS

New York Repertory Orchestra

Travel Program

June 2022

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Leipzig-Halle International Airport lies 11km (7 miles) northwest of the city center. **The easiest way to get into the city is by train.**

The Airport Express S-Bahn train runs from the airport to Leipzig's main train station (the Hauptbahnhof) every 30 minutes from 5 AM to midnight. The trip takes just 15 minutes and the Hauptbahnhof is an easy 5-minute walk from our hotel. The fare costs EUR 4.60 each way for adults.

By Taxi: There are taxi stands in front of the airport's Terminal B and the Central Terminal. The journey to the hotel will take about **30 minutes and cost approximately EUR 35.**



OUR HOTEL IN LEIPZIG:

Steigenberger Grandhotel Handelshof

Check-in from 3:00 PM // Check-out at 11:00 AM

Salzgäßchen 6 , 04109 Leipzig

Tel: +49 341 350581-961

www.leipzig.steigenberger.de

DISCOUNTED TRAVEL WITH LUFTHANSA GROUP

As the Preferred Airline for our travel program, Lufthansa Group is providing special prices to attendees. The discounts are a minimum of 5-10% off Base Fares, depending on the booking class. The website link below allows you to book your airfare on any of the Lufthansa Group partners, including code share flights on United Airlines.

booking your flights

To make a reservation, go to

<https://www.lufthansa.com/de/en/meetings-and-events-delegates>

and enter **discount code "USZLDSC"** in the "Event Code" box under "Offer for discounted flights". (Make sure you do not copy or type any leading or trailing spaces to this code.)

Valid travel period: June 5 to June 26, 2022

Valid destination: Leipzig/Halle Airport, Germany

Austrian 

 Lufthansa

 SWISS

 brussels airlines

 Eurowings

planning your travel

Steigenberger Grandhotel Handelshof

An elegant, modern, luxury 5-star hotel located in Leipzig's historic center, the Steigenberger Grandhotel Handelshof is adjacent to the city's pedestrian zone and just steps from the Markt Square and the Old Town Hall. The spacious, soundproofed rooms are equipped with WiFi (free of charge), a flat-screen TV, two telephones with voicemail, hairdryer, coffee- and tea-making facilities, and in-room safe with power outlet for charging electronic devices.



booking extra nights

If you plan to extend your visit in Leipzig before and/or after your travel program and would like to arrange additional nights at the hotel, **please send an email to Ms. Stephanie Finger at reservations@leipzig.steigenberger.de**

We have negotiated special rates with the hotel for your extra nights:

€ 179 Single Occupancy per room, per night - Deluxe Room

€ 199 Double Occupancy per room, per night - Deluxe Room

The hotel's buffet breakfast is included in these rates as are all taxes.

Be sure to mention that you are with the NYRO/Scherzo Cultural Journeys group when booking extra nights.

If you have any problems making reservations for extra nights, please contact Karan Spanard at 718-852-1208 or kspanard@scherzo-travel.com.



visas and passports

Citizens of the United States and Canada need only a valid passport to enter Germany. No visa is required.

For citizens of other countries, please check with your government for passport and visa requirements before departure.

Please make sure that your passport is valid through December 2022.

If it is not, you should renew your passport before you travel to Leipzig. Many countries require that your passport be valid at least six (6) months beyond the dates of your trip. Some airlines will not allow you to board if this requirement is not met.

It is strongly recommended that you make two photocopies of your passport and other important travel documents. Leave one copy at home with family or friends, and keep another with you, but separate from the actual documents. You can also scan, email and archive a copy of your passport to your

email inbox. This can help expedite the process of replacing your passport if you lose it while out of the country.

If you are an American citizen and lose your passport while in Leipzig, contact the **American Consulate General** in Leipzig at Wilhelm-Seyfferth-Straße 4, 04107 Leipzig. Tel: +49 (0341) 213-840. Email: LeipzigUSConsulate@state.gov

airline security

Because the policies for airline security measures can change, please be sure to check with your individual airline's website as well as the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to make sure that you pack your carry-on and checked luggage properly. All of the major airlines have a link on their main website to information about security procedures and rules. **Visit the TSA website at: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel>**

border entry

COVID testing and proof of vaccination

Please note: For the most up to date information, we recommend that you check with your airline, as most airlines now have a “travel ready” online feature that is available from their main menu “manage my booking” option.

ENTRY TO GERMANY

As of March 1, 2022 the following requirements are in place for border entry into Germany:

All travelers must **EITHER**

A) Show proof of vaccination

The German government has authorized the Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Astra Zeneca, Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, and Novavax vaccines. Travelers vaccinated in the United States can prove this with the “white card” bearing the CDC logo.

OR

B) Present a negative Covid-19 test result. Both PCR and rapid antigen tests are accepted; a PCR test must have been taken less than 72 hours prior to entry to Germany, a rapid antigen test less than 48 hours prior to entry.

For more information about border entry to Germany and Covid regulations while staying in Germany, go to:

<https://de.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

For citizens or residents of countries other than the United States: please check with your government’s health authority or foreign ministry for requirements for your return home after the workshop.

As of March 1, 2022 the following requirements are in place for border entry to the United States.

ALL travelers must do BOTH of the following:

1) Show proof of full vaccination with an FDA approved or authorized, or a World Health Organization (WHO) emergency use listed vaccine: Janssen/J&J, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Covishield, Sinopharm und Sinovac). Travelers vaccinated in the United States can prove this via the “white card” bearing the CDC logo.

AND

2) Present a negative Covid-19 test result (PCR, antigen or supervised self-test) taken no more than 1 day before you travel by air into the United States. You must show your negative test result to the airline before you board your flight.

LINK TO FULL DETAILS ON THE WEB PAGE OF THE U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>

USE OF RAPID, SELF-TESTS TO COMPLY WITH CDC REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURN TO UNITED STATES

To be accepted as a valid test result for re-entry to the United States, all rapid self-tests MUST include remote supervision. Here are links to two rapid, self-test kits that meet these requirements:

Abbott Laboratories/eMed: <https://www.emed.com/airline-travel>

Ellume + Azovz: <https://www.azova.com/testing/ellume/>

COVID TESTING IN LEIPZIG

Covid testing is also available at the Leipzig Airport from Monday-Friday during the hours of 6 am to 6 pm and Saturday-Sunday from 8 am to 6 pm. No appointment is necessary. You can find more details, including pricing, online at: <https://coronatest.de/teststation-lej-airport/?lang=en>

travel and medical insurance

We strongly recommend that you purchase insurance to cover the possibility of your unexpected cancellation.

We have negotiated group rates with Travel Insured for travel and medical insurance.

Travel Insured offers comprehensive coverage and a variety of optional coverages including Cancel for Any Reason, Interrupt for Any Reason, and coverage of Pre-Existing Medical Conditions. We strongly recommend that you read the Explanation of Benefits carefully prior to purchasing any insurance policies.

To get an online instant quote using our Group Discount:

Go to: <http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=54121>

Be sure to use the full URL with the agency number in order to receive the discount.

Please note: This discount can be used for ANY trip you take. It is not restricted to the Leipzig trip.

WHAT IF I HAVE TRAVEL INSURANCE COVERAGE VIA MY CREDIT CARD

Some travel rewards credit cards and regular credit cards offer trip protection as a cardholder benefit for airline tickets and other travel that is purchased using the card. Check with your bank to determine if your credit card travel insurance package includes lost baggage protection, trip cancellation coverage and other basics. In many cases, you'll need to buy extended coverage to make sure you're fully protected for the entire trip. Do keep in mind that your program registration fee is paid by check and thus is not covered by credit card trip protection benefits.

MEDICAL INSURANCE - ARE YOU COVERED ABROAD?

Most U.S. citizens don't realize that they might not be covered by their health insurance when they travel abroad. Many insurance providers do not cover medical treatment outside of the U.S. Should an emergency occur, you could incur medical bills that you need to pay for out of your own pocket. Before you travel, ask your current medical insurance provider whether your policy provides coverage when traveling abroad. Even if your current policy offers some coverage, it might be wise to seek out supplemental travel insurance that covers a wider array of services, including emergency services, which might require evacuation by helicopter or airplane. Remember to carry your insurance policy identity card or other proof of such insurance and a claim form.

WHAT ABOUT MEDICARE?

You are NOT covered by Medicare abroad. The Social Security Medicare program does not provide coverage for hospital or medical costs outside of the United States. Medicare supplement insurance (Medigap) and some Medicare Advantage (private Medicare) plans may provide coverage when you travel outside the U.S. Check with your individual provider for coverage details.

THE "LEIPZIG RESOURCES" PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE has more information and links to educational brochures to help you become more informed about purchasing insurance coverage:

<https://nyro-travel.weebly.com/leipzig-resources.html>

foreign currency and bankcards

local currency

Germany is a member of the European Union and uses the Euro as its currency



getting cash locally

ATMs are one of the easiest ways to get local currency and often have the best exchange rates. They are easily found in Leipzig and most offer an English language option.

IMPORTANT: YOUR PIN CODE

European cash machines do not accept PIN numbers longer than 4 digits; if your PIN is longer than 4 digits, get a new PIN before you travel. Most ATM keypads in Europe have numbers only; if your PIN contains letters, make note of the numeric equivalents prior to leaving home.

Here are some tips to reduce the potential for problems with your bankcard in Europe:

1) Make sure your ATM card is linked to a checking account ONLY.

ATMs outside of the United States generally cannot verify balances in savings or money market accounts and thus do not allow withdrawals from those types of accounts. If your ATM card is linked to a savings or money market account, ask your bank to issue you an extra ATM card that is linked only to your checking account.

2) Make sure you know the daily withdrawal limits for each card you are carrying on your trip.

3) Watch out for weekends.

Some European banks don't update their databases over the weekend. That means that if you've withdrawn the maximum amount on Friday, you may not be able to get more money on that card until Monday morning.



4) Contact your bank before you leave to notify them of your travel dates and the countries to which you will be traveling.

Do this for each ATM, debit and/or credit card you plan to carry on your trip. It's also a good idea to request a direct-dial number for customer service from your bank, as it can be troublesome to dial an 800- or toll-free number from abroad.

Mädler Passage with statues from Goethe's "Faust"



general information

APPS for smartphones and tablets



Bach Museum

A complete guide to the Bach Museum Leipzig, including commentary on the life and work of J. S. Bach, a musical family tree, sound tubes, a virtual orchestra and the Listening Studio where you can immerse yourself in the world of Bach's music.



Leipziger Notenspur The Leipzig Music Trail

This app takes you on a walking tour of over 400 years of music in Leipzig.

At 23 stations you can get information about places and people of interest with entertaining and informative audio descriptions and musical excerpts, plus interesting facts and links to additional information.



Leipzig Bach Festival App

Before the festival: Browse through the festival program, read up about concerts, artists, and venues of the Leipzig Bach Festival! During the festival: Receive all relevant updates on concerts, last-minute offers and other features onto your mobile device in real time. The perfect assistant for your stay at the Bachfest.



CityWalks Leipzig

Self-guided walking tours with detailed route maps and helpful navigation features, including turn-by-turn walking directions. And best of all: neither data plan nor roaming is needed!.

tipping in Germany

restaurants

Tipping is expected and while most restaurant bills include *Bedienung* (service charge), it is customary to add 5% or 10% as a gratuity. The tip can be handed to the server directly or can be handed over together with the money for the bill. Just say "Stimmt so," ("That's alright") and you won't get any change back. Germans usually do NOT leave the tip at the table when they leave the restaurant.

hotel

If you stay more than two or three days in a hotel, it is customary to leave something for the housekeeping staff; about EUR 1.00 per day. The housekeeping staff may change during the week, so it's best to leave a tip every day.

Give EUR 1.00 per bag to the bellman and EUR 1.00 to the doorman who hails you a taxi.

If the concierge has been very helpful, it is customary to leave a tip of EUR 10 to EUR 15, depending on the level of service.

transportation

Train and airport porters should receive EUR 1.00 to EUR 1.50 per bag. Tip taxi drivers 10% of the fare, or round up to a higher amount on short trips.

theaters and concert halls

Tip EUR .50-1.00 for the usher and EUR .50-1.00 to the coat-check attendant.

time zone

Germany is on Central European Time (CET).

This makes it 6 hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Time and 9 hours ahead of Pacific Time.

EST + 6 and PST + 9 hours

internet access

The Steigenberger Hotel provides wireless Internet access free of charge for all guests throughout the hotel.

electricity

The electrical current in Germany is 230 volts, 50 cycles (230V/50Hz).

Wall outlets generally take plugs with the standard European two round prongs.



The vast majority of consumer electronics (including laptops, cameras, tablets, smartphones, and e-readers) come with universal power adapters that can operate within the 100-240 volt range. If your gadget's power adapter says something like "Input: 100-240VAC," all you'll need is the appropriate power plug adapter to recharge your electronics. You won't need a converter.

what to eat in Leipzig

Love Leipzig, love its food!

For centuries, the people of Leipzig and visitors to this cosmopolitan city have been able to enjoy a host of tasty specialties, from a *Scheelchen Heeßen* (a cup of coffee) to accompany a piece of *Leipziger Lerche* (Leipzig Lark, a cake made with short crust pastry) to a dish of *Leipziger Allerlei* (Leipzig Allsorts, a hearty dish of mixed vegetables), matched with a glass of *Leipziger Gose*, the local beer. Here is a primer on local, traditional cuisine in Leipzig:



The large variety of Leipzig specialties reflects the high standard of living enjoyed for centuries by the people of Leipzig in comparison with the surrounding areas. The best-known delicacy is a hearty vegetable dish known as *Leipziger Allerlei*. Unlike the pre-cooked frozen versions available in many supermarkets, the traditional handed-down recipe calls for morels, prawns, and bread dumplings along with the various baby vegetables like carrots, kohlrabi, asparagus, and cauliflower.

The *Leipziger Lerche* is a tasty dessert that's popular in the city and far beyond. When the hunting of larks for pie-making was banned by the King of Saxony in 1876, the enterprising bakers of Leipzig immediately came up with a substitute for the popular delicacy: using short crust pastry, almonds, nuts and marzipan they made imitations of the song bird's nest. They cleverly added a dollop of strawberry jam inside to symbolize the lark's heart.



The original *Bachtaler* cakes make for an excellent gift idea. They were created in the year 2000 by the patissier René Kandler to mark the 250th anniversary of the death of Johann Sebastian Bach. The Bachtaler cake is an exquisite confection made of chocolate-coated ganache containing a coffee bean enclosed in hazelnut pastry. By contrast, *Leipziger Rübchen* are rather reminiscent of doughnuts, and are always prepared fresh and served warm. They are made of prunes filled with marzipan and pressed into a pancake mix, then shaped into balls and rolled in cinnamon sugar.

The Best of the Wurst

The German love affair with *wurst* (sausage) dates from the dawn of history. Every region of Germany has its own specialty, but everybody's favorite seems to be *bratwurst* from Nürnberg, made of seasoned and spiced pork, beef or veal and usually grilled or pan fried. Dating back to 1313, the *bratwurst* has over 40 different varieties varying in size, seasonings and texture. It is often served as a snack with or in a *Brötchen* (white bread roll) with spicy German mustard.

Tradition has it that white sausage, called *Weisswurst*, should be eaten only between midnight and noon. *Bauernwurst* is country-style farmer's sausage. *Knackwurst* are short and plump sausages that contain ground veal, ground pork and fresh garlic. They are aged for two to five days and then smoked over oak wood. Knackwurst sausages are traditionally served with sauerkraut and potato salad.

Currywurst is a very popular fast-food dish in Germany. It is to Germans what the hot dog is to Americans. As *currywurst* is the bestselling sausage in the country, it is a culture icon. It was invented in 1949 in Berlin by Herta Heuwer after obtaining ketchup and curry powder from British soldiers in Germany. *Currywurst* starts with sausage (usually a *bratwurst*) that is steamed and then fried, either whole or cut into slices, before the combination of ketchup (or tomato paste) and curry powder is poured on top for seasoning.



what to drink in Leipzig

German Wines

While primarily a white wine country, red wine production surged in the 1990s and early 2000s. Here is a guide to white wines:

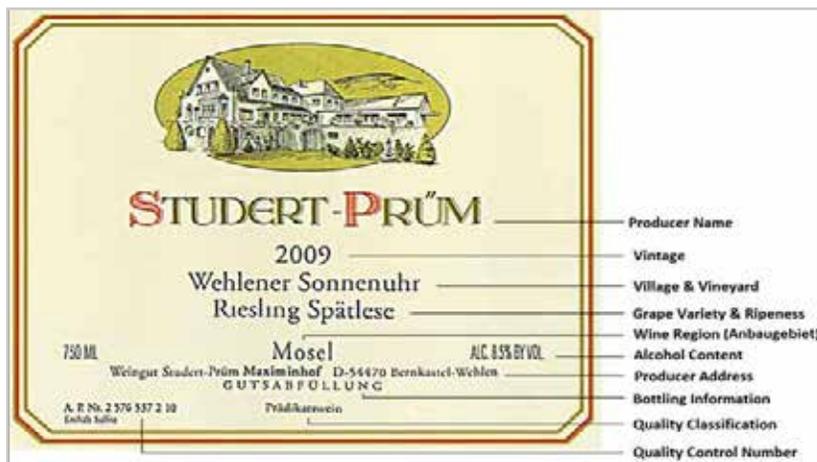


German law distinguishes between **Tafelwein (table wine)** and **Qualitätswein (quality wine)**. **QbA on a bottle** means the wine is made from the approved grape varieties, which will give it the particular and traditional taste of its region.

Kabinett is especially good as an aperitif with light snacks. The mildly sweet and fruity **Auslese** from the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer region and the rich **Spätlese** are well suited to richer dishes such as duck and oysters. The words **trocken (dry)** or

halbtrocken (semi-dry) are often given on the labels; look for them if you want to escape anything sweet.

Those *trocken* and *halbtrocken* Rieslings from the Rheingau and Mosel-Saar-Ruwer are perfect with pork, sausages, and sauerkraut as well as with mild cheeses. A fuller-bodied Riesling *Spätlese* and *Auslese Trocken* from Rheingau or Pfalz goes excellently with wild boar and lobster. The rarest vintages, those sweet wines carrying the **BA and TBA designations**, are best left for anything oily or pungent in flavor, such as goose liver pâté or rich cheeses. They are also wonderful with desserts!



The overload of information on a German wine label is often puzzling to foreigners, but it's not really that hard to decipher. First of all, the grape variety should be indicated. The classic is *Riesling*, which can range widely in taste from fruity to spicy. Other grapes include *Weisburgunder*, used to make dry wines, often with an aroma of melon or pear, and *Scheurebe*, which produces delicious, high-quality wine with the aroma of red currant.



BEER VOCABULARY

For variety and quality, German beer is excellent! The world's oldest brewery is in Bavaria, but other regions in Germany also have proud beer-making traditions.

To go into a German beer hall and ask simply for a beer (*ein Bier*) would brand you a beer illiterate. Connoisseurs specify the type of beer they want and often the brewery.

Schwartzbier is a generic designation for all dark beers.

Doppelbock is an extra dark beer with a 6% alcoholic content.

Helles, believe it or not, is the name for light-colored beers.

The denizens of Düsseldorf and Frankfurt can often be heard requesting **Alt**, a brown, barley-malt brew.

Hefeweizen is a yeasty wheat beer consumed often with a squeeze of lemon.

Leipziger Gose is a top-fermenting wheat beer (60% wheat, 40% barley malt) with coriander, salt, and lactic acid added in the boil. It is a 4.6% alc/vol eclectic beer whose name evokes a close relationship to the Lambic/Geuze breweries in the Valley Senne near Brussels, Belgium.