

LEIPZIG  
REGION



Architecture

Leipzig

# *Unique Courtyards and Arcades*

Strolling and Shopping





## *Arcades and Courtyards*

They are places to wander, a shopping paradise, places of art and culture or architectural gems – Leipzig’s unique arcades, courtyards and trade fair palaces. 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 shopping arcades 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 arcades and courtyards are not only preserved, but new ones are also being built.

Probably one of the most famous arcades is the Mädler-Passage with the restaurant Auerbachs Keller, 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 arcades, courtyards and trade fair palaces and be enchanted by their charm and architectural diversity!



### *Barthels Hof* 27

The last remaining trade court from the trade fair period in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is one of the city’s most notable buildings. In the interior courtyard, the cranes that were used to hoist goods up to the storage rooms can still be seen. The Neo Baroque street front 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 residential building.



## *From the Beginnings ...*



### **500 years of architectural presence**

The first trade court in Leipzig was built by Heinrich Stromer von Auerbach from 1530 to 1538. Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> century the trade fair flourished and led the famous Auerbachs Hof to massive importance for 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 buildings, there were many different facades at this time.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 on the Market Square.

### *Mädler-Passage* 2

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 restaurant “Auerbachs Keller”, where part of Goethe’s drama “Faust” was set, was kept. A Meissen porcelain carillon bears witness to the fact that the Mädler-Passage was originally used for trading porcelain, ceramics and stoneware.



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## *... to the Present*

### New shapes in the trade fair city of Leipzig

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Städtisches 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.



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The classic arcade also became fashionable at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 arcade from the arcades' heyday.

### Shop in style

During GDR times, many of the historical arcades 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.

### Leipzig Arcade Festival

As unique as the buildings themselves: Every first Friday in September Leipzig's arcades and courtyards host a festival with many culinary and cultural delights. Enjoy the unique flair of the arcades during extended opening times until midnight, marvel at the impressive architecture and go for a shopping tour. Have fun!

LEIPZIGER

Passagenfest

Passagen &amp; Höfe





### 1 Old City Hall

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 Leipzig Museum of City History, provides a link between Market Square and Naschmarkt with the Alte Handelsbörse (Old Stock Exchange).



### 2 Mädler-Passage

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 theatre and the famous Auerbachs Keller, which ranks among the world’s most famous restaurants. Together with the Königshauspassage and the Messehofpassage, the stretch of shops forms a unique system of arcades.

### 3 Königshauspassage

Königshaus at the Market Square owes its Baroque front to a renovation in 1706 / 07. During the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 included the arcade in the building which was converted into a sample trade fair building.

### 4 Messehofpassage

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 arcade.

### 5 Bauwenshaus

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 courtyards in Leipzig.

### 6 Petersbogen

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 arcade contains retail shops, a cinema multiplex with eight screens, a casino and more.

### 7 Stentzlers Hof\*

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

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 been playing at the Dresdner Hof.



## 9 Städtisches Kaufhaus

After the transition from trade fair to sample fair at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, new forms of trade fair buildings appeared. The world’s earliest example of this is the Städtisches 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 4,500 square metres of space to display their products. The historic concert hall of the Gewandhaus had to make way for the building.



## 10 Handelshof

Finished in 1909, the Handelshof was the second trade fair palace built in Leipzig after the Städtisches Kaufhaus. Alongside shops, the building also houses a luxury grand hotel today. It is now once again possible to walk through the arcade connecting Naschmarkt with Reichsstraße.

## 11 Speck’s Hof

The arcade connected to the Hansa Haus in Speck’s Hof is the oldest remaining in Leipzig. Before the trade fair palace was built between 1908 and 1929, a department store belonging to the Baron of Speck had been situated here. Up to 1989, Speck’s Hof was used as an exhibition space for leather goods and jewellery. 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 palace one of Leipzig’s architectural highlights.

## 12 Hansa Haus

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 interior 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 Chinese design which can be used to create extraordinary sounds.

## 13 Inner courtyard of the University

The newly constructed building of the Leipzig University has its own row of shops. The Leibnitz monument made by sculptor Ernst Julius Hähnel is



situated in the inner courtyard and creates an interesting contrast to the modern backside of the Paulinum.

#### 14 Theaterpassage

The passageway was built into Leipzig's first multi-storey building, the Krochhochhaus, in 1927/28 as a shortcut to the former Neues Theater (new theatre) – now the opera house – on Augustusplatz.

#### 15 Strohsackpassage

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

Architect Max Pommer built the stately fur-trading building in 1907/08, as one of the largest courtyards in the centre of Leipzig. Since the restoration of the whole complex, the impressive neo-Baroque sandstone

facade on Nikolaistraße has a new gleam. The insides of the complex were largely gutted and rebuilt, so that the courtyard exudes modernity with its clean lines.

#### 17 Blauer Hecht\*

The former fur-trading edifice (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 is a silent reminder of former times.

#### 18 Steibs Hof/ Dussmann-Passage

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

#### 19 Ritterpassage

This contemporary interpretation of the alleyway – albeit without a roof – provides a quick link from the central station to the city centre.

#### 20 Brühl-Arkade

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

## 21 Kretschmanns Hof Blauer und goldener Stern

The commercial building, completed in 1912, has now been restored in accordance with guidelines for the protection of historical buildings and monuments. The spacious, white-tiled courtyard, where you will also find the entrance to the “Leipziger Pfeffermühle” cabaret, is worth a visit. 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).



## 22 Jägerhof

Commissioned by the Councillor of Commerce, Chr. Jäger, the sample trade fair palace was built between 1911 and 1920 according to plans drawn up by the Leipzig architect Alfred Müller. Decorated with white tiles, the three sunlit courtyards create an elegant, friendly atmosphere – in the first inner courtyard, the decorative wall fountain captures attention with its water-spouting mask. The Passage cinema in the arcade attracts many cinema-lovers every day.



## 23 Kleines Joachimsthal

The history of the Baroque building Kleines Joachimsthal house in the Kleine Fleischergasse goes back to 1606. Originally it was a residence and warehouse. It has now been sensitively restored, and the arcade with its impressive cross vaults has been awakened from its fairy-tale slumber. A former trading yard and a further passageway eventually lead to Hainstraße.

## 24 Großer Joachimsthal

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 arcade are connected through a bridge on the inside.

## 25 Hof Neubau

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.

## 26 Webers Hof / 27 Barthels Hof

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

## 28 König-Albert-Haus

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 cabaret “Leipziger Central Kabarett” opened in the König-Albert-Haus.



### 29 Handwerkerpassage

This late classical building right on the Market Square originates from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the last remaining examples of the alleyway buildings of the trade fair today. The alleyway to Kloster-gasse once had 41 salesrooms. The craftsmen's arcade was inaugurated in 1989 and is in keeping with this tradition. Be sure to take a look at the fancy fountain!

### 30 Marktgalerie

Completed in 2005, this is the newest of the Leipzig arcades. 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\*

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 complemented by modern elements. In the internal sunlit courtyard one can marvel at the fountain.

### B Galeria Kaufhof\*

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 arcades via four entrances and exits.

### C Höfe am Brühl\*

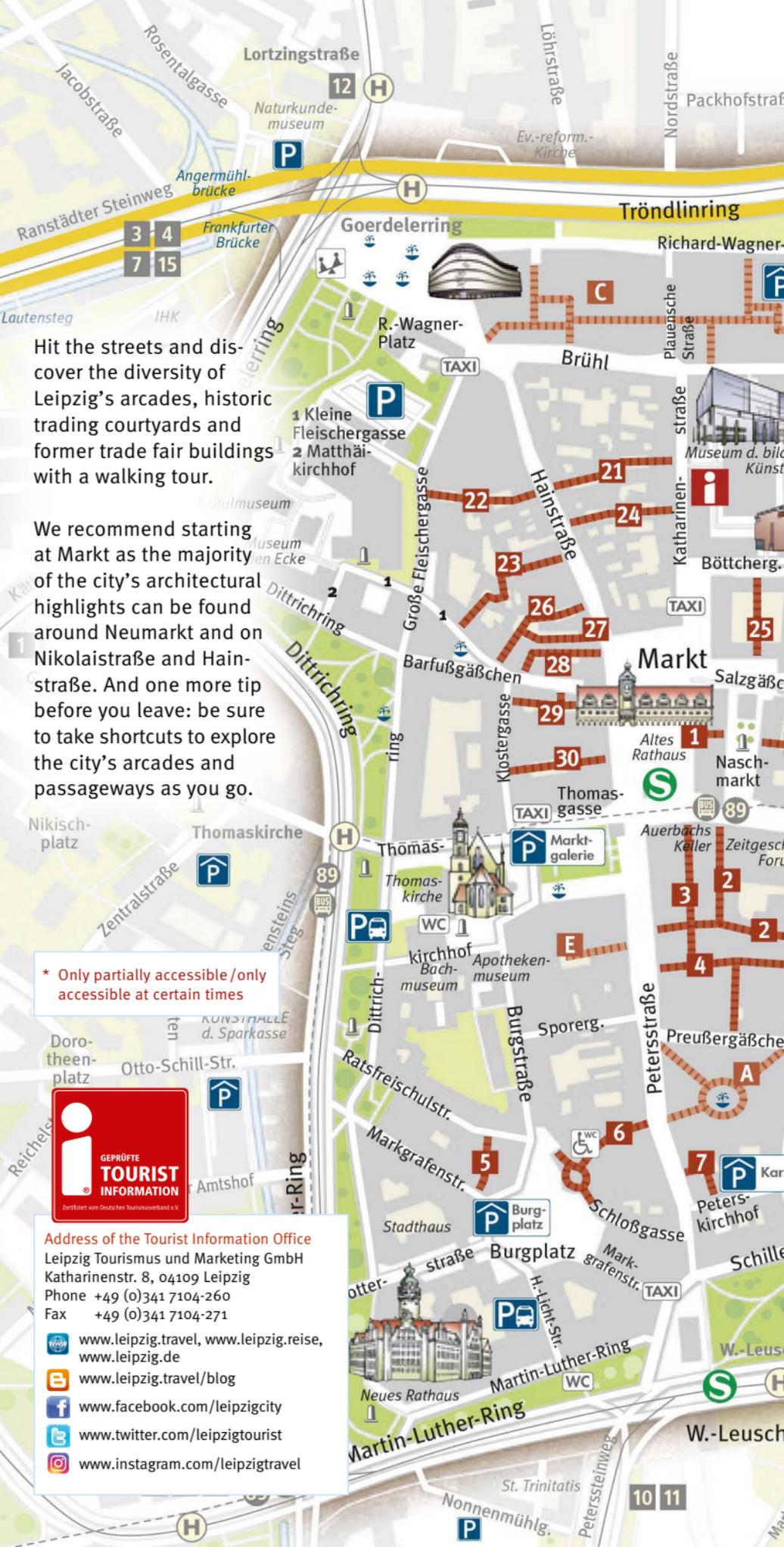
An unmissable treat for shopping enthusiasts. The new building complex incorporates the building known locally as the "Blechbüchse" (tin can). The striking 1960s aluminium facade is a memento of the former department store on the same spot. With four sunlit courtyards and designed in an arcade style, the new shopping centre ties in with Leipzig's construction tradition.

### D Promenaden\*

The Promenaden in Leipzig's Central Station offer a variety of shopping opportunities. The three floors with shops are like an arcade of its own. Europe's biggest terminal station has a lively shopping area and is also used as a venue for a variety of events.

### E Petershof\*

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. 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.



Hit the streets and discover the diversity of Leipzig's arcades, historic trading courtyards and former trade fair buildings with a walking tour.

We recommend starting at Markt as the majority of the city's architectural highlights can be found around Neumarkt and on Nikolaistraße and Hainstraße. And one more tip before you leave: be sure to take shortcuts to explore the city's arcades and passageways as you go.

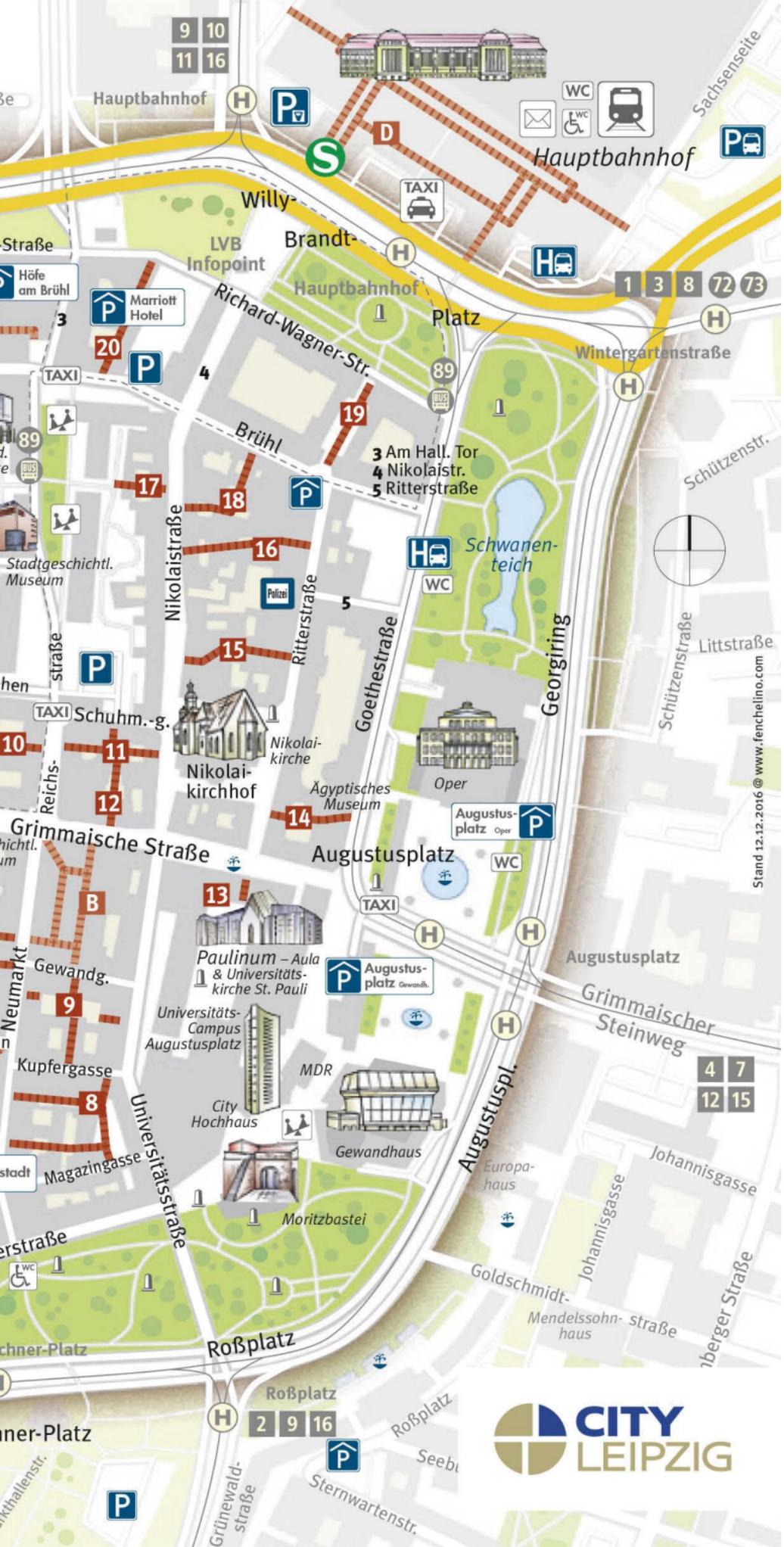
\* Only partially accessible / only accessible at certain times



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- 1 Kleine Fleischergasse
- 2 Matthäikirchhof



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## *Travel offers and guided tours*

Guided tours of the city's arcades for groups etc. can be booked through:

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