



25 Years of the Peaceful Revolution

Leipziger Freiheit

Leipzig Tourismus
und Marketing GmbH

25 Years of the Peaceful Revolution



“We are the People”

On 9 October 1989, Leipzig set down the cornerstone for German Unity. On this day, the major decisive demonstrations took place against the former regime of the GDR - 70,000 people paved the way for foundational changes. With the call “We are the People” and “No Violence” they gathered to march across the inner ring of the Leipzig city centre. Their non-violent protest and their advocacy for freedom and democracy set up the conditions for the fall of the Wall, the unity of Germany and Europe.

On 9 October 2014, in various ways, Leipzig is compelled to look at the events of that time and the legacy 25 years later. In this context, the Prayer for Peace and the Leipzig Festival of Lights constitute the focal venues. On the subsequent long Leipzig-Themed Weekend, numerous cultural institutions deal with the Autumn of 1989. The authentic places of the Peaceful Revolution will be part of a panorama, which accompanies the Festival of Lights as a dynamic trail of culture.

A regularly updated overview of the events can be found at www.leipziger-freiheit.de/en/festival-of-lights.

» Extracts from the Programme 9 to 12 October

» 9 October 2014

Prayer for Peace, 17:00, St. Nicholas Church

In Leipzig, opposition groups had begun organising Peace Prayers since 1982. In 1989, out of these prayers and the subsequent Monday Demonstrations, an uprising emerged in Leipzig as the initial spark for the so-called Autumn Revolution. Non-violence as a means of political confrontation connects all participants of the Peace Prayers to this day.

» 9 October 2014

Festival of Lights, 19:00, Beginning at Augustusplatz

For the 25th anniversary, the Leipzig Festival of Lights again stretches over the entire inner ring of the city centre, along the historical demonstration route of 1989. International artists create, through light, sound and video, changing points of view and produce contemporary references. Places along the route will be thematically accented to accompany their historical developments. A quarter of a century after the Peaceful Revolution, freedom of thought and a civic sense of community can be once again experienced.

The first Festival of Lights, in 2009, set into place a new artistic format of commemoration as an event of active participation, dignified memorial and common experience. The artistic and civic project of the Festival of Lights is one of a kind worldwide. The journey of the participants through the historically authentic places distinguishes it from others, mostly static event formats. The participants are active players.





» 10 to 12 October 2014

Trail of Culture, various locations in the City

The Festival of Lights is followed by a long weekend with offerings from cultural institutions - among others, churches, museums and theatres - that deal with the events of 1989. This will be part of a panorama, which invites as a Trail of Culture into commemoration.

» 10 October 2014

Premiere, 19:30, Schauspiel Leipzig theatre

Schauspiel Leipzig opens its 2014/2015 season with the motto "Times of Upheaval" with the new production of a play, which also had its premiere 25 years ago: Heiner Müller's "Wolokolamsker Chaussee I-V."

'89

» Extracts from the Programme - Guided & Walking Tours

» September and October 2014

Walking Tour, "Peaceful Revolution - Autumn '89 in Leipzig"

Dates: 9 October, 15:00 | 10 October, 11:30 and 15:00 | 11 October, 11:30 and 16:00, Duration: 90 minutes, Dates and durations will be made flexible for groups!

The thematic tours introduce the focal points of the events of Autumn 1989. Among others, St. Nicholas Church, Augustusplatz and the former district administration of the Stasi, the state security forces, will be visited.

» Starting Spring 2014

Untold Stories, Geocaching Project

"Untold Stories" is a project on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution, which starts in spring 2014 with workshops. Starting in October, the results will be presented: 15 "treasure chests" will then be hidden throughout all of Saxony, which are to be found with the help of GPS coordinates. With this geocaching, those interested can trace the events of Autumn '89.

» Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays at 17:00 and Saturdays at 11:00 Tour of St. Nicholas Church

In the events of Autumn 1989, St. Nicholas Church received international attention. It is still "open for all" today and is still a major attraction for many people in the heart of Leipzig.



» Extracts from the Programme - Museums, Places & Monuments

- » 24 September 2014 to 4 January 2015,
Museum of City History Leipzig
Exhibition "Freiheit! Einheit! Denkmal!"

"Freedom! Unity! Monument! looks at the history of political monuments in the last 150 years in Leipzig.
- » 8 October to 5 November 2014,
Federal official responsible for Stasi documents, Leipzig branch
Exhibition „The Blue Series -
Strong Women of the Peaceful Revolution“

Opening on 7 October 2014, 19:00, Exhibition by Gudrun Bořar
- » Year-round, Memorial Museum in the "Round Corner"
Exhibition "Leipzig on the Way to the Peaceful Revolution"

The exhibition presents one of the most important epochs of contemporary German history. It commemorates, among others, the actions of the opposition in Leipzig and the downfall of the SED dictatorship.
- » Year-round, Forum of Contemporary History Leipzig
Exhibition

On a 2,000 square meter area, the history of dictatorship, opposition and civil courage, as well as the Peaceful Revolution and the process of unification are unfolded.
- » Year-round, St. Nicholas Church Grounds and Pillar

In the year 1989, the protest took over public space. Since 1999, on the St. Nicholas Church grounds a replica of a column from the nave of the church has commemorated this as the starting point of the Monday Demonstrations. Visitors can experience the light installation "public light - öffentliches Licht" on the church grounds. It is a metaphor for the active will of the people in Leipzig.
- » Year-round, School Museum

Three periods of the history of schools in Leipzig will fill an 800 square metre exhibition area. "School in the Imperial Era," "School under the Swastika" and "School in the DDR."
- » Year-round, Stasi Bunker Museum (in Machern)

This is the former emergency command of the director of the district administration for state security in Leipzig. The core structure on the grounds is the bunker, built between 1968 and 1972.


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www.leipziger-freiheit.de

Travel Offers
www.leipzig.travel

 www.leipzig.travel/blog

 www.facebook.com/leipzigcity

 www.twitter.com/leipzigtourist

 www.youtube.com/LeipzigTourismus
www.youtube.com/LELeipzigerFreiheit