

Your visit begins with us.

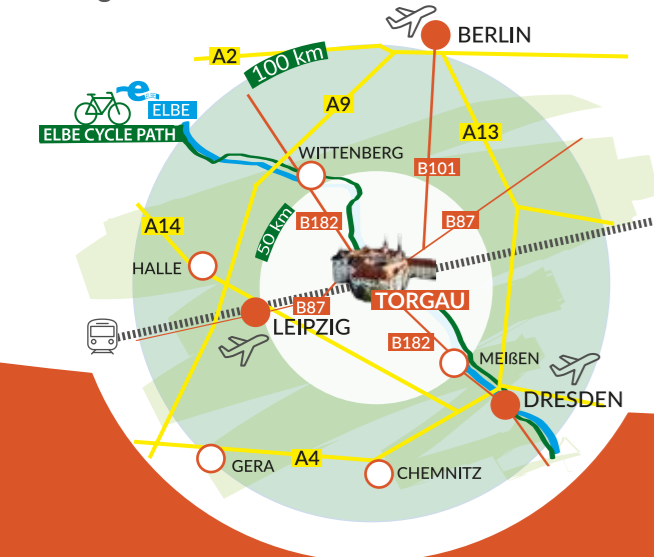
TORGAU-INFORMATION-CENTER:

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Opening Hours

May to September:
Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday, Holiday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(Shortened opening times from October to April)

Your way to Torgau



We warmly welcome you
to our city full of history and life!!



Editor Torgauer Tourismus und Service GmbH
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Recreation

Active and Relaxed

The Elbe is Torgau's lifeline. Today, people no longer only fish on or by the river, but also paddle, row, cycle and hike. Torgau's water hiking rest area, just 5 minutes' walk from the historic old town, invites water tourists to linger. You can moor your boat free of charge for up to 3 days from March to October and easily pull it ashore via a slipway.

The large pond and the Aquavita sports and leisure pool in Torgau with its bathing and sauna area and a wellness oasis also offer a wide range of opportunities to be active and relax.

Those who enjoy hiking can enjoy a network of well-developed and thematically diverse trails, including the Luther Trail and the „Heide-Biber-Tour“ with the quality seal „Wanderbares Deutschland Quality Trail“. Many paths also lead you into the surrounding forests of the Dahleener and Dübener Heide.

Coming from the Elbe Cycle Path, you will find everything a cyclist's heart desires in Torgau: bike-friendly accommodation, charging stations and bike garages. The youth hostel in the immediate vicinity of Hartenfels Castle welcomes young and old alike.



Family Time

Discoveries with Games and Walks

Torgau is exactly the right excursion and holiday destination for families and children. The distances are short and in just over an hour you can walk through around 1,000 years of city history. During the public city and audio tours you will learn interesting and amazing things. You will also encounter a few superlatives: the Mohrenapotheke, one of the oldest pharmacies in Electoral Saxony, awaits you on the market square. Its existence dates back to the 16th century.

Behind the town church of St. Marien lies the historically connected apothecary's garden. The famous „Kreutter book“ by Johann Kentmann has its origins here. Germany's oldest toy shop is located on Bäckerstrasse: „Spielzeug-Loebner“ has been serving children since 1685. The exhibition in the City History Museum also includes the private toy collection of the Loebner family from Torgau.

In any case, the Torgau museums and exhibitions have a lot of exciting things in store for young guests. The playgrounds in the old town and on the grounds of the former State Garden Show invite you to romp and climb. Young people are enthusiastic about the skate park there. The many cycling and hiking trails are ideal for a family tour, for example around the Great Pond. And if you are looking for a feast and refreshment, you will find it in the city's restaurants, along the watercourse in Bäckerstraße, on the market square and on the Elbe.

Museum

... colossal: Museums, Galleries and Exhibitions

The Torgau Museum Trail is unique in Saxony. It consists of lovingly restored houses and tells of the culture and way of life of bygone times.

Be sure to visit the former Electoral Chancellery, one of the most important buildings in Torgau. Today it houses the City and Cultural History Museum. After extensive restoration, the original condition of the 16th century can be experienced again in the Kanzleihaus.

Continue to the Katharina-Luther-Stube. It is located in the death house of Martin Luther's wife and is the only museum dedicated to the „energetic Lutherin“. The priest's house of Georg Spalatin is the only pre-Reformation, late-Gothic priest's house that has been preserved in Torgau and is important for the whole of Saxony as a testament to priestly living culture.

In the lapidarium, the oldest vaulted cellar in Hartenfels Castle, impressive stone witnesses to the building history of the castle, original ornamental sandstone architecture and sculptural exhibits are presented.

In the magnificent Mayor-Ringenhain House, the lifestyle of the wealthy citizens of Torgau can be guessed at, while the historic craftsman's house impressively illustrates the living conditions of the poorest residents in the past. The Hahnemann House commemorates Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy. These and many other museums and exhibitions in Torgau will inspire you!

Culture & Conviviality

... without End

Torgau knows how to party. Glamorous festivals were held here as early as the Renaissance, often with several thousand guests. Even today, culture is very important in Torgau. There are numerous events throughout the year, many of which are part of the city's regular programme. For example, the annual „Elbe Day“ in April, a peace celebration with lots of open-air music that brings people from near and far together.

In June, the Festival Week of Protestant Church Music offers listening pleasure at the highest level. It is followed by the International Saxon Singer Academy, which attracts young singers from all over the world to Torgau every July.

In August and September, the Torgau cultural summer attracts its guests with theatre, concerts and musicals. At „In Flammen“ and other summer open air events, numerous bands rock the area around the Great Pond and delight thousands of fans. During the garden nights that take place in summer, you will discover historical and hidden gardens with tastings and concerts. On the occasion of „Luthers Kirchweih“ Torgau celebrates a big city festival in October, where the whole city is illuminated!

When fishing at the Great Pond in November, you can not only watch the fishermen at work, but also buy fresh fish and enjoy all kinds of delicacies. In December, the traditional Torgau fairy tale Christmas market opens its doors. Experience a cozy and beautiful pre-Christmas period here.



TORGAU

History full of Life

www.tic-torgau.de

Torgau

Living History in magnificent Settings

In April 1945, the eyes of the whole world were on this city, because this is where the US and Soviet armies met, marking the beginning of the end of Nazi rule. But world history was written in Torgau 400 years earlier. The Saxon elector resided here and the political center of the Reformation was located here.

First mentioned as „Torgowe“ in 973, once a fishing village and later the capital of the Electorate of Saxony, Torgau is now considered one of the most beautiful Renaissance cities in Germany. More than 600 individual monuments, mainly from the Renaissance, can be found here. They tell of Torgau's heyday in the 16th century.

Immerse yourself in the lively history of the city: Walk in the footsteps of Luther, Cranach, Katharina von Boras and Napoleon to Torgau's more recent and moving past during World War II and the GDR. Museums, exhibitions, markets and numerous events of different genres offer a diverse program for friends of culture and lifestyle. Families, nature lovers and sports enthusiasts also get their money's worth. Torgau is idyllically situated in the middle of the Elbe meadows and is surrounded by large forest and heath areas. Whether playground adventure or bird watching, bike tour or hike, wellness or water fun, everything is possible here! Discover, experience and enjoy Torgau: The Saxon pearl on the Elbe. ■

Reformation

Luther, Cranach and the Churches of the City

Torgau was the political center of the Reformation in the 16th century. As powerful protectors of Luther, the Saxon electors forged alliances and negotiated peace agreements. For his Protestant faith, John Frederick the Magnanimous went to war against the most powerful ruler in the empire, the Kaiser, and even against his own family.

On your way through Torgau you will find numerous authentic Reformation sites, including the Castle Church. Built according to Luther's ideas of a simple church, it is regarded as the prototype of Protestant church building and was inaugurated by him personally on October 5, 1544 with a sermon. Johann Walter, „Urkanstor“ of Protestant church music, worked here.

Another important place in the city is the large late Gothic hall church of St. Marien. To the left of her altar, a prominent tombstone attracts many visitors every year: it is the tombstone of Katharina von Bora, Martin Luther's wife. She died in Torgau and was buried here with great sympathy from the population.

Electoral Frederick the Wise recognized Lucas Cranach the Elder's talent and brought him to his court as a painter. Traces of the Renaissance painter can be found not only in the castle. ■

Napoleon

and the Torgau Fortress

Torgau was repeatedly at the center of Saxon, European and world-historical politics.

Torgau also played an important strategic role for Napoleon Bonaparte. Between 1811 and 1813 he had the city expanded into a fortress to secure the Elbe line. A hexagonal main fortress with six bastions and two semi-final bastions arose on the Elbe, as well as the bridgehead east of the river in the form of a crown work.

Up to 26,000 French soldiers were housed in Torgau in 1813, while the town itself had only 5,000 inhabitants. After the Prussian victory over Napoleon and their siege, Torgau Fortress became Prussian in 1814. Under this rule it was further expanded and used as a garrison.

The former flank casemate can be admired. Today it is a cultural center known as Kulturbastion with a wide range of events.

Today's city park was created from the glacis of the fortress. It encloses the historic old town like a green belt. Adjacent to this is Bastion VII.

Torgau Fortress is the only large Saxon fortress that has been partially preserved. ■

20th Century

in lasting Memory

The name Torgau went around the world when, on April 25, 1945, soldiers from the Soviet Army and US soldiers shook hands on the rubble of the destroyed Torgau Elbe Bridge. To this day, the photo of the „Torgau handshake“ symbolizes the end of World War II and liberation from National Socialist tyranny. In memory of this historic encounter, Torgau celebrates the „Elbe Day“ every year in April: a commemoration, open-air music on the banks of the Elbe and a colorful cultural program bring many international guests together. In this way, understanding between nations and generations remains alive.

But Torgau also faces the dark chapters of its history. In the 20th century the city became a place of detention. The exhibition „Torgau as a place of remembrance. Judicial injustice – dictatorship – resistance“ provides information about a Wehrmacht prison in World War II as well as about a Soviet special camp and a GDR prison that were located in Torgau.

With the permanent exhibition „I was born human and I want to get out of here as a human being! – The closed youth detention center in Torgau in the educational system of the GDR“, documents the memorial center in Torgau the repressive power structures of the education and training apparatus in the GDR and commemorates the young victims of the re-education practice of the time. ■

Hartenfels Castle

Here the Bears are loose

Hartenfels Castle is the best-preserved castle of the German early Renaissance and is considered the most beautiful of that time. In the 16th century, Elector Johann Friedrich literally had his claim to power and his commitment to the Reformation carved in stone with the elaborate conversion and expansion of the palace. An example of this is the daring architecture of the Großer Wendelstein, a 28 meter high, double-spiral spiral staircase with no internal pillars. It dominates the imposing inner courtyard. Hartenfels Castle reflects the heyday of the Renaissance in Torgau and, as the main and secondary residence of the Saxon princes, was the venue for glittering festivals, state assemblies and royal weddings. At the time, Cranach and his workshop were commissioned to design the castle in a manner befitting its status.

Fragments of the opulent works have been preserved to this day, such as the wall paintings in the mysterious mirror room that crowns the Wendelstein, as well as paintings on the beautiful bay window. Exhibitions in the castle provide information about its history and about the life of the electors on Hartenfels around 500 years ago. The multimedia exhibition „Steadfast, Pious and a heavy Drinker.“ in the former electoral chambers also deals with the fortress history of the palace.

Bear trapping for Hartenfels Castle is documented as early as the 15th century. The bears that now live in the castle moat inspire visitors. In the 1970s, Hartenfels Castle even served as a film set for the DEFA fairy tale film „Sleeping Beauty“. ■

Stud Graditz

Center of Horse breeding

Horse lovers will find their joy just outside the gates of Torgau. The Graditz stud farm located here has a long and rich history. As early as 1240, Cistercian monks took over the village of „Villa Grautitz“ and extended it to the Graditz monastery. In addition to agriculture, horse breeding was also cultivated.

In 1686 Elector Johann Georg III. founded the court stud Graditz. And in 1722, August the Strong opened the Saxon main stud in Graditz, built by master builder Matthäus Daniel Pöppelmann. Pöppelmann, known for the Dresden Zwinger as his main work, also created the impressive Graditz Castle. A new visitor trail and the stud museum provide information about the centuries-old tradition of horse breeding. By 1989, fifteen winners of the Hoppegarten Derby emerged from the Graditz breed.

In 1992, the Graditz main stud, the Moritzburg state stud and the state riding and driving school were merged with the founding of the Saxon stud administration. The Graditz Stud attaches particular importance to keeping a herd of mares, which is also important for the breeding stallions of the Moritzburg State Stud. ■

