Dresden
City Guide

Dresden.
Welcome!

First impressions of Dresden are that it is a glittering metropolis but by no means one that has been polished smooth. Here in midst of the beautiful Elbe valley, you encounter one of the most enchanting Baroque cities in Europe. Although Dresden’s rich history accompanies the visitor every step of the way, its inhabitants are firmly rooted in the present; they also pride themselves on their hospitality.

Join us on a stroll through the ages. Just like a detailed historic painting, the Old Town unfolds before your eyes – Frauenkirche, the Royal Palace, the Zwinger and the Semperoper together with their wealth of world-famous art treasures.

Yet despite its long history, Dresden has always had its sights firmly fixed on the future. This vibrant, cosmopolitan city is constantly changing, coming up with surprising discoveries and attracting energetic newcomers whilst still remaining true to itself.

Eras, styles, limitless focuses of interest. The jewels of the treasury. The world famous Sistine Madonna. Scientific phenomena. Contemporary art, experimental ideas, amazing discoveries. Dresden’s museums are in a class of their own and impress by virtue of their fascinating collections. Exciting special exhibitions offer inspiring new insights for visitors of every age and interest group. We have marked those museums which we specially recommend for children with an asterisk. Ready to explore?

Come and see for yourself

Museums in Dresden

Panometer Dresden with 360° mural
Gasanstaltstrasse 8b | www.asisi.de
Closed Mondays

Deutsches Hygiene Museum* (29)
with children’s section | www.dhmd.de
Closed Mondays

The Volkswagen Transparent Factory (31)
www.glaesernemanufaktur.de
Open daily

Erich Kästner Museum* (23)
www.erich-kaestner-museum.de
Closed Thursdays and Saturdays
A quick espresso. A light lunch. A refined four-course meal. Crossover cuisine from Michelin-starred chefs. The region’s favourite dish or international specialties. The sheer variety is enough to make the mouth water. In the Old Town, you are never far away from a new dining experience. You will find some fantastic restaurants within the walls of beautiful historic buildings. Or do you prefer small bistros, pubs and trendy restaurants? Then Outer Neustadt is the destination for you.

Dine in the style of Augustus the Strong
In the Pulverturm (Powder Tower) next to the Frauenkirche, it’s like a throwback to the reign of Augustus. Your meal is served in a rustic vaulted cellar. Crispy knuckle of pork and spit-roasted suckling pig are brought piping hot to your table. Also worth a recommendation is the Sophienkeller in the Taschenbergpalais.

Restaurants with a view
The former cigarette factory known as the Yenidze (32) with its oriental glass dome is more than just an architectural curiosity. The panoramic view from the terrace is utterly unique. Another fantastic vantage point is to be found on the hillside above Loschwitz on the Elbe where you can partake of a glass of wine in the Strausswirtschaft at Albrechtsberg Castle, just around the corner on the Lingnerterras sen or at Schloss Eckberg. A historic funicular railway whisks you from Loschwitz on the right bank of the Elbe up to the Luisenhof.

Beer gardens on the Elbe
The Elbe valley is a paradise for fans of the typical German beer garden. We recommend a wine spritzer or a fine draught lager at the Elbsegler next to the Augustus Bridge or at the Schillergarten next to the Blue Wonder Bridge. Whatever your favourite tipple may be.

Michelin-starred restaurants
- „The Carrousel“ in the Hotel Bülow Palais, Königstrasse 14
- „bean & beluga“, Bautzner Strasse 32 (Weisser Hirsch district)
- „Elements DELI & Restaurant“, Königsbrücker Strasse 96
Out and about

Attractions in the area

The wine village of Radebeul
How about a stroll through the romantic vineyards of Lössnitz district? You can explore the historic Hoflößnitz Wine Museum and the Wackerbarth estate which is open to the public. In addition to classic wine tasting sessions, you are sure to find the guided tours most entertaining. Fans of the Wild West will make a beeline for the Karl May Museum which is located in the former home of this master of the fictional genre. (Tram number 4 | Journey time 30 - 40 mins)

Moritzburg Palace
From the station in Radebeul, the historic narrow-gauge railway affectionately known as the Lössnitzdackel (= Dachshund) wends its way through lakeland scenery to Moritzburg, 30 minutes away at the other end of the line. The Baroque palace, familiar to fans of the cult film Three Wishes for Cinderella, is one of the most beautiful moated castles in Europe. An atmospheric walk leads from here to the Fasanenschlösschen (Pheasant Lodge) and the castle lake with pier and lighthouse. (Regional bus from Dresden-Neustadt station | approx 30 mins)

Meissen – famed for its porcelain
The Meissen Porcelain Manufactory enjoys a worldwide reputation. On display in the museum and exhibition workshop are masterpieces in ‘white gold’, both classic and contemporary. An essential part of any visit to Meissen is a walk through the historic Old Town and up the castle hill to the cathedral and Albrechtsburg. (S-Bahn | Journey time approx 40 mins)

Saxon Switzerland
The relaxed way to explore the Elbe Sandstone Mountains – aboard a 100-year-old paddle steamer sailing from Pirna. From the Bastei Rock, you get a panoramic view of the Elbe Valley and beyond. On the opposite bank of the river stands 750-year-old Königstein, the largest fortress in Germany. A great summer destination for families is the cliffside amphitheatre of Felsenbühne Rathen. (S-Bahn | Journey time approx 40 mins)

Bautzen
Founded 1,000 years ago, Bautzen is the main urban centre of the Oberlausitz (Upper Lusatia) region. Ancient Sorbian (Slavonic) traditions live on here, such as the Easter procession on horseback. The historic old town with its many towers is enchanting at any time of year. (Regional rail service | Journey time approx 60 mins)

The silver town of Freiberg
A fully preserved, medieval town centre. One of the world’s most impressive and comprehensive exhibitions of minerals. The famous Silbermann organ in the magnificent Freiberg Cathedral. And all within easy reach of Dresden. (S-Bahn | Journey time approx 45 mins)

Christmas wonderland: Erzgebirge
It would be hard to name any other region that has such a strong tradition of woodcarving as the scenic Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains). During Advent, the village of Seiffen with its workshops becomes a place of pilgrimage for lovers of wooden ornaments. (Bus from Freiberg | Journey time approx 90 mins)

MUSEUMS AND SIGHTSEEING IN THE REGION

Hoflößnitz wine museum
Radebeul, closed Mondays
www.hofloessnitz.de

Schloss Wackerbarth wine estate
Radebeul, open daily
www.schloss-wackerbarth.de
Karl May Museum in Radebeul
with children’s adventure playground
Closed Mondays
www.karl-may-museum.de

Moritzburg Palace
Open daily from April to October
Closed Mondays from November to February
www.schloss-moritzburg.de

Museum of Meissen Art®
in the porcelain manufactory
Open daily
www.meissen.de

Meissen Cathedral
Open daily
www.dom-zu-meissen.de

Albrechtsburg Meißen
Open daily
www.albrechtsburg-meissen.de

Königstein Fortress
Open daily
www.festung-koenigstein.de
(April-Oktober ab Bhf. Königstein Festungsexpress | ca. 10 Min.)

Bastei Rock – panoramic views
(S-Bahn to Rathen, ferry, approx 40-minute walk up the hill or catch a regional bus from Pirna to Bastei.

Alternatively, Park & Ride site at Rathewalde, followed by shuttle bus | Journey time approx 20 mins)

Felsenbühne Rathen
Mid-May to mid-September
www.landesbuehnen-sachsen.de
(S-Bahn to Rathen, ferry and then approx 15 minutes’ walk)

Sorbian Museum in Bautzen
Closed Mondays
www.museum.sorben.com

Erzgebirge Toy Museum in Seiffen
Open daily
www.spielzeugmuseum-seiffen.de

Terra Mineralia at the TU Bergakademie Freiberg
Open daily
www.terra-mineralia.de

Cathedral of St Maria in Freiberg
Open daily
www.freiberger-dom.de

Horological Museum in Glashütte
Open daily
www.uhrenmuseum-glashuette.com
(S-Bahn to Heidenau, then by Müglitztal narrow-gauge railway | Journey time approx 50 mins)

By bus? By Velotaxi? The romantic way in a horse-drawn carriage? Using pedal power on a bike? Or maybe just on foot? Dresden can be explored in many ways:

Sightseeing tours
Architecture, history, culture, the future – take a seat on one of the double-decker sightseeing buses and discover the many facets of the city. There are several options, e.g. a tour with running commentary by a city guide (1½ hrs) or in combination with cable car and river steamer (3 hours). Or, you can hop off the bus to spend more time exploring a particular place and then hop on one of the next buses – they come along at regular 30-minute intervals. Tickets for different events and attractions can be obtained at the Dresden Information Office and at various kiosks in the city centre.

Guided tours on foot
Organised tours are your best option in the historic city centre. These commence several times a day, many of them setting off from Theaterplatz. Of course, there are also numerous tours that focus on a particular topic or theme. Dresden Information will be pleased to provide details and recommendations.

Bastei Rock – panoramic views
Great views of the city can be had from the towers and balconies of the Kreuzkirche (1), the Frauenkirche (3), the Royal Palace (9) and the Dreikönigskirche (19).

Saxon Steamship Company
With nine historical paddle steamers and two elegant cruise ships, the Saxon Steamship Company is the world’s oldest paddle steamer fleet still in operation. There are regular trips to Saxon Switzerland, to Meissen and to Schloss Pillnitz, sightseeing tours, jazz and Dixieland excursions, summer night cruises with dancing and much more besides.

Departure: Terrassenufer | www.saechsische-dampfschiffahrt.de
Timetable information phone +49 (0) 351 8660940
And in the evening?

It’s your choice...

**MUSIC | THEATRE**

**Semperoper (10) and Staatskapelle Dresden**
www.semperoper.de

**Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra**
Various venues
www.dresdnerphilharmonie.de

**Dresdner Kreuzchor**
Kreuzkirche – Church of the Holy Cross (1)
www.kreuzchor.de

**Dresden State Theatre**
Schauspielhaus (37), Kleines Haus (48)
www.staatsschauspiel-dresden.de

**Dresden State Operetta**
Pirnaer Landstrasse 131
www.staatsoperette-dresden.de

**Landesbühnen Sachsen theatre**
Meissner Landstrasse 152, Radebeul
www.dresden-theater.de

**Comödie Dresden (38)**
www.comoedie-dresden.de

**Centrum Theater (44)**
www.centrumtheater.de

**Boulevard Theater (46)**
www.boulevardtheater.de

**Societaestheater (40)**
www.societaestheater.de

**Theatre Barge (36)**
www.theaterkahn-dresden.de

**Junge Generation theatre**
Meissner Landstrasse 4
www.tig-dresden.de

**VARIETY | CABARET**

**Carte Blanche Drag theatre (47)**
www.carte-blanche-dresden.de

**Sarrasani Trocadero theatre (50)**
During the winter months
www.sarrasani.de

**HERKULESKEULE cabaret (42)**
www.herkuleskeule.de

**Breschke & Schuch cabaret (43)**
www.kabarett-breschke-schuch.de

**Ostrapark (52)**
www.ostrapark.de

**TheaterRuine St. Pauli (53)**
www.theaterruine.de

**DISCOS, NIGHTCLUBS, PARTIES**
www.dd-inside.com | www.banq.de

**OTHER VENUES**

**Kulturpalast – Palace of Culture (39)**
closed for renovation

**Alter Schlachthof (51)**
www.alter-schlachthof.de

**Hellerau Festival Theatre**
Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse 56
www.hellerau.org

**MESSE DRESDEN (56)**
www.messe-dresden.de

**TICKET OUTLETS**

Dresden Information
Neumarkt 2 | Tel. +49 (0) 351 501501

**SZ-ticket service in Karstadt**
Prager Strasse
Tel. +49 (0) 351 8611650

**SZ-ticket service in the Altmarktgalerie**
Tel: +49 (0)351 4810318
Highlights of the calendar

SemperOpernball
SemperOpenairball
February | www.semperopernball.de

Operetta Ball
March
www.staatsoperette-dresden.de

Filmfest Dresden
International Short Film Festival
Mid-April | www.filmfest-dresden.de

Fleet Parade
1st May
www.saechsische-dampfschifffahrt.de

Long Night of Dresden Theatres
Early May | www.lange-nacht-der-dresdner-theater.de

International Dixieland Festival
Mid-May | www.dixieland.de

Dresden Music Festival
Late May to early June
www.musikfestspiele.com

Karl May Festival in Radebeul
Late May or early June
www.karl-may-fest.de

Bunte Republik Neustadt
Third weekend in June
www.brn-dresden.de

Film Nights on the Elbe embankment
June - August
www.filmnaechte-am-elbufer.de

Dresden Riverside Festival
Last weekend in June
www.elbhangfest.de

OSTRALE – International Exhibition of Contemporary Art
June - September | www.ostrale.de

Dresden Long Night of Science
Early July
www.wissenschaftsnacht-dresden.de

Dresden Summer Night of Museums
July
www.dresden.de/museumsnacht

Night of the Dresden Palaces
July
www.dresdner-schloessernacht.de

CANALETTO – The Dresden City Festival
August | www.dresdner-stadtfest.com

Moritzburg Festival
International Chamber Music Festival
August | www.moritzburgfestival.de

Open days at local wine estates
Last weekend of August
www.elbland.de

Wine festivals in Radebeul and Meissen
Last weekend of September
www.weinfest-radebeul.de
www.meissner-weinfest.de

Unity.Dresden.Night
November
www.unity-dresden-night.de

Jazz Days
November | www.jazztage-dresden.de

Dresden Striezelmarkt
Late November - 24th December
www.dresden.de/striezelmarkt

New Year’s Eve on Theaterplatz
31st December
www.silvesterstadt.de

www.dresden.de/highlights

Retail therapy

Shoppers’ paradise

Meissen porcelain, unusual designer wear, antiques, second-hand items, souvenirs: Dresden’s shopping trail starts at the main railway station, proceeds via the Prager Strasse and the Altmarkt (Old Market Square) to the Frauenkirche and then continues across the Augustus Bridge to the Neustadt side of the river into the Baroque and Alternative Quarters.

Wiener Platz, Prager Strasse, Altmarkt, Wilsdruffer Strasse
This long shopping boulevard is where you will find branches of major international fashion chains, the Karstadt department store and the largest bookshop in eastern Germany. Also the Centrum Galerie and the Altmarkt Galerie with 200 shops, cafes and restaurants, including one of the four Apple Stores in Germany.

Around the Frauenkirche
Luxury! Fashion! Top brands! The square surrounding the Frauenkirche is the ultimate seduction for shopaholics. If you have an eye for the special, you will be fascinated by the fashion and lifestyle stores here. Or do you collect art and antiques? Then you’ve come to the right place.

The Baroque Quarter between Hauptstrasse and Königstrasse
The Baroque Quarter on the right bank of the Elbe is regarded as a top address for upmarket shopping. The town houses lining the Königstrasse are the perfect premises for elegant boutiques, sole traders, art galleries and restaurants. A special tip for your visit to the Hauptstrasse: the Arts and Crafts Arcades (18) and the historic Market Hall (21) dating back to the late 19th century.

Outer Neustadt Alternative Quarter
Outer Neustadt begins at Albertplatz. Jostling for your attention are classy boutiques, charming second-hand shops and designer outlets spanning the full range from flashy to elegant. And while you’re there, don’t miss the Kunsthof Passage (25) and the ‘world’s most beautiful dairy shop’, namely Pfunds Molkerei (27).
A breath of fresh air

Green Dresden

Grosser Garten with Zoo and Botanical Gardens
Lush flower beds, emerald-green lawns, magnificent avenues to stroll or roller-skate along, Baroque fountains and sculptures, a lake with gondolas: the Grosser Garten is Dresden’s largest and most beautiful public park. A half-hour circuit on the miniature railway takes you past the zoo and a Baroque palace (30) purpose-built for summer festivities.

The Elbe palaces
A magnificent view can be enjoyed from the three Elbe palaces on the hillside above Loschwitz. A word of caution, however: their grounds are so extensive that you may quickly lose track of time and space... The triple ensemble forms a magical backdrop for Dresdner Schlössernacht – Night of the Dresden Palaces – which is held every year in July. (Tram number 11 from the city centre | Journey time approx 20 mins)

The riverside meadows and the Elbe Cycle Route
A major attraction of Dresden is its expansive riverside meadows – great for sunbathing, relaxing and daydreaming. Or do you prefer a more active type of holiday? How about a bike tour? The Elbradweg runs for a total distance of 860 kilometres alongside the Elbe river, making it one of the most attractive and varied cycling routes in Europe.

Loschwitz hillside railways
From Körnerplatz close to the Blue Wonder Bridge, you have a choice of two mechanised ascents. The funicular takes you up to Weisser Hirsch district. The oldest suspension railway in the world (built 1898 – 1900) connects the riverside to Oberloschwitz. (Tram number 12 from the city centre to Schillerplatz, journey time approx 20 mins, then cross the bridge on foot)

Pillnitz Palace and Park
The two picturesque palaces with their curving roofs were built for Augustus the Strong as a summer residence. They are surrounded by a large park with intricate parterres and some rare trees, including a 200-year-old camellia. (Tram number 4 and ferry, or bus number 63 from the city centre | Journey time approx 45 mins)
Dresden in one hour

The historic Old Town

Departure point: Theaterplatz. Standing by the equestrian statue of King Johann, you are surrounded by famous buildings. The Semper Opera House (10) was built in the years 1871 – 1878 to plans drawn up by Gottfried Semper. Regular guided tours of its magnificent interior. (www.semperoper-erleben.de)

The Zwinger (11) was where Augustus the Strong liked to celebrate with his court. The magnificent baroque palace was built between 1710 and 1738 under the direction of Matthäus Daniel Pöppelmann. Tucked in between the Wallpavillon and Semper Gallery is the Nymphenbad, a beautiful fountain which provides a wonderfully cool retreat in the summer months. The Zwinger houses the Dresden Porcelain Collection, the Royal Cabinet of Mathematical and Physical Instruments and the Old Masters Picture Gallery where Raphael’s Sistine Madonna is on display.

The Royal Palace (9) on the other side of the street was the seat of government for the elector princes and kings of Saxony for several centuries. The sgraffito wall decor in the large courtyard is a wonder to behold. A tour of the interior will take visitors via the New Green Vault, the Collection of Prints, Drawings and Photographs, the Coin Cabinet, the Armoury and the magnificent original rooms of the Historic Green Vault which formerly served as the Royal Treasury.

The Cathedral (8) was built between 1738 and 1755 in the late Baroque style. The exquisite interior includes an altarpiece by Anton Raffael Mengs, a Rococo pulpit by Balthasar Permoser and a Silbermann organ. The crypt holds the sarcophagi of the Wettin royal family and a casket containing the heart of Augustus the Strong.

Stepping out of the large church portal, we continue along Augustusstrasse towards Neumarkt square. A 100-metre-long mural of 24,000 Meissen porcelain tiles known as the Fürstenzug – Procession of the Princes – (13) depicts all the rulers of Saxony from 1123 to 1904. At the far end is the Johannneum (14). Formerly the stables and later an art gallery, it now houses the Transport Museum.

To the rear of the Johanneum is the Stallhof (12), a well-preserved medieval jousting arena. The main attraction on Neumarkt is the Frauenkirche (3) – the baroque Church of Our Lady – which was rebuilt thanks to generous donations from all around the world. It is surrounded by other post-reunification reconstructions.

A few metres further along, on Georg-Treu-Platz, is a set of steps leading up to Brühl’s Terrace (4). The former fortified river embankment was transformed into a private garden for Count Brühl, an 18th century Prime Minister of Saxony, and subsequently became the most popular promenade in Dresden.

The Albertinum (5) served as an arsenal for military equipment. It was later turned into a museum. Nowadays, it houses the New Masters Gallery with works from the Romantic period to the present plus the Sculpture Collection.

Located between the Albertinum and the Carola Bridge and constructed in the form of a cube rotated to the east is Dresden’s New Synagogue (7) which opened in 2001. The original house of worship was destroyed by the Nazis in 1938.

On the left is a glass cupola topped off with a golden angel. Underneath this dome is the Academy of Fine Arts (6). Our tour continues in the direction of the Augustus Bridge and back down the sweeping stone steps to Theaterplatz (Theatre Square).
In the Alternative Quarter (8)

In the Alternative Quarter (8)

The other side

Neustadt Baroque Quarter

Inner Neustadt is actually Dresden’s oldest district, having been rebuilt by Augustus the Strong as a Neue Königliche Stadt (New Royal City) following a major conflagration.

The Japanese Palace (15) was built to house the porcelain collection of Augustus the Strong. It owes its name to the curved slope of the roof and the pediment relief which depicts Saxons and Asians collaborating in the manufacture of porcelain. The Japanese Palace now houses the Senckenberg Natural History Collections and the Ethnographical Museum.

On the other side of the square is a splendid fountain which marks the start of Königstrasse (16). The Baroque town houses with their romantic courtyards and passages have been faithfully restored and are now used as upmarket shops, restaurants and modern art galleries.

The facade of the Dreikönigskirche church (19) has been well preserved, but the interior has been completely redesigned. One feature that has been returned to its customary place is the Baroque altar which was severely damaged in the war.

Opposite the church, your attention will be drawn to the Neustadt Market Hall (21), an attractive shopping centre dating back to the late 19th century.

In the Arts and Crafts Arcades (18), potters, porcelain artists, metal designers and florists display their wares. Take a look into the courtyard where you will see the Societaetstheater (40). This was built in the 18th century as a bourgeois counterpart to the royal Hoftheater. The adjacent Kügelgenhaus (20) now houses the Museum of Dresden Romanticism.

At the end of Hauptstrasse is the square known as Neustädter Markt which is dominated by the famous ‘Golden Rider’ statue of Augustus the Strong – not surprisingly one of the most photographed attractions in the city. And it would be highly remiss to omit the oldest preserved Renaissance building in Dresden from our itinerary. The small museum of Saxon Folk Art in the west wing of the Jägerhof (22) is definitely worth a visit.
The extensive district beyond Albertplatz looks very much the way it was when first laid out. Impressive rows of buildings punctuated by narrow alleys, distinguished-looking mansions interspersed with secluded inner courtyards – the block delineated by Alaunstrasse and Louisenstrasse is a contrasting mix of lovingly restored residential and commercial buildings, of elegant cocktail bars and traditional pubs, exclusive boutiques and fashionable outfitters. Highly recommended for an evening’s entertainment are Outer Neustadt’s music clubs, bars and cafés – the antithesis of Dresden’s genteel Old Town.

If you are planning a visit in summer, bear in mind that the third weekend in June is set aside for the best-known of Dresden’s district festivals, the Bunte Republik Neustadt – the ‘Multicoloured Republic of Neustadt’ – a name which captures the spirit behind the event.

Don’t miss the Kunsthof Passage (25) between Alaunstrasse and Görlitzerstrasse. Its colourful architecture provides the setting for five highly individual and imaginatively used courtyards. Pubs, restaurants, modern arts and crafts, designer studios and a wonderful selection of jumble for sale attract patrons from near and far.

The Martin Luther Church (28) was built in the Romanesque style in just four years (1883 - 1887) to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Reformation. Behind it on the left, in Pulsnitzerstrasse, is Saxony’s oldest Jewish cemetery (26).

And to round off the tour, something delicious: Pfunds Molkerei (27) reputed to be ‘the world’s most beautiful dairy shop’. It has earned this accolade firstly for its magnificent interior with wall tiles by Villeroy & Boch and secondly for its huge selection of cheeses.
Public authorities

- City Hall, Municipal Administration
- Saxon State Parliament
- State Chancellery of Saxony

Sports venues and swimming

- Dresden Stadium
- Heinz Steyer Stadium
- EnergieVerbund Arena
- Freiberger Platz swimming and sports complex
- Georg Arnhold water park

Tourist Information

- Accommodation
- Tickets for events
- Guided city tours
- Dresden Cards
- Package deals
- Souvenirs

Dresden Information at the Frauenkirche

Neumarkt 2, 01067 Dresden
Opening times:
- Mon - Fri, 10am - 7pm
- Sat, 10am - 6pm
- Sun, 10am - 3pm

Dresden Information at the Main Railway Station

Wiener Platz 4, 01069 Dresden
Opening times:
- Mon - Sun, 8am - 8pm

Dresden Information Hotline

- Mon - Sat, 9am - 6pm
- Phone: +49 (0)351 501501
- Fax: +49 (0)351 501509
- www.dresden.de/tourismus
- info@dresdeninformation.de

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