Dear friends of Dresden,

Dresden. Passionately romantic. This is the new marketing slogan for 2014. Sunsets over the Old Town, its baroque architecture reflected in the Elbe; carriage rides through the centre and trips on a historic steam train to Moritzburg Castle; candlelight dinners on the terraces of the Elbe palaces and the delicious scents of the exquisitely decorated Christmas markets with bells ringing in the background. This is our modern understanding of the word romance.

At the beginning of the 19th century, Dresden was home to many of the leading painters and musicians of the Romantic movement.

One name that stands out is that of Caspar David Friedrich whose 240th anniversary will be celebrated in 2014. The evidence of his creative spirit can be admired in the art galleries of the city. The Dresden State Art Collections have no fewer than up to 14 of his works on permanent display.

Romantic passion is also reflected in dance. A varied programme of events keeps the focus on Dresden as the birthplace of modern expressive choreography. You can look forward to many more reasons for reporting on Dresden, discovering Dresden and visiting Dresden.

Greetings from Dresden

Your Dresden Marketing Board

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Picture:
The Semperopernball opens Dresden’s focus on its tradition of dance and ballet.
Dresden makes the winter sparkle

Dresden is probably the most romantic city in Germany, especially during Advent, where the streets and squares of the historic old town are transformed into a sparkling Christmas decor. The heart of this magical place is the Striezelmarkt, one of the largest German Christmas markets. It is also the oldest, having been established in 1474.

Sparkling lights, twinkling stars, Christmas carols, the tempting aromas of mulled wine and gingerbread and children’s eyes all aglow. The Dresden Striezelmarkt has been bringing such exquisite jewels to our city for 579 years, thus being Germany’s oldest Christmas market. A seasonal oasis in which to stroll, snack and shop: Erzgebirge wooden art, Lausitz indigo prints, Moravian stars. And all naturally topped off with a slice of original Dresden Stollen cake enjoyed under the lights of the towering Erzgebirge tiered wooden pyramid.

Children can create their own arts and crafts in the Pflaumentoffelhaus and bake tasty biscuits in the baker’s shop. Other draws for the little ones include a puppet theatre, the Elves’ Cinema, a gingerbread house, children’s carousel and miniature railway.

Concerts of choirs and orchestras will be conducive to contemplation that characterizes this period and will be replaced in the New Year’s Eve in rhythms celebrating new year.

Special Recommendations

- The 579th Dresden Striezelmarkt at the Altmarkt will be open from 27 November to 24 December. Opening times are daily from 10 pm to 9 pm. The first day the market starts at 4 pm, and on Christmas eve it closes at 2 pm. [www.dresden.de/striezelmarkt](http://www.dresden.de/striezelmarkt)

- One of the program highlights will be the 20th Dresden Stollenfest on 7th December 2013. Following a procession through the historic Old Town, a giant Stollen cake is sliced up and shared out by the “Royal Master Baker” and the Dresden Stollen Maiden. [www.stollenfest.de](http://www.stollenfest.de)

- If you like Christmas, you’ll love Dresden. A grand total of eleven completely different Christmas markets makes for wonderfully conflicting decisions. You’ll find it all from the by no means Dark Ages to the après ski charm of alpine huts. Like a giant string of lights, the Christmas Mile winds along Prager Strasse from the main rail station to Old Market Square, then on to Neumarkt square up to the Frauenkirche. From there, it crosses over the Elbe to the Hauptstrasse Christmas Market and the Baroque quarter of Neustadt decked out in all its Advent magnificence.

Picture: Dresden Striezelmarkt
Advent on Neumarkt – Atmosphere like in 1900: 28/11/13 – 22/12/13  www.weihnachtsmarkt-dresden-neumarkt.de
13th Traditional Christmas Market at the Frauenkirche: 29/11/13 – 24/12/13
Advent Spectacular in the Stallhof – A Medieval Christmas: 27/11/13 – 06/01/14  www.mittelalter-weihnacht.de
Dresdner Hüttenzauber on Postplatz – Après ski, fun-filled events: 28/11/13 – 23/12/13  www.huettenzauber-dresden.de
16th Neustadt Advent in the Dresden Baroque Quarter: Opening on 27/11/13  www.barockviertel.de
Neustädter Gelichter – alternative Christmas on Alaunstrasse: 30/11/13 – 21/12/13  www.neustaedter-gelichter.de
17th Elbhangfest Christmas market in Loschwitz: 07/12/13 – 22/12/13  www.elbhangfest.de

During Advent, among the huge offer of especially classical Christmas Concerts there are many performances of Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Christmas Oratorio” in Dresden churches. But the public can enjoy also many other performances of choirs, orchestras or organ. The detailed programs can be found online at

- www.frauenkirche-dresden.de
- www.kreuzkirche-dresden.de
- www.hdk-dkk.de/konzerte
- www.mmlk.de/konzerte.html

Dresden is probably the most scenic place in Germany to celebrate New Year’s eve. In front of Semperoper Dresden celebrate itself with a huge party and fireworks. On the Neustadt Elbe banks the Dresdener celebrate their private parties – with amazing view to all the fireworks along the illuminated city shape. www.silvester-theaterplatz.de
Dresden – a rendezvous for romantics

In 2014, the capital of Saxony is giving pride of place to Romanticism / The 240th birthday of Caspar David Friedrich and the 100th anniversary of the death of Ernst Edler von Schuch

Romantic Dresden. Dresden Romanticism. One complements the other. For with its art treasures in the Picture Gallery and the Royal Collection of Antiquities, the musical riches of the opera house, the Kreuzkirche (Church of the Holy Cross) and the Frauenkirche, its unique scenery and last but not least its cultural landscape extending from Saxon Switzerland all the way to Meissen, the city provided fertile ground for the emergence and the development of the Romantic Movement in Dresden. In 1798 young enthusiasts gathered at the Galerie am Neumarkt with August Wilhelm and Caroline Schlegel for the so-called ‘Dresden gallery talks’. This date coincides with the start of the Dresden Romantic Movement, just as the death of Ludwig Richter in 1884 marks its end, at least in painting. It was in 1798 that E. T. A. Hoffmann visited Dresden for the first time, and Caspar David Friedrich also travelled here from Greifswald in order, as Friedrich himself put it, to be able to live and work “…close to the most excellent art treasures and surrounded by the beauties of nature”, “in a city that is rightly called the German Florence”.


In their search for the essence of individuality, many artists of the Romantic period sketched out an alternative to industrialisation and the rise of capitalism in society which in the rapid economic flowering of Dresden in the 19th century found expression in the architecture of the city. The Gründerzeit architecture in Dresden’s Outer Neustadt, Löbtau and Johannstadt is testimony to this. And Romantic music must not be forgotten. From Carl Maria von Weber, the founder of German Romantic opera, through to Richard Strauss, numerous important composers of the Romantic period who shared its spirit worked in Dresden.

The Dresden Kügelgenhaus

It was the artist Gerhard von Kügelgen (1772-1820) in particular who promoted the Dresden Romantic Movement without ever being a Romantic in his own work. He moved with his family to the capital of Saxony in 1805. Kügelgen’s town house ‘Gottessegen’, at Hauptstrasse 13 quickly became the meeting place for artists and followers of the early Romantic Movement. Here, art-loving citizens such as Johann Gottfried Seume, Gotthilf Heinrich Schubert and Friedrich Kind, and celebrities such as Wolfgang von Goethe, Caspar David Friedrich and Weber would come together. Other well-known personalities of the time were also friends or acquaintances of Kügelgen, including Novalis, Tieck, the Schlegel brothers, Robert Schumann and Richard Wagner.
Dresden's romantic surroundings

Two famous Romantic musicians spent their summers in houses outside Dresden which can now be visited by the public. The house in which Carl Maria von Weber spent his summers in Dresden Hosterwitz, is now a museum dedicated to the life and work of the composer. Richard Wagner wrote a large part of his opera 'Lohengrin' while on holiday in Graupa. As a through-composed musical drama the opera forms the climax of German Romantic opera. The house in which it was composed, the Lohengrinhaus, is only a few minutes’ walk from the Richard Wagner museum, which opened in January 2013. You can follow in the footsteps of Dresden Romanticism by taking a walk along the wine trail in Dresden-Loschwitz. In the summer of 1785, Friedrich Schiller wrote his 'Ode to Joy' in a garden cottage in a vineyard on the slopes of the Elbe valley outside Dresden. Today the Schillerhäuserchen stands on this site. The smallest museum in Dresden, it records Schiller’s friendships in Dresden and the works that he wrote there. Both locations are connected by the Malerweg (Painters Trail) to Saxon Switzerland, with its strange and wildly romantic rock formations. Here one can enjoy views of the scenery which was captured on canvas by the Romantic artists.

Special Recommendations

- A special exhibition at the Dresden City Museum to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Ernst Edler von Schuch (1846-1914) celebrates the important role he played as Dresden Hofkapellmeister (Court Music Director). Over a period of more than 42 years, Schuch shaped the 'Königliche Sächsische Kapelle', known today as the Sächsische Staatskapelle, with dedication and a great sense of tradition. He opened the series of Strauss world premieres at the Semperoper Dresden with Feuersnot and he personally conducted Salome (1905), Elektra (1909) and Der Rosenkavalier (1911). From 9th May to 28th September 2014 recent outstanding donations from the Schuch estate will be on display. [www.museen-dresden.de](http://www.museen-dresden.de)

- The Kügelgenhaus – Museum of Dresden Romanticism – in the Neustadt district of Dresden is the former home of the artist Gerhard von Kügelgen and is dedicated to artists of the Romantic period and their works. Numerous objects belonging to the family, furniture and pictures recall the artist and his circle of friends, and evoke the lifestyle of the Romantic period. Of particular importance is the reconstruction of the studio belonging to Gerhard von Kügelgen. [www.museen-dresden.de](http://www.museen-dresden.de)

- The New Masters Gallery owns 14 paintings by Caspar David Friedrich, 9 can be seen in the permanent exhibition in the Albertinum:
  - Megalithic grave in the snow, about 1807
  - View of the Elbe Valley, about 1807
  - The Cross in the Mountains, 1807/08
  - Fellespartie in the Harz, 1811
  - The cemetery, about 1825
  - Gate input in Meissen, 1827
  - Bushes in the Snow, 1827/28
  - Ships in the harbor in the evening, about 1828
  - The big preserve (Ostragehege) in Dresden, 1832

  Four more paintings like the “Two Men Contemplating the Moon, 1819” can be seen until August 2014. Afterwards they will be on tour. [www.skd.museum](http://www.skd.museum)


- The New Masters Gallery in the Albertinum has a large collection of Romantic paintings. In addition to the works by Caspar David Friedrich, there are paintings by Carl Gustav Carus, Johan Christian Dahl, Ludwig Richter and other Romantic artists. [www.skd.museum](http://www.skd.museum)

- 80 drawings by Friedrich and thousands by other artists from the romantic period are kept in the Kupferstich-Kabinett (Collection of Prints, Drawings and Photographs). They can be seen upon request. [www.skd.museum/en/museums-institutions/residenzschloss/kupferstich-kabinett/index.html](http://www.skd.museum/en/museums-institutions/residenzschloss/kupferstich-kabinett/index.html)
The Carl Maria von Weber Museum, idyllically situated in the Hosterwitz district of Dresden, is well worth a visit. The periods he spent in this summer cottage were some of the happiest of Weber’s life. Here he received such illustrious guests as J. N. Hummel, H. Marschner, L. Tieck and the singer W. Schröder-Devrient. The director of the museum, Dorothea Renz, provides with great expertise a guide through Weber’s life and work. [www.museen-dresden.de](http://www.museen-dresden.de)

The summer house belonging to Carl Gustav Carus at Orangeriestraße 26 in Dresden-Pillnitz now houses a café. A plaque recalls the Romantic artist and doctor.

Numerous graves of famous Dresden Romantics are still preserved to this day. Caspar David Friedrich, Carl Gustav Carus and Ernst Rietschel all found their final resting places in the Trinitatisfriedhof, Ludwig Richter is buried in the New Catholic Cemetery and Gerhard von Kugelgen, Carl Maria von Weber and Friedrich von Schlegel in the Old Catholic Cemetery.

Learn more
- [www.museen-dresden.de](http://www.museen-dresden.de)
- [www.skd.museum](http://www.skd.museum)
- [www.wagnerstaetten.de](http://www.wagnerstaetten.de)
- [www.malerweg.de](http://www.malerweg.de)
150th anniversary of Richard Strauss

150th anniversary quest: Richard Strauss in Dresden

In the year of Richard Strauss’s 150th anniversary, Dresden is an appropriate place to embark on a search for his roots. Even though the Munich-born composer (1864–1949) never took up permanent residence in the capital of Saxony, his name is still closely associated with Dresden. No fewer than nine of his operas were premiered at the Semperoper – which will therefore be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the composer’s birth in commensurate style. The Strauss cycle planned for the 2013/14 season includes Ein Heldenleben (A Hero’s Life) on 3rd and 4th April, Also sprach Zarathustra (Thus Spake Zarathustra) on 8th and 24th May, and Don Quixote on 5th, 6th and 11th June. www.semperoper.de

What brought Strauss to Dresden?

The link between Dresden and Strauss is in no small measure due to a decision made by the artistic director at the Lindenoper in Berlin. In 1901, Richard Strauss wished to see his opera Feuersnot receive its first performance in the national capital. However, the Prussian censors and the director refused to stage this controversial work. Dresden took a different view: the conductor of the Semperoper, Ernst Edler von Schuch, invited Strauss to the city and premiered the opera in Dresden. A special exhibition in the Dresden City Museum (9th May to 28th September 2014) is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Schuch’s death and the important role he played as Dresden Hofkapellmeister. It features various fascinating items donated by the Schuch estate. www.museen-dresden.de

Nine world premieres in Dresden

The premiere of Strauss’s Salome in Dresden in 1905 heralded the arrival of 20th-century musical theatre. This modern opera was received with great enthusiasm. Four years later in 1909, the first performance of Elektra was also cheered to the rafters by the discerning audience at the Semperoper. The reception was surpassed only by Der Rosenkavalier which premiered two years later. A special train was even laid on to bring in Strauss’s ‘fan club’ from Berlin. Unlike many famous composers in history, Richard Strauss was acclaimed and revered during his lifetime. Dresden hosted the first ever Strauss Week in 1915, and more were to follow. In 1924, the conductor Fritz Busch resumed the tradition of premiering Strauss’s operas with a performance of Intermezzo. This was followed two years later by Die Ägyptische Helena (The Egyptian Helen). In 1933, Fritz Busch was expelled from the Semperoper by the Nazis, but the world premiere of Strauss’s Arabella went ahead as planned that year. The premiere of the opera Die schweigsame Frau (The Silent Woman) conducted by Karl Böhm also took place under the baleful watch of the Third Reich. Although Strauss managed to have the name of Jewish librettist Stefan Zweig included in the programme, the work was dropped from the repertoire after only four performances.
The ninth and last opera to be premiered in Dresden was Daphne in 1938, which Strauss dedicated to the conductor Karl Böhm.

Strauss made his own debut as a conductor in 1888 at the Gewerbehaus in Ostra Allee; the programme included Opus Vier and Wagner’s first and only Symphony in C major. In 1934, he was made an honorary citizen of Dresden at a ceremony in the Semperoper. Ten years later in 1944, Strauss paid his last visit to the city.

**Mementos of Strauss**

Visitors and residents of Dresden can experience Strauss through more than just his music. He is immortalised as a bronze bust in the Semperoper, namely in the foyer facing the Zwinger opposite the doors to the dress circle. One of the batons which Richard Strauss conducted with is kept in the music room at the Kempinski Hotel Taschenbergpalais. Situated on the right bank of the Elbe, the Hotel Bellevue where the composer stayed whenever he was in Dresden re-opened in 1985 as The Westin Bellevue. A Richard Strauss bust in the foyer by the entrance to the gourmet Canaletto Restaurant is a permanent reminder that the great man was a frequent guest at the hotel. This four-star establishment with its fantastic view across the Elbe to the Old Town of Dresden delights guests from Germany and further afield.

**Special recommendations**

- The Staatskapelle Dresden has long been regarded as the Strauss orchestra par excellence. On 11th June 2014, the Staatskapelle under the baton of Christian Thielemann will be celebrating the birthday of the composer with a special concert at the Semperoper. In his inaugural concert as principal conductor with the Staatskapelle, Thielemann enchanted the audience with a performance of Der Rosenkavalier – just over a century after its premiere in Dresden. [www.staatskapelle-dresden.de](http://www.staatskapelle-dresden.de)

- Richard Strauss’s Feuersnot is to be staged by the Dresden Music Festival as a co-production with the Semperoper. For the first time ever, the impressive Great Courtyard of the Dresden Royal Palace (Residenzschloss) will be used as an open-air theatre venue. Performances will be held on 7th, 9th and 10th June. The performance on 7th June will be preceded by a workshop concert on period instruments given by the Dresden Festival Orchestra. On 23rd May, the Staatskapelle Berlin under Daniel Barenboim will play Strauss’s tone poem Ein Heldenleben. On 29th May, the Rosenkavalier Suite will be performed by the Vienna ensemble The Philharmonics. The symphonic poems Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks and Death and Transfiguration are the focus of the concert to be given by the Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig under Riccardo Chailly on 9th June in the Semperoper. [www.musikfestspiele.com](http://www.musikfestspiele.com)

- The gourmet Carrousel Restaurant in the Hotel Bülow Palais has put together a “Straussian” menu. Themed as ‘Wholesome and Resonant’, the Bülow Palais has put together a package for the period 30th January to 2nd February 2014 of three nights’ accommodation, tickets for a performance of Elektra at the Semperoper and, of course, the Strauss Menu. [www.buelow-hotels.de](http://www.buelow-hotels.de)

**Learn more**

[www.dresden.de/highlights](http://www.dresden.de/highlights)
A shared 300th anniversary: Gottfried August Homilius and Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach

In 2014, it will be precisely 300 years since the birth of two important 18th-century composers: Gottfried August Homilius (born 2nd February 1714 in Rosenthal, died 2nd June 1785 in Dresden) and Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (born 8th March 1714 in Weimar, died 14th December 1788 in Hamburg). Their careers are intertwined and they both have strong connections with Dresden.

Homilius spent his childhood in the village of Porschendorf near Lohmen in Saxony where his father Gottfried Abraham Homilius became parish priest in the summer of 1714. Gottfried senior died relatively young, and to make matters worse, the family home was later lost in a fire. Homilius subsequently attended the Annenschule in Dresden where his uncle was headmaster. In 1735, he went to the University of Leipzig to study Law. However, it is unlikely that his path crossed that of his contemporary, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, at this stage. Carl Philipp Emanuel, the son of Johann Sebastian Bach, had moved with his family to Leipzig in 1723 and had already left the city in 1734 to study in Frankfurt an der Oder.

J.S. Bach was Homilius’s music teacher, so he and C.P.E. Bach will at least have heard of each other before they went on to become famous in their own right. Homilius was appointed organist at the Dresden Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) in 1742. He was therefore working alongside Carl Philipp Emmanuel’s elder brother Wilhelm Friedemann who was employed as organist at the Dresden Sophienkirche during the period 1733 to 1746. In 1755, Homilius succeeded Theodor Christian Reinhold as cantor and music director at the three main churches in Dresden: the Sophienkirche, the Frauenkirche and the Kreuzkirche (Church of the Holy Cross).

Between the years 1738 and 1768, Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach was in the employ of the music-loving Prussian King Frederick II who was also an accomplished flute player. However, it was the martial arts that ‘Old Fritz’ practised against Saxony during the Seven Years’ War when Prussian troops attacked Dresden. Among the casualties of the bombardment were the old music library, which went up in flames along with numerous works by Heinrich Schütz, and the Kreuzkirche, which was totally destroyed.

Its choir, the famous Kreuzchor, along with cantor Homilius temporarily moved their centre of activities to the Frauenkirche. It was for this church setting with its unique acoustics that he wrote his organ music, motets, cantatas, oratorios and passions that were to become well known throughout Germany and further afield. His music was heard in churches in Switzerland, the Baltic, Silesia and Transylvania, as well as in Austrian monasteries, partly in Latin translation;
in the 18th century, it was even taken across to America by German immigrants. During Homilius’s lifetime, he was described by fellow composer Johann Friedrich Reichardt (1752 – 1814) as “without doubt the leading composer of church music.” Sadly, Homilius did not live to see the restoration of the Kreuzkirche. Although the exterior was completed in 1778, the reconstructed church was not consecrated until 1792, seven years after his death.

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach was also highly appreciative of Homilius’s opus and had a personal collection of his scores. In fact, he liked Homilius’s music so much that he extensively plagiarised it for compositions that he performed in Hamburg where he was cantor. One example in particular is his Saint Luke Passion from the year 1771. “This work is at least one third taken from music by Homilius,” says the current Frauenkirche cantor, Matthias Grunert, who will perform the work on 13th April 2014.

Special recommendations

- The Dresden Kreuzchor (Choir of the Holy Cross) commemorates its legendary cantor in the framework of a ‘Homilius Conference’ on 1st February. A concert takes place the following day at Rosenthal-Bielatal (around 45 kilometres from Dresden), the village where he was born. On 5th April, the choir will be performing the Saint John Passion in the Frauenkirche. The Easter Sunday (20th April) service at 9.30am in the Kreuzkirche will include an Easter cantata by Homilius. The Kreuzchor will also sing works by Homilius on 5th July in a concert at the Kreuzkirche to mark the 475th anniversary of the Reformation in Saxony. The Boys’ Choir, which celebrates its 800th anniversary in 2016, will include compositions by Homilius in its traditional Kreuzchor Vespers (5pm) on the following dates: 18th January; 1st and 8th February; 5th, 15th and 29th March; 19th April; 3rd, 10th and 17th May; 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th June.

As part of the Dresden Music Festival, the Sächsisches Vocalensemble and the Batzdorfer Hofkapelle led by Matthias Jung will be performing Homilius’s Messiah oratorio on 5th June. Appropriately enough, the venue is the Annenkirche (St Anne’s Church) which Homilius regularly attended when he was still at school.

- The Dresden Kreuzchor and the Dresden Chamber Choir have made CD recordings of various works by Homilius.
Dresden celebrates 175 years of long-distance rail travel

The 108-kilometre railway line from Dresden to Leipzig was officially opened on 8th April 1839. This was the first long-distance rail link in Germany, and the date consequently marks an important milestone in the history of transport in Germany. Dresden is organising various events during the anniversary week of 7th to 13th April, plus a special exhibition. But railway enthusiasts can experience the charm of steam railways in the Dresden region all year round.

“All persons who have been invited to travel aboard the inaugural train are to assemble at the railway station on 8th April at half past seven in the morning. His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen together with members of the Royal Household will grace the occasion with their presence and will be received by the Directors of the Company and a deputation especially selected for this honour who will accompany Their Royal Highnesses to the railway carriages designated for their use. A cannon salvo will signal their departure.”

Those passengers on the inaugural run will have been well aware of the historical significance, as the contemporary report by the Board of the Leipzig-Dresdner Eisenbahn-Compagnie (see recommended reading) bears witness. A new technology was about to revolutionise transportation. It all began when Richard Trevithick became the first commercial steam locomotive operator and the Stockton and Darlington Railway in the North-East of England began carrying passengers in 1825. Germany’s first railway, which opened in 1835, was a mere six kilometres in length and ran between Nuremberg and Fürth. In 1830, plans were drawn up for a line to link Saxony’s two major cities.

Although British-built engines were used to pull the royal carriage, the train was followed on this first run by the steam locomotive Saxonia built by Johann Andreas Schubert in 1838/39. Schubert’s workshop and rail yard located in the Dresden suburb of Übigau are still visible today. The railway station at Niederau in Weinbohla and the Leipziger Station in Dresden date back to this era.

Around 1900, the railway link between Dresden and Prague was completed and the impressive station buildings of Dresden Central and Dresden Neustadt were opened. Meanwhile, the old Leipziger Station was given over exclusively to freight transport and eventually closed at the time of German reunification. A bronze plaque at Dresden-Neustadt Station commemorates Germany’s first long-distance railway. The shell of the old Leipziger Station is in the process of being redeveloped into a shopping centre.
Between April and September 2014, the Johanneum Transport Museum in central Dresden will be staging a major special exhibition on the history of the railway. The exhibits will subsequently be transferred to a separate department within the permanent collection. The Dresden Transport Museum keeps its rolling stock at the Dresden-Altstadt rail depot (also known as the Zwickauer Strasse depot). Next door, an association of rail enthusiasts operates the Eisenbahnmuseum Bw Dresden-Altstadt which was founded by Deutsche Bahn, the German national rail network. Both attractions are open only on special occasions such as the annual ‘Dampfloktreffen’ (steam railway enthusiasts convention) in April.

During the whole of this anniversary year, however, visitors can share the thrill experienced by those first railway travellers by taking a ride on one of the two narrow-gauge railways that operate in the surrounding countryside. Since 1884, Radebeul Ost (easily accessible from Dresden by S-Bahn) has been the starting point for the 16.5km 750mm-gauge steam railway known as the Lössnitzgrundbahn. Halfway to the terminus at Radeburg is Moritzburg station from where you can take a pleasant one-kilometre stroll to the magnificent baroque hunting lodge of the same name. The Weisseritztalbahn is another 750mm-gauge track which runs for a distance of 26.3 kilometres from the S-Bahn stop at Freital Hainsberg to the village of Kippsdorf at an elevation of 533 metres in the Erzgebirge mountains. It entered operation in 1882, but the track was washed away by the floods of 2002. Currently, the train runs only as far as Dippoldiswalde.

Special recommendations

- Festival Week: 175 years of long-distance railway in Germany – Dresden to Leipzig (7th to 13th April 2014).

- Numerous special trains will run on sections of the route. The Festival Week has been timed to coincide with the 6th Dresden Dampfloktreffen which will be held at the Railway Museum and the Museum of Transport depot at Zwickauer Strasse (11th to 13th April). An unmissable occasion for photographers – professional and amateur alike. The locomotive-pulling competition is the perfect challenge for muscular train spotters. www.ferneisenbahn.de

- Anniversary exhibition ‘Deutschland wird mobil!’ (Germany goes mobile!) at the Dresden Transport Museum from 8th April to 28th September 2014. More than 700 square metres of the ground floor of the Johanneum will be given over to this exhibition commemorating the opening of the Leipzig-Dresden railway 175 years previously. Special exhibits include Old Coppernob, an original locomotive from the year 1846 loaned by the National Railway Museum in York, and a replica of the Saxonia, the first locomotive built in Germany, as well as an original freight wagon used on the first German long-distance railway. In addition, the exhibition highlights the level of euphoria and fear that the new technology aroused at the time, which was not dissimilar to the emotional response to current scientific and engineering developments. www.verkehrsmuseum-dresden.de

- There is a rather curious connection between Dresden’s musical tradition and its railway history, as you will discover on a tour of the Carl Maria von Weber Museum in the Dresden suburb of Hosterwitz. The son of the famous composer, Max Maria von Weber (1822 - 1881), was a railway engineer. He developed the first tachograph (speedometer) for locomotives and the first rail-bending machine; he also pioneered cabs for locomotive drivers, level crossings, the first road bridge built entirely of wrought iron and the red cap worn by railway officials. Even modern signalling systems can be traced back to him. There is large oil painting of Max Maria von Weber in the museum. www.museen-dresden.de

Recommended reading

Die Leipzig-Dresdner Eisenbahn in den Jahren 1839 bis 1864 (The Leipzig-Dresden Railway, 1839 to 1864) compiled and edited by the Management Board of the Leipzig-Dresdner Eisenbahn-Compagnie (Leipzig-Dresden Railway Company) and published in 2010 by Salzwasser-Verlag
The rebuilt first Saxon steam locomotive "Saxonia" at Dresden transport Museum.

Highlights Winter/Spring 2014

Dance

- Saburo Teshigawara – "Mirror and Music" · Meditation in dance · Hellerau Festival Theatre · 25/26 January 2014  www.hellerau.org
- 9. SemperOpernball/SemperOpenairball · Semperoper / Theaterplatz · 7 February 2014  www.semperoperball.de
- 4th Festival of Dance Education · Forum for national dance education institutions with public performances · Semperoper and other venues · 15 to 23 February 2014  www.biennale-tanzausbildung.de
- William Forsythe Ballet Evening · Royal Palace (main courtyard) · 16/24 February 2014  www.hellerau.org
- 20th Dresden State Operetta Ball · Hotel Taschenbergpalais Kempinski · 14 March 2014  www.staatsoperette-dresden.de
- Hat Ball · Parkhotel Weißer Hirsch · 21 March 2014  www.hutball.de
- Festival „Dance Dialogues Africa“ · Hellerau Festival Theatre · 14 to 29 March 2014  www.hellerau.org
- ISLANDS – DEREVO dance theatre company · Hellerau Festival Theatre · 18 to 20 April 2014  www.derevo.org
- Dresden Dance Week · various venues · 19 to 29 April 2014  www.tanzwoche.de

Exhibitions

- Exhibition: “dance! Moves that move us” · Deutsches Hygiene-Museum · until 20 July 2014  www.dhmd.de
- Exhibition: BODY WORLDS · grounds of Zeitenströmung · 24 January to 4 May 2014  www.koerperwellen.de
- Special exhibition: “THE NEW GERMANY. On migration and diversity” · Deutsches Hygiene-Museum · 7 February to 12 September 2014  www.dhmd.de
- Anniversary exhibition celebrating 250 years of the Academy of Fine Arts and birthday party · 6 February to 31 June 2014  www.hfbk-dresden.de
Exhibition: “Dionysus. Intoxication and Ecstasy” – Depiction of the ancient god from the fifth century BC to the present · Royal Palace · 8 February to 10 June 2014  
www.skd.museum

Anniversary exhibition: “Germany goes mobile!” · on the launch of the Leipzig–Dresden railway 175 years ago · 8 April to 28 September 2014  
www.verkehrsmuseum-dresden.de

Festivals

- Theatre Festival “szene: BELGIUM” · Theatre, dance and film performances · Hellerau Festival Theatre · 4 to 13 April 2014  
www.societaetstheater.de

- 2nd Honky Tonk Pub Festival · Neustadt pubs · 5 April 2014  
www.honky-tonk.de/dresden

- Festival 175 years of the Dresden–Leipzig railway · including 6th Dresden Steam Railway Convention · 7 to 16 April 2014  
www.ferneisenbahn.de

- TAIWAN-Festival · Hellerau Festival Theatre · 25 April to 10 May 2014  
www.hellerau.org

- 26th Dresden Film Festival · International festival of short films · 15 to 20 April 2014  
www.filmfest-dresden.de

Music, Opera

www.semperoper.de

- Memorial concert commemorating Dresden’s devastation in 1945 · Kreuzkirche · 13 February 2014  
www.kreuzchor.de

- “Guntram” by R. Strauss (concerto) · Semperoper · 23 February 2014 (premiere), 28 February/2 March 2014  
www.semperoper.de

- 7th Symphony Concert by the Staatskapelle Dresden · Works by Liszt, Beethoven, R. Strauss; Conductor: Christian Thielemann · Semperoper · 2/3/4 March 2014  
www.staatskapelle-dresden.de

- “Ariadne auf Naxos” by R. Strauss (back on stage) · Semperoper · 9/16 March, 15/18 April 2014  
www.semperoper.de

- “Salome” by Richard Strauss (premiere) · Semperoper · 21/25/27 March 2014  
www.semperoper.de

Sports

- FIL Luge World Cup · Altenberg bobsleigh and luge track · 17 to 19 January 2014  
www.bobbahn-altenberg.de

- Upper Elbe Marathon · from Königstein to Dresden · 27 April 2014  
www.oberelbe-marathon.de

Stage

- Circus Sarrasani Trocadero Variety Dinner Theatre – Magic, acrobatics and dance with gourmet dining · until Feb 2014  
www.sarrasani.de

- “Dresden Anatomy” stage project marking 250 years of the Academy of Fine Arts · Academy of Fine Arts · 1 to 30 April / 19 to late May 2014  
www.hfbk-dresden.de
Preview 2014

- 44th International Dixieland Festival · Europe’s oldest Old-time Jazz Festival · 11 to 18 May 2014 · www.dixieland.de

- Dresden Music Festival · Directed by Jan Vogler the Festival focusses the Twenties through 5 Centuries · 23 May to 10 June 2014 · www.musikfestspiele.com

- Bunte Republik Neustadt · Dresden’s hippest street festival · 13 to 15 June 2014 · www.brn-dresden.de

- 24. Elbe Slope Festival · Perfect mixture of countryside and metropolitan culture in romantic setting · 27 to 29 June 2014 · www.elbhangfest.de

- Dresden City Festival · Festivities in the most beautiful surroundings Germany has to offer, with worlds of adventure and more than 1,000 artists · 15 to 17 August 2014 · www.dresdner-stadtfest.com

- 580th Striezelmarkt · Germany’s oldest Christmasmarket is also one of the biggest. It is surrounded by more themed Christmas markets · 28 November to 24 December 2014 · www.dresden.de/striezelmarkt

Online events calendar: www.dresden.de/highlights
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For tourism services, inquiries and offers please contact the Dresden Information.

Dresden Information at the Frauenkirche
(Church of our Lady)
Neumarkt 2, 01067 Dresden
Opening times:
Mon to Fri: 10AM – 7PM
Sat: 10AM – 6 PM
Sun and Holidays: 10AM – 3 PM

Dresden Information in the Main Train Station
Wiener Platz 4, 01069 Dresden
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Mon to Sun: 9AM – 7PM

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www.dresden.de/tourismus

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