

Welcome to paradise.

#LICHTSTADT

N°4

JENA MAGAZINE

OUR TOP-SECRET VIDEO

JENA UNCOVERED

There's much more to see behind the East German-era apartment blocks!



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Dear visitors,
Welcome to Jena,
the city of light.
And welcome
to paradise!

So, what do you know about Jena? Often dubbed 'the city of light', Jena is home to a thriving research community and has given rise to many groundbreaking inventions. But its qualities as a tourist destination are perhaps less well-known. Which is a pity, because Jena has a lot to offer, including an idyllic location in the Saale valley, a bustling city centre, a well-maintained network of cycle and walking trails, and many options for hosting conferences and events. Admittedly, this isn't immediately obvious, especially when you're zooming past on the motorway and cast a quick glance towards the city. What? Jena, the city with all those East German-era apartment blocks? Yes, that one. But it has so much more to offer!

Fortunately, a journalist recently went on an undercover mission in the city, where he explored, filmed and – wearing a concealed camera – interviewed the locals. His surprising conclusion is that Jena has been hiding away

for decades. But why? By the end of his mission, he was able to solve this mystery. "You can't fool us any longer, Jena! We'll definitely be coming back!" was his conclusion. Curious to find out more? Then why not watch our 'Jena uncovered' video. We look forward to hearing what you think!

A short film can't show everything, of course, which is why we have collated some tips for you on the following pages. What can you see and experience in Jena in 48 hours?

What is worth seeing beyond the usual attractions? Where are the best places for breakfast, or for some coffee and cake with a view? What family activities are on offer? You can find ideas and inspiration at Jena's tourist information office on the market square. We know our city inside out and will be happy to help.

Your JenaKultur tourism team

*“ Jena is well worth a visit.
Why not come and
see for yourself? ”*

JENA UNCOVERED –
SOLVING THE MYSTERY
—
48 HOURS IN JENA
—
WHERE TO GO WITH
THE KIDS



A TREAT FOR YOUR
TASTEBUDS



CULTURAL EXPERIENCE
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MARKETS AND FESTIVALS



DIVE INTO FORGOTTEN
WORLDS
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AND ON THE WATER



MAKING JENA FIT FOR
THE FUTURE
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CONFERENCES IN JENA



A TOUR OF DISCOVERY AWAY FROM JENA
—
WELCOME TO THE STADTSPEICHER



Jena uncovered – solving the mystery

We love our city, Jena. And though we may be a little biased, we do sometimes wonder why it is not better known as a travel destination. Fortunately, an investigative journalist recently went on a mission to look into this mystery. In the 'Jena uncovered' video, he reveals what locals and well-informed visitors have known all along: Jena is well worth a trip! Here are a few insider tips for your tour of discovery.

"Isn't Jena the city with all those East German-era apartment blocks right by the motorway?" This is usually what people who have driven past on the A4 autobahn remember. But anyone who actually ventures into the city will be surprised and delighted. By Jena's idyllic location in the Saale valley and surrounding hills, by the bustling city centre and its cafés, restaurants and vibrant cultural scene, and by the easy-going charm of the 'city of lights' and the way it wears its history on its sleeve.

While there is no major gallery in Jena, there are interesting smaller museums

and collections here. A baroque palace with magnificent gardens? No such luck. But there are castle ruins and hilltop restaurants at the best viewpoints all around Jena. Every city has its historically significant sites, as well as hidden places and details that are easily missed at first glance. And sometimes you need to take a detour to the surrounding areas to find them. "Have a good look around! How do you like the scenery? It is the most beautiful that I have known for any length of time," Goethe said of Jena in 1818. The great poet certainly knew what he was talking about!

Scan me!



Can you hide a whole city? Absolutely! That is the surprising conclusion an investigative journalist came to. Undercover and armed with a hidden camera, he spoke to locals, had a look around and discovered what potential visitors might be missing. Keen to find out more? Scan the QR code to watch the 'Jena uncovered' video we produced in cooperation with Leipzig-based agency twosyde media.



↑ The journalist is certainly right about the view from the autobahn: little of Jena is visible from here. Anyone driving through the tunnel is unable to see how lovely the area surrounding the East German-era housing estate in Lobeda is. The Saale river winds its way through the district and, together with the extensive green areas on its banks, provides the backdrop for festivals and concerts. An attractive park has been created on the Lobdeburg Tunnel, which spans the motorway and offers views across the valley all the way to Leuchtenburg Castle.

Not far from the University Hospital in Lobeda-Ost is the first access point to the **SaaleHorizontale**, a varied 91km walking trail that loops around Jena. A brief initial climb to the ruins of Lobdeburg Castle rewards walkers with lovely far-reaching views. At their feet are the modern residential blocks and the small town of **Drackendorf with its park and teahouse**. Goethe often visited Drackendorf, and he is said to have had some input on the park's layout.



↑ Bright limestone cliffs, typical of the area around Jena, rise up on the right-hand side as you approach the city centre. Along the top of them runs the first stage of the SaaleHorizontale trail, which any keen walker should explore. Please note that we recommend wearing sturdy shoes on this dramatic trail.

To the west of Jena, beyond the district of Göschwitz, lies the Leutratal-Cospoth nature conservation area, renowned for the 26 rare species of orchid that burst into unusual flowers in springtime. So rare, in fact, that the motorway was moved and a tunnel built over it, protecting these wonders of nature for people to enjoy. Sure, you can't see anything from the car, but you can always take the Jena exit, put on your walking shoes and seek them out.

Below the Cospoth conservation area is a maze, a 'secret' place that even many people from Jena are unaware of. If you reach it, make sure you don't get lost! Further down the valley, there are more East German-era tower blocks in the district of Winzerla. You'll find our next insider tip here, the Wasserachse, a small park with water features that is particularly worth visiting when the cherry blossom is out.



➔ **St John's cemetery** by the Peace Church (Friedenskirche) is another oasis of calm. The ivy-covered graves and massive old trees make the cemetery look like an enchanted park. Few visitors are aware of this two-hectare haven, even though it is close to the city centre. It is the last resting place of Carl Zeiss, the famous local mechanical engineer and businessman, but no burials have taken place here for 100 years or so. Occasionally, concerts are held in the park or the church.

The **mineralogical collection** is one of the oldest and largest university collections in Germany. Founded in 1779, it consists of more than 80,000 items, stages regular special exhibitions and boasts enormous research and teaching expertise. Based in the Institute of Geosciences, the collection includes minerals from the Triassic period around Jena and an impressive number of meteorites and tektites. Please make sure you check the opening times.

➔ Every October, the bright red **European smoke-trees** on the limestone cliffs to the west of Jena create an eye-catching spectacle.

➔ A single wall with two windows is all that is left of **Kunitzburg Castle**, which was destroyed in the middle of the 15th century. It must have been a rather large building, as hinted at by the remains of the foundations. Down in the valley lies the charming village of Kunitz, now a district of Jena. A path winds its way along vineyards and through sparse forest up to the ruins, where glorious far-reaching views await. Once back at the bottom, you can recharge your batteries with some traditional Thuringian food at the Gasthaus zur Kunitzburg restaurant.



➔ The **Frommannscher Garten** is an oasis of calm on Fürstengraben in the city centre. Schiller, Goethe and other great thinkers once frequented the grounds, which belonged to the publisher Carl Frommann. These days, students meet in the garden at lunchtime to give their minds a break in lovely surroundings that feature fountains, sculptures and benches. In the neighbouring garden of the Faculty of Philosophy is a sculpture of philosopher Albertus Magnus by Bauhaus artist Gerhard Marcks.

➔ The stone circle by **Fuchsturm** tower is a rather mystical place. This sanctum was created by the Thuringian mountain, castle and forest communities association in 1936. The 32 stone markers provide a geological overview of the types of rock found in Thuringia. Not far away lies Jena's oldest hillside restaurant, Gasthaus Fuchsturm, where traditional Thuringian cuisine is served under the trees in the cosy beer garden.

Every year when the sun starts getting stronger in February, the first question locals ask each other when they meet is "Have you been to see the winter aconites yet?" This is the season when the **Rau valley** is carpeted in pretty yellow flowers right into March. A welcome harbinger of spring despite the cold, the sludgy snow and the muddy paths.



The wonders of Jena

The 'wonders' were seven quaint features of Jena, five of which can still be admired today. And three of those can be found in the city centre.

- Every hour on the hour, the Schnapphans on the town hall's clock tries to snatch a golden ball.
- The passage beneath the altar of St Michael's Church is a rare architectural curiosity.
- The dragon, a figure with seven heads made of wire, papier-mâché and bones, is housed in the city museum.
- Fuchsturm tower and Jenzig hill are popular destinations for day trips close to the city.
- Historical pictures are all that remain of the old Camsdorf Bridge and the Weigel House.

48 hours in Jena

What might you discover during two days in Jena? Would you explore the city slowly and go where the mood takes you? Or would you head straight for the highlights and immerse yourself in the city's history? Here are a few tips and some inspiration for your stay. And if you run out of time, simply come and visit us again.

Day 1

And off we go! If this is your first time in Jena, we would recommend a quick tour of the city's history. The two remaining towers of the old city fortifications – Anatomy Tower and Pulverturm tower – hint at the size of medieval Jena. Everything was close together back then, which means you can see the most important historical buildings on a leisurely stroll: **Market square with the town hall, Hanfried statue and city museum – St Michael's Church – city walls with St John's Gate and Pulverturm tower – Anatomy Tower – Collegium Jenense.** Here are a few details to set the mood:

Museum, art collection and café under one roof

Among the other pretty houses on market square stands a building with a lovely half-timbered gable. It is popularly known as the 'Göhre' after Paul Göhre, a former owner who acquired it in 1893 and ran a restaurant and wine shop here. It is now home to the Philisterium museum café, whose wood-panelled walls, coffered ceiling and artful carvings whisk you back to days gone by. The café is currently closed while it changes ownership, but hopefully it will open again soon. This historical building houses both the city museum and the municipal art collection, which hosts exhibitions of classical modernism and contemporary art.



↑ St Michael's Church and Luther's memorial plate

St Michael's Church in Jena was built between 1380 and 1508 in the late-Gothic style. The church houses Luther's original memorial plate, based on a design by Lucas Cranach the Elder. The plate was intended for Luther's final resting place in Wittenberg, but it remained in Jena amid the chaos of the Schmalkaldic War. The wooden sculpture of the archangel Michael, the patron saint of the city and the church, dates from the 13th century. Visitors can also climb the 80 metre church tower and see Jena from above.

Pass through the gate, or pass your exam?

Jena's ancient fortifications once featured moats, gates, towers and a twelve metre high wall with a battlemented parapet. Today, only St John's Gate, Pulverturm tower and parts of the city walls remain. But remember, if you have an important exam coming up, don't pass through the gate, walk around it. A superstition of Jena's students? Maybe, but better safe than sorry!

↓ Anatomy Tower, a piece of medical history in Jena

This round, 13th century tower sits on one of the corners of the medieval city fortifications. In the 18th century, it was extended upwards and tall windows were added, marking the beginning of its function as an anatomical theatre. It was the scene of preparatory demonstrations for teaching and research purposes, primarily for medical students. The tower ruin with its glass roof was extensively restored in 2016 and its exterior can be viewed free of charge.



Collegium Jenense – the original university building

The Collegium Jenense offers unique insights into the more than 450-year history of Jena's university. The buildings and grounds around the pretty courtyard are a remarkable reminder of the past. What is now the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena was founded on this former monastery complex, with the first classes held in 1548.

Lunch on market square

Back on the market square, it's time for a spot of lunch. There's no shortage of restaurants in the city centre, including Italian, Japanese, Indian, Anatolian and – of course – Thuringian cuisine. If you suddenly hear shouting and murmuring at the market, look in the direction of the Hanfried statue.



↑ Traditional ritual at the Hanfried statue

You cannot miss the Hanfried statue at the centre of the market square, which depicts Elector John Frederick the Magnanimous (known as 'Hanfried'), the founder of Jena's university. It is the centrepiece of an old academic ritual, during which recently graduated PhD students attempt to throw a wreath over Hanfried's sword. Which isn't easy given how high its tip is! The onlookers in the restaurants and cafés all around shout encouragement, and cheers and applause ring out across the square whenever a graduate manages this feat.



↑ An oasis in the heart of the city

In the afternoon, we can highly recommend a walk around the botanical garden. Home to around 10,000 plant species, this secluded green space is just a short walk from the market square. You might also spot piranhas, colourful butterflies and cute, free-roaming king quail. Every year on Easter Sunday, families with young children are invited to an Easter egg hunt, which is always a great event.

A coffee under the apple tree

Opposite the botanical garden, tucked away in a courtyard, is Café Immergrün, whose rustic wooden tables, informal planting and old apple tree exude a welcoming student charm. It's just the place for some rest and relaxation.



← And finally, retail therapy

No visit to the city is complete without a spot of shopping, so be sure to leave yourself enough time. Even if you're not looking for anything in particular, browsing the smaller stores in the city centre is a delight in itself, for example, in nearby Wagnergasse. A little further on are the shops in the Goethe Galerie arcade, which was once located in part of the former Zeiss factory – hence its remarkable architecture. On the top floor, you can admire a piece of technological history: the Cosmorama star projector, which stood in the Zeiss Planetarium in Jena from 1985 to 1996. A small hint at what's on the programme for tomorrow!



Day 2



Poets, stars, vistas. Our guided tour takes us to Jena in around 1800, back to the time of Early Romanticism. Several intellectual movements converged in Jena at that time, and we can still feel their legacy today. Schiller and Goethe were at the heart of these movements, surrounded by talented young individuals such as Hölderlin, Fichte, Schelling and Hegel. Great thinkers wrote great works here. Choose your preferred destination from the following and set off on a journey of discovery.

Romanticist House in Jena

The former home of the philosopher Johann Gottlieb Fichte houses the world's only museum dedicated to the literature of the Early Romantics. The exhibition depicts the intellectual climate that allowed Early Romanticism to flourish. It conveys Jena's paramount importance in the period around 1800, but also the connection between the Early Romanticist interpretations of nature, poetry, philosophy and art.

← Schiller's summer house

Even during their lifetime, Goethe and Schiller were celebrated as great poets and intellectuals. Schiller's inaugural lecture in 1789 at the University of Jena was a big event in the city, and the almost 500 students present were beside themselves with excitement. Schiller wrote numerous ballads and large parts of the Wallenstein trilogy in the quiet seclusion of his summer house. The garden still has the old stone table where Schiller and Goethe often sat and exchanged thoughts.

Goethe Laboratorium

The Goethe memorial in the superintendent's house at the botanical garden has been undergoing renovation works for years. It is finally set to reopen as the Goethe Laboratorium on 28 August 2023, the birthday of the great poet and scholar. It will house a permanent exhibition entitled *Bewegliche Ordnung* (moving order), which explores Goethe's work in geology, mineralogy, anatomy, zoology and botany.

Lunch at Theaterhaus Jena

Once you've finished your exploration of Schiller's summer house, why not take the opportunity to check out Jena Theaterhaus? The theatre ensemble is known for its experimentation and fresh ideas, and the square in front of the building is the venue for summer concerts during the Kulturarena festival. Right next door is the theatre café, ideal for a spot of lunch.



↑ View of the city from the JenTower

After the intellectual flights of fancy with Jena's poets and philosophers, you might fancy a change of perspective. Time to head up to the observation platform in the JenTower. The view across Jena and the Saale valley from 128 metres up is simply stunning. The SaaleHorizontale walking trail runs along the surrounding hills and allows hikers to walk a loop around Jena. To the north, the Zeiss Planetarium – our next destination – is immediately recognisable by its dome.

← A view of the stars

The Zeiss Planetarium will soon be celebrating its centenary. It opened in 1926 and has been a visitor magnet ever since. Its state-of-the-art technology is used to project stars and other astronomical themes, children's programmes and music shows in the dome. Simply sit back and let yourself be whisked away to another world! The 'Napoleon and the stars of his time' show is a wonderful addition to the morning programme. It provides insights into the battle near Jena and Auerstedt in 1806, and into the deep cultural and political changes that had their roots here in the city.

← TIP

The Scala Card offers a free ride up to the Scala restaurant high above the city and includes a voucher for the restaurant. It is available from the tourist information office.

What to do in the evening

If you're visiting in July or August, you won't want to miss the **KulturArena**, an amazing music festival in the heart of the city. Also worth experiencing are the concerts by the **Jena Philharmonic**, which has attracted great interest with its innovation and themed concert series. There are **organ recitals** in St Michael's Church every Wednesday from mid-May to mid-September.

Further tips for going out in the evening can be found on page 16 and 17 of this magazine. It's also worth having a look at Jena's events listings at www.jena-veranstaltungen.de.



Jena – from history to high-tech on a public guided tour

Goethe, Schiller, Abbe, Zeiss – what would Jena be without the many historical figures who lived and worked here? Jena University, founded in 1558, was often at the heart of things. Friedrich Schiller taught here, and it is also where his friend and fellow writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe indulged his interest in the natural sciences. Ernst Abbe and Carl Zeiss developed pioneering products in the field of optics in Jena. Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 2pm, Thursday 2pm (Apr-Oct)



TIP

48 hours with the JenaCard

The JenaCard is your ticket for a two-day stay full of experiences. Benefits include a free guided city tour and free use of public transport, many discounts at museums and other attractions, and deals on events. The JenaCard is available from Jena's tourist information office. We're happy to help!

Where to go with the kids

Jena prides itself on being a family-friendly city, and even its layout seems to have been created with children in mind. The vast Paradies Park on the river Saale is only a few minutes' walk from the centre of Jena, with extensive lawns, adventure playgrounds, cycle paths, slacklining and a skate park. Read on to find out what other adventures await you and your family.



← The museum workshop – mouse included

The museum workshop opened in 2020 around the back of the city museum. But it's not a place for woodworking or nuts and bolts. This multifunctional space has been designed for readings, crafting sessions, micro-exhibitions and classes. Children can explore the history of art and the city in a creative way here. And it's always worth popping in to see if the museum's mascots – the colour monster, the museum mouse and Hinze the cat – are up to anything.



← Turn over a new leaf at the library

Every year, nearly a quarter of a million people of all ages use the services of the Ernst Abbe Library. Its new premises on Engelplatz square, which the library is moving into in 2023, will provide even more room for literary and educational activities. Visitors can borrow media using a day card. Children and teenagers don't need a library card to attend many of the free events, for example the VORgelesen story times every Friday afternoon, or Biboknirpse, a programme for children up to the age of three. There are regular 'tinkering Saturdays' when teenagers can try their hand at construction kits, electronic kits and experiment sets.



↑ Imaginata – curiosity and experimentation

See, hear, touch and experiment – the Imaginata is an ideal place to explore scientific phenomena, and stimulates all of our senses in a variety of ways. This large activity park puts science at your fingertips. Take to the tightrope for some high wire cycling, explore the Hörbar (audible bar) and the Tastbar (tactile bar), grow from a dwarf into a giant over a short distance, or wind your way through the light labyrinth – there are fascinating things to investigate all around you. At every interactive station there is something new to think about. All sorts of phenomena are made much easier to understand thanks to their accessible presentation.



↑ TIPS FOR ANYONE WHO LOVES WATER

There are many attractive places to enjoy some water-based fun along the Saale river in Jena. **Schleichersee** lake, for example, attracts visitors with its sandy beach, water sports, beach volleyball and swimming. This natural swimming lake sits in an idyllic spot with views of the Kernberge hills. Its beach soccer and beach volleyball facilities provide hours of fun and exercise on land, while spectators can sit at the Strandschleicher beach bar and enjoy snacks and fresh fruit cocktails. Another option is the **Ostbad** outdoor pool, where you can just swim, relax and soak up the sun. With a water slide, children's pool and playground, there's always something to do, and the extensive lawned areas provide plenty of space for kids to run about and play. The Ostbad lies at the foot of Jenzig hill and can be easily reached by public transport. No matter what time of the year, the **GalaxSea** water park promises hours of water-based fun. The youngest visitors can set off on an adventure in the warm waters of the shallow kids' pool, which is pleasantly soft underfoot, while older children and adults will gravitate towards the long tube slides. The more adventurous can plunge into the dark mouth of the Black Hole slide, a real test of nerve.



↑ Out and about with the kids

Where better to spend some quality time than outdoors? Even more so when the weather is good and there's a family festival on in the Saalewiesen meadows. Every May, the **'Dein Tag im Paradies'** (your day in paradise) festival attracts thousands of people. Exciting activities, shows and opportunities to join in promise an absorbing day full of surprises. On the **Familienwandertag** – the family hiking day – it's off and up to the Schottplatz nature discovery centre, where people who like to get active outdoors meet in early summer. While energetic types give their all during the **relay race** on the SaaleHorizontale walking trail, nature lovers young and old can let off steam, bake campfire bread and stroke alpacas on a 3km circular trail through Jena Forest. (For further information about the 'natura jenkinsis' nature experience area, see pages 20 and 21). Children are also well catered for during Jena's **KulturArena** festival. Each festival week ends with the KinderArena, where visitors of all ages can enjoy circus performances, listen to fairytales and move to the music.

Zeiss Planetarium Jena

A visit to the Zeiss Planetarium is always worthwhile. Programmes based around themes such as stargazing camps, dinosaurs and children's characters offer entertainment for all ages. The music shows and educational programmes on the topics of stars and planets are also very popular.

City exploration

To discover Jena by following a trail with questions, simply head to the tourist information office, pick up the relevant flyer and off you go! How many windows does the JenTower have? What is Jena's leaning tower called? If you answer or solve the 20 questions and tasks along the way, you get to pick up a surprise at the tourist information office.

Museum of Phylogenetics

The museum illustrates the evolutionary history of organisms, including humans, by means of zoological specimens, fossils and fascinating models and graphics. The programme includes summer courses and special events for families. There are also activity worksheets on topics such as nocturnal animals. Please enquire at the museum's ticket office for more information.



← Playground fun for all ages

Playgrounds are always a big draw, especially when they're as appealing as Jena's. No chance for boredom here – you're more likely to need your powers of persuasion to get your little ones to leave again. Our favourites include...

the playground in Paradies Park, right next to Paradiescafé. Coffee on the table, eyes on the kids. Perfect! A few metres further along is the big skate park and slackline, where older kids can burn off some energy.

Then there's the **forest playground on Landgrafen hill**, which is ideal for families thanks to its fitness trail and rustic wooden equipment. Protected in the shade of the trees, kids can climb, swing and balance to their hearts' content.

On **Zeitzer Strasse in Jena-Nord** is a playground-for-all, featuring a climbing frame, a long slide, a castle for the youngest

children and a fitness zone for adults. Don't forget to bring sun cream as there's very little shade when the sun is out.

The **Kritzegraben** playground offers an imaginative range of games, a tower with a slide, and a separate football pitch and skateboarding area. The playground is located near the planetarium in a traffic-calmed area.

In **Friedensberg**, you'll find the ideal place to fly kites, as well a climbing frame and spider's web, a football pitch and basketball court, and welcoming sunbathing lawns.

About ten minutes' walk from Westbahnhof station is Plan B, Thuringia's largest bouldering arena. Adventurous types of all ages can test their skills on the arena's wall, and on weekends even the very youngest can have a go.

A treat for your tastebuds

Sightseeing can leave you tired. For some, a snack is enough to provide a boost of energy, others prefer a leisurely lunch. Hearty Thuringian or vegan cuisine? Or maybe just an ice cream? Tastes are as varied as the restaurants and cafés in Jena. Here are a few recommendations, but this list is by no means exhaustive. The best thing is to have a look and try for yourself!



If you want to sit outside and enjoy masterly variations of Thuringian cuisine in beautiful surroundings, then head to the **Landgrafen restaurant**.



Food with a view

What could be better than enjoying an exceptional sharing menu and glorious views in elegant surroundings high above the city? The **Scala restaurant** at the top of the JenTower is known for its excellent food, and multi-award-winning chef Christian Hempfe and his team are always good for a culinary surprise. The surrounding hills high above the Saale river are home to further wonderful inns and restaurants offering traditional cuisine and a friendly welcome. The panoramic views of Jena and the region beyond make these establishments truly special too. **Landgrafen, Fuchsturm, Jenzighaus, Lobdeburgklause, Wilhelmshöhe.**

A great start to the day

Urban chic meets coffee and cake. If you enjoy a wide selection of food and a welcoming atmosphere for your breakfast, head to **Café Brandmarken**. The breakfasts range from sweet to savoury and small to large, right up to the sparkling sekt breakfast for two, and there are lots of vegetarian and vegan dishes to choose from. You'll also find homemade jams, spreads and plenty more. And if that's not enough, you can always dive into the excellent selection at the cake counter for another bite. We can't think of a better way to start the day, can you?

➔ More tips: **Kabuff, Stilbruch, Kaffeerösterei Markt 11**



“You could easily lose track of time sitting here under the tall trees.”

Regionality rules

The company **Gönnataler Putenspezialitäten** is steeped in tradition, and prides itself on keeping as many aspects of production as possible in-house. Not far from Jena, in the Gönna valley, lies the small village of Altengönna. As you watch the chattering geese in the valley, the secret of the company's success becomes immediately obvious: the animals are bred and processed directly on site. The local producer runs a bistro at no. 6 Grietgasse in Jena, where lunch-time patrons can choose from turkey, venison and wild boar served with locally grown salads, vegetables and fruit. Turkey liver sausage and other regional products are available to take away.

➔ More tips: **Gasthaus Zur Noll, Wirtshaus Alt-Jena, Gasthaus zum Roten Hirsch, Restaurant Schwarzer Bär**

Neither fish nor flesh

The riverside restaurant **Salü** is renowned across Jena for its unusual vegan and vegetarian dishes. What the team does with no fish or meat is simply amazing – the food is regional, surprising and a feast for the eyes. They also make their own cakes, and offer a wide range of speciality coffees and flavourful lemonades. If you're just here for a quick drink, you can get served at the kiosk outside during the summer months. The kids will appreciate that they can play in the sandpit until their ice cream arrives, rather than sit at the table. Which will give the parents a rest too. You could easily lose track of time sitting here under the tall trees in Paradies Park...

➔ More tips: **401 Waffeln & Co., DelCorazon, Fritz Mitte, Bistro "Festgebissen"**



A refreshing taste sensation

Making ice cream is an art and a craft, and **Handeis** are masters of both. Passers-by are lured in with unusual flavours such as fruity mango and bergamot sorbet, yoghurt and sea buckthorn, and classic vanilla with a hint of coffee and citrus. Their vegan ice creams are equally delicious. The idea behind Handeis is simple: take quality fresh and seasonal ingredients and turn them into flavoursome ice cream, without any chemicals or additives. You have to come and give it a try!

➔ More tips: **Eiscafé Riva, Milchmix Eiscafé, Café Ella**

A cultural experience

Enjoying culture is a fun and enriching experience. Every venue has its very own charm, whether large concert hall, old machine room or former train station. All musical genres are represented, and new formats emerge and are tested on the audience. The cultural encounters on offer will transport you to exciting new worlds. That's how we do culture in Jena.



↑ TRAF0

Engage with contemporary art in a former electricity substation in Jena. From substation to arts venue – TRAF0 on Nollendorfer Strasse represents transformation and change. A grand piano takes centre stage, surrounded by comfortable cinema-style seating, and there's an improvised bar in the foyer – a most congenial meeting of Germany's late 19th century industrial architecture and modern art. Since the building was refurbished in 2015, TRAF0 has become an integral part of Jena's artistic and cultural life, hosting solo musicians and bands, and staging art projects, workshops and exhibitions of all kinds. It's a great place for visitors, artists and other partners to develop ideas, bring them to life or simply to admire them.



Kassablanca

Kassablanca Gleis 1 is one of Jena's most popular clubs thanks to the wide range of events it hosts. 'Kassa' attracts the type of act that you might expect to see at a bigger venue, and also provides a stage to unknown talent that often turns out to be a real find. Club nights such as Schöne Freiheit, Überschall and Blue Night offer the perfect contrast to the concerts and ensure that there's plenty of musical variety for you to enjoy.

↑ Jena Philharmonic Orchestra

Passion, total commitment and a sheer love of playing – an encounter with the Jena Philharmonic Orchestra is quite an experience. The orchestra opens up a breathtaking musical world to its audience. The varied programme ranges from baroque to jazz, with a focus on classical pieces, the Romantic period and the music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Hardly surprising then that concerts are not just held in the newly restored art nouveau hall of the Volkshaus, but also at more unusual venues, such as former substation TRAF0, the Volksbad arts centre or the town hall. Resounding works with choirs and full orchestra, chamber concerts, the Sound of Jena festival and concerts for children and families – immerse yourself in the inspirational musical world of the Jena Philharmonic.



↑ KulturArena

Every summer, famous and undiscovered artists turn Jena's theatre square into an island of magical music. The KulturArena isn't just another music festival, it's an event that has been capturing the imagination of the entire city since 1992. Around 70,000 people flock here over the six weeks of the festival, during which the sound check reverberates around the city centre every morning. Many stars have graced the stage here, from Patti Smith, John McLaughlin and Rubén González to Esbjörn Svensson, Sophie Hunger and CocoRosie. There are also plenty of unknown, or not-yet-known, musicians and artists. If you're lucky, tickets will be available on the day, but it's much better to book your preferred concert in advance: <https://tickets.vibus.de>

↓ And elsewhere?

Smaller event formats suffered a little during the pandemic, but they still exist, offering creative musical variety in low-key live concerts. For example, at **Kulturbahnhof**, where hard rock, psychedelic rock and blues bands take to the stage, and metal, ska and jazz occasionally make an appearance. Live music and disco sounds can be heard at **F-Haus** and at **Rosenkeller**, which also hosts lectures and readings. The best sound on a summer's evening can be found in the unique atmosphere of **Strand 22**, right on the Saale river in Paradies Park. Its outdoor counterpart in the run-up to Christmas is **Schneebrettbar** right in the city centre, where you can sip *glühwein* and listen to cool music.



“Jena is unable to keep a secret; word about anything good quickly gets around.”



INTERVIEW

Friedrich Herrmann
Poetry Slammer from Jena

A slamming poet with a passion for Jena

Poetry slams are about wit, provocation and playing with language. They require quick thinking and brevity, and they can make you laugh or make you think. What does poet Friedrich Herrmann think of his home city, Jena?

What is your favourite place in the city? What is your top tip?

My favourites include the sensational Carlos P. bakery, the amazing overall package at the Weintanne bar and the Schillerhof arthouse cinema. I also love the cool independent theatre scene of the Freie Bühne centred around the Schlachthof venue.

You have stood on many stages across Germany, and even in Switzerland. What keeps drawing you back to Jena?

I was in Vienna for a couple of days in early November. What a fantastic place to live! I would've loved to take a piece of Jena with me to Vienna, do you think that could be arranged? Because it's hard for me without the Kassa, the Wagner and the Strand 22 ...

Jena expressed in a slam?

Your companies are called 'Jensationell' and 'Jenovation'. Hand on heart, not my creation. Jena, self-absorbed city on the Saale blue, tell me what else is named after you?

Favourite names: Jens and Jenny.

Favourite band: Jenesis!

Leave us with a bad pun and no roof over our heads, yet our love is forever yours, we pledge.

The full interview is available at www.visit-jena.de

Markets and festivals



Strolling, browsing, exploring, tasting and chatting: Markets provide a most agreeable setting for a host of different social interactions. In Jena, the various markets present both locals and visitors with a dizzying array of products, crafts and tastes.

Old town festival

Dance and shows, live music from blues and rock'n'roll all the way to brass bands – for ten days every year Jena's historical market square is transformed into a party zone. The annual old town festival, the Altstadtfest, attracts tens of thousands of people from near and far. Eichplatz square buzzes with activity – the funfair is an absolute must. There is also a mouthwatering selection of regional and international food and drink.

Spring fair

As the merry month of May begins in the Thuringian city of Jena it signals the start of the spring fair in the historical old quarter. Jena's spring fair, the Frühlingsmarkt, is a celebration for all ages and all backgrounds – a festival for everyone. The programme is captivating, varied and guaranteed to entertain. You can look forward to fantastic food and drink, live music and a lively funfair.

Wood market

Wood is an incredible natural material that often doesn't get the appreciation it deserves. That was the original idea behind the Jena wood market – the Holzmarkt. There is plenty to see and do, including exciting demonstrations, hands-on activities, and an introduction to traditional and modern occupations involving wood. Craft stalls from a range of exhibitors invite you to browse, buy or have a go yourself. There are also plenty of activities to keep younger visitors happy.



Market days

Also known as the 'green markets', Jena's market days offer a wide variety of products from the surrounding region. An extensive range of organic foods, seasonal fruit and vegetables and a large selection of dairy products, along with the Thuringian meat and sausage specialities that are popular throughout Germany, attract large numbers of shoppers every week.

Bric-à-brac and second-hand market

There has been a growing interest in flea markets in recent years, with some real treasures to be found among the objects on sale. The popularity of the bric-à-brac and second-hand markets in Jena's city centre extends beyond the local region, and they attract many thousands of visitors to the city every month. Known as the Trödelmarkt and Jahmarkt in German, they offer everything from antiques and collectors' items to books, textiles, shoes and accessories.



Pottery market

From traditional and modern crockery to one-off pieces, ornaments, musical instruments and toys, the Jena pottery market (Töpfermarkt) is a remarkable showcase for the pottery trade. Potters from near and far present a broad spectrum of their creative output on the historical market square. As well as opportunities to look behind the scenes, there are many hands-on activities – including for children.



Christmas market

It's not surprising how many visitors make their way to Jena in the run-up to Christmas. At seasonally decorated stalls they can obtain all the large and small treasures, gifts and treats guaranteed to get them into the festive spirit. Jena's Christmas market has a history going back 200 years, and is one of the **most beautiful markets in Thuringia**. In time-honoured tradition, it opens with the first cut into a giant, four-metre-long stollen cake, followed by carols from a brass band. With the huge, brightly illuminated Christmas tree in the middle of the historical market square, the **region's tallest Christmas pyramid** on Eichplatz square, and the historical Christmas market between St John's Gate and the Pulverturm tower, Jena's Christmas market is perfect for browsing or simply whiling away the hours.

Dive into forgotten worlds

The new 'natura jenkinsis' nature experience area

stretches all the way around Jena. Combining digital worlds with the great outdoors, its four discovery trails offer entertaining walks with plenty to explore along the way. The clever little fox cub Ux accompanies visitors via the audio guide and uses augmented reality to bring shy animals, rare plants and historical figures to life. A great way to actively explore nature and appreciate its value.



To get started with clever little Ux, scan the QR code and dive into augmented reality



➔ The Ottonian trail

The 4km Pfad der Ottonen trail from Ziegenhain valley up to Fuchsturm tower features wonderful views and virtual knights and goats. Walkers on the trail can dive into medieval life and get to know the era of knights and emperors, and explore the four former castles on Hausberg hill. Along the way, there's beautiful scenery to enjoy and rare orchids and sorb trees to discover.



➔ The Schlauer Ux educational trail

Fox cub Ux accompanies walkers to over 20 interactive stops around Jena's Stadtwald forest. The forest is home to many different animals, trees and other plants, all of which can be discovered by young explorers and families, and even brought to life using a smartphone. Clever little Ux also shows you why deadwood is worth a closer look and why the climate here is so important, and showcases all the things that the forest can do. The trail promises plenty of fun for adventurers and forest explorers of all ages.

TIP

The *natura jenkinsis* app is an entertaining companion on the Napoleon trail, the Schlauer Ux trail and the Ottonian trail. Make sure you download it before you head off on your walk.



➔ The Trixi Trias dinosaur trail

Did dinosaurs once roam in Jena? Find out on the Trixi Trias dinosaur trail. The many informative and entertaining stops make it easy to follow in the footsteps of the dinosaurs. Along the way, you learn what the local landscape used to look like 200 million years ago, and which parts of it remain today. The SaurierPfad Jena app even brings the dinosaurs to life.



➔ The Napoleon trail

This 8km circular trail, called the Napoleon-Pfad, explores historical highlights on the trail of Napoleon. The man himself roams the battlefields of 1806 via augmented reality and provides insights into the events of that time, while showcasing the unique aspects of the landscape around Windknollen hill.

An acoustic journey back in time

The 'Windknollen 1806' audio walk takes you on a memorable journey back in time. This interactive walk was created by artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, winners of the city of Jena's 2004 Botho Graef Art Prize, as a memorial to the Battle of Jena and Auerstedt. It starts at Museum 1806 in Cospeda, from where visitors set out on a 45 minute round trip across the former battlefield, equipped with an MP3 player and headphones. Shouted orders, screams, horses whinnying as they gallop past, shots and explosions – the multi-layered soundtrack creates a vivid impression of events at the time. Listening to this rich combination of voices and sounds provides a completely new way to experience the landscape around you. Participants follow a set route based on instructions as they cross the field in step with the audio track. The audio walk is an emotional and entertaining experience for history buffs, but equally fascinating for the whole family.

➔ Experience – identify – understand – act

The team that manages Jena's Stadtwald forest is keen for visitors to actively and consciously experience nature with their hands, their heads and their hearts. Under the banner 'experience – identify – understand – act', the team invites visitors to join them as they explore our environment and its importance. The aim is to raise awareness among children and adults, to encourage them to think about the environment, and to provide specific advice on how we can make our future more sustainable. Initial approaches can be found on the trails of the 'natura jenkinsis' nature experience area, where nature and history can be experienced side by side. Immerse yourself in the secrets of the forest, travel back to long-forgotten times, let yourself be knighted and get up close to dinosaurs. You can bring knights and animals to life using your smartphone or tablet, and listen to clever little Ux, who has many fascinating things to tell about historical events and our glorious nature. A great experience for all!



Scan me!



Further information about the trails in the 'natura jenkinsis' nature experience area can be found here.

Adventures on land and on the water



A bike ride is a great way to discover the glorious hills and forests around Jena. There are routes to suit all levels, from occasional cyclists and families to keen mountain bikers, and with easy and difficult ascents. There's also plenty of fun to be had on the water too, for example during a kayak or dinghy tour on the Saale river. Simply let yourself drift along, keep an eye out for kingfishers and take a break from it all.

Adventures on two wheels

The mountain bike tours around Jena are great fun. Get ready to tackle tough climbs, enjoy stunning views and shoot downhill again along twists and turns. The trails connect forests, meadows and idyllic villages. You will need considerable skill, as the hilly terrain has plenty of physically demanding challenges in store, as well as great views. Keen mountain bikers will be in their element on the **Fürstenbrunnen–Hausberg–Fuchsturm** tour. You need to be in good shape to tackle this route and you might even need to carry your bike on particularly tricky sections.

The mountain bike route through Jena Forest is ideal for families. Starting at the Papiermühle brewpub, it passes through Münchenrodaer Grund as the trail gently climbs through a picturesque beech forest. Stop at the Ernst Haeckel stone to savour the wonderful views, then enjoy a break at the Forsthaus restaurant before heading back down along the gently sloping serpentine to the starting point.



Scan me!



Jena lies at the crossroads of two long-distance routes, the **Towns of Thuringia Cycle Route** and the attractive **Saale Cycle Route**. These connect to other cycle paths that can be combined as required to form individual circular tours. **Here are some ideas and inspiration for your stay.**

Recommended mountain bike tour: Jenzig hill to Kunitzburg Castle

This trail takes you along varied terrain for 15 kilometres from Jenzig hill and through forest to Grosser Gleisberg hill, right across the prettiest parts of the Middle Saale valley. You can tell at the starting point near Jenzigweg bus stop that a challenge lies ahead once you catch sight of the steep climb up Jenzig hill. You'll be rewarded with panoramic views across the Gembdental valley, of Fuchsturm tower on the opposite side and down to the university city of Jena. Once you reach the top, we recommend a break at the observation point on Jenzig hill to take in the views of the city and the Saale valley. From here, the route continues in the direction of Kunitzburg Castle, the next vantage point. The route then heads downhill past pine trees and orchards to Kunitz, with views of the idyllic village of Laasan along the way. From here it's an easy ride past the Erl King monument back to the starting point.

Recommended family tour: Zeitgrund conservation area to Jena

This tour follows one of the prettiest sections of the **Towns of Thuringia Cycle Route**, and cycling in unspoilt nature along the Zeitzbach stream is simply wonderful, especially with children. First, take the regional train (RB) to Hermsdorf-Klosterlausnitz station, the starting point. From the outskirts of the village, the pleasant forest trail leads steadily downhill past trees, meadows, ponds and several mills, the oldest of which dates back to the 14th century. Bockmühle mill is the ideal place for a simple forest picnic, as it's home to Trollwiese, or 'troll meadow', a great play area where kids can let off steam. A little further along is Ziegenmühle mill, a modern brewery inn serving excellent food in a historical building. Then comes Janismühle, a 15th century mill that is now home to a restaurant with a beer garden and riding stables. Traditional Thuringian cuisine is served here in a rustic setting.

On the outskirts of Stadtroda lies Hotel Hammermühle, whose lovely courtyard beer garden and wide selection of Thuringian cakes might tempt you to have another break. In Gernewitz, a farm shop along the route offers regional products from the Saale-Holzland district, such as a local rapeseed oil called Wöllmisse Gold. Then it's back to Jena across the grass-covered motorway tunnel near Lobeda as you take in the glorious views of Leuchtenburg Castle, the ruins of Lobdeburg Castle and the Leutra valley.



A Saale adventure

For the people of Jena, the **Strand 22 beach bar** in Paradies Park is the ideal place to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere on the river. They come here to escape the daily grind over a drink with music and engaging conversation. At the wooden jetty, Sissy the swan-shaped pedalo – famous throughout Jena – waits to be taken out onto the water, and there are stand-up paddle boards for anyone who wants to get active. Take one out on the river and you'll soon see this really is paradise! The JenTower hovers above the tall trees and the buzzing city centre is close by, yet here on the water it is magically peaceful. This quiet, idyllic stretch of the Saale river is ideal for short tours on the water. Take it slow as you make your way upstream to historical Burgau bridge.

Right next door is Schleiersee lake with its sandy beach and magnificent views of the surrounding hills of fossil-flecked limestone.



A great spot for both water-based adventures and relaxing. The starting point for a longer river tour is Am Gries, just to the north of the city centre. After a short training session, put on your life jacket and get ready to go. Kayak or rubber dinghy? A half day or a whole one? Or perhaps even several days incorporating one of the suggested places to stay? Whichever you choose, there are many surprises in store on this attractive route through beautiful river scenery. Even for us locals! The route passes through bucolic valleys interspersed with rough limestone cliffs, picturesque picnic areas, and glorious palaces and castles. If you look closely, you might spot colourful kingfishers along the way, or grey herons and coypu lurking in the bushes on the riverbanks. There's an opportunity for a break at Rabeninsel island near Porstendorf, where the Saale splits in two. A little further on, the Dornburg Palaces tower above the river, definitely one to pencil in for a visit at a later date. Passing the weir at Döbritschen via a water slide, an exciting – but not dangerous – bit of fun for the whole family, you can drift or paddle towards the Saale-Unstrut winegrowing region. As a reward, head to the Zahn winegrowing estate in Kaatschen for a delightful meal, including a wine tasting if you want. If you have the time, inclination and energy, you can continue on the water to the cathedral town of Naumburg. You can return to Jena in the boat rental company's vehicle or by regional train (RB). Experience adventure on the Saale river!





Making Jena fit for the future

A traffic diversion here, a closed lane there – without doubt, there’s a lot of construction work going on in Jena. Residential buildings, offices and commercial developments are shooting up in many places. Modern architecture meets the Middle Ages, with many a distinctive building being extensively renovated. The face of the city is changing, and there are big plans in the pipeline for the prime location in the middle of Eichplatz square. Construction sites in the city centre can be annoying, for sure, but this is how Jena is preparing for the future.

↑ A campus for everyone on Inselplatz square

The Free State of Thuringia is building a new campus for Friedrich Schiller University on Inselplatz square, right next to the city centre. Among others, it will house the faculty of mathematics and computer science, the university’s data centre and the institute of psychology. But the ultra-modern, energy-efficient building complex will be more than a seat of learning and research. Its green courtyards and open spaces will also provide room for people to meet and talk in the city centre.

Griesbachhaus, site of Schiller’s inaugural lecture

The old Griesbachhaus, where Schiller gave his first lecture as a professor of history at Jena University in 1789, is set to be flanked by contemporary architecture. On one side is the Saaltor project, a residential and office building with an eye-catching six-storey tower. Designed to commemorate the eastern city gate demolished in 1844, it will mark the entrance to the city centre. On the other side, Friedrich Schiller University has joined forces with the Carl Zeiss Foundation to create a glass-fronted, light-flooded building, the FORUM communication centre for scientific dialogue.



→ The library – life and soul of the community

Nestling between the Carmelite Abbey, Neugasse and the square in front of the theatre, the new home of the Ernst Abbe Library – set to open in November 2023 – is rising from the ground. Behind the striking facade, a modern and innovative library awaits visitors, where they’ll find spaces for dialogue, learning, working and being creative. For many years, the library was based in Jena’s Volkshaus, a grand old building that has recently been refurbished and repurposed.

→ Find out more on page 26.

↓ From another world – the ZEISS high-tech site

You might have spotted the large construction site close to Westbahnhof train station as you arrived. This is where the new ZEISS high-tech site is being built. In the mid-19th century, mechanical engineer Carl Zeiss could hardly have imagined what his workshop would one day evolve into. The designs show two light-flooded buildings rising up like huge prisms, and in sedate Jena these ultra-modern structures will almost look like something from outer space. But it does fit perfectly into its hillside location and the neighbouring development. More than 2,000 people will work in these striking buildings, which will house research facilities, production areas and event spaces.



Eichplatz square – the heart of the city

Architectural eras meet in the heart of Jena, where the medieval city fortifications stand right next to the JenTower, which opened in 1972. Not far away are the industrial buildings of the Zeiss factory from the early 20th century and the infill developments of the past 30 years. The face of the city centre is set to change yet again as a new quarter rises from the ground on Eichplatz square at the foot of the JenTower. Three towers of increasing height are set to reshape the way the square looks. There will also be lower-level buildings and landscaped green spaces linked to the historical city centre through sight lines. Excavation work and the connection of utilities have already begun, though it will take some time before the actual build starts.

A new look for the German Optical Museum

The redesigned German Optical Museum will be a highlight for visitors and locals alike. Since it closed in 2019, its exceptional collection of spectacles and optical equipment has been documented and transformed into a new exhibition concept. A distinguished team formulated ideas for the building’s architecture, art and lighting design, while the look of the adjoining new building will be in the hands of the well-known Icelandic artist Ólafur Eliasson. The museum is scheduled to reopen in May 2026.

A particular gem is the auditorium for an audience of 100 people, built in 1924 and now being meticulously restored to its original condition. The museum aspires to explain optics in an entertaining and immersive way.

A new arena for more football, and footfall ↓

Football fans and sports enthusiasts are taking the construction works at the Ernst Abbe Sportfeld stadium in their stride. After all, the reconfiguration will allow it to hold over 15,000 spectators. The new arena will feature a roof and will be better laid out. But, more importantly, it will bring the spectators even closer to the action and meet the requirements of the second tier of German football. The local team’s football academy will also find its new home here, providing the perfect conditions for developing the next generation of sporting talent. A number of event spaces are also part of the project.





Conferences in Jena

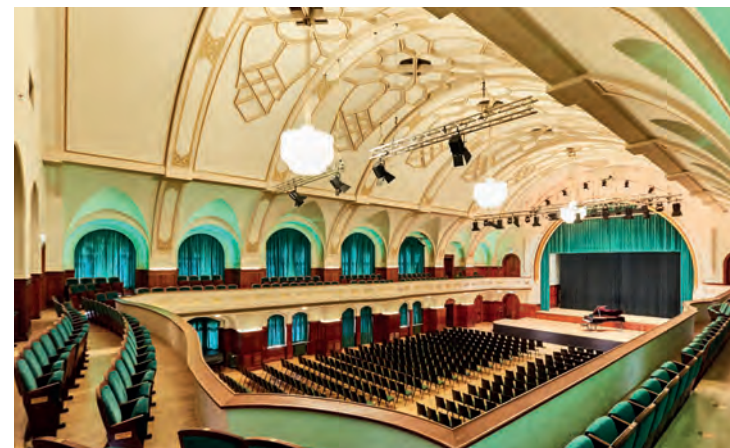
WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

Jena has taken its place in industrial history as the birthplace of the optical industry. Today, light-based technologies have spread to other innovative fields, including medical equipment, bioanalytics and pharmaceutical technology. Researchers in the scientific institutes are examining, among other things, how diseases can be detected as early as possible and how therapies can be better adapted to patients. Holistic solutions in ophthalmology, medical laser technologies and microscopes for microsurgery are just some of the pioneering technologies from Jena. The city is also a global player in the digital economy, in precision technology and in green tech.



While Jena is still an insider tip as a tourism destination, it's anything but when it comes to optics and photonics. Some big names are based here, above all Carl Zeiss, who opened his workshop in Jena in 1846 and laid the foundations for groundbreaking scientific and technical developments. Little surprise then that Jena has become an attractive location for conferences and similar events.

The city has a wide variety of venues, from large auditoriums to cosy event locations, catering to all kinds of requirements and conference formats. Principal among them is the grand old Volkshaus, which reopened in September 2022 after five years of renovation and refurbishment work and now offers state-of-the-art conference technology.



Historical building, ultra-modern equipment

Where else can you find an attractive conference and events venue that combines 120 years of history with top facilities and state-of-the-art technology in the heart of a university city? 19th century physicist and social reformer Ernst Abbe championed the creation of a venue in Jena that would offer the people opportunities to be creatively inspired. The result is the Volkshaus, built in 1903 with funds from the Carl Zeiss foundation.

At the heart of the Volkshaus is the large Ernst Abbe Hall. With its lovingly restored art nouveau features and old-world charm it provides an excellent setting for conferences and other events. The Ernst Abbe Hall can accommodate up to 1,000 people seated in rows. The building's light and airy spaces and timeless architecture have been refurbished and restructured, and the elegantly relaxed venue is now ready for all manner of modern events. The best way to appreciate the superb acoustics is during the concerts by the Jena Philharmonic.

Authentic locations in the city centre

Right opposite the central Jena Paradies train station is the former Volksbad pool, a lovely art nouveau structure. Drain the water, cover the basin with a steel plate and let the conference delegates in. Done! That's essentially the story of how the Volksbad was transformed from a temple to swimming into an unusual events venue. Many locals will have learned to swim here, but nowadays the former pool regularly hosts concerts, corporate presentations and conferences for up to 350 people. This cool venue with bar and gallery is also suitable for receptions and celebrations.

Delegates at conferences in the **Zeiss Planetarium** can reach for the stars when their hosts invite them to dine under the night sky. The world's oldest continuously operating projection planetarium opened in 1926 and offers an attractive combination of unusual historical location and state-of-the-art technology.

More noteworthy conference venues can be found in the city centre and neighbouring districts, including heritage-listed **Villa Rosenthal**, neo-Romanesque **Normannenhaus**, **Tanzschule führbar** in the former goods yard and the **Scala Hotel** high above the city in the JenTower. The famous **Dornburg Palaces**, where guests once included Goethe, and romantic **Leuchtenburg Castle** are further options for conferences and organised activities close to Jena.

CONTACT POINT FOR ADVICE

The Jena Convention Bureau acts as an interface between Jena's key sectors and event organisers. It offers a number of supporting services for organisers of conferences, conventions and incentives, thus ensuring that conferences are thoroughly successful events.

Contact:
www.jenaconvention.de | convention@jena.de
 Phone: +49 3641-498333



A tour of discovery away from Jena

If you've done enough walking and have seen everything worth seeing in Jena, then a trip to the surrounding region might be a good idea. History, art, wellness or simply exploring the lanes and shops of neighbouring towns and villages – the choice is yours. There are many interesting destinations within easy reach of Jena, and at the end of the day the city of light will welcome you back with open arms.



↑ Leuchtenburg Castle – a visit with the queen

Leuchtenburg Castle is known as the queen of the Saale valley. Towering nearly 400 metres above the river, it looks back at almost a thousand years of history. Here, the Middle Ages meet modern architecture, design, and above all porcelain. Artisans from around the world have created seven porcelain experiences that combine to form a memorable interactive exhibition. And on the 20 metre long skywalk, wishes may come true. Simply write your wish on a plate and launch it into the depths below ... Come and give it a go! And with festivals, food, tours and crafts, there's something for all the family.

Bells and art in Apolda

Small in size, big on history. Apolda has exported thousands of bronze bells around the world since 1722, earning it the nickname Glockenstadt, or bell town. Even though production ended in 1988, the carillon at the Stadthaus still rings every day. And it's worth listening out for it, as the coordinated peals of eight bells can be heard coming from the church towers too. The textile industry in Apolda once enjoyed a huge boom, and the industrialists' grand houses are reminders of this period of prosperity. The factories from this time also merit a visit, with the Egon Eiermann Building one of these monuments to modernist architecture. The Apolda Avantgarde Art Gallery, housed in a charming late-19th century villa, has made a name for itself among art lovers. Exhibitions of works by Lyonel Feininger, Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall and Andy Warhol are just some of the highlights of its varied programme, which regularly attracts locals and visitors alike.

↓ Bauhaus Museum in Weimar

Weimar is known for the legacy of Goethe and Schiller, of course, but the city is also synonymous with the eventful history of modernism. A hundred years after the founding of the Bauhaus school, Weimar's new Bauhaus Museum opened its doors in 2019. Spread over five levels, it houses a multimedia exhibition on the history of the Bauhaus, linked to questions of how we live our lives today and tomorrow. The treasures in the world's oldest Bauhaus collection are presented in an entirely new way, and the museum encourages visitors to explore the roots of modernism. These can be also be found in other places, such as the Museum Neues Weimar opposite, the Haus am Horn and the Haus Hohe Pappeln, the home of avant-garde artist Henry van de Velde.



→ A leisurely stroll around Erfurt

There's plenty of culture to enjoy in Thuringia's state capital, Erfurt. As you stroll around the lanes of the old quarter, past the fish market and the neo-Gothic town hall, why not browse the shops on the Merchants' Bridge and stop off at the mighty cathedral, whose steps host the Cathedral Steps Festival in the summer. The city has a young and relaxed vibe, and its welcoming cafés and trendy bars are pretty laid back too. So it follows that taking it slow is the best way to explore the city. Erfurt Zoo is the ideal destination for families, for example. Blooming flowers, garden design and traditional horticulture can be admired in heritage-listed egapark. And the new visitor centre on Petersberg Citadel features an exhibition in the historical Commander's House. Almost all of the city is visible from up here.



Salty sea air – away from the sea!

The salt-evaporation works in Bad Kösen are a remarkable monument of engineering, and you should inhale deeply as you walk along the structure's 320 metre length. The air tastes of the sea and your lungs open up – almost like you're on holiday by the sea. Hundreds of years ago, the evaporation works turned saltwater into salt for consumption. Today, the focus is on the health benefits of breathing in the air. Another intact salt-evaporation works can be found in nearby Bad Sulza. It features a covered walkway and a vapour room that are used for therapeutic purposes. And while you're in Bad Sulza, we highly recommend a visit to Toskana Therme, where warm thermal waters, soundscapes, colours and wellness programmes promise deep relaxation in pleasant surroundings.

INFORMATION

The destinations mentioned can be reached by public transport or in your own vehicle, and some of them include a short hike. Find out more at Jena's tourist information office or visit www.visit-jena.de



← Dornburg Palaces and Bauhaus Workshop Museum

The Dornburg Palaces sit in splendour on a steep cliff, and the views across the Saale valley are sensational. The three palaces date from different periods (Gothic, Renaissance and Rococo), and are linked to Emperor Otto I, as well as Duke Carl August of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach and his privy councillor, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The varied gardens are laid out across five terraces and modelled on French and English examples. There is also a fruit garden featuring heritage varieties and a romantic rose-covered pergola. The Bauhaus Workshop Museum next door is the only Bauhaus workshop outside of Weimar. After 100 years of uninterrupted use as a pottery, the collection offers visitors a real insight into the work of the artists and the special atmosphere of the place.



↑ A journey back in time at Naumburg Cathedral

Naumburg's Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul is one of Europe's most important cultural monuments from the High Middle Ages, and attracts large numbers of visitors to the town. The cathedral, built in the late Romanesque and early Gothic styles, is renowned for the remarkable statues of its founders in the west chancel, created by the Naumburg Master. In the treasure vault, you can embark on a journey back through almost a thousand years of cathedral history, and the cathedral garden is a lovely place for a stroll.

Saale-Unstrut – the start of your next adventure

There's much to discover on Jena's doorstep. The city is located in the beautiful Saale-Unstrut region, for example, which stretches from Uhlstädt-Kirchhasel in northern Thuringia to Wettin in Saxony-Anhalt. There's a strong medieval influence here, from winegrowing to cultural roots, and the unspoilt riverscapes, ancient vineyards and remarkable architectural legacy from more than 1,000 years of European history add to the region's appeal. Saale-Unstrut is Germany's northernmost wine region, and what better way to round off a day of culture than with a glass or two of local wine?

Looking up to the sky

Some highlights such as UNESCO-listed Naumburg Cathedral, Leuchtenburg Castle and the Rotkäppchen sparkling wine cellar in Freyburg are known beyond the region. And UNESCO recently added timber rafting, a centuries-old tradition that is still alive today on the Saale and White Elster rivers, to its list of intangible cultural heritage. This was a flourishing region even thousands of years ago, producing notable relics such as the Goseck Circle and the Nebra Sky Disk, which are now part of UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. For a long time, nobody was aware of the

treasures that our ancestors had left behind. The Merseburg Incantations, for example, were only rediscovered in the 19th century. And it wasn't until 1991 that aerial photos revealed the location of the Goseck Circle, a Neolithic solar observatory. And exactly 20 years ago illegal detectorists unearthed the Nebra Sky Disk, which eventually found its way into the museum after a hunt worthy of a crime novel. The revamped Nebra Ark visitor centre will reopen in July 2023. It will feature an updated show in the planetarium and a revised exhibition revealing the knowledge of the stars hidden in the Sky Disc. A new walk-on Sky Disc will offer the opportunity to examine it from a range of perspectives.



← The emperor's heart – a deep dive in Memleben

Kings and emperors also prized the region. Why else did Otto the Great choose Memleben Monastery as his final resting place? In 2023, the monastery's museum will be exploring his life and legacy to mark the 1050th anniversary of his death. From 7 May to 31 October 2023, a special exhibition entitled 'The emperor's heart – archaeological explorations where Otto the Great died' will present the latest finds from recent digs for the first time. The experts' findings are also providing input for new digital offerings. With the help of augmented reality, for example, visitors can use their smartphones to explore two medieval churches of which only few traces remain.

A vintage wine region and everything is united by wine

Emperor Otto III bestowed vineyards on Memleben Monastery way back in AD 998. Today, more grape varieties thrive in the Saale-Unstrut region than there are weeks in the year. Triassic limestone and variegated sandstone soils, as well as 1,600 hours of sunshine annually and just the right amount of rainfall, provide ideal growing conditions for producing crisp, light wines. The young local winegrowers are united in their ambition to produce sustainable wines with an unmistakable profile. Three wine routes and various cycle and walking trails pass through a backdrop of idyllic river valleys, terraced vineyards and impressive buildings. The tradition of making wine, including sparkling wine, is alive and well across the region, from Hohnstedt and Freyburg to Zeitz, Bad Sulza and Jena. Who knows, you might just find your new favourite wine in one of the winegrowing estates!

DER KREIS VON GOSECK – adventures off the beaten track

The 'Der Kreis von Goseck' game takes you on an interactive adventure. All you need is curiosity, a keen eye and a love of sleuthing to uncover mystical sites, unspoilt nature, architectural gems and places that will delight your senses. The adventure features a mix of fascinating stories and gaming elements, and the tours lead to 40 places in total across the Saale-Unstrut region. But don't panic, there's no need to visit them all in one go. Simply save them for your next visit to the region. The game is suitable for adults and families with children aged nine or older. No download is required, and the web app is free to use. To register, visit www.kreis-von-goseck.de

Uncover the beautiful unknown on themed cycle routes

If you feel like burning off some energy, a cycle tour could be just what you need. The region's best-known tour is the Saale Cycle Route, but its lesser-known themed cycle trails are no less attractive. You can delve into the region's industrial heritage on the Sugar Railway Cycle Path and the Recarbo Coal Cycle Trail, and explore interesting destinations related to renewable energies along the Energy Cycle Route. From Jena you can also head off on the Thuringian Mills Cycle Route, which connects three valleys – Gleistal, Eisenberger Mühltal and Zeitgrund – that are home to more than 20 mills, most of them former watermills: www.saale-unstrut-tourismus.de



Welcome to the Stadtspeicher

Looking at its spectacular shimmering holographic exterior, you might never guess that Jena's tourist information office is located in one of the city's oldest buildings. But once you step inside, you can immediately see the old beams and walls that have been carefully restored. Together with the new additions, they preserve the history of this old building at no. 16 on the market square.



The Stadtspeicher's origins date back to the late 13th century. Two separate structures were erected over a number of phases using timber frame construction, with the house at the rear built in 1435. The Bohlenstube, a timber-walled room that can be reached via a staircase, provides an insight into what the rest of the house might have originally looked like. In the Middle Ages, this was often the only heated room in the house. Initially used for storage, the front part of the building was converted to residential use in the 17th century. It remained a home until 1990, before the building became the property of the city of Jena in 2000. Jena received the Thuringian award for the protection and preservation of historical monuments in 2003 in recognition of the building's restoration. The ultra-modern hologra-



phic facade is the work of architect Ruairi O'Brien, who took an innovative and exciting approach to historical preservation. Through the interplay of light and glass, the facade creates a kaleidoscope of colours that varies according to the time of day and the angle from which you look at it. A pretty effect that pays homage to Jena's nickname as the city of light, which it owes to the advances in optics made here. The space occupied by Jena Tourist Information extends beyond the old building into Oberlauengasse. An extensive glass roof on the courtyard has created a light-flooded atrium with comfortable seating and an exhibition of works for sale. Tickets for events are sold in another area. It's definitely worth coming just to see the successful architectural interplay between the building's historical fabric and the new elements.

INSIDER TIPS

from Jena's tourist information office

From guided tours and sights and attractions to viewing points, restaurants and walking routes, we know Jena and the surrounding area. We also offer insider tips, as quite often the best place to visit is where the locals feel most at home. We look forward to hearing from you!



Thomas Bauer
Hotline

FOOD & DRINK TIPP A great way to spend a warm summer's evening is in the idyllic garden of the **Grünowski café**. It's located in a charming old villa in Schillergässchen, not far from the theatre in the city centre. You could also enjoy an evening by the water, for example in the **Am Wehr beer garden** in Jena's Burgau district, right next to the quaint medieval bridge. The picturesque views of the mountains and the setting on the Saale river are glorious. Large old lime trees provide shade, while the beach bar and deckchairs in the small beer garden create a cosy atmosphere. In the winter, the inside dining area is the ideal place to warm up over a hearty dinner.



Nadine Hey
Advice, sales and hotline

CULTURE TIPP If you're visiting us in the summer, then I definitely recommend the **KulturArena**. It brings a festival vibe to my home town, and allows everyone – whether they know each other or not – to enjoy magical moments together. I particularly like the fact that you always see older people dancing along even at the concerts aimed more at younger audiences. And that the concerts aren't limited to the square in front of the theatre, and that you can sense a real buzz right across the city. As a local, summertime means Kulturarena to me.



Kathrin Schulz
Back office

NATURE TIPP Visitors with dogs will find many attractive destinations in and around Jena. Four-legged friends will find plenty of space to run wild near the Napoleon Stone on **Landgrafen** hill. Keen walkers and their furry bundles of energy should head off on a walk towards Fürstenbrunnen spring, and continue on the **SaaleHorizontale** walking trail across the Kemberge hills, where the views of the city are simply marvellous. For anyone who doesn't want to walk that far, I highly recommend a leisurely stroll along the Leutra river towards Papiermühle mill, or around **Paradies Park**. There's just something very relaxing about the park, whatever the time of year.



Felix Reichenbacher
Ticketing

SPORT TIPP Visitors who love sports should visit the **Ernst Abbe Sportfeld stadium**. Unfortunately, the floodlight pylons, once the highest in Europe, had to be demolished in 2013 as a result of water damage. But the stadium still has plenty of charm, and here and there are reminders of FC Carl Zeiss Jena's domestic and international footballing triumphs. The stadium is currently being converted into a purely footballing arena, making a look inside the illustrious Sportfeld even more rewarding. I also recommend watching one of Medipolis SC Jena's basketball games in the **Sparkassen Arena**. The team is successfully playing in the Pro A League and has been in Germany's top division for several years now. The atmosphere during home games is always electric.



Sophie Lohmann
Advice, sales and hotline

EVENTS TIPP The people of Jena are a colourful mix of free thinkers, creative types and the musically minded. Dance evenings, comedy shows and readings in **F-Haus** and **Paradiescafé** draw crowds from across all age groups. Clubs like **Café Wagner**, **Kulturbahnhof** and **Zapata** are known for their electronic music, while Kassa hosts concerts and parties covering various genres, as well as club nights and DJ workshops. In the summer months, themed music events at **Strand 22** provide the soundtrack to your evening. The **Schneebrettbar** on the market square does the same in winter. It's also worth checking out what's on at **Rosenkeller**.

Plan your stay in Jena



Any trip starts with a plan. The team at the Jena tourist information office on the historical market square will be happy to assist, and can provide advice on the wide range of travel, accommodation and excursion options available.

Excellent transport links

Travelling to Jena couldn't be simpler, because the city is located right in the heart of Germany, and is easily accessible from any direction. By car it can be conveniently reached via the A4 and A9 autobahns. The nearest airport is at Erfurt, the state capital of Thuringia, only 70 kilometres from Jena. Leipzig-Halle airport is also within easy reach. Train travel is very straightforward

ward from all directions due to good north-south and east-west connections. The local public transport network is also very extensive. With trams, buses and the dial-a-ride taxi service you are always well connected in Jena, and the whole city is easily accessible.

www.nahverkehr-jena.de

CONTACT

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www.visit-jena.de

Looking for a suitable present or souvenir?

Then head to Jena's tourist information office at Markt 16.

- Gifts and lovely things
- Culinary treats from across the region and Thuringia
- Wine from the Saaleland

Find your inspiration here!

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*“ Jena is a place where
I can easily meet people
of a similar mindset. ”*

Danny Müller

Weintanne Jena bar and restaurant



JENA CITY OF LIGHT.

