

Köthen (Anhalt)

A delightful town at the heart of Saxony-Anhalt



The castle was built in the 14th century as a moated castle. It was rebuilt from 1597 to 1640 following a fire.



History of the town

The town was first documented in 1115 and has been populated since the days of early history. It was first mentioned as a town in 1313. The development was shaped by the culturally and artistically motivated princely house of Ascania. The spiritual atmosphere of the town attracted various characters of note. During the 17th century, Prince Ludwig brought the first society for the cultivation of the German language to Köthen from Weimar as well as the early school reformer Ratichius (Wolfgang Ratke). From 1717 to 1723, Johann Sebastian Bach held the post of high chapel master at the castle where he composed his 'Brandenburg Concertos' among other pieces. The founder of homeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann and founder of modern-day ornithology, Johann Friedrich Naumann also worked in Köthen (Anhalt). The historic town centre and many sights offer considerable insight into the rich history of this town.



Town hall, built between 1898 and 1900



Cathedral of St. Jakob, 15th century, the oldest preserved building structure in Köthen

Music, ornithology and homeopathy

A tour of our charming town centre reveals the successful activities undertaken over the last few years to renovate the historic buildings and restore them to their original glory. Many of the sights are an attraction for both locals and numerous visitors from far and wide: Köthen castle with its unique hall of mirrors, the Neo-Renaissance style town hall with one of the most sizeable council chambers around, the Bach memorial on the Wallstrasse street, the church of St. Jakob with its crypt of the princes and Ladegast organ, the church of St. Agnus with its painting of the Last Supper from the workshop of Lucas Cranach junior, the Magdeburg and Halle tower and much more. Parks and green areas and the local zoo which has existed for over 125 years are the ideal place for a relaxing break.

A day in Köthen tours of the town

Every 1st Saturday in the month, there are themed tours of the town on offer:

- Follow in the footsteps of J. S. Bach with organ prelude
- Personalities from history
- Fruit-Bearing Society
- J. G. H. Bandhauer - A master of Classicism in architecture
- The graves of the princes
- J. F. Naumann
- Homeopathy in Köthen
- Author readings at the town library
- Readings from regional historical literature:
"Paschlewwer Jeschichten"

Bookings:

Köthen Information
Schlossplatz 4
Apothekengewölbe
Tues-Sun 10:00-17:00



Spherical fountain in the pedestrian zone on the Schalaunische Strasse

Tradition and fun

The town pays homage to the life and works of Johann Sebastian Bach with its annually alternating Köthen Bach festival, which has already gained itself a good reputation on the international music scene, and the National Bach competition for young pianists, not forgetting the 'Köthen Autumn' event held by the Society of the Friends and Promoters of the Bach Memorial at Köthen castle. The varied calendar of

events offers plenty of ways to actively enjoy your free time. Highlights include the cow festival, the music mile, the homeopathy days and the 'Zollstockbörse' (folding rule exchange) which have all added to Köthen's fame. The events centre at Köthen castle also offers plenty of cultural diversity. In short: Köthen is a very interesting travel destination. And a delightful town where life is good.

Listen to Bach's masterpieces in Köthen



Hall of mirrors (formerly the throne room) at Köthen castle

