

## DRESDEN

**Dresden** is the capital city of the Free **State of Saxony** in **Germany**. It is situated in a valley on **the River Elbe**. The Dresden conurbation is part of the Saxon Triangle metropolitan area. Dresden has a long history as the capital and royal residence for the Electors and **Kings of Saxony**, who for centuries furnished the city with cultural and artistic splendour. The city was completely destroyed by the controversial Allied aerial bombing towards the end of World War II. The impact of the bombing and 40 years of urban development during the East German socialist era have considerably changed the face of the city. Some restoration work has helped to reconstruct parts of historic inner city, including **the Katholische Hofkirche, the Semperoper** and **the Dresdner Frauenkirche**. Since the **German reunification** in 1990, Dresden has re-emerged as a cultural, educational, political and economic centre of Germany.



**The Semperoper** is the opera house of the **Saxon State Opera Dresden** (German: Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden) and the concert hall of the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden in Dresden, **Germany**. It was first built in 1841, by architect Gottfried Semper. The building style itself is debated among many, as it has features that appear in the Early Renaissance style, Baroque and even features **Corinthian style** pillars typical of classical Greece (classical revival). Perhaps the most suitable label for this style

would be Eclecticism; where influences from many styles are used- a practice most common during this period.

**Dresden Castle** (German: Dresdner Residenzschloss or just Dresdner Schloss) is one of the oldest buildings in Dresden and has been the residence of the Electors (1547–1806) and Kings (1806–1918) of **Saxony**. One of the most important properties of the castle is the multitude of styles, from Romanesque to Baroque, that can be found. In the first 15 years after the end of the Second World War no attempts were made to restore the building except the installation of a temporary roof in 1946. During the 1960s, the reconstruction began with the installation of new windows. Since then an amazing amount of restoration has occurred. The famous "**Grünes Gewölbe**" (Green Vault) was reopened in 2005 containing among other priceless items the treasures of the Saxon Monarchy.

**The Katholische Hofkirche** (English: The Catholic Church of the Royal Court of Saxony) is a Roman Catholic Cathedral, located in **the 'Altstadt'** in the heart of Dresden. Previously the most important Catholic parish church of the city, it was elevated to cathedral of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dresden-Meißen in 1964. The Hofkirche stands as one of Dresden's foremost landmarks. It was built by architect Gaetano Chiaveri from 1738 to 1751. The church was commissioned by **Frederick Augustus II**, Elector of Saxony and king of Poland, and contains the heart of his father, king August the Strong as well as the remains of 49 other members of the Wettin family.

**The Zwinger Palace** (Der Dresdner Zwinger) in Dresden is a major baroque German landmark. The location was formerly part of the **Dresden** fortress of which the outer wall is conserved. The name derives from the German word Zwinger (outer ward of a concentric castle); it was for the cannons that were placed between the outer wall and the major wall. The Zwinger was not enclosed until the neoclassical building by Gottfried Semper called the Semper wing was built to host the **Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister art gallery**.



**Transparent Factory** is the English name of an automobile production plant owned by German carmaker **Volkswagen** and opened in 2002. The original German name is **Gläserne Manufaktur**. Both the German and English names are a word play on the double meaning of transparent and glassy, referring to both optical transparency and transparency of the production process. The main purpose of the factory is the assembly of Volkswagen's luxury sedan, the Phaeton. The factory's walls are made almost completely of glass. Its floors are covered entirely in Canadian maple. Its visitor-friendly layout was designed to accommodate up to 250 tourists per day. There are no smokestacks, no loud noises, and no toxic byproducts. Volkswagen have planted 350 trees in the grounds.



**The Dresdner Frauenkirche** ("Church of Our Lady") is a Lutheran church in **Dresden**. The Dresden Frauenkirche survived the firebombing of Dresden during World War II but was totally burned out and collapsed the next day. It has been reconstructed as a landmark symbol of reconciliation between former warring enemies. The reconstruction of its exterior was completed in 2004, its interior in 2005 and after 13 years of rebuilding, the church was reconsecrated on 30 October 2005 with festive services lasting through the Protestant observance of **Reformation Day** on 31 October. Once a month, an Anglican Evensong in English is held in the Frauenkirche, with clergy sent from St. George's Anglican Chaplaincy in **Berlin**.

**The Grünes Gewölbe** (Green Vault) in Dresden, is a museum that contains the largest **collection of treasures in Europe**. It is a part of the Dresden castle. It was founded by **August der Starke** (Augustus II the Strong) in 1723. It features a unique and rich variety of exhibits from the period of baroque to classicism. The name comes from the first green-painted room. It has been completely reconstructed and was reopened on 1 September 2006. It is often referred to as a walk-in treasure chest. It contains nine rooms, each with its own exhibition theme. The crown jewels used by the **Saxon kings of Poland** and some reminders of the Polish monarchs, like a 14th century cup of Queen Jadwiga of Poland, illegally appropriated by **Frederick Augustus I**, Elector of Saxony are also displayed in the Grünes Gewölbe.

**The Botanischer Garten der Technischen Universität Dresden** (3.25 hectares), also known as the Botanischer Garten Dresden, is a botanical garden maintained by the **Dresden University of Technology**. The garden contains approximately 10,000 plant species, including unusual collections of annual plants (about 800 species) and wild plants from Saxony and **Thuringia**. It contains geographically arranged sections of plants from **Asia, North America**, etc., including the unusual *Quercus phellos* as well as *Corydalis nobilis*, *Hamamelis*, rhododendrons, magnolias, and so forth; a systematic section; an alpine garden collecting a variety of European high mountain plants, including gentian (*Gentiana*), species of saxifrage (*Saxifraga*), *Dianthus caryophyllus*, numerous cruciferous plants and primroses; and a garden that contains poisonous, curative, and medicinal plants.

**The Militärgeschichtliches Museum der Bundeswehr** (German for "Military History Museum of the Bundeswehr"), together with **the Luftwaffenmuseum der Bundeswehr**, is one of the major military history museums in Germany. The museum is under the technical and administrative chain of command of the Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt or MGFA (Military History Research Institute). The original **Brandtaucher**, the first German submarine, built in Kiel in 1850, is shown.

## TO DO

Stroll around **the Großer Garten** (Great Garden). Only a few minutes from the city center, this beautiful big garden with a little castle in its middle is used by many locals to relax, walk around, go rollerblading or rowing in small boats on the Carolasee.

## INFORMATION

### Tourism Office of Dresden

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