

STUTT GART

Stuttgart is the capital of the state of **Baden-Württemberg** in southern **Germany** and is the sixth-largest city in Germany. The city lies at the centre of a heavily populated area, circled by a ring of smaller towns. Stuttgart is spread across a variety of hills, valleys and parks - unusual for German cities and often a cause of surprise to visitors who primarily associate the city with its industrial reputation as the '**Cradle of the automobile**'.

Stuttgart has the status of **Stadtkreis**, a type of self-administrating urban county. It is also the seat of the state legislature, the regional parliament, local council and the Protestant State Church in Württemberg as well as one of the two co-seats of the bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart.



The Old Castle (German: **Altes Schloss**) is located in the centre of **Stuttgart**. It dates back to the 10th century. The first castle dated back to around 950 when Stuttgart was a settlement for breeding horses. In the 14th century it became **the residence of the Counts of Württemberg**. In the 16th century dukes Christopher and Ludwig ordered it to be converted into a Renaissance castle. Moats around the castle were removed in the 18th century. In 1931 the castle was severely damaged by a fire and before it could be reconstructed it was damaged by bombing in the Second World War. The castle was finally renovated in 1969. Today the Old Castle is home to **the State Museum of Württemberg**.



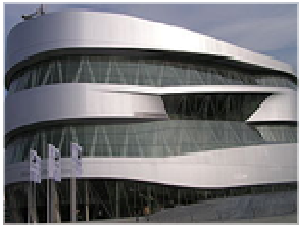
characteristic of classicism: instead of the irregular lively forms typical of Rococo, the proportions of the rooms and wall are typically classical in design.

Castle Solitude (also known as Solitude Palace), was built as a hunting lodge between 1764 and 1769 under **Duke Karl Eugen of Württemberg**. It is not a true castle, but rather a rococo palace. Since 1956 the area has belonged to the urban district of Stuttgart-West. The castle lies on a high plain between the towns of **Leonberg, Gerlingen** and Stuttgart city. The castle offers views to the north over Weilimdorf, Korntal and Ludwigsburg. Its exterior is typical Rococo. On the inside, however, the style is



The Staatsgalerie Stuttgart (State Gallery) is an art gallery and art museum in Stuttgart, opened in 1843. In 1984 the opening of the Neue Staatsgalerie (New State Gallery) designed by James Stirling transformed the once provincial gallery into one of Europe's leading museums. Originally, the classicist building of the

Alte Staatsgalerie was also the home of **the royal art school**. Built in 1843, it was extended by two further wings during 1881-1887. After being totally destroyed in World War II, it was rebuilt from 1946 and reopened in 1948.



The Mercedes-Benz Museum is an automotive museum. **Stuttgart** is home to the Mercedes-Benz brand and the international headquarters of Daimler AG. The building, which stands directly outside the main gate of **the Daimler factory** in Stuttgart-Untertürkheim, was designed by UN Studio. It is based on a unique cloverleaf concept using three overlapping circles with the centre removed to form a triangular atrium. The museum was completed and opened in 2006. The building's height and "double helix" interior were designed to maximise space, providing 16,500 square metres of exhibition space on a footprint of just 4,800 square metres. The museum contains more than 160 vehicles, some dating back to the very earliest days of the motor engine. The museum provides visitors with free audio tours in a variety of languages.

The Kunstmuseum Stuttgart is a recently opened (March 2005) art museum. The cubic museum building with 5000 m² of display space was designed by Berlin architects Hascher and Jehle. During the day it looks like a glass cube, and at nights the interior lighted limestone walls become visible. The museum's collection comes from the previous "Galerie der Stadt Stuttgart". The city's collection goes back to a gift from the Marchese Silvio della Valle di Casanova in 1924. It contains one of the most important collections of the work of Otto Dix and also works from Willi Baumeister, Adolf Hölzel, Dieter Roth, and others.

Wilhelma, built as a royal palace, is now a zoo in Stuttgart. It is **Europe's** only large combined zoological and botanical garden and is home to over 8,000 animals from over 1,000 different species and countless exotic plants from over 5,000 different species. The zoo is famous for keeping all four kinds of great apes, all in families with offspring, as well as for its aquarium featuring animals and plants from all over the world. The botanical gardens are renowned for containing Europe's biggest magnolia grove. It was also the home of the polar bear Wilbär.



Ludwigsburg Palace is one of Germany's largest baroque palaces and features an enormous baroque garden. It is located in the city of Ludwigsburg (12 kilometres or 7.5 miles north of Stuttgart's city centre). The Palace was at times one of the most magnificent courts in Europe. The foundation stone was laid on May 17, 1704 under **Duke Eberhard Ludwig of Württemberg** (reigning monarch from 1693 to 1733). One year later the site was named "Ludwigsburg". Begun as a hunting lodge, the project became much more complex and gained momentum over the years.

Schillerplatz is a square in the old city centre of **Stuttgart** named in honour of the German poet, philosopher, historian, and dramatist **Friedrich Schiller**. Schillerplatz

stands to the south west of Stuttgart's main square, Schlossplatz. A street market takes place twice a week on Schillerplatz. The square is also used for major events taking place on **Marktplatz** (Stuttgart's Market Square) such as the annual Christmas Market. Hidden underneath Schillerplatz's cobblestones is an underground car park. The late Gothic Fruchtkasten building in the corner of Schillerplatz is now used by **the State Museum of Württemberg** to house a collection of musical instruments.

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INFORMATION

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