



### Welcome to Magdeburg, the City of Otto! Come and discover our city!

Magdeburg is the "City of Otto". The capital city of the German Land of Saxony-Anhalt was given this nickname in commemoration of the two famous Ottos who had a great impact on its history: Emperor Otto the Great and Otto von Guericke. Numerous sights and attractions, a diverse history stretching back over 1200 years, an extensive programme of cultural events, shopping opportunities and fitness and relaxation activities make Magdeburg, which is one of Germany's oldest cities, well worth a visit, whatever the time of year!

Come and explore the Elbe metropolis and enjoy a fascinating walk around four selected districts of Magdeburg city centre. Tourist signposts will guide you on your way through the heart of Magdeburg and point out interesting sights and attractions.

### The Market Area



**01** Start your city walk in the heart of Magdeburg, namely at the **Old Market** (Alter Markt), where markets have prospered and trade has flourished since the early Middle Ages. Here you will find the **Magdeburg Horseman**, the first free-standing medieval equestrian statue in Germany, which allegedly depicts Emperor Otto the First. The original statue is exhibited in the Magdeburg Cultural History Museum. The history of the **Old Town Hall** (Altes Rathaus) dates back to the 12th and 13th centuries, although the Ratskeller vaults are all that remains of the former Gothic-style building.

**02** The **Otto von Guericke Monument** is dedicated to the former Lord Mayor of Magdeburg, who was also a diplomat and one of the most important natural scientists of the 17th century. Guericke was the inventor of the vacuum pump (in around 1660), the initiator of the world-famous Magdeburg hemispheres experiments, the founder of experimental physics in Germany, the man behind the first electrostatic generator in the world (1660) and a pioneer in the field of weather forecasting.



**03** The **Eisenbart Fountain** commemorates the life and work of the famous widely travelled physician Johann Andreas Eisenbart (1663-1727), who worked in Magdeburg in around 1700.

**04** In 1902/03, the **Art Nouveau Building**, which is still standing today, was established as the Lodge building of the Freemason's Lodge "de la Felicité" ("Of Felicity"), which had been founded in Magdeburg in 1761. The façade of the building is decorated with symbols of the Freemasons and the names of famous Freemasons are displayed in the cornices. The building is now no longer used by the Lodge.

**05** The **Mark Fortress** was used as so-called 'barracks for defence purposes' and was integrated into the northern section of the inner defence installations when the last phase of the construction work on the fortification of the city was completed between 1863 and 1865. After undergoing extensive renovation and being transformed into a culture centre, the Fortress now hosts a wide variety of events including concert evenings and medieval festivals.

**06** Your walk now takes you to **St. John's Church**, the oldest parish church in Magdeburg, which was first mentioned in 941. The western section of the church, which has a late Romanesque design, and the Gothic hall church have both been preserved. Traces of Martin Luther (a monument) and the Otto von Guericke family (a crypt) can be found both in front of the church and inside the building, which is now predominantly used as a venue for conferences and cultural events.

**07** The **Jakobstrasse** road is reminiscent of the "Jakobsviertel", a city district built as part of the extension of Magdeburg in around 1230. St. James' Church, which was once the largest parish church in Magdeburg, dominated the district with its narrow winding alleys until it was demolished in 1959. Locals used to refer to the church as the "Knattergebirge" - the origins of Magdeburg.

**08** What is now known as the **Ulrichplatz** was once the centre of the historic "Ulrichviertel" district, which was home to the St. Ulrich and Levin Church. In 1951, the square was designed as a central location for parades and proclamations in "National Tradition" style. It was reduced in size in 1990.

**09** The **Breiter Weg**, Magdeburg's High Street, was once the city's most attractive boulevard. Between 1962 and 1970, the northern section of the street was rebuilt as a Magistrale, a socialist-style high street with buildings made from prefabricated concrete slabs.

**10** The **Opera House** of the Magdeburg Theatre was reconstructed between 1993 and 1997 after its complete destruction by a fire in 1990, having originally been erected as a privately-run central theatre in 1906/07. Wheelchair access is available at the Box Office entrance.

### The Elbe District



**11** The **Walloon Church** St. Augustine was erected in 1285 as a monastery. The hall church of the Order of the Hermit Friars of St. Augustine was built in High Gothic style and has a small tower next to the choir that is typical of mendicant order churches. It was in St. Augustine Church where the reformer Martin Luther preached in 1524 and where persecuted Walloons came together in the 18th century.

**12** Built in around 1150, the western tower of the **St. Petri Parish Church** is a fine example of Romanesque art and boasts beautifully crafted friezes in the round arches of the bell chamber windows. In 1380, the church's Romanesque nave was transformed into a Gothic-style nave and the southern annex in Brick Gothic style was subsequently added in around 1480.

**13** Within the old walls of the **Lukasklause** building, which boasts an octagonal tower that was first mentioned in the 14th century, you can view historic replicas, pictures and documents, as well as live experiments, that will give you an insight into the life and work of Otto von Guericke (1602 - 1686). The Guericke Centre was opened in 2010.

**14** The pier of the **"Weiße Flotte"** ("White Fleet") is located on the nearby banks of the river Elbe. From here, you can go on exciting cruises to the Waterway junction or along the historical cityscape during the season. Just a stone's throw away you will find the

reconstruction of a wooden **water ship mill** that dates back to 1874 and contains a functioning grinding gear. Up to 23 water ship mills were anchored on the Elbe in and around Magdeburg in the 17th and 18th centuries.

**15** Along the picturesque Elbuferpromenade walk along the river, **The Ferryman** depicts the hardship and success of the citizens of Magdeburg on the banks of the river Elbe. Next to this you will see **five reliefs** displaying scenes from Magdeburg's history.



### otto plays his cards right

The Magdeburg Tourist Card is the ideal companion for visitors who want to explore and get to know Magdeburg, the City of Otto.



### The Cathedral District

**16** A major attraction along the Romanesque Road and the oldest surviving building in Magdeburg is the **Monastery of Our Lady**, which is now home to the city's Art Museum. With its collections and exhibitions, the Museum has become the most important location for displaying sculptures and contemporary art in Saxony-Anhalt. The building was originally constructed as a Romanesque monastery in the 11th and 12th centuries. The church, which was adorned with cross-ribbed vaults after 1220, was transformed into the Georg Philipp Telemann Concert Hall in 1977. During the Second World War, the west wing of the monks' enclosure and the surrounding buildings were severely damaged. The west wing was reconstructed after the war, whereas the buildings in the surrounding area were knocked down and removed. The Museum's artwork is exhibited in three vaults belonging to the north wing of the building, as well as in the spacious sculpture park surrounding it.



**17** In 955, Otto the Great commissioned the construction of a monumental cathedral in Magdeburg, his favourite palatine and residence. Otto the Great died shortly after his first procession to **Magdeburg Cathedral** with his wife as Emperor. You can still visit his tomb today and marvel at the many exhibits from the Middle Ages. After the building commissioned by Otto the Great was destroyed in a city fire in 1207, reconstruction work began in 1209. This resulted in the first Gothic cathedral inspired by French examples in the Holy Roman Empire. Early Gothic sculptures such as "The Wise and the Foolish Virgins" and the St. Maurice statue are internationally renowned pieces of art. Cathedral services take place at 10am on Sundays and church holidays.

**18** The former **Old Möllenvogtei**, built in around 1600, is located directly behind the Cathedral and is now home to the **Romanesque Art Centre** and an **Information Centre for the Romanesque Road**. If you walk through Magdeburg's only remaining preserved medieval city gate, you will see the building at **Remtergang 1**, which is the oldest surviving half-timbered residential building in the old city centre.

**19** The **Fürstenwall** area dates back to the Middle Ages and contains city fortifications facing the river Elbe and the two preserved fortified towers. Built in 1725, this was the first public promenade in Germany. It's creation was initiated by Prince Leopold I of Anhalt-Dessau. The "Kiek in de Köken" **Defence Tower** (1431) owes its peculiar name to the fact that it once enabled watchmen to look directly into the Archbishop's kitchen. The neighbouring Möllenvogteigarten ('Bailiwick Garden') is the oldest preserved garden design in the city of Magdeburg.



**20** The **Gebhardt Bastion (Cleve)** formed the south-eastern corner of the ring of fortifications built around Magdeburg. The Förder (1525-1536), which connects the Fürstenwall with this Bastion, is a vaulted driveway leading through the former fortress installations. The Bastion is also home to a pedestrian bridge to the river Elbe, which ends in an observation platform providing a magnificent view across the waters.

**21** The Magdeburg **Cultural History Museum** has made a name for itself far beyond the borders of Saxony-Anhalt thanks to its impressive medieval exhibitions. The building of the Cultural History Museum was constructed in Neo-Renaissance style between 1901 and 1906. In addition to the original "Magdeburg Horseman" and the hall of Emperor Otto the Great, the Museum also hosts an exhibition on Magdeburg's 1200-year-old history and is home to the Museum of Nature.

**22** The foundation stone of the **Cathedral Church St. Sebastian** was laid by Archbishop Gero in 1015 and in 1169, the building was consecrated as a Romanesque basilica. After a fire the building was transformed into a Gothic hall church in the 14th and 15th centuries. Nowadays, visitors can now still admire the Romanesque style of the building's original outline, twin tower façade and transept.

The building hosting the **Justice Centre** of Magdeburg (the former post office) was constructed between 1895 and 1899 in late Dutch Gothic style.

**23** In the courtyard of the **Leiterstrasse**, which was first mentioned in 1263, you can sit down and relax in one of the many restaurants whilst enjoying the view of the bronze **Faun Fountain** with teasing mythical creatures designed by Heinrich Apel (1986).



**24** After enjoying the interplay of Baroque façades and modern design along Breiter Weg, you will reach the highly visible Hundertwasser building, the last architectural design created by the artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. **THE GREEN CITADEL of Magdeburg** will fascinate you with its unique boldly coloured façade, 900 different windows, golden globes and sweetly scented flowering meadows on the rooftops. Take some time to explore its small shops, boutiques and galleries or treat yourself to delicious meals and refreshing beverages in the coffee bars and restaurants.

**25** Two **Baroque patrician houses** recall the splendour of bygone days when the Breiter Weg was one of the most magnificent Baroque boulevards in Germany. Here, in 1951, reconstruction of the old city centre began after the destruction of 1945, which is commemorated by the stone relief on the **Bärbogen Gate**.

### The Gründerzeit District



**26** The design process for the **Fürstenwallpark**, which is located next to the site of the Bastion Gebhardt (Cleve), began in 1990. In the vicinity of the park, you can admire a densely built-up area that dates back to the first city extension and boasts many façade decorations from the height of Historism. The Hegelstrasse is considered to be the most beautiful boulevard in the district.

**27** The **Palais at Fürstenwall** (1889-93) was the representative residence of the German imperial family from 1893 to 1918 and is now used as the seat of the Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt.

**28** The Gothicised building of the **Leibniz School**, which dates back to the period of Historism, is an illustrious example of how much the school system was promoted in Magdeburg at the end of the 19th century. The Landesarchiv, the main archive of Saxony-Anhalt, was built as a Royal State Archive between 1906 and 1908.

**29** The two-storey high auditorium of the **Hegel High School** (on which construction began in 1910), which is situated in the central rotunda of the school building, deserves a special mention. The Second City Extension (1905-1920) provided Magdeburg with beautiful façades in Art Nouveau style, of which only a few are represented here.

**30** The building at **Sternstrasse 29** embodies one of the examples of the use of ornamental elements in Brick Gothic style, which was popular in the North of Germany.

**31** At **Hasselbachplatz**, which is named after a former major of Magdeburg (1809-1882), you can marvel at the city's most magnificent Gründerzeit-style façades. This district is home to many pubs, bars and restaurants and is well worth a visit, especially in the evening.

**32** The **Schauspielhaus** was erected as the Klusemann Villa in 1873 and is now used as a venue for plays performed by Magdeburg Theatre. After an extensive refurbishment, the building is now one of the most modern of its kind.