

## Local Attractions

### Church Of Our Lady

Since 30<sup>th</sup> October 2005, the steeple of the Church of our Lady is overseeing the Dresden skyline again. The reconstruction of the building is an impressive symbol of international reconciliation after World War II. The consecration attracted attention throughout the world. More than 2 million people have already visited the Church of our Lady. It was erected between 1726 and 1743, following the designs of George Bähr. Its characteristic dome, called the 'stone bell' owing to its shape, collapsed on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1945 under the rain of bombs. An anti-war monument during the GDR period, the rebuilding is now complete. The Church of our Lady is a symbol of conciliation, largely with donations from German and international foundations. The Neumarkt quarter around the church is also to regain its status as the historical heart of the city.



### The Semper Opera House

The Semper Opera House is one of the most beautiful Operas in the world. It was built by Gottfried Semper (1838-41) and then gutted by fire in 1869. His son Manfred rebuilt the Opera from 1871 to 1878 in High Renaissance style according to Semper's plans. The house was completely destroyed in 1945 and reopened in 1985 after extensive reconstruction. It is the only theatre in Germany that bears the name of its architect.

### The Zwinger

The Zwinger was built from 1710 to 1728 by the architect Pöppelmann in cooperation with the sculptor Permoser. Originally designed as an orangery and a setting for court festivities, it was later used for exhibitions. It is the most perfect example of Late Baroque architecture in Germany. There are many museums in the Zwinger, for example the Old Masters Gallery, the Armoury (Rüstkammer), the Porcelain Collection and the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon.

## Sächsische Schweiz National Park (Elbsandsteingebirge)

The National Park is the centre of a natural area of almost 710<sup>2</sup> (274 mi<sup>2</sup>). This region is called Sächsische Schweiz Park Region and is cultivated by humans at many places. Some smaller towns and villages like Bad Schandau or Königstein in the district of Sächsische Schweiz are part of this region. The core area of the National Park has a quiescent area of 40 percent and is covered almost completely by forest. The National Park, which grants highest natural protection in Germany, was established in 1990. Today there are some 400 km (250 miles) of hiking paths, 49.9 km (31 miles) of biking paths, and 755 climbing locations with around 12,600 possibilities of climbing routes.



## Royal Castle

The castle was mentioned for the first time 700 years ago. A palace comprising four wings was built in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was destroyed by fire in 1701 and rebuilt under Augustus the Strong. To mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wettin dynasty large-scale alterations in Neo-Renaissance style (1889-1901) were made. The Royal castle was destroyed again during the Second World War in 1945. The reconstruction as a museum complex was commenced in 1989. Its characteristic copper Baroque cupola was restored in 1991. While the lower sections of the castle date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, the inner court, with graffito painting inspired by Italian models, is a reflection of its condition in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## The Fürstenzug

The mural is painted on tiles from Meissen porcelain and 102 metres long. It depicts successive generations of Wettin rulers (35 margraves, dukes, electors and kings) as a mounted procession. They governed between 1123 and 1904. Situated round the corner from the Hilton Hotel.



## **Sächsische Dampfschiffahrt**

Board a fleet of ships that are unique in the world. With nine historical paddle steamers, between 78 and 128 years old. Sächsische Dampfschiffahrt owns the oldest and largest paddle steamer fleet in the world. Two modern salon ships and two smaller motor cruisers complete the line-up. Allow yourself to be enchanted by the nostalgic charm of the paddle steamers, the quiet swishing of the paddles and the rhythmic stamping of their steam engines. The Elbe between Seusslitz near Meissen and Decin in the Czech Republic is not just one of the most beautiful river landscapes in Europe – the stretch of the Elbe valley through Dresden has also been designated UNESCO world heritage status since 2004.

## **Bruhl's Terrace**

The 'Balcony of Europe' is the last part of the former rampart. From 1739 to 1748 it was laid out as a 'pleasance' with trees and walks for the Prime Minister Count Brühl. After the building of the magnificent flight of steps in 1814, the terrace was made accessible to the public. The discovery of European porcelain (by Böttger in 1708) was made in the vaults beneath the terrace.

## **Asisi Panometer**

Asisi's monumental 360° panorama of the baroque town 1756 by the artist Yadegar Asisi from Berlin. Travel back in time and visit Dresden, the beautiful city on the river Elbe, the day before the outbreak of the Seven Years' War. At Asisi Panometer, the panoramic portrayal of the city on the river Elbe takes you on a visual journey back to the Augustan era. You will be surrounded on all sides by the panoramic painting, 105m long and 27m high, the visitor is immersed in the scenery and becomes part of the baroque Dresden.

