Robert Schumann has strongly influenced cultural activities in Zwickau. This is apparent in the monthly concerts and also through the Schumann Festival, which is organized annually around his birthday on July 8th. His legacy in Zwickau truly comes to life at the International Robert Schumann Competition for piano and voice, which attracts participants from all over the world every four years. These artists want to prove themselves in front of a jury of experts, as many winners have gone on to start an international career as a pianist or singer. The concert hall and ballroom "Neue Welt", with Saxony's largest terraced hall, is the venue of this competition as well as many other musical events and celebrations.

Notable personalities

Two rotundas also attract audiences with their unique atmospheres: the Stadthalle Zwickau is a tour stop for pop idols, rock stars and famous comedians as well as a perfect location for tradeshows and sporting events. The "Alter Gasometer" hosts a variety of music, cabaret and smaller scale performing art events as well as workshops, conferences and various competitions. The Ratschulbibliothek was Saxony's first public library and has an exceptionally valuable amount of historical prints and written works. The library, as well as the town archive and art collections, is located at Lessingstraße 1.

Next to the composer Schumann and the auto-pioneer Horch, other notable personalities have left their mark on Zwickau. Max Pechstein (1881-1955), the famous German expressionist and the 'Brücke' artist Fritz Bleyl (1880-1955) were both born here, as well as the actor Gert Fröbe (1913-1988). Additionally, the scholar Georgius Agricola, known as the father of modern mining science, taught from 1519 to 1522 at the municipal Latin School, founded in 1478 in Zwickau.

Priesterhäuser (priests' quarters) near the cathedral, the Gewandhaus – built from 1522 to 1525 – invites audiences to enjoy ballet, opera and theatrical performances. Also worth visiting is the impressive Schloss Osterstein estate, one of the most distinctive Renaissance structures in Saxony. From the castle, the newly constructed MuldeParadies Leisure Park doesn’t seem so far away. These gardens and the green around the Swan's Lake are particularly popular with nature fans, families with children, weekend athletes and bicyclists. Relaxation and movement can also be combined in Zwickau’s modern fitness and dance studios, at groomed sports complexes and at the city’s beautiful bathing beaches. A visit to the Johannisbad, a swimming pool located to the north of the city is particularly unforgettable: the exterior is finished in a historical style, while the interior unifies elements of various epochs – from Jugendstil to the neo-Gothic – with a touch of oriental bathing culture. The pool is located in the Schlobig Park and the Mulde bicycle path runs right by it.

Bathing fun at the Johannisbad (pool)

The historical city-centre with the carefully restored Jugendstil and Wilhelminian architecture is a feast for the eyes. Zwickau has been a centre of commerce and trade for centuries and today it is still a top shopping location. Large department stores, the Zwickau Arcades, traditional shops, restaurants with individual character and cozy cafes all located in the historical city centre invite you to stroll, shop and take part in daily life. Carefully maintained landmarks of times gone by can be seen with every step: the "first square of the city" at Zwickau’s Hauptmarkt shines anew since its renovation at the beginning of 2011. Every year, thousands of guests enjoy the warm weather at the summer City Festival and at outdoor classical, pop and rock concerts as well as sporting events and markets. The "new old" town hall ( Rathaus) is also located at the Hauptmarkt, with its modern extension and carefully restored historic section – a particular highlight is its Jakobskapelle [Jacob’s Chapel], a historical jem constructed between 1473 and 1477. Right next door, the Gewandhaus – built from 1522 to 1525 – invites audiences to enjoy ballet, opera and theatrical performances. Notable personalities

Ever since it was founded in 1478, Zwickau has been a centre of commerce, industry and mining. The city's Old Town has preserved its character and cozy cafes all located in the historical city centre invite you to stroll, shop and take part in daily life. Carefully maintained landmarks of times gone by can be seen with every step: the "first square of the city" at Zwickau’s Hauptmarkt shines anew since its renovation at the beginning of 2011. Every year, thousands of guests enjoy the warm weather at the summer City Festival and at outdoor classical, pop and rock concerts as well as sporting events and markets. The "new old" town hall ( Rathaus) is also located at the Hauptmarkt, with its modern extension and carefully restored historic section – a particular highlight is its Jakobskapelle [ Jacob’s Chapel], a historical jem constructed between 1473 and 1477. Right next door, the Gewandhaus – built from 1522 to 1525 – invites audiences to enjoy ballet, opera and theatrical performances.

Further information:

www.zwickau.de

Impressum

Herausgeber: Stadt Zwickau
Redaktion/Satz: Presse- und Oberämterverwaltung
Foto: Stadt Zwickau, NITD Z., Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH, Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau
Übersetzung: PT Sprachhilfen, Service international OHR, Zwickau
Druck: Flyerprint
Anlage: 5.000

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Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH, vehicle manufacturing plant in Zwickau
Almost 900 years of tradition

Zwickau, a location, has many aspects, which make it interesting to investors. These include its immediate proximity to the autobahn, a high number of available specialists and industrial real estate, as well as its reasonable production cost levels. The potential employees here possess exceptional qualifications with specific abilities in plant and mechanical engineering, as well as experience in manufacturing, electronics and construction industries. Companies acting on an international level have established themselves in the region Chemnitz-Zwickau with thousands of jobs and social security. Furthermore, the wave of the company's move also produced approx. 20,000 jobs in the areas of subcontracting, provision of services and trade.

There are many positive examples in Zwickau for the future-oriented development of the local supplier industry. Johnson Controls is a worldwide leader in automotive interior systems and electronics. Additionally, the company, Johnson Controls-Sachsen-Batterie GmbH & Co. KG Power Solutions EMEA, runs the Zwickau battery plant. This enterprise has grown into the largest production location worldwide for energy storage devices for start-stop vehicles. Furthermore, the HOPPECKE Corporation – a leader in automotive industries and technology and energy storage systems – has invested in Zwickau's future, building a new research and development centre here. The Tenneco Zwickau GmbH functions as the EU-wide competence centre for emission treatment systems within the US-American company Tenneco Automotive. The PES GmbH Fahrzeugentwicklung Sachsen and the Auto-Entwicklungsgesellschaft Sachsen GmbH distinguish themselves as specialists in chassis and body construction. Other branches have also found their success in Zwickau. Perfect evidence of this are the chemical company Arkema GmbH, the refrigeration specialist ILA2 Dioxidtechnik GmbH, the internationally active industrial furnace producer IFPW Industriefeuer- und Feuerfestbau GmbH & Co. KG as well as the Aescia Pharmaceuticals GmbH Werk Zwickau.

Zwickau, as the birthplace of the composer Robert Schumann (1810-1856), the place he was born in, at Hauptmarkt 5, is a museum, concert hall and venue for events, as well as a renowned research institute. The Robert Schumann House contains the largest world-wide collection with more than 4,000 original works written by the romantic composer and his wife, the pianist Clara, née Welck (1819-1896). A very popular photo opportunity is the Robert Schumann Memorial, located at the Hauptmarkt [market square]. The St. Marien cathedral, with its 87 metre high spire, plays an important role in Zwickau’s history as a masterpiece of Upper Saxon late Gothic architecture. The cathedral houses the Wolgenmut Altor – a valuable piece of art history. In the cathedral courtyard, one can also see the priests’ quarters. These belong to the oldest living ensembles in Germany. Today, the priests’ quarters contain a museum in which one can experience life as it was in the Middle Ages, as well as learn about the various eras of Zwickau’s history. Although a visit to the museum is a highlight, a stroll through the cathedral area will offer a lot of interesting anecdotes to offer – modern information points provide historical information about Zwickau and its landmarks. Special walking routes allow tourists to follow the footsteps of Robert Schumann or to learn more about the Reformation and Martin Luther.

Whether industrial or cultural, a city with history or a centre with a future – Zwickau unifies the most diverse faces. Music fans all over the world recognise Zwickau as the birthplace of Robert Schumann. The house he was born in, at Hauptmarkt 5, is a museum, concert hall and venue for events, as well as a renowned research institute. The Robert Schumann House contains the largest world-wide collection with more than 4,000 original works written by the romantic composer and his wife, the pianist Clara, née Welck (1819-1896). A very popular photo opportunity is the Robert Schumann Memorial, located at the Hauptmarkt [market square]. The St. Marien cathedral, with its 87 metre high spire, plays an important role in Zwickau’s history as a masterpiece of Upper Saxon late Gothic architecture. The cathedral houses the Wolgenmut Altor – a valuable piece of art history. In the cathedral courtyard, one can also see the priests’ quarters. These belong to the oldest living ensembles in Germany. Today, the priests’ quarters contain a museum in which one can experience life as it was in the Middle Ages, as well as learn about the various eras of Zwickau’s history. Although a visit to the museum is a highlight, a stroll through the cathedral area will offer a lot of interesting anecdotes to offer – modern information points provide historical information about Zwickau and its landmarks. Special walking routes allow tourists to follow the footsteps of Robert Schumann or to learn more about the Reformation and Martin Luther.