

GB



# Göttingen

City of Science

*Mais Dieu que les roses sont belles  
à Göttingen, à Göttingen ...*

**How beautiful the roses are in Göttingen** praises the french singer Barbara the charm of the small university town. Many of its residents, being students, only stay a few years yet their influence is unmistakable. It is this variety that makes Göttingen such a lively and friendly place with a cosmopolitan outlook that has developed into a centre of international science.

## City of Science

Much of the urban life in Göttingen takes place within the old town walls. All places of interest are at most a leisurely ten minute walk, be it the Old Botanical Garden, the Theatre or the many historical buildings. From most of the inner city streets and lanes, one of Göttingen's oldest churches, *St. Johannis* (St. John's) with its two different spires can be seen. One of the spires housed the loftiest "digs" in Germany.



The pedestrian precinct



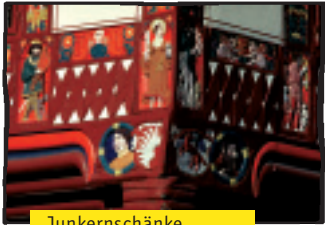
The Gänseliesel

Göttingen's landmark is the *Gänseliesel* figure on the fountain at the market square outside the Old Town Hall. This art nouveau statue features a girl herding geese. It is a tradition that all new doctoral graduates from the University kiss the cheeks of the statue after passing their examinations. This makes her "the most kissed girl in the world".

**Göttingen's town centre** successfully combines its origins as a medieval merchant market town with the atmosphere of a modern University City. The centre is not however a museum or collection of half-timbered houses, but instead each epoch has left its characteristics on the city.

This can be seen at the Old Town Hall, built during Göttingen's first period of prosperity (13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Century) and altered many times

thereafter. It originally served the dual purpose of Town Hall and Merchant's Guildhall when the ground floor was mainly used for trading linen, made in Göttingen, to places as far afield as Belgium and Russia. The beautifully decorated main hall as seen today originates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



Junkernschänke

## City of Attractions

The oldest preserved building in Göttingen, on Rote Strasse, dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Fine examples of half-timbered houses from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century are the *Schröder House*, the *Junkernschänke* and the *Abel Bornemann's House*.

In contrast, the *Jacobi-kirche* (St. Jacob's Church) is a masterpiece of Gothic style that contains a splendid double-winged altar made in 1402 by an unknown artist.



St. Jacob's



The Old Town Hall

The founding of the University in 1734 gave new impetus to the development of Göttingen and inspired renewed building activities which resulted in some outstanding architecture. In particular the *Accouchierhaus* (1785-1791) which has a widely acclaimed baroque stairwell and was originally the first Maternity Hospital in Germany. It is now the Faculty of Music.

The Great Hall on *Wilhelmsplatz* (William's Square) is the main building of the Georg-August-University. It used to house the detention room for badly behaved students.



Great Hall on Wilhelmsplatz

## During the last Century

more than 40 Nobel Prize Winners have lived and worked in Göttingen, up to the current day when scientists such as Manfred Eigen and Erwin Neher are expanding today's knowledge. Other illustrious names include Adolf Windaus, discoverer of vitamin D, Otto Hahn, a nuclear scientist, and Max Born, one of the founders of quantum theory. Many buildings display plaques commemorating their famous former residents.

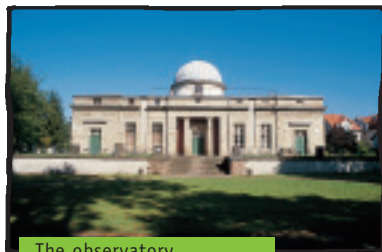
Until 1933, Göttingen was considered foremost in mathematics world-wide. It was here that David Hilbert and Hermann Minkowski laid the mathematical foundations for Einstein's theory of relativity.

# City of Research

Another famous Göttingen scientist was Carl Friedrich Gauss who, with Wilhelm Weber, in 1833 invented the magnetic telegraph. An observatory founded by him is located on Geismar Landstrasse.

Nearby, at the little square between the rampart and Hospitalstrasse, is a monument of Friedrich Wöhler, Pro-

fessor of Medicine and Chemistry in Göttingen. For the first time in 1827, he presented aluminium in its pure form. In the pavement at the foot of the statue is the formula for urea, with the synthetic production of which one year later he had decisive influence on modern chemistry.



The observatory



Gauß-Weber-Monument

Today, the German Centre for Aeronautics and Space Technology, as well as the Max-Planck-Institutes of Bio-Physical Chemistry, Experimental Medicine, History and Aerodynamics are in the forefront of science. Other organisations are employing the latest technology in measuring, weighing and the use of lasers.

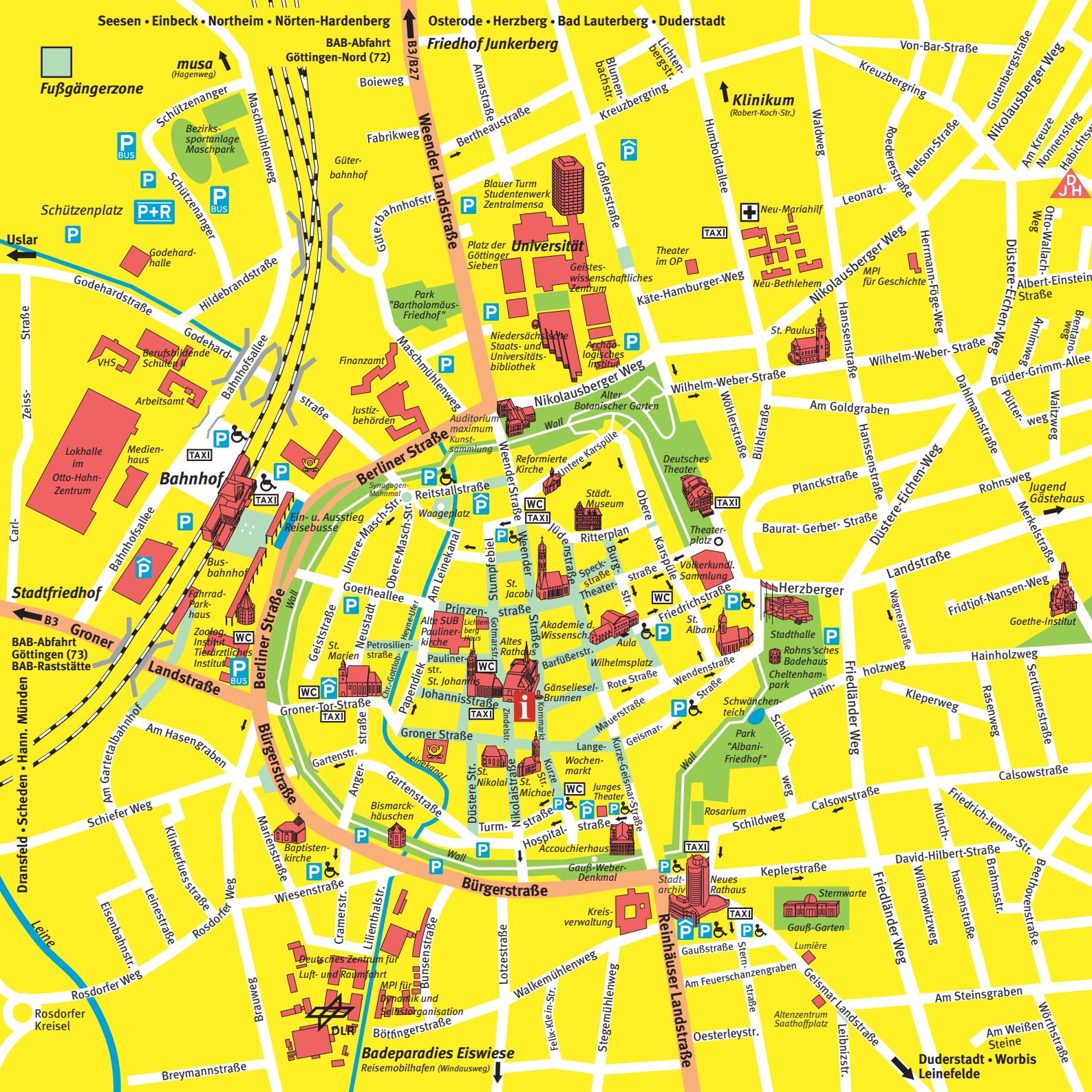
Above all, there is the Georg-August-University with approximately 25,000 students. The new *Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek* (university library) houses 5.4 million volumes and is open to everybody.



Chemical institute



New university library



Seesen • Einbeck • Northeim • Nörten-Hardenberg    Osterode • Herzberg • Bad Lauterberg • Duderstadt

**Fußgängerzone**

*musa*  
(Hagenweg)

BAB-Abfahrt  
Göttingen-Nord (72)

**Friedhof Junkerberg**

**Klinikum**  
(Robert-Koch-Str.)

**Universität**

**Bahnhof**

**Stadtfriedhof**

BAB-Abfahrt  
Göttingen (73)  
BAB-Raststätte

**Herzberger**

**Baderparadies Eiswiese**  
Reisemobilhafen (Windausweg)

Duderstadt • Worbis  
Leinefelde

Uslar

Carl

Dransfeld • Scheden • Hann. Müнден

Rosdorfer  
Kreisel

Breymannstraße

Schützenanger

Schützenplatz

Godehardstraße

Bahnhofstraße

Landstraße

Berliner Straße

Groner

Am Hasengraben

Am Gartetalbahnhof

Schiefer Weg

Klinkerdesstraße

Eisenbahnstr.

Rosdorfer Weg

Braunweg

Wiesenstraße

Wiesensstraße

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**Göttingen and its university** are collecting knowledge displaying it in no less than eleven museums. Of particular interest is the ethnological collection that Georg Forster brought back from his travels with the explorer James Cook. The striking university collection of musical instruments presents more than 1000 exhibits and the art collection specialises in paintings of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The Municipal Museum includes a permanent exhibition of a reconstructed medieval kitchen and a fully furnished pharmacy of the period, and the Municipal Archives have documents that span 750 years of Göttingen's history.



At the Municipal Museum

## City of Culture

Göttingen also caters for all musical tastes, hosting an annual International Jazz Festival as well as an annual Handel Festival at the beginning of Summer attended by international artists. A wide spectrum ranging from classical to contemporary music is covered by the Göttingen Symphony Orchestra. Fans of rock music can enjoy the Night of the Clubs and the *Altstadtfest* (Old



The annual Handel Festival



Deutsches Theater

Town Festival) which takes place at the end of August.

In the Autumn there is a Literary Festival and the readings by well known German and English speaking authors attract many thousands of listeners.

A visit to events held at the *Lokhalle*, the recently renovated former engine workshop in Otto-Hahn-Centre, has a unique atmosphere and should not be missed. The *Deutsche Theater* (main theatre) and the *Junge Theater* (modern theatre) offer other cultural highlights.

**If you enjoy people,** Göttingen is the place to be. Sitting on the steps of the world famous *Gänse-liesel* fountain at the market square, you will find it a good place to stay. There are many possibilities for recreation and walks in and around Göttingen. A classic favourite is the Old Botanical Garden with its many indigenous and exotic plants as well as the ramparts surrounding the medieval city centre. The impressive view over the city and the valley of the River Leine from the Bismarck Tower makes the climbing of Hainberg Hill well worthwhile.

## City of Entertainment

Göttingen caters for all types of sport, be it canoeing, tennis, horse riding or swimming. The *Badeparadies Eiswiese* (municipal indoor swimming pool) has heated as well as salt water pools, slides and saunas.

You can have a lot of fun even without swimming.

Göttingen provides a pleasant shopping experience. It offers almost anything you could possibly want as well as the unusual and the unexpected to inspire you with new ideas.



Badeparadies Eiswiese



Bismarck Tower



Junges Theater

Whatever you do during the day, it is at night that Göttingen's

atmosphere comes into its own. In Summer, one hardly notices the shops closing as the streets keep just as busy with people strolling through the city centre. Street cafes,

cosy student pubs, bars and restaurants with menus ranging from home cooking to cosmopolitan cuisine invite you to spend a leisurely and relaxing evening.



Christmas Market

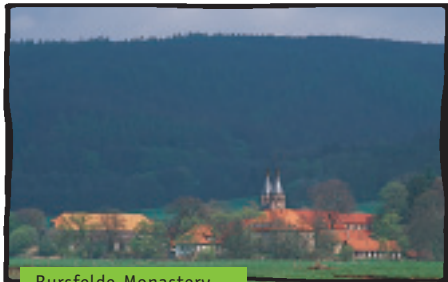
As well as being a place of interest in its own right, Göttingen is the starting point for visits to interesting sites and destinations for day trips. The *Seeburger See* is an example of both. This is a lake formed 2,500 years ago by salt leaching, and is a geological rarity in Europe. Today, the lake is a recreational area with swimming, sailing or walking. From there it is a short distance to Duderstadt, the picturesque centre of the Eichsfeld region with an impressive collection of half-timbered houses. The round trip can be completed by visiting the Wilhelm-Busch-Mill and the European Bread Museum in Ebergötzen.



Seeburger See

## Places of Interest

If you are interested in medieval times, you will enjoy a visit to the remains of Plesse Castle just outside Göttingen. On the banks of the Weser River is the beautifully preserved Church of the Bursfelde Monastery built in the Romanesque



Bursfelde Monastery

style, from where began an important movement for the reformation of monasteries in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

Twenty kilometres up river at the confluence of the rivers Wer-

ra and Fulda, is Hann. Münden, a town of half-timbered houses which has been declared an historic monument. Not far away you find the Kaufunger Wald, scene of numerous fairy-tales of the Brothers Grimm. Despite its natural beauty, this National Park attracts relatively few visitors.



Plesse Castle

Further up river are the classic Gothic ruins of Hanstein Castle, the former seat of a robber baron. The beautiful surroundings will encourage you to walk to Teufelskanzel (Devil's Pulpit) or to Ludwigstein Castle, an international youth meeting place.

For hiking and skiing enthusiasts the Harz Mountains, with its National Park, are just a short drive from Göttingen. And perhaps you can stay some more days in Lower Saxony, for Göttingen is only one of „The Wonderful Nine“, these very interesting historic cities in Northern Germany. The other eight are also worth seeing: Braunschweig, Celle, Goslar, Hameln, Hannover, Hildesheim, Lüneburg and Wolfenbüttel.





**Göttingen, set in the south of Lower Saxony** – in the middle of Germany – is easily accessible via the north-south A7 autobahn and the national roads B3 and B27. Göttingen's station is rail stop for the ICE-fast train, ensuring a quick and comfortable journey. The romantic travel routes such as the Alps-Baltic Sea German Holiday Route, the Harz-Heath Route as well as the German Fairy-tale Route all traverse Göttingen.



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