

BUDGET TRAVELLER'S
GERMAN WANDERLUST

48 HOURS IN

Dresden



Must See



Bars & Cafes



Nightlife



Festivals & Events



Shopping

Youth HotSpots in Germany

Share the moment.

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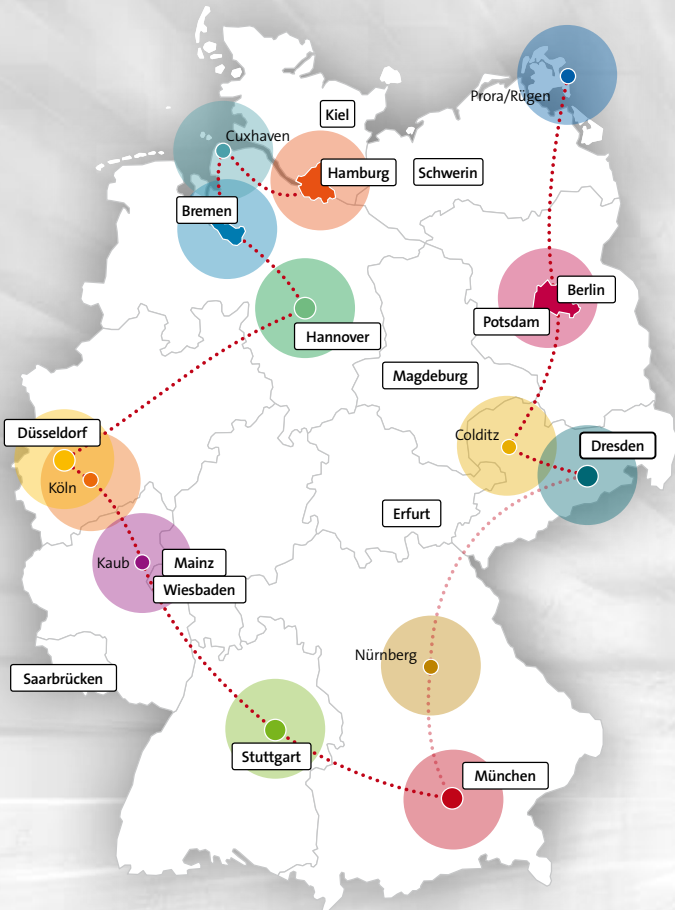


www.germany.travel

Youth HotSpots in Germany share the moment.

BUDGETTRAVELLER'S 48 HOUR GUIDE TO GERMANY is a personal snapshot of some of the coolest youth hotspots www.germany.travel/youth in 12 of Germany's leading cities and towns. The guide comes complete with my itinerary plus the cost associated with each activity so that you can pick and choose activities that are best suited to your interests and budget. Each itinerary was created to allow travellers the freedom to explore each place in a relaxed manner and without blowing your budget. I welcome your feedback – Share your thoughts on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram using the hashtag **#youthhotspotsgermany**.

Get the Youth HotSpots App!
Your top locations plus free-access Wi-Fi
for when you're on the move. For **iOS** and **Android**



BudgetTraveller's biography



Kash Bhattacharya has been travelling on a budget for the last 4 years, blogging about his adventures at BudgetTraveller.org. He has been featured in the New York Times, Guardian, Vanity Fair and National Geographic. In July 2013, he's launching a guide to Luxury Hostels in Europe and also helped develop award-winning campaigns like **#BlogVille** for the Emilia Romagna Tourism Board, **#Blogmanay** for Unique Events and Event Scotland and **FilmTraveller_CoteD'Azur** – a blog about film tourism in Cote D'Azur for the Cote D'Azur tourism board. You can also follow Kash on Twitter and Facebook.

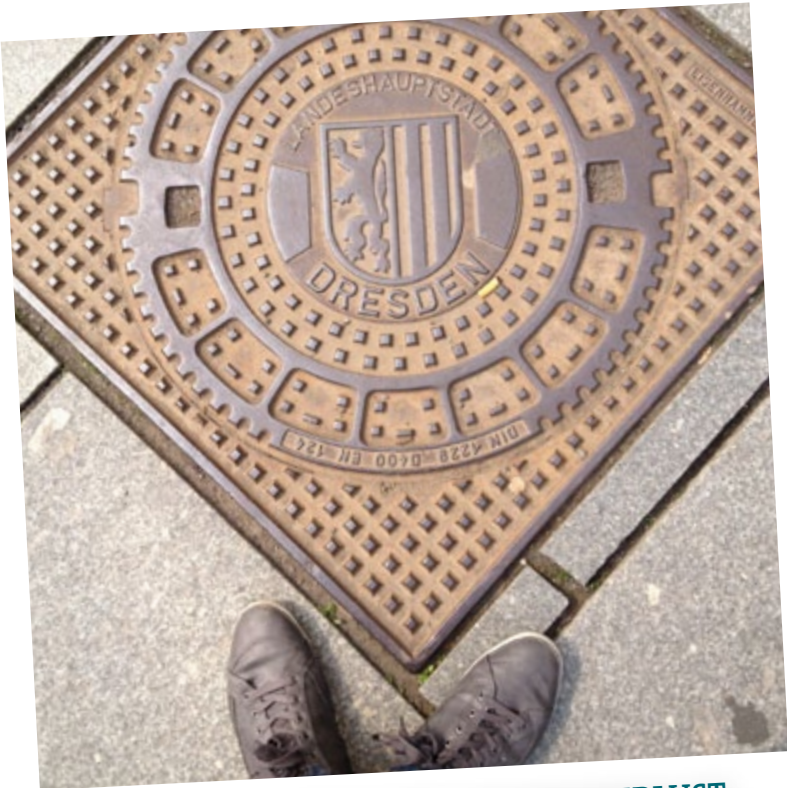


Share the experience
youth-hostels.de



The German Wanderlust is part of the campaign 'Youth HotSpots in Germany – Share the moment.' launched by the GNTB at the 2013 ITB travel fair in Berlin to promote its year of youth tourism. For the project the GNTB has teamed up with the German Youth Hostel Association (DJH) www.youth-hostels.de and transport partner Deutsche Bahn www.bahn.com.

The Youth HotSpots, such as bars, cafés, must-sees and events, featured on the interactive map at www.germany.travel/youth provided orientation points for Kash. Kash stayed overnight in DJH youth hostels and was travelling by train with Deutsche Bahn.



BUDGET TRAVELLER'S GERMAN WANDERLUST
 48 HOURS IN **Dresden**

Table of Content

Day 1

1 Walk up Prager Strasse	05
2 Saxon potato soup lunch at Aha	05
3 Frauenkirche	06
4 Wonder aimlessly in Old Town and admire the architecture	07
5 Stopover at the 'Balcony of Europe'	08
6 Zwinger	08
7 'Elbwiesen': THE view of Dresden	09
Off to Dresden Neustadt	10
8 Evening beers and live music at Bon Voyage	10
9 Photokiste	10
10 Dinner at Döner Kebab Haus, Rothenburger Strasse 41	10

Day 2

11 A walk around Neustadt	11
12 Lunch: Curry & Co	12
13 Kunsthofpassage	13
14 Eis Eis baby – Tiki Bar	14
15 More drifting around the Neustadt	14
16 Kinh Do	15
17 Blue Note	15

Where to stay in Dresden	16
How to get there	17
Total cost of trip	17



Good to know

While my trip has been sponsored, the views and thoughts represented in this article are my own.

Dresden is a city with two different faces

You have the bombastic baroque beauty of the Altstadt and then you have the grungy alternative feel of the Neustadt.

48 hours in the city gives you enough time to explore these two great but very different sides to this fantastic city.

Top tip: The city has an excellent transport network. If you are blessed with good weather and have good walking shoes it is possible to walk around all the key sights. In colder weather you will probably have to stay more indoors and visit many of the city's excellent museums – in this case I would recommend investing in the Dresden 2 day city card (€26) which gives you unlimited use of their transport networks and free entry to the city's museums.

DAY 1
10 AM

1

Walk up Prager Strasse

Starting point for my adventure was the Hauptbahnhof. Walk up Prager Strasse which is a hub of all the big clothing brands and fast food chains. The futuristically designed Shopping Zone is the centrepiece and worth popping in for some quality window shopping.

Saxon potato soup lunch at Aha

Inner Altstadt is packed with mostly expensive cafes and restaurants – avoid these and pop into Aha: fair trade store and café. The coffee is excellent here and the food too.

I would recommend trying the local Saxon speciality they make here – Potato Soup with sausages. Garnished with beansprouts and pumpkin seeds and served with a hunk of rye bread – this was one of the best soups I have ever tasted. Plus a very generous portion size keeps you going for the day.

Cost € 4.90 (Without sausages, € 3.90)

DAY 1
12 PM

2



Bars & Cafés: Aha



 **Must See: Dresden Altstadt**



 **Must See: Frauenkirche, Church of Our Lady**

DAY 1

1 PM

3

Frauenkirche

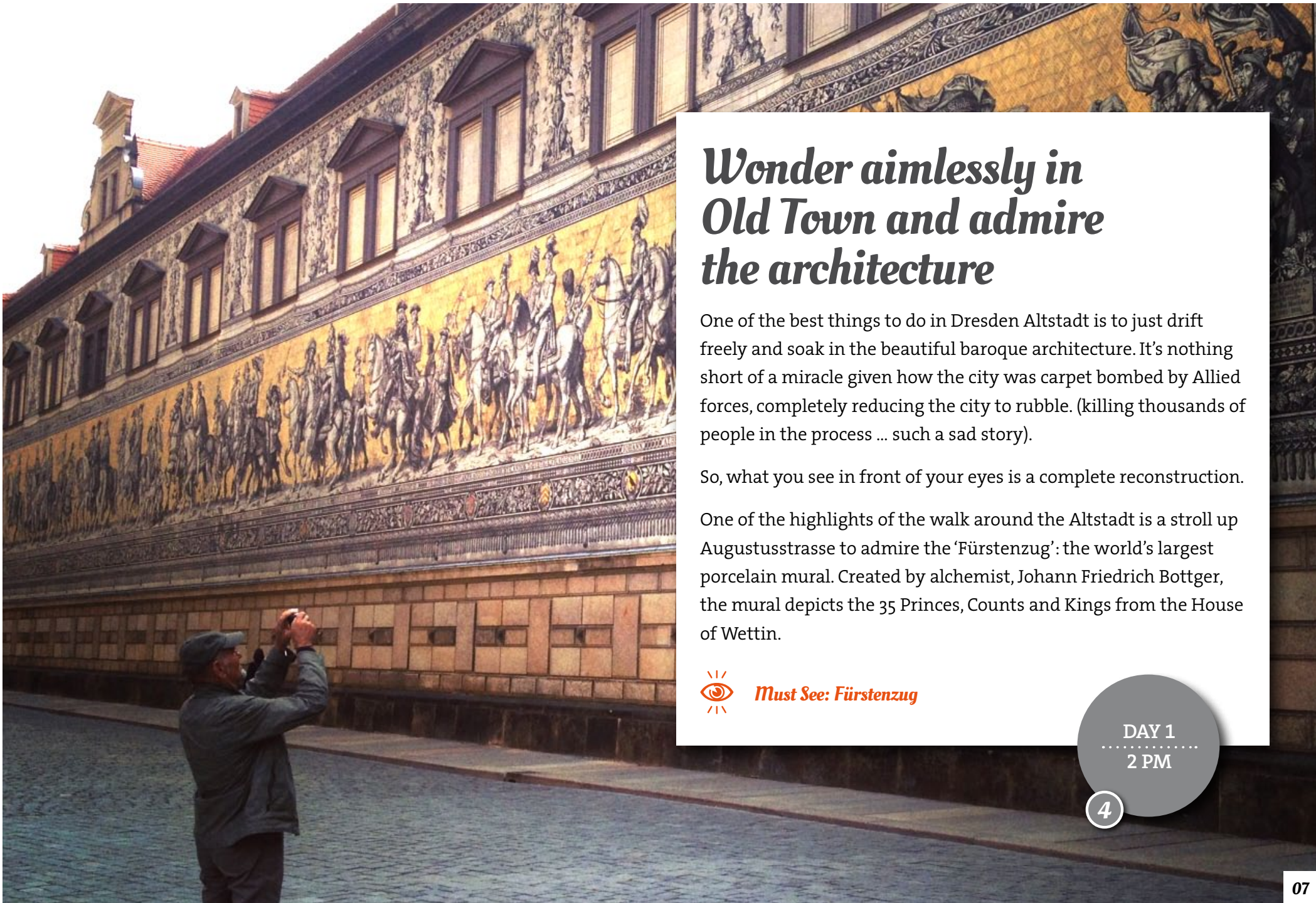
Fortified by the soup, I walk out and a few hundred yards north bringing me to the glorious edifice of Frauenkirche.

Reduced to rubble in WW2 bombing, the church lied in ruins during the GDR times as a reminder of the horror and painful consequences of war. After the fall of the wall it was rebuilt, wherever possible using the original bricks of the church.

Atop the beautiful cupola is a cross with a special story – it was designed by an Englishmen whose grandfather was part of the 1945 Allied air raid on the city.

Tip Avoid the expensive €8 entry fee to climb to the top of the Frauenkirche. You can admire an equally impressive view of the city from the church tower of the nearby Kreuzkirche which I visited for as little as €2.50.

TopTip If you time your visit to Dresden over the weekend, do pop into the **Kreuzkirche** for their 9:30am Sunday service here where you can listen to one of the world's oldest boy's choirs (700 years old) **for free**.



Wonder aimlessly in Old Town and admire the architecture

One of the best things to do in Dresden Altstadt is to just drift freely and soak in the beautiful baroque architecture. It's nothing short of a miracle given how the city was carpet bombed by Allied forces, completely reducing the city to rubble. (killing thousands of people in the process ... such a sad story).

So, what you see in front of your eyes is a complete reconstruction.

One of the highlights of the walk around the Altstadt is a stroll up Augustusstrasse to admire the 'Fürstenzug': the world's largest porcelain mural. Created by alchemist, Johann Friedrich Bottger, the mural depicts the 35 Princes, Counts and Kings from the House of Wettin.



Must See: Fürstenzug

DAY 1
.....
2 PM

4

DAY 1
2:30 PM

5

Stopover at the 'Balcony of Europe.'

Head to the top of the Renaissance Fort to walk along Brühlsche Terrace to have a birds eye view of the 'Balcony of Europe.' The terrace is also home to the Albertinum where you can wonder in the Brühlsche Garden and also check out the two museums: the New Masters Gallery and the Collection of Sculptures.



 **Brühlsche Terrace**

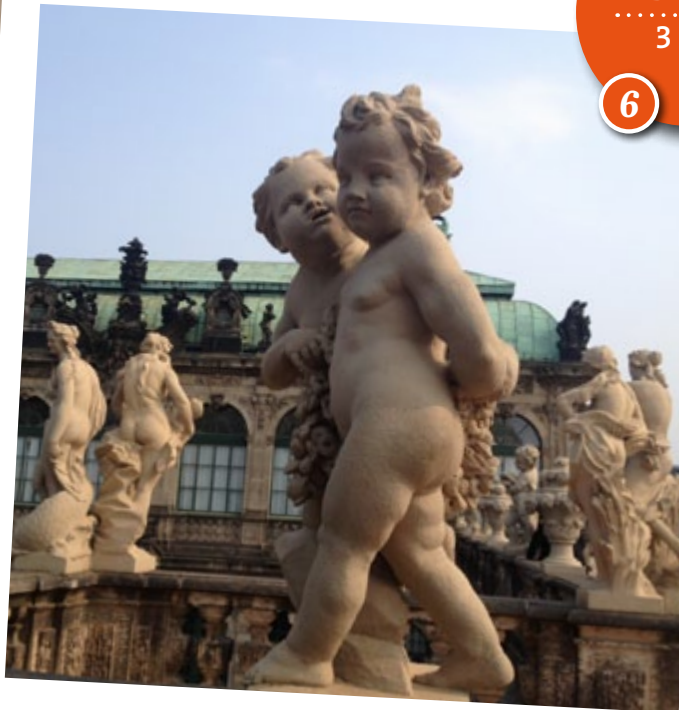
DAY 1
3 PM

6

Zwinger

Built in Rococo style and designed by court architect Matthäus Daniel Pöppelmann, the Zwinger is one of the most beautiful buildings you will see in Dresden and indeed anywhere on your travels in Germany.

Previously a festival arena and an orangery, today the Zwinger serves as museum complex that contains the Old Masters Picture Gallery (where you can admire Raphael's Sistine Madonna up close), the Dresden Porcelain Collection (Porzellansammlung) and the Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon.



 **Baroque Angels, Zwinger**

Tip A combined ticket to see all three costs €10 but you get in for free with the **Dresden City Card**.

Note It's **free to explore** the beautiful grounds of the Zwinger and admire its fountain studded courtyard.

'Elbwiesen': THE view of Dresden

Cross the river and head to the Elbwiesen – 'Elbe Meadows.' I'm a big fan of Canaletto and his beautiful Venetian landscape paintings so it was great to discover that his nephew and painter Bernardo Bellotto (who also signed his paintings in his uncle's name) was a frequent visitor to the city. He left behind some great paintings of Dresden which serve as a memory of how beautiful the city looked before the grave destruction of the city in World War II. None of his paintings are more memorable than his view of Dresden's Old Town from the Elbe meadows on the river's north bank. So, once you cross the river do stop at the meadows for a quick photo opportunity of that view. You can see the painting at the Old Masters Gallery in the Zwinger. Also in the summer, the Elbe's meadows on the north bank are packed with sun worshippers and given the glorious day, this was the perfect place for me to chill and have a mini-picnic.

I had popped into the local REWE supermarket earlier to pick up the local Radeberger Pilsner, Spanish salsa crisps ...

Tip If you are visiting in July and August, there is an **open air film festival** held here on the banks called the '**Filmnächte am Elbufer**' plus they hold a number of concerts here too.

Cost of REWE mini-picnic €3.60

DAY 1
.....
4 PM

7



Bernardo Bellotto il Canaletto – View of Dresden from the Right Bank of the Elbe with the Augustus Bridge

Off to Neustadt

After a lazy few hours in the Elbe Meadows, I headed off to the Neustadt which is actually the oldest part of Dresden and is more than 800 years old. It has a very cool, grungy and alternative feel to it. Tons of character, interesting shops and cool bars make this one of my favourite neighbourhoods in Germany.

Evening beers and live music at Bon Voyage

Thanks to a tip from a friendly local I headed to Bon Voyage – a very cool bar in Dresden Neustadt. Free wifi was excellent and they have a nice selection of beers. Every evening they have live (sometimes free) acts ranging from live bands to house, electronic & hiphop DJ sets, so this was a nice few hours spent.

Cost 2 Radeberger Pils € 5.80

DAY 1
6 PM

8



Nightlife: Bon Voyage



DAY 1
8 PM

9

Photokiste

I love these retro, black and white photo kiosks in **Berlin** and glad to discover one in Louisenstrasse in the Neustadt. After a few beers, this was the perfect place for some photo-fun.

Cost Just € 2
for 4 photos.

DAY 1
8:30 PM

10



Bars & Cafés: **Döner Kebab Haus.**
Rothenburger Strasse 41

Dinner at Döner Kebab Haus. Rothenburger Strasse 41.

Neustadt has a bunch of Turkish döner places but this one is a cut above the rest.

Cost My halloumi doner Kebab set me back € 3.50 but with the salad they stuffed into the pita, this snack easily feeds 2 people.

RIX POETRY SLAM
SH UND FREUNDE KASKADE TOUR
KIND
04. LIVELYRIX POET
05. ERIC FISH UND
06. STAUARKIND



 Shopping: Head Shop and Record Stor



DAY 2
.....
10 PM

11

A walk around Neustadt

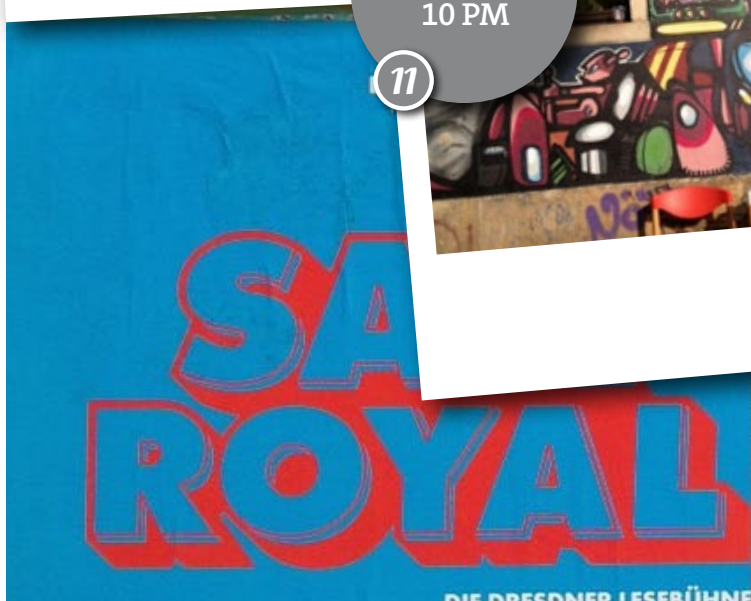
I spent the morning getting away from the jam of tourists in the Altstadt and headed straight to the Neustadt.

I wanted to just go for an aimless ramble and discover more about this cool neighbourhood.

If you love your punk or electronic music, a visit to Head Shop and Record Store is a must.

The store is a quirky mix with shishas, tobacco and rolling paper being sold at the front while in the back, you can shift through their excellent collection of vinyl. It's a good place to get to find out what's happening in the local live music scene with a bunch of flyers and posters in the shop.

Here's a few more pictures from my morning ramble around the lively crossing between Alaunstrasse and Louisenstrasse.



Lunch: Curry & Co

Winner in the national currywurst competition Curry & Co is no ordinary currywurst bistro.

You have a choice of 6 sauces ranging from their self-made peanut sauce to jalapeño cheese. Like me you can choose from the economy package (€3.80) with fries or if you're looking for something extra you can upgrade to 'First Class' (€8.90) where you are served prosecco with your currywurst – great concept.



Bars & Cafés: Curry & Co

DAY 2
2 PM

12



Kunsthofpassage

The Kunsthofpassage just off Gorlitzerstrasse in Neustadt is a hidden maze of backyards that have been redeveloped and now houses a number of artsy cool handicraft shops, a garden store, a shop that sells tea and also the Hofcafe – a wine and cafe bar (In picture below).

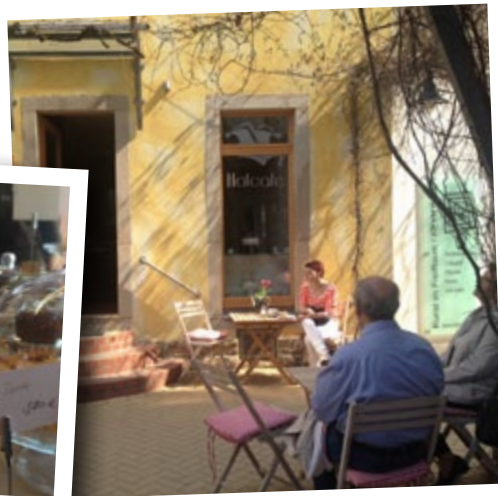
It's a beautiful place to visit anytime of the year and perfect for finding cool unusual gifts.

A particular favourite of mine personally was visiting 'Schubladen' and meeting the owner Antje who kindly showed me around. It's the kind of shop for discovering all kinds of wonderful things that you would not find anywhere.

Antje's father was a carpenter and the art of crafting beautiful things with wood has been passed onto her. Everywhere around the shop (which also doubles up as her workshop) I could see beautifully handmade birdhouses and lots of pieces of driftwood that she has sculpted and turned into beautiful coat hooks.



Shopping: *Kunsthofpassage*



Bars & Cafés: *Hofcafe*



'Schubladen'



'Schubladen'

DAY 2
.....
3 PM

13

DAY 2
4 PM

14



Eis Eis baby – Tiki Bar

Serving locals since 1966, Neumann family during the GDR times were responsible for 100% of the diet ice cream production in the socialist east. It was a hot day so I really enjoyed cooling down with this combo of yoghurt blueberry & coconut chocolate.

Cost €2. Bonus: Excellent free wifi too.

 Bars & Cafés: Tiki Bar

More drifting around the Neustadt

Loved walked around here. Here are some more pictures from my ramble.

DAY 2
5 PM

15





DAY 2
7:30 PM

16



Bars & Cafés: Kinh Do

Kinh Do

The inner Altstadt has a few touristy traps but you can't go wrong with Kinh Do which is probably one of the best Vietnamese diners in Dresden.

I had been looking for a bar to watching the Champions League semi-final between Bayern Munich and Barcelona and with all the bars being rammed with Bayern supporters I found this restaurant comparatively less crowded and showing the game on a small screen in the corner. Quick glance at the food being served and the happy faces of diners gave me some degree of confidence. I wasn't really hungry, so I went for their Pho Beef noodle soup. Was delicious. Service was good and for the price of €5, I couldn't complain.

Blue Note

I end the evening and my 48 hours in Dresden with a few beers at Blue Note – a local institution where every-day for 13 years people have poured in from 8pm for a daily dose of live music listening to everything from soul, funk to jazz and bebop. Best thing is that most concerts are free to enter.



Nightlife: Blue Note

DAY 2

9:30 PM

17

Cost Radeberger Pils € 2.80

Tip

Still a student? How about a night at the Opera for 10 euros?

One of the great traditions and highlights of Dresden is a visit to the stunning Semper Opera. A limited number of tickets are available for school-children and students (valid ID required and under 27 years) for purchase from the 15th of the month for subsequent performances at a price of 10 euros.

Also if you are unlucky not to be in Dresden around the 15th of the month but lucky to be a student, if you arrive 30 minutes before the performance, subject to availability, tickets are offered at a discounted price of 11 euros.



Where to stay in Dresden

There is a lack of good quality budget accommodation in Dresden and the best places tend to get booked up pretty quickly so always book in advance.

I stayed at the Jugendherberge Dresden 'Jugendgästehaus' – it's clean, comfortable and in a good location just 2 stops by tram from the Railway Station. Buffet breakfast was excellent and sets you up nicely for the day.

Lack of free internet is a drawback.

Bed in a dorm is pricey at **€26.25** and if you are travelling solo, definitely worth upgrading to the ensuite, **single rooms for the €10 extra**. If you are travelling as a couple or with a friend, choose the twin room option you pay a **€4** surcharge on top of the **€26.25** base rate, per person, per night.



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How to get there



DB BAHN

Train: Dresden is just a 2 and 1/2 hour ride from **Berlin** and booking via www.bahn.com you can get fare as starting at **€ 29**.

Air: Or alternatively, Dresden has its own airport which is served by airlines like Lufthansa, Germanwings and Air Berlin.

Big thanks to Julia Brendler and the **Dresden Marketing Board** for their support during my stay and also the German National Tourist Board their partners for the 'Youth Hotspots' campaign – Jugendherberge: The **German Youth Hostel Association** and Deutsche Bahn for sponsoring my 'German Wanderlust' tour.

I've toured Germany as part of an effort to highlight and discover the country's emerging 'Youth Hotspots.'

Find out more about these hotspots at www.germany.travel/youth, feel free to add your own and also do download their free youth hotspots app that is now available on the Apple Store & Android Store.

Total cost of trip

2 nights at Jugendherberge Dresden 'Jugendgästehaus'	€ 62.50
2 day Dresden City card	€ 26.00
Lunch at Aha	€ 4.90
Zwinger	€ Free with Dresden card
Kreuzkirche	€ 2.50
REWE mini-picnic	€ 3.60
Beers at Bon Voyage	€ 5.80
Photos at Fotokiste	€ 2.00
Dinner at Döner Kebab Haus	€ 3.50
Lunch at Curry & Co	€ 3.80
Yoghurt blueberry & Coconut chocolate icecream at Tiki Bar	€ 2.00
Pho at Kinh Do	€ 5.00
Beers at Blue Note	€ 2.80
Total:	€ 124.40

If visiting the Zwinger and other museums is not a priority on your list, you could just go for the daily Dresden **1 day travel pass for € 5.50**, saving you € 15 over the 2 days.

» **Visit Dresden online**