

GöTe  
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# Göttinger Terminkalender 2008

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Foto: Verena Peege



## January - Auditorium

Work began on one of the city's most significant buildings in 1833 on the square that is now called Wilhelmsplatz: the University of Göttingen's Auditorium. This work of art features a floor plan reminiscent of an upside-down 'T' and was designed by university architect Otto Prael based on plans by the famous architect Carl Friedrich Schinkel. Inaugurated in 1837 in time for the university's 100th anniversary, the building was designed exclusively for ceremonial events. Many colours, ornaments and Greek vases decorate the interior walls, lending the building its unmistakable classicist style. In addition to the Auditorium Assembly Hall, which serves as a ballroom and is the focus of the building, another highlight is the Kings' Wall with paintings and busts of past sovereigns. King William IV, who financed the Auditorium, is among those commemorated in this gallery. The Auditorium remains to this day Göttingen's preferred venue for graduation ceremonies, public lecture series and concerts.

Source: Bergmann/Freigang: Das Aula-Gebäude der Universität Göttingen; Zeitreise

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Foto: Christa Pawlik-Oppermann



## February - Zoological Museum

Some people collect stamps, others are into coins. The Zoological Museum Göttingen collects organisms and affords visitors the opportunity to admire parts of this collection every Sunday. More than 100,000 samples of rare flora and fauna are maintained and exhibited in the museum, including a 17 meter long skeleton of a sperm whale. The collection was started in 1773, then a department of the Royal Academic Museum. In 1878 the collection was moved into the newly built Museum of Natural History in Berliner Strasse. As part of the Institute for Zoology, Anthropology and Developmental Biology at the University of Göttingen, the museum serves as a research facility for students and is an impressive reminder of our place in time: Exhibits of extinct birds, such as the passenger pigeon, document lost species and heighten visitors' awareness of nature.

Source: <http://wwwuser.gwdg.de/~sekzoomo/Geschichte.htm>;  
<http://www.uni-goettingen.de>

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## March - Saint Eligia

Behind the 14th century Jacobus Church (Jakobikirche) Saint Eligia sits on her bishop's chair holding a hammer and chalice. The concrete sculpture in Jüdenstrasse was designed in 2001 by artist Bernd Löning and represents a modern female version of Saint Eligius, the patron saint of goldsmiths and silversmiths. Born in France around 588 AD, he was trained as a goldsmith, became master of the mint in the royal court and later became Bishop of Tours. In addition to his numerous miracles, he was, above all, known for his generosity to the poor. Whereas the very idea of a female religious dignitary would have been unconceivable in our society until a few decades ago, in these times of changing gender relationships Saint Eligia is intended to highlight female spirituality and symbolise the connection between human skill and creative power.

Source: Herbert Fischer, Goldschmiedmeister, Ökumenisches Heiligenlexikon

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## April - Planetenweg

A free trip from the sun to Pluto in just an hour – this is no special offer by a low-cost airline, but Göttingen's three kilometre long Planet Walk. The scaled down replica of the sun and the nine planets in its orbit along the Planetenweg give passers-by information about nature and the cosmos. The earth has been shrunk into a sphere with a diameter of just 6.5 millimetres and the sun is only 75 meters away from the earth. Since September 2003 visitors have acquired interesting insight into the solar system on their way from the railway station through the city centre to Bismarck Tower. At each station, handmade bronze plaques provide extensive information about the different planets and answers to numerous questions. The Planetenweg is a project of the Göttingen Planetarium Society, FPG (Förderkreis Planetarium Göttingen) based on proposals created by the well-known geologist, game designer and artist, Dr. Reinhold Wittig.

Source: Broschüre zum Planetenweg Göttingen; M. Wolter (Hrsg.): Göttingen kompakt – Eine Stadt anders sehen; <http://www.astro.physik.uni-goettingen.de>

## May - Levinpark

As part of landscape conservation plans in the 1960s, many new green spaces were created on the west side of Göttingen, including an extension of Levin Park. It was originally constructed in the 1880s by drapery manufacturer Ferdinand Levin as a flower and vegetable garden directly next to his factory. In addition to greenhouses and springs, the park also has a large pond created in 1873 for production purposes which remains an outstanding design element on the grounds. After the factory went bankrupt, the park was used for military purposes from 1934 as part of an airport. It was later handed over to the city in 1961. Since then it has grown to a considerable size of around 4,700 m<sup>2</sup> as a result of numerous extensions, including the addition of a neighbouring property. The necostrted paths and a playground, as well as the varied flora and fauna are a relaxing contrasttothe otherwise uninteresting industrial areas on the west side of town.

Source: 250 Jahre Grün in Göttingen, <http://www.goest.de/levin-park.htm>

## June - Bismarckhäuschen

Located directly on the Leine Canal, just a few metres from the city centre stands the Bismarckhäuschen (Bismarck Cottage) on the old city wall. Once an element of the outer fortifications, the cottage served to protect the Leine Canal, which provided the inner city mills and businesses with water. After the Seven Years' War in 1762/63, the fortification system was razed to the ground. The only remnant is the Bulwark behind the Odilien Mill built in 1447, which has been rented to students since the 19th century. This is where future imperial chancellor Otto von Bismarck lived during the third and last semester of his studies in Göttingen. (Allegedly he was banished there by the town officials because he preferred drinking to studying). In 1932, on the 100th anniversary of his matriculation, the city erected a memorial to Bismarck's student days in Göttingen and named the building named after him. The upper level rooms in Bismarck Cottage are today still rented out as student accommodation.

Source: [www.wikipedia.de](http://www.wikipedia.de); [www.stadt.cityreview.de](http://www.stadt.cityreview.de); Stadtführer Göttingen, Otto von Bismarcks Göttinger Studentenjahre 1832 – 1833



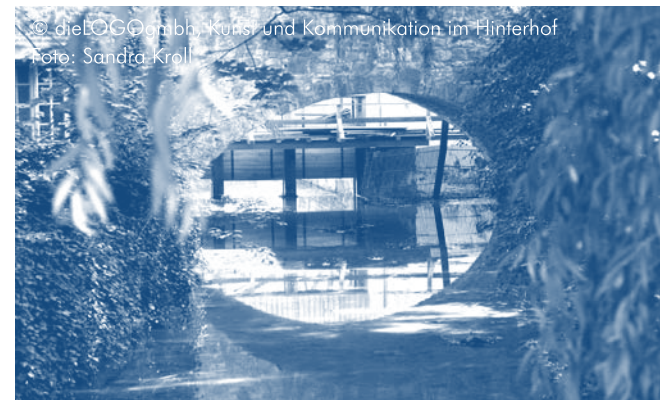
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## July - The Nabel

The Nabel, or Navel, of the city of Göttingen is located at the junction of Prinzenstrasse, Theaterstrasse and Weender Strasse. After cars were banned from the city centre in the early 1970s, a Plexiglas light and water column pointing towards the sky was created as a symbol for the Nabel as the centre of the city. But not everyone liked this symbol and it was often vandalized. In its place today stands a bronze sculpture, „The Dance“. This work by sculptor Bernd Altenstein – a pair of frolicsome dancers with a child – reflects Göttingen’s joie de vivre. After all, one thing that makes Göttingen special is that the inner city is always bustling with activity day and night.

This area has long been a starting point for many different activities. People meet at the Nabel before setting out for the shops, cafés and on pub crawls through the town centre.

Source: GT, 12.06.07 „Geschichte des Nabels“;  
[www.moench-galerie.com](http://www.moench-galerie.com); <http://www.stadtarchiv.goettingen.de>

## August - Turmstraße

The last remaining sections of the medieval inner city fortifications can be found on Turm-strasse. Until the 18th century the city wall had fifteen towers, four keeps, four main gates and two smaller entrances. The last remaining tower (The tower facing St. Clawas at Apothekergarten) no longer has the half-timbered structure and conical broach roof that the towers had in the past. To the east of Nikolaistrasse there used to be a round tower which was converted into the first university observatory between 1748 and 1751. The building was used as an observatory until the observatory was moved to Geismarlandstrasse in 1816.

Already in the 18th century, accommodation was scarce and expensive in Göttingen. Tiny houses – so-called Armenbudens, or houses for the poor – were constructed along the city wall for penniless citizens and prostitutes. Turmstrasse, which was already denounced as the „stinking alley“ in the 16th century, was then described disparagingly as „little Paris“.

Source: Göttingen gestern und heute; Baudenkmale Niedersachsen; Stadtführer; Göttingen im 18. Jahrhundert; Göttingen, Geschichte einer Universitätsstadt, Band 1

## September - Leinekanal

Flowing past many historical half-timbered houses, the Leine Canal criss-crosses Göttingen city centre, reminiscent of the idyllic farming town that Göttingen once was. As a link between the Gote creek which once flowed to the south of the city wall and the river Leine, it was probably created in the 13th century as an artificial canal to supply the city’s tanners and dyers with water. The Leine Canal only got its current name in modern times. From the historical mill buildings of the Nikolaiviertel, or Nicholas Quarter, there are still remnants of the large mill from the 15th century and the Odilien Mill („little mill“) in its present form, dating back to the 18th century. Situated on the eastern bank of the Leine Canal directly on the city wall, the mill was used until around 1945 and still has its milling machinery, a weir system and – since its most recent renovation – a fully operational millwheel.

Source: Baudenkmale Göttingen; Göttingen kompakt; [www.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.uni-goettingen.de); [www.wikipedia.de](http://www.wikipedia.de)



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## Oktober - Experiment Hall MPI

Did you know that you get turbulence just like airplanes flying over the Atlantic, in your morning coffee? Scientists at the Göttingen Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Dynamics and Self-Organization are researching this and many other laws. The futuristic building with a round metal roof resembling an airplane wing is the first completed construction of the new institute at Fassberg and was finished in May 2006. With a unique wind tunnel, the scientists can replicate the movements of the tiniest particles and, among other things, make a major contribution to clinical heart research. In 2006 the large-scale research laboratory was chosen for an open house event for selected buildings throughout Germany (Tag der Architektur/ Architecture Day), and in 2007 received one of the 365 Landmark awards as part of the Germany: Land of Ideas initiative.

The MPI for Dynamics and Self-Organization is the former MPI for Flosearch and is managed by Eberhard Bodenschatz.

Source: GT vom 2.06.07; 28.09.05; Göttingen informiert

## November - The Old Cemetery

One of Germany's most attractive park cemeteries is located in Kasseler Landstrasse. Opened in 1881 and enlarged numerous times until 1963, the 35 hectares of Göttingen's old cemetery are a lovely place for a long, leisurely stroll. More than 5,000 different types of trees and numerous alleys surrounded by thick bushes transform what used to be a mere burial ground into a spacious park landscape with a wonderful view of the Leine Valley. Many well-known names in politics and science, including eight Nobel Prize winners such as Max Planck and Otto Hahn, found their last resting place here. In their honour, Nobel Rondell was erected in 2006. Around 1,200 tomb monuments are protected by historic preservation orders in the spacious park. The obelisks, crosses and sculptures are evidence of the keen interest in archaeology and antiquity that prevailed in the past. Regular guided tours offer an interesting insight into the history of this cemetery steeped in tradition.

Source: GT, 15.09.06; M. Wolter (Hrg.): Göttingen kompakt – Eine Stadt anders sehen; „Der Göttinger Stadtfriedhof – Ein Rundgang“

## Dezember - Light & More

In October 2006 Göttingen city centre was seen in its true light. The city submitted its entry to the „Go to the Centre“ Niedersachsen City Initiative competition for fostering local town centres with a week of multi-faceted events entitled Light and More, featuring 40 light and laser installations illuminating selected buildings and works art every evening. In order to draw attention the city's focal points and distinctive features in future, lighting design students at Hildesheim – Holzminden – Göttingen University of Applied Sciences and Art submitted a lighting concept for the long-term illumination of the city centre. Numerous other attractions dealing with the subject of light, an extensive cultural programme and moonlight shopping until late in the evening attracted many visitors. Some of the complex light installations have remained in place, including the one now used to illuminate the historical town hall.

Source: Programm „Licht&mehr“; GT vom 26.09. und 14.10.06