

Leipzig Festival of Lights 2024 - All Important Information at a Glance

On Wednesday, 9 October 2024, the Leipzig Festival of Lights will take place from 7 pm to midnight. Here is the most important information about the event.

1 Light Installations, Opening and Candles

Where is the Festival of Lights taking place and what is there to see?

The Leipzig Festival of Lights 2024 takes place between 7 pm and midnight along the entire city centre ring road. Twenty-one international teams of artists will be staging the route of the 1989 Monday demonstrations and the Nikolaikirchhof courtyard with light projections, sound, dance and performances.

What happens at the opening (7 pm) on Augustusplatz?

At 7 pm, the Festival of Lights will be opened on Augustusplatz with welcoming speeches from Leipzig's Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung, Federal Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz and Saxony's Prime Minister Michael Kretschmer, among others. The Saxon Wind Philharmonic Orchestra will provide the musical backdrop.

What about accessibility?

A sign language interpreter will ensure communicative accessibility at the opening (7 pm, Augustusplatz). Picture-in-picture will be transmitted to both screens (screens are located directly at the opera house and in the centre of Augustusplatz/near the tram stop). There is also a platform for wheelchair users on Augustusplatz (approximately at the level of the former main post office).

Where is the candle podium? Where are candles available? What is a candle sponsorship?

The candle podium with the lettering 'Leipzig 89' stands on Augustusplatz in front of the opera house. Candles are available free of charge at five candle stands around Augustusplatz. Anyone who wants, can make a donation in cash or via Paypal to sponsor a candle in favour of Wolfstraße e. V. (grief counselling for children and young people). This year, the candles are in reusable cups, which will be used again in subsequent years.

<https://www.lichtfest.leipziger-freiheit.de/kerzenpaten-2024.html>

2 Safety and Traffic: Access, Closures, Special Public Transport Timetables

Are there access restrictions, bag checks or other safety regulations?

Special security regulations will apply around the candle podium in front of the opera house at Augustusplatz until after the opening (i.e. until around 7.45 pm): Bag checks will take place; rucksacks, large bags or other large items are not permitted there. Visitors who wish to enter this area are therefore asked to allow a little extra time and preferably to avoid backpacks, large bags, mobile phone sticks etc.

What is the best way for visitors to get to the Festival of Lights?

The best way to get to the Festival of Lights is by bus or train, by bike or on foot. On the afternoon and evening of 9 October 2024, the major event will cause extensive closures and restrictions for private transport as well as diversions for public transport: between 4 pm and 4 am the following

day, the entire city centre ring road will be closed to private transport. The city centre ring road will remain closed to public transport from 5 pm until 1 am the following day.

Closures and special timetables in detail:

How trams and buses run

Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe (LVB) will be running trams and buses on 9 October from 4.30 pm to 1 am with a special timetable. This will result in extensive changes to the entire public transport network. All tram lines and bus lines 72, 73 and 89 will run every 15 minutes until around 1am.

All information on the individual lines here:

<https://www.l.de/verkehrsbetriebe/nachrichten/ansicht/lichtfest-2024-am-9-oktober-gilt-ein-sonderfahrplan-fuer-strassenbahnen-und-busse-8160/>

To the LVB's special route network map: <https://files.l.de/lde-typo3/Leipziger/Verkehrsbetriebe/Fahrtinfos/Netzplan/Verkehrsbetriebe-LNP-Lichtfest-2024.pdf>

Or at <https://www.lichtfest.leipziger-freiheit.de/anfahrt-146.html>

What is the situation with the S-Bahn?

You can travel to the Leipzig Festival of Lights by S-Bahn via the stations Leipzig Hauptbahnhof (underground platforms), Markt and Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz. We recommend getting off at Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz.

From approx. 9 pm to 5 am the Leipzig City Tunnel can only be used on one track during the night of 9/10.10.2024 as part of a maintenance measure. During this time, the S5/S5x line will continue to run in both directions through the Leipzig City Tunnel, with a few exceptions, and will serve the stations Leipzig Hauptbahnhof (underground platforms), Markt and Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz. A special timetable applies to all other lines and a replacement bus service will be set up between 9 pm and 1 am.

[All line information in detail and an overview map here.](#)

When will the city centre ring road be closed to private and public transport? How can the city centre car parks be reached? Is it possible to enter/exit the city centre by car?

Traffic closures will be in place from 4 pm. This means restricted access to the city centre ring road. It will be possible to leave the city centre at three temporary crossings (Ü1-crossing1 Am Hallischen Tor, Ü2-crossing2 Thomaskirchhof, Ü3-crossing3 Universitätsstraße) until 7 pm. Between 7 pm and 1 am, the entire city centre area will be completely closed to private and public transport, with no entry/exit possible. From 1 am it will again be possible to exit the city centre at the above-mentioned crossings (Ü1, Ü2, Ü3). The city centre ring road will be open to private traffic from around 4 am on 10 October 2024.

All car parks in the city centre are subject to the above-mentioned restrictions on entry and exit.

All information on closures and an overview map of the city centre entrance/exit at <https://www.lichtfest.leipziger-freiheit.de/anfahrt-146.html>

3 Programme / Installations and Festival of Lights XXL

Where can I find information about the light projects?

Programme booklets are available at numerous locations in Leipzig and the region, including tourist information offices, libraries, cultural and catering establishments and many project partners. The programme is available online and as a PDF for download on the Light Festival website:
<https://www.lichtfest.leipziger-freiheit.de/programme.html>

Is there an app for the Festival of Lights?

The Explore Leipzig app includes a tour of the Festival of Lights (German/English including audio versions). The tour is also available offline after downloading. Download Android version and download iOS version

Are there projects to take part in?

Yes, visitors can and should become active in the projects 2 Der Erste macht das Licht an (The first one turns on the light) - Georgiring, 5 Blaues WundAR (Blue WundAR) - Goerdelerring, 9 Reflexion (interactive installation) - Dittrichring, 11 Barriere (Barrier) - Martin-Luther-Ring and 12 Menschenmenge (Crowd) - Propsteikirche.

What does Festival of Lights XXL mean? Will the Festival of Lights last until the weekend this year?

To mark the 35th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution, some light projects will be shown not only on 9 October, but also until the weekend: from 10-12 October 2024, 7 pm to 2 pm, light installations at Nikolaikirchhof, Augustusplatz, Burgplatz and Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz invite you to visit. However, closures and special timetables only apply to 9 October.

All information about the Leipzig Festival of Lights 2024:

<https://www.lichtfest.leipziger-freiheit.de/home.html>