

About Stuttgart

History of the city

Stuttgart was originally a stud farm for horses and was probably founded by Duke Liutolf of Swabia, a son of emperor Otto the Great, in 950. “Stuotgarten” or “Stutengarten” (Mare’s Garden) was the name given to the settlement which grew up around this stud farm and was first recorded in 1160. The Stuttgart coat of arms, a black horse about to leap on a gold backcloth, is a link back to this stud farm.

Stuttgart received its municipal charter around 1219. Up to 1495, it was the residence of the Counts of Württemberg, from 1495 to 1803 the residence city of the Duchy, from 1803 to 1805 the seat of the electorate and from 1806 to 1918 the residence of the Kingdom of Württemberg.

In 1918, Stuttgart was made the capital of Württemberg, in 1945 of Württemberg-Baden, and in 1952 of the newly formed Federal State of Baden-Württemberg, the third largest in the Federal Republic.

Today’s Stuttgart

The Capital of Baden-Württemberg is the heart of the region. Stuttgart is uniquely situated in a valley with steeply rising hillsides. Surrounded on three sides by wooded hills, opening to the east towards the river Neckar, the city enjoys a pleasant climate. The vineyards reach as far as the inner city. The many parks, forests and sloping vineyards confirm Stuttgart’s renown as one of the most beautifully situated cities in Europe – some 11.000 hectares (26.000 acres), half of its total area, are made up of forest, parks, fields, vineyards and gardens.

The city has a world-wide reputation as one of the most economically important major cities in Europe. Two universities, three technical colleges and institutes of international acclaim ensure the close bonds between practice and research.

Stuttgart has always been the intellectual and cultural hub of the state.

The city is a model example for the cultural opportunities it offers. For example:

Attested by the numerous museums and galleries, in particular the New State Gallery built by the British architect James Sterling.

The concert, ballet and theatre life of the city is of a comparably high standard.

Stuttgart is also known as the “city of books” and has about 150 publishing houses and as many book shops. (A German record). Major functions and sports events are held in the Hanns-Martin-Schleyer-Halle and in the Culture- and Congress Center Liederhalle.

Completely different standards are set by the international trade fairs and exhibitions on Killesberg. For example, the Stuttgart International Fair is the annual stage for the CMT International Tourist Exhibitions. Friendly Swabian wine bars, restaurants for all tastes foreign cuisine, as well as pubs, bistros, discotheques and night clubs keep life on the move in the city.