

Dear participants of the International Forum 2023,

I am happy to see the big family of the ITF network again in Leipzig and to meet you personally to our traditional bike tour.

Do you know that Leipzig is a real watercity? Cycling along our waterways is particularly attractive for families and visitors. In the crossing of the three Elster, Pleiße, Parthe rivers and numerous smaller streams there are more than 180 km stretch of water. On this excursion we are going to discover the interlocking system of natural river courses and constructed canals in Leipzig by bike and make you feel the inner-city charm and atmosphere of our city from the green banks of the blue waters!

During our short picnic time we are able to discuss our strategy and your impressions and own experiences a little bit more in detail.

I hope you will join me on the unique bike tour.

Burkhard Jung, Mayor of Leipzig





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Photos: OECD-ITF, Stadt Leipzig/LTM GmbH, Stephan OKOLO Fromme, Amt für Geoinformation und Bodenordnung (Karte)

## **Practical information:**

Start/End of the tour: 13:30 Congress Center, Transfer by Bus 14:00 Neues Rathaus, Martin-Luther-Ring 16:00 Neues Rathaus

All bags and belongings you don't need during the tour can be storaged in the transfer busses.





## Leipzig by bike 2023 The blue-green infrastructure of the city

## on tour with Mayor Burkhard Jung





## **Tour stations**

Uncovering of the Pleiße millrun – Mendelssohnufer: Constructed in the middle ages, the Pleiße millrun extends for 3.8 kilometers from the South to the North of the city. Originally it was created for the city's drinking water supply, however mills were used later to generate hydroelectric power.

In the mid-1950's, the water management office decided to cover the millrun, due to over-pollution from the brown-coal industry's untreated sewage. The abundant water flow was thus channeled into closed, underground ducts.

Towards the end of the 80's, plans emerged to ecologically treat Leipzig's former rivers, particularly the Pleiße millrun, and to allow them to resurface.

The 1992 city council resolution on the plans to uncover Leipzig's watercourses outlined projects to unearth the covered river from the inlet in Connewitz to Jacob Street, as well as the backfilled sections that flow into the river Parthe at the zoo.

So far, 1.1 km of 3.8 km of the Pleiße millrun have been uncovered.

2 Connewitz Floodgate: As part of the utilization plan of Leipzig's terrain, the construction of the Connewitz floodgate enabled the continuation of the river Pleiße after the Connewitz levee in a water-tourism and eco-friendly way. The floodgate now connects the existing water passages in the municipal area of Leipzig with the landscape of lakes in the Southern areas of the city.

**Leipzig City Harbor:** The city harbor was designed as a central port for tourists. It also counts as the start and finish lines of touristic water events.

Future plans include utilizing the area for boat rentals, sailing stops, gastronomic enterprises and as an events venue.

- Approximately 400 m from the city center
- Projected water area at the harbor: 4.025 m<sup>2</sup>

• Docking areas for up to 40 motorboats

• Landing spot for private ships, charter ships and liners The completion date is only previsioned after 2018, but the city already embraces the space as a temporary recreational area.

**Uncovering of the Elster millrun:** The Elster millrun was constructed around 1000 ac. Due to extreme pollution in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was channeled into underground ducts in the 1960's. The millrun is now being uncovered in order to reestablish flood control, comply with water framework directives, and improve the quality of life in the inner-city. This is being effectuated in three construction stages, of which two have been completed. The first of three phases of the third stage is close to completion. The first of 4 bridges (West Bridge) has already reemerged.

