Introducing the City of Chemnitz and the Chemnitz Day of Peace
Chemnitz – General information

• Chemnitz is located in the Ore Mountain Basin
• near the borders to the Czech Republic and Poland
• total area: 221,05 km²
• population: 245,051 residents (31.12.2020)
  foreigners 8,84 %
History

- **ca. 1136** foundation of the Benedictine Monastery of St. Mary
- **1143** first recorded history - granting of market privileges for “Kameniz”
- **after 1170** probable foundation of the city Chemnitz as imperial city
- **1200** construction of the Red Tower
- **1357** bleaching privilege as basis for rapid development into a centre of textile industry in Germany
History

- **1770**
  calico printing manufactures

- **1799**
  first cotton-spinning machines

- **1835**
  first steam engine

- **1837**
  opening of the engineering company Richard Hartmann

→ textile machines promoted mechanical engineering
→ Industrial revolution started in Chemnitz and it became the “Saxon Manchester”
History

horse-drawn tram 1892
central market and town hall (built in 1911)
City centre before World War II
History

5 March 1945 Destruction of 80% of the city centre
History

Reconstructing the city centre starting 1953
History

Central interchange point
History

• **1953** Ministers decision to name the city into "Karl-Marx-Stadt". Establishing of the Engineering University, now the Technical University Chemnitz

• **1971** dedication of the Karl-Marx-Monument

• **1989** peaceful revolution

• **1990** renaming in Chemnitz after referendum
Chemnitz today

• Important technology location with the main sectors of mechanical engineering and plant construction, metal industry, automotive and supplier industries, Information technology and microsystems technology
• Largest center of mechanical engineering in East Germany
• The intersection of Chemnitz is one of the main roads in East-West and North-South direction in Germany
• Large companies e. g.: - Volkswagenwerk Chemnitz
  - Niles-Simmons
  - Siemens
  - ThyssenKrupp
• Technical University, Smart Systems Campus, Research and Development Institutions
  – Fraunhofer-Institute for Electronic Nanosystems (ENAS)
  – Faculties of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology and Mechanical Engineering
5th March – Remembrance and warning

• Commemoration ceremony at the Municipal Cemetery, where Lord Mayor lays a wreath together with the Chemnitz city council and residents
5th March – Chemnitz Day of Peace

• Since 2002 the 5th March dedicated to peace
• two civil initiatives AG Chemnitzer Friedenstag and Bürgerverein FUER CHEMNITZ e.V. celebrate the Chemnitz Day of Peace together with changing protagonists who invite visitors to participate in various events:
  – walks for peace starting at churches of Chemnitz and ending in the city center
  – candlelit dove & cross of peace
  – performances, poetry, art projects with schools
  – people can write down their wishes for peace
  – peal of bells of all Chemnitz churches
5th March – Chemnitz Day of Peace
5th March – Chemnitz Day of Peace
5th March – Chemnitz Day of Peace

• Since 2004 Chemnitz Peace Price is awarded to projects or organizations committed to the preservation of peace and the promotion of respect and understanding
5th March – Sharing Memories

- City of Chemnitz produces contemporary documentaries and shows them in the town hall for interested citizens and surviving witnesses to come together and share their memories.
- Having invited former “Trümmerfrauen” to have a coffee, i.e. women who helped building up the ruins, we now invite the war children.
5th March 2021 –
20th Chemnitz Day of Peace

• 20\textsuperscript{th} anniversary differs: no public gatherings & walks for peace due to pandemic
• additional content from twin cities
  - letters
  - video statements
  - pictures
  - ideas …
Twin cities

Akron

Ljubljana

Mulhouse

Timbuktu

Arras

Łódź

Taiyuan

Ústí nad Labem

Düsseldorf

Manchester

Tampere

Wolgograd

Ulrike Eckert
Mayor's Office
European and International Affairs, Protocol

26 March 2021
5th March 2021 – 20th Chemnitz Day of Peace

Ulrike Eckert
Mayor’s Office
European and International Affairs, Protocol

26 March 2021
5th March 2021 – 20th Chemnitz Day of Peace

Manchester

Oberbürgermeister Tommy Judge

https://www.chemnitz.de/chemnitz/de/unsere-stadt/friedenstag/partnerstaedte.html
Mayors for Peace

- Lord Mayor Schulze is the 3rd Mayor who committed himself to the goals of Mayors for Peace

- 5 March 2006 the city of Chemnitz was registered under Lord Mayor Dr. Seifert

- Activities so far:
  - Exhibitions
  - Children’s art contest
  - Flags on 8 July

- No interaction with the German Chapter of Mayors for Peace
Chemnitz
European Capital of Culture 2025

- **28 October 2020**
  Jury decision
- **7 national contestants:**
  a.o. 2 in Saxony, 2 more in East Germany & 2 federal capitals
Chemnitz European Capital of Culture 2025

- Foundation, staffing and structure of the ECOC company
- Exchange of experience and planning
- 1. monitoring report for the jury
- Further work with the region
- Start-up internationalization & capacity building
- First pilot projects
- Microprojects
- Establishment of the platform maker-space.eu

Ulrike Eckert
Mayor’s Office
European and International Affairs, Protocol

26 March 2021
Chemnitz
European Capital of Culture 2025

ECOC projects/events around peace and tolerance a.o.

- Academy of Autodidacts
- Soft Skills Academy & Change Maker (Partner in UK: Prime Cut Production)
- Digital Galore! (Partner in UK: Engage)
- Open European Process (Partner in UK: Forensic Architecture Institute – University of London)
- Build Peace Conference 2022
- Stefan-Heym residency programme for persecuted writers

Ulrike Eckert
Mayor's Office
European and International Affairs, Protocol

26 March 2021
ECOC projects/events around peace and tolerance a.o.

**EPR European Peace Ride**

The International Peace Ride was an amateur cycling race through the former Eastern bloc countries, mostly between Berlin, Warsaw and Prague. It was established in 1948 to counter the tensions of the post-war years. In 2025 the Ride will be revived to mark two anniversaries: 80 years since the end of World War II and 40 years since the launch of the European Capital of Culture programme. At the same time, the Peace Ride 2025 will celebrate the bicycle culture that is historically rooted in the region, while also looking ahead to the mobility of the future. The race starts in Pilsen, which was liberated by American troops on 6 May 1945, and runs for two days and 170 kilometres through the Saxon-Bohemian border region to Chemnitz. Cyclists will travel through the corridor where American and Soviet troops first met in the spring of 1945. Along the route, they will encounter a diverse programme offered by makers, associations, administrations and local artists. Municipalities and cities will take on partnerships with teams from former and future cultural capitals and create places to host the cyclists in the spirit of mutual exchange. Using an app that matches guests with hosts, private individuals in the region can provide free beds for international guests and, by so doing, get to know people from all over Europe.

Lead: Chemnitz Sports Federation, Chemnitz2025
International Partners: DEPO2015 (CZ), Liberation Festival, City of Pilsen (CZ), Czech cycling association CSC (CZ)
Local Partners: Cyklistika/velongerie e.V. (DE), UNESCO Montanregion World Heritage Site (DE), Ore Mountains Tourism Association (DE), Saxonian Cycling Federation (Chemnitz), Chemnitz Police Sports Club (Chemnitz), Cycling Club Chemnitz (Chemnitz), German Bicycle Club Chemnitz (Chemnitz)
Location: DEPOT2015 Pilsen (CZ), Sports Forum Chemnitz (DE)
Timing: 3. Q 2024 - Call for bikers in the former ECoC cities / Start in Pilsen May 7, 2025 / Big celebration on May 8, 2025
Contact

City of Chemnitz
Mayor's Office
European and International Affairs, Protocol
Ulrike Eckert

Markt 1
D-09111 Chemnitz
Tel: +49 371 488-1523
E-Mail: ulrike.eckert@stadt-chemnitz.de

Official website of the City of Chemnitz:
www.chemnitz.de
Thank you