

Gießen -- Once For A Military Base, Now Known For Its Youth

Gießen is a town separated by the [Lahn River](#), creating eastern and western portions. In [WWII](#) a subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp was located here. In 1944 most of the town was destroyed by heavy bombing, including the majority of the town's historic buildings.

The beautiful and lush landscape is situated in a valley. The older area of the town is recognizable by the narrow and irregular streets.

The University offers the Liebig Museum, and the Mathematikum is a “hands on” museum. This is a great way to keep interest in older children. It is the second largest and second oldest University in Hesse.

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While at the University, check out the botanical garden. It is actually the oldest such garden in its original location.

If you are looking for something to do outdoors, you can also canoe the River Lahn. This is very popular amongst the locals.

In September of 2007, the U.S. Army Garrison Gießen closed. The base was turned back over to local German authorities. The base once housed 500 Americans — it was established after WWII. There are many visitors today who travel to this site that once served from here.

The Gießen Theater can be a treat for anyone looking for a bit of distraction and ease. Located in a park, the performances are superb. The theater seats about 600, so call ahead just to be sure.

Every August there is the Gießen Municipal Festival. Attracting almost 100,000 people annually, you can enjoy music groups and various dance ensembles.

Gießen features the highest concentration of students in all of Germany, which tends to keep the town youthful. It also means it is an excellent source of public transportation.