The city of encounters
Compact centre and top living

St.Gallen is the city of short journeys. The old part of the city centre is packed with historic architecture, cinemas, shopping centres, weekly markets and tranquil parks. Several squares with cosy restaurants, animated and urbane shopping streets and quiet historic lanes are all a short walk away. This guarantees both exciting encounters and a sense of familiarity, like the many associations active in the city and its neighbourhoods. Urban life here is surrounded by beautiful countryside and there are several first-class recreation areas within walking distance or a short trip away by public transport.

At the same time, St.Gallen has all the amenities of a large city. Shopping and leisure centres with a broad range of offers are all in the immediate vicinity of the city centre. People looking for diversity or anonymity will also find what they are looking for here. Yet for all its compactness, St.Gallen is cosmopolitan in its makeup. A number of population groups and nationalities live alongside one another. Young and old, large families, single people, tourists and locals all mix with each other.
At a glance
- Extensive leisure and sports offers
- Shopping experiences for all
- Green oases amid urban vibrancy
- Exciting encounters

Cinemas and stages, shopping streets and jogging routes, miniature golf and bowling, fitness and wellness, swimming pools and tennis courts: St. Gallen has much to offer in the way of leisure and sports. Dozens of clubs have something for just about every activity and all ages. People who want to stay active and involved can easily find others who share their passion, for example in one of the city’s 17 local associations. The athletics and Kreuzbleiche sports centres organise teams for popular and top-class sports, for example handball. The ultramodern AFG Arena St. Gallen is home to FC St. Gallen, a football club that always draws the crowds.

A comprehensive array of shops attracts customers every day from the city, region and nearby countries. The Shopping Arena, Westcenter and Gallusmarkt shopping centres all have a welcoming mall-like atmosphere. If you prefer shopping in the historic city centre, the old town has a broad range of retail stores and food shops, as well as bookshops, wine shops, fashion boutiques and lingerie shops with local lace, making it the epicentre of the shopping experience. For a very special experience, visit the factory outlet of the world-famous St. Gallen-based fashion label Akris.

Associations online www.sanktgallernetz.ch
Die Sternenstadt, The City of Stars www.sternenstadt.ch
Event calendar www.saiten.ch,
Shopping www.st.gallen-bodensee.ch > Adventure & Pleasure > Shopping
St. Gallen’s neighbourhood associations www.quartiervereinesg.ch
Swimming pools and skating rinks www.badundeis.stadt.sg.ch

Take a relaxing break from shopping in one of the many cafés: traditional, modern, American, Italian and more. After that, spend a lazy hour reading the paper in the park or taking a walk to the «Drei Weihern», «Wildpark Peter und Paul» or Gübsensee lake. Many people in summer simply board the city-run shuttle bus and take off to enjoy water, sun and nature. The region has numerous tempting day-trip destinations and places to bathe, bike, skate, hike or quite simply enjoy yourself. It has everything from excellent cuisine on the shores of Lake Constance to breathtaking panoramic views in the nearby Alpine foothills.

For many locals, life would not be complete without regular visits to the flower and vegetable market and various markets held weekly in the old town. They not only have a broad range of things to buy but also guarantee an opportunity for a chat with people you know – from political individuals to stars and well-known TV figures, as well as your next-door neighbour.

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