

Wittumspalais

The **Wittumspalais** is a beautiful house. The house has a yellow exterior.

The Wittumspalais is located in downtown Weimar.

Weimar is a city in Thuringia.

A noble woman lived in the Wittumspalais a long time ago.

The noble woman was called Anna Amalia.

Anna Amalia ruled over the lands of Saxony-Weimar and Eisenach.

These lands were called duchies.

Anna Amalia was the duchess of Saxony-Weimar and Eisenach.

Anna Amalia was a young widow.

Anna Amalia's husband died quite early. That's where the name **Wittumspalais** comes from.

The name can be divided into two words: *Wittum* stands for "widow".

And *Palais* stands for "palace".

In other words, the widow Anna Amalia lived in her "widow palace".

First Anna Amalia lived in a castle.

Back then, the castle was called the "Weimar Residence Castle".

Today the castle is called the "Weimar City Castle".

The Weimar City Castle is also located in downtown Weimar.

But then the castle caught fire.

A large part of the castle was destroyed in the fire. Anna Amalia couldn't live in the castle anymore. So she moved into the Wittumspalais.

Anna Amalia was very educated.

She knew a lot about

- music,
- theatre
- and literature.

Anna Amalia knew many artists.

These artists were

- composers,
- actors
- and poets.

And Anna Amalia knew many scholars. The scholars were

- philosophers,
- translators
- and lawyers.

The artists and scholars often visited Anna Amalia in the Wittumspalais.

The Wittumspalais is now a museum.

Visitors can look at the rooms where Anna Amalia lived. Some rooms are especially worth seeing:

- The **Round Table Room**:

The **Round Table Room** is where Anna Amalia met with artists and scholars.

The room used to be a dining room. It had a long table.

People gathered around the table to eat.

Many artists and scholars sat down with Anna Amalia around the table.

Anna Amalia talked about music, theatre and many other things with the artists and scholars.

And sometimes they all wrote texts for books.

- The **Ballroom**:

The **Ballroom** is a beautiful room.

In the room there are columns with chandeliers. And on the ceiling is a special painting. Many people could fit in the

Ballroom.

Sometimes Anna Amalia held concerts in the **Ballroom**.

- The **Green Salon**:

The **Green Salon** was Anna Amalia's living room. The name of the room comes from the colour of the walls. The walls are in different shades of green.

The furnishings in the **Green Salon** are very authentic.

That means:

The furniture and decorations in the **Green Salon** are almost exactly the same as long ago.

Would you like to take a break after the exhibition? Behind the **Wittumspalais** is a big courtyard.

In the courtyard, you can relax and sit in the sun.

Do you think Anna Amalia is interesting?

Then there is another building you can see nearby. The building is a library.

The library is called the **Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek**.

In English, it means **Duchess Anna Amalia Library**. Anna Amalia was a big supporter of this library.

That means:

Anna Amalia collected many books for the library. And Anna Amalia spent a lot of money on the library.

In the middle of the library is a beautiful room. The room is called the **Rococo Hall**.

Rococo is a kind of art style.

In Rococo, artists used lots of fancy decorations.

The library is famous for its Rococo Hall. There are many books in the hall.

Visitors can read these books.

And there are valuable paintings and busts in the hall.

A bust is a sculpture of a person's head and upper chest.

Visitors can look at the paintings and busts. For example, there are busts of

- Anna Amalia's family,
- artists and poets,
- and researchers and philosophers.

There is also a bust of Goethe.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was a very famous poet.

Goethe worked in the **Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek** as a director.

The **Wittumspalais** and the **Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek** are **UNESCO World Heritage** sites.

UNESCO is an organisation.

UNESCO has made a list of very special places in the world.

UNESCO takes especially good care of these places.

Other buildings of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar are also on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Do you want to learn more about the **Wittumspalais** and the **library**?

Then click on the website of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar.

There you will find more information about the Wittumspalais and the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek.