What kind of place is Tübingen?

The town of Tübingen and the University are inseparably connected. Even in the 17th century it was said that when the University is successful, the town also flourishes. Then and now the alma mater has shaped and continues to shape the city's appearance and its social and economic life.

Academic teaching and research banished industrial noise and smells from the city. Today, the University employs more than 8,000 people and is thus by far the biggest employer in town.

The structure of the population is however, decisively determined by the more than 20,000 students currently matriculated at the University. With an overall population of 85,000 Tübingen has the largest 'student density' of all German university towns.

For the town the close union with the University is, however, not only a blessing: traffic jams in the streets, a lack of parking spaces, a housing shortage and high rents are only a few of the problems facing the local council. The University's constant expansion was also reflected in the town's growth. While the oldest buildings, which nowadays mainly house liberal arts departments, are nearly all located in the old town, new university neighbourhoods quickly developed outside the old town centre in the 19th century. In particular the specialisation in natural sciences and the increasing number of students made it necessary to build university buildings, hospitals and student accommodation on the surrounding hills. Many people consider Tübingen to be a town of great minds, a place where - for example, at the Protestant Seminary 'Stift' - the course of intellectual history was largely influenced. Here Keppler, Hegel and Schelling received their intellectual know-how.

Others call Tübingen romantic because of its idyllic old town with cobblestones and winding little lanes. Some people also associate the town with poets such as Hölderlin, Uhland, Schwab, Mörike and Hermann Hesse.

Tübingen, the little big town, is a place full of contradictions: It is narrow and open-minded, part of the big wide world and yet reasonably small. Or it is, as Mörike put it, 'a land with a far-reaching glow', a land, therefore, 'which one will look for in vain anywhere else in the world'. Its beauty should, however, not just be praised, but should rather be experienced first hand. The opportunities for cultural and artistic experiences are many. Your problem will be finding time to attend all the activities and events offered in the city. General information is listed daily in the local newspaper. You will find posters and flyers all
over the University and the town, and the various departments and student services organisations can provide you with up-to-date information.

Tickets for University events are available at the University's ticket centre (Neue Aula), and the Verkehrsverein in the town centre next to the Neckarbrücke. It has information and tickets for events at the University, in Tübingen, and in Stuttgart, including performances of the Stuttgart symphony, ballet and opera.

The Mensen Wilhelmstrasse and Morgenstelle are the places to go for rock, jazz, blues and reggae concerts, featuring performers and groups from Europe, the United States, Latin America and Africa. And like all university towns, Tübingen has its popular nightspots - most typically the restaurants, pubs and Bierkellers for which Southern Germany is famous.

The cinemas in Tübingen offer an excellent selection of European and American films, and films are often also shown in student halls of residence and in the University Clubhaus. Two theatres in Tübingen feature both student and professional talent in a wide variety of stage productions.

Sports activities and events are organised by the University's Sportinstitut, located at Wilhelmstrasse 124. The Institute offers a wide range of opportunities for group activities, from aerobics and weightlifting to karate and cross country cycling. Tübingen is near good ski-country, and outings are regularly arranged by various groups. Perhaps the most popular sports activities are hiking and cycling in the forested hills around Tübingen. The Schönbusch, a large, protected State forest, is located just north of town, and the countryside is laced with quiet trails and foot-paths, perfect for long, relaxing walks with friends, or for getting away to be alone for a while.

Tübingen also has a wide range of religious and spiritual organisations and groups. There are many churches of various denominations. A large number of special-emphasis groups exist who meet for study or for specific action focused on local, European and international issues.

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