

## Press Information

# **The Stuttgart Television Tower**

## **Revolutionary Architecture**

This is the forerunner of all television towers and is regarded as an aesthetic and architectural masterpiece: the SWR TV Tower Stuttgart. Built 70 years ago, it is today one of the city's main landmarks. At the time of construction, many of Stuttgart's inhabitants had their doubts as to the stability of this first tower to be built using reinforced concrete.

The original plans for a television tower were for a functional steel lattice mast on top of the 483-metre-high hill known as the Bopser. However, the famous Stuttgart bridge builder and structural engineer, Professor Fritz Leonhardt, proposed a concrete construction instead. Not only was the structure itself an innovation, but so, too, was the idea of using the tower for tourism and catering purposes. Much later than scheduled, the tower, with an observation deck in an almost circular cylindrical pod, was officially opened on 5th February 1956. The costs of building, 4.2 million DM, were recouped within five years by the takings in admission charges. The tower is one of the most outstanding cultural monuments in the Stuttgart Region. Visitors can admire the magnificent views from its two-tiered observation deck at a height of 150 metres above ground. No other location in Stuttgart provides such wonderful tele-vision in the true sense of the word, with sweeping views over the Neckar Valley with its vineyards, the Swabian Alb, the Black Forest and the Odenwald. "Leonhardt's" is the name of the Television Tower's restaurant, which offers regional Swabian cuisine at the foot of the Tower. In the summer months the beer garden is ideal for eating outdoors. The Panorama Café – less down-to-earth – serves coffee and cakes during the day at a height of 144 metres, while in the evening guests can enjoy Stuttgart's night-time panorama over a cool drink.

In 2026, the SWR Stuttgart TV Tower celebrates its 70th anniversary – 70 years of broadcasting history, pioneering architecture and the best views over Stuttgart. To mark the tower's birthday on 5 February 2026, the SWR Stuttgart TV Tower will remain open for 70 consecutive hours, offering a varied programme around the clock.

Also during the anniversary year: free admission for visitors born in 1956 and many additional events.

Since it was built, the SWR TV Tower Stuttgart has been imitated all over the world. One of its "twins" can be seen in Johannesburg. Nevertheless, the Stuttgart model with its harmonious proportions remains unique.

UNESCO World Heritage candidate: In December 2023, the SWR TV Tower in Stuttgart was, as one of two proposals from Baden-Württemberg, included on the German tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage status.

Additional information under: <https://www.fernsehturm-stuttgart.de/en/>

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