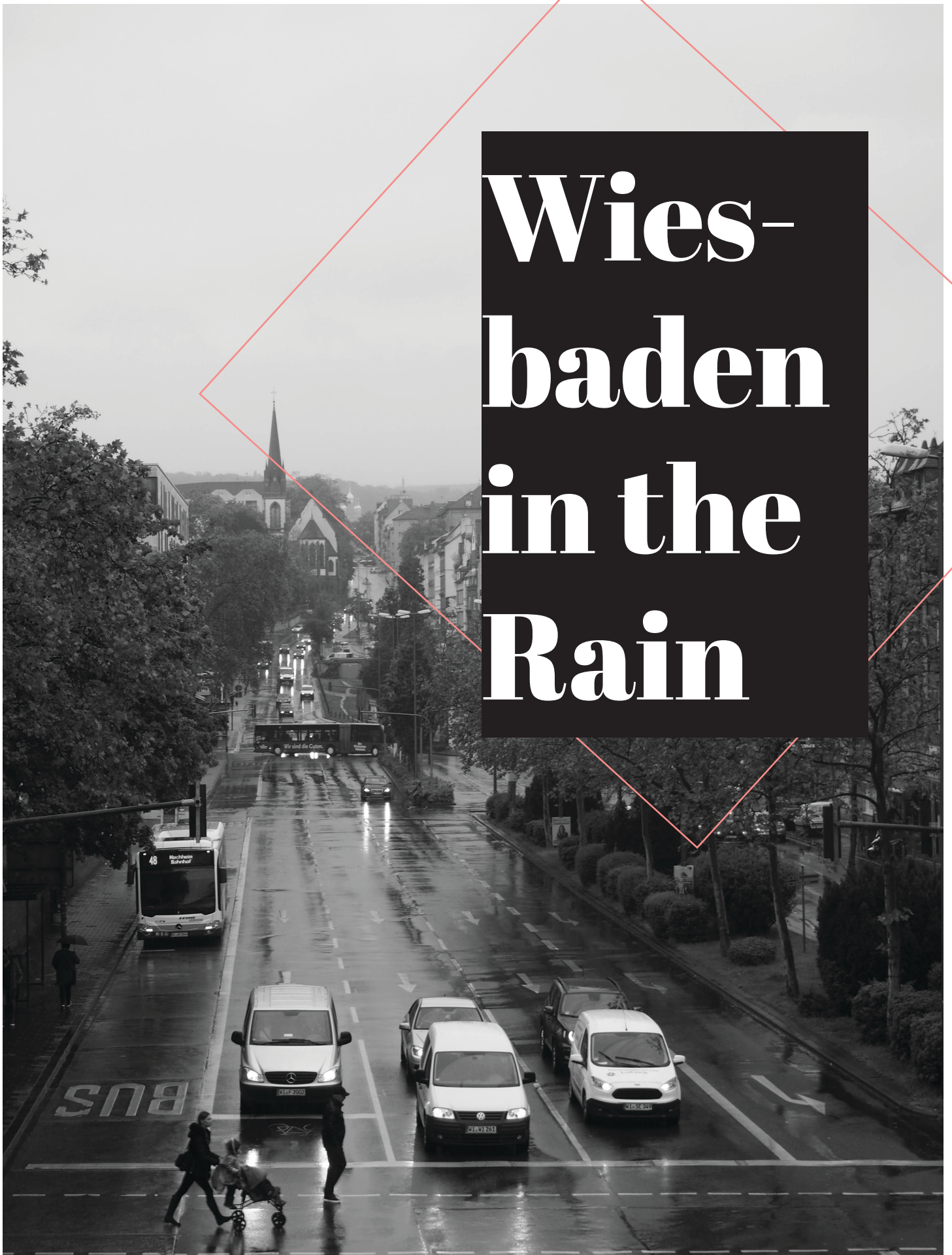


# Wies- baden in the Rain







Self-portrait taken during a photography workshop at Hochschule RheinMain Media Conception and Production.

**T**he time has dreadfully come. Spring. Caught in between sunshine and snow, spring is my least favorite time of year. Being a native Minnesotan, I have come to love my hot summers, snowy winters, and beautiful falls. But not the spring. It's the only time of year that can be 70 degrees one day and snowy the next; not to mention the endless days of rain. Living in a time of such unpredictability creates chaos amongst my outdoor plans. Calling it annoying is an understatement. I have been living here in Wiesbaden since March and I could probably count on one hand the amount of days I've been able to wear just a t-shirt. Which isn't a huge deal or anything but I'm a huge outdoor gal so sitting inside on these chilly days has not been fun; neither has fighting the wind and rain when I actually do make it outside. I yearn for the days of sunshine and warmth when I can finally put my trench coat back in its rightful place (my suitcase) and get started on my summer tan. You may be wondering what has brought me to Wiesbaden in the first place. I have been asked that many times. Let me explain. I have always been a creative gal; more interested in the

how instead of the why. I grew up going through many phases to writing my own plays, to performing lip sync concerts in my living room, and even combining various materials found in the woods to make 'potions'. It is the process that more than the result that triggers my excitement. I decided to go to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to study marketing and film with a goal of advertising in mind. But now that I have seen the endless possibilities of this area of study, I have become greatly unsure of my future. Even now. I am living and studying media conception in Germany. I never saw this coming! I am excited to learn and grow during this semester and cannot wait to see what my future has in store for me. During the last few weeks of this bitter weather, I've discovered a revelation: a raincoat! Now I can walk around for hours on end without getting wet and miserable. Now I can skip and dance through the streets as my hair remains dry and my spirits are high. Wiesbaden has surprised me with its rainy day activities and I'm excited to share them. Here's what I've discovered...

The Marktkirche stands tall in the Scholssplatz.



## Oh Lazy Day...

Look at this bench. Would you like to sit in it? Most likely not. And neither does anyone else in Wiesbaden. You can find just about every bench occupied on a sunny day. Many citizens of Wiesbaden love to sit and enjoy their afternoons on benches such as this one reading, eating, talking with a friend, watching their kids chase the ducks, etc. But not on a day like today. Today the benches mourn. I myself was sad until I thought to bring my picnic blanket and lay it on the bench. That way my bum didn't get wet and I could enjoy the rain sitting down. It was quite the phenomenon. Give it a try.

## Amen.

A great way to forgive your sins and stay out of the rain is by visiting a cathedral. The Marktkirche a perfect example. The cathedral is beautiful no matter the weather as the red brick towers through the sky; leaving its spectators in awe. I have had quite the time walking around the Marktkirche myself. When I visit on a rainy day it's even more spectacular because I can't see the top with all the rain droplets hitting my face. It somehow makes the architecture more fascinating.



A lonely bench is photographed in Kurpark.



# Diving Into Ink

Books found  
anxiously waiting  
to be picked up.



## Bring on the rain

What's my favorite rainy day activity you ask? Easy. Reading. There's something about diving into a good book on a rainy Saturday that is so heartwarming. Throw in a soft blanket and a hot cup of tea and you got yourself the perfect combination for a stress relieving day. As you walk downtown you will see



Hugendube sits  
proudly on the corner  
of Luseinstrasse and  
Kirchgasse.

Wiesbadeners everywhere with their noses deep into a good book. Many of them gather at World Coffee located inside Hugenduble. I mean it only makes sense. Books, coffee, and a unique view of the city. What more could a bookworm want? This is one of my best recommendations for a rainy day. If Hugenduble isn't your place, then stroll downtown and find another book store to your liking. Perhaps a coffee shop too. Spend your rainy day the relaxing way.

Myth: biking is only for sunny weather. Have you ever had the wind through your hair, felt the rain pelt your face and the the ground water splash up your legs at the same time? Go biking through Wiesbaden on a rainy day. You'll see how much fun it is. Biking in general can feel so freeing. You can get anywhere in town

for half the speed of walking all while toning your leg muscles. Take a spin through downtown and see things from a new perspective. Put out your arms and notice how the breeze feels in your underarms. there are so many wonderful sensations that come with bike riding.

Many riders let  
thier bikes rest on  
rainy days.



# Biking for the Soul.

If you are serious about taking a spin, it is essential to pack all of the necessary items (especially on a rainy day). I always start out with a bike and a helmet. Those are both a must. For longer rides I make sure to bring a backpack filled with water, sunglasses, sunscreen,

a bike pump, my wallet, extra cash, and a few snacks. This packing list will ensure a fun and safe experience that will last the whole day. It also helps to map out where you plan on going before hand so there is no confusion.





This bus, along with many others, can be found anywhere around town.

# If you're in a hurry

Maybe biking isn't your thing. Fine. Or perhaps you are in a hurry with a laundry list of things to do. In this case you can hop around town on a public bus. Wiesbaden provides an excellent bus service to its citizens. Many people choose this option because it is easy and cheap, plus they can avoid the headache of parking. Also, if it's raining you will find much pleasure in arriving to your destination dry. The public bus system works ideally for me. I often find myself chatting with the locals on many buses or sightseeing out the window. Listening to music can also be en-

joyable when I want to tune out the world. The best part is there are enough buses and routes to get anywhere within the city and its outskirts. Take a bus downtown and do some shopping, find your favorite neighborhood coffeeshop, visit some historical sites, or maybe discover your new favorite restaurant on the other side of town. The possibilities are endless. On the next rainy day that you find yourself with nothing to do, hop on a bus. Have some fun. The city is your oyster.



A local is found shopping amongst an array of flowers.



## Mall Walker

The Lusien Forum is another great way to spend a rainy day. I found a variety of shops suiting anyone's desires. With four stories, one could spend an entire day here. And if you get hungry try sitting down at a cafe or swing into Rewe for a bite to eat.



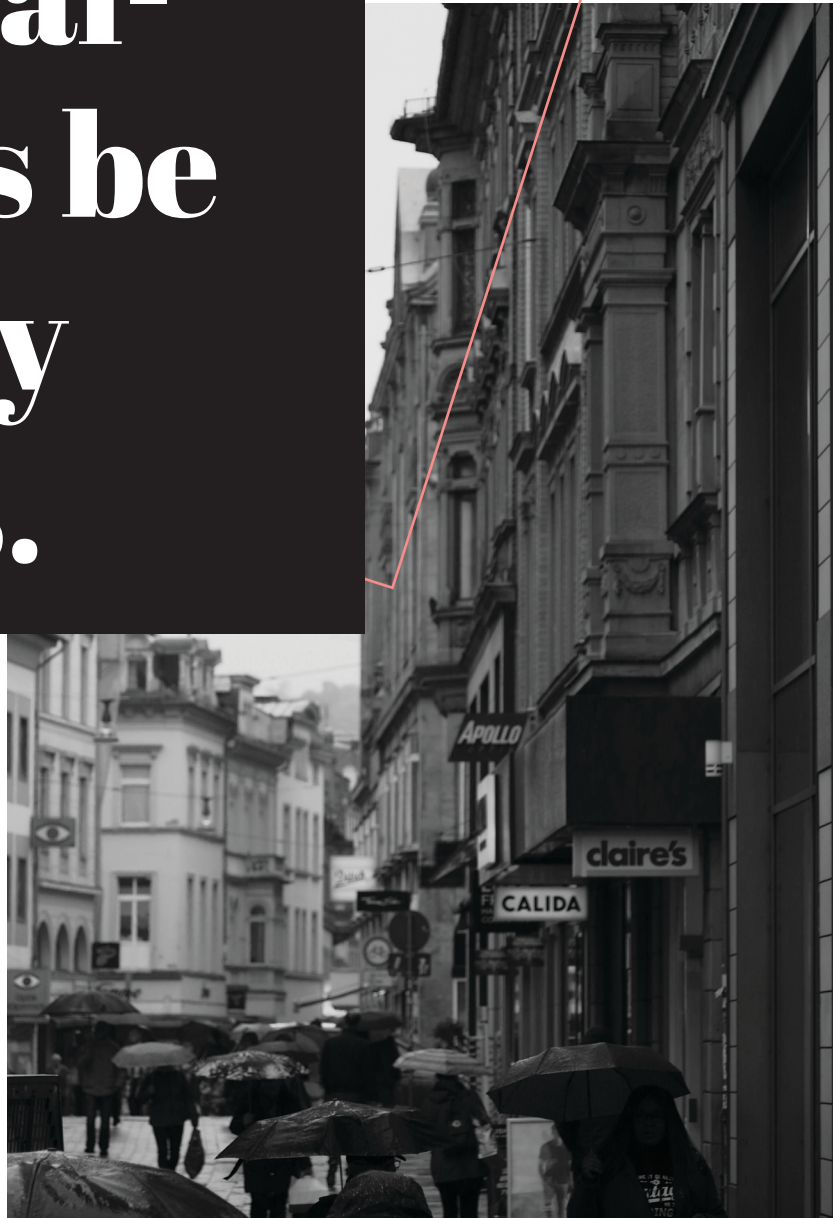
# Market Fresh.

Wednesday and Saturday mornings give me reason to celebrate: the farmers market comes to town. I love the morning bustle of the Wiesbaden market because I can find a variety of fruits and vegetables from local farmers for a reasonable price. Not to mention the food and flower stands scattered throughout as well as the wine stand. Older couples can be found tasting and snacking their entire morning away. Wiesbadeners from all over the city flock here to buy fresh fruits

and vegetables for their families. One can wander for quite some time to select the finest produce. It is worth the visit on a rainy day because I have discovered that it is less crowded. I have room to breathe and examine more the goods that are for sale. It also gives me more appreciation for the vendors that bring their goods twice a week. So pack your umbrella, bring some cash, and head on over to the market for some unique finds (even on a miserable day).



**There  
will al-  
ways be  
rainy  
days.**



**Get excited.**