

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tourist news 2026 in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony)

New SkyLoop tower in Mardorf

A striking new landmark is taking shape on the northern shore of Lake Steinhude: a 40-metre lookout tower in Mardorf. The design blends contemporary architecture with eco-friendly principles – the entire façade will be covered with plants to absorb CO₂ and encourage biodiversity. A fully accessible lift and stairway will lead visitors 34 metres up to the viewing platform, offering sweeping views across the nature reserve surrounding Lake Steinhude. The site will also feature a range of leisure attractions, including a base-jumping rig with safety harness, a giant swing, a via ferrata along a steel arch, and one of Germany's tallest tube slides. The first phase is scheduled to open at the end of June 2026.

www.neustadt-a-rbge.de/rathaus/pressestelle/presse-archiv/2025/april/neuer-aussichtsturm-am-steinhuder-meer-geplant

New exhibition greenhouse at Hanover's Berggarten

The new exhibition greenhouse at Hanover's Berggarten is set to open at the start of the 2026/2027 winter season. Covering around 1,300 square metres and reaching up to nine metres in height, the new space will be divided into three sections. One area will allow plants from the Canary Islands, previously housed in the old greenhouse, to grow freely. A second section will serve as an exhibition space for changing displays of botanical treasures from the Berggarten. Between these special exhibitions, visitors can relax in a seating area with a kiosk, palm trees and a terrace. The third section will feature a heated water basin showcasing the giant tropical water lily, while in winter, exotic butterflies will be on display.

www.hannover.de/Herrenhausen/Herrenh%C3%A4user-G%C3%A4rten/Berggarten/Neues-Ausstellungshaus/Ein-neues-Schauhaus-f%C3%BCr-den-Berggarten

New Airbus restaurant at Serengeti Park

A unique dining experience is coming to Serengeti Park in Hodenhagen: a decommissioned Airbus A310 formerly operated by the German armed forces is being transformed into a 200-seat restaurant, with around 150 seats inside the fuselage of the former government and troop transport plane known as Kurt Schumacher. Weighing over 40 tonnes, the aircraft fuselage was transported over several days and positioned within the park grounds, where it is now being reassembled piece by piece. Once complete, the converted aircraft will offer a distinctive combination of aviation history and leisure, becoming a standout restaurant at the heart of the park. The opening is planned for summer 2026. www.serengeti-park.de/geschichte/vom-airbus-zum-restaurant

New City Museum for Oldenburg

The City Museum (Stadtmuseum) of Oldenburg is undergoing a transformation. With a brand-new building set to open in March 2026 and the listed historical villas being carefully restored, a

museum is emerging that seamlessly blends old and new. This will become a place where the city's history is not only presented but explored, narrated and shaped in collaboration with local residents. The aim is to open up the museum, turning it into a space for community engagement and dialogue – a venue where Oldenburg's past, present and future can be explored more actively than ever before. www.stadtmuseum-oldenburg.de/ein-museum-drei-haeuser

New attractions on the Bocksberg Adventure Mountain

A towering three-headed dragon, cutting-edge technology and five thrilling spiral turns await visitors on the Bocksberg in Hahnenklee, where a second summer toboggan run has been unveiled. The Drachenblitz hurtles down a 560-metre themed track, with riders encountering the 16-metre-long dragon figure in a series of dramatic scenes along the way. A new 50-metre Skywalk offers thrilling views into the dragon's cave as well as sweeping vistas across the Harz Mountains landscape. www.hahnenklee.de/natur/erlebnisbocksberg-bikepark/drachenblitz-skywalk

New moorland trails in the Bourtanger Moor Nature Park

Since summer, visitors to the Bourtanger Moor Nature Park have been able to explore 19 themed walking trails, each with a different focus and showcasing a unique part of the landscape. The circular routes range from six to 17 kilometres in length and follow the quality standards set by the Deutscher Wanderverband (German Hiking Association). They lead through the region's distinctive bog and fen landscape, offering a variety of scenic and immersive walking experiences. www.naturpark-moor.eu/en/aktiv/wandern/themenwanderwege

New Geo Routes in the Emsland National Geopark

The new Geo Routes invite visitors to discover geologically and scenically significant sites across the region by bike. Each route focuses on a distinct geological theme – from the megalithic culture of the Hümmling hills and the peatlands of the Bourtanger Moor to the river landscapes along the Ems and Hase. These easy-to-cycle routes offer insights into glacial formations, ecological restoration efforts and the diverse landscapes of the Emsland. All routes are available as printable maps or downloadable GPX tracks. www.geopark-emsland.de/erleben/radfahren/geopark-radtouren

New digital tour of Marienburg Castle

While restoration works are in progress, visitors can now explore Marienburg Castle digitally. The new 'Time Travel around Marienburg' feature in the Pattensen Time Travel app offers a virtual tour that enhances the 500-metre path around the castle, featuring 360° panoramas, text and video that bring history to life. The tour includes 15 stops offering insights into the history, architecture and background of the Guelph castle, with references to Queen Marie and King George V. Even interior spaces which are currently inaccessible can be explored virtually. The digital tour takes around one hour and can be accessed via on-site QR codes or downloaded

in advance. www.visit-hannover.com/Kultur-Sehensw%C3%BCrdigkeiten/Hannover-Urlaubsregion/Zeitreise-um-die-Marienburg

Goslar Christmas Market: An outstanding European Christmas market

As 2025 gives way to 2026, Goslar has been awarded a special distinction: the Goslar Christmas Market and Christmas Forest has been awarded the ‘Excellent European Christmas Market’ quality seal. The EECMA praised the market’s cohesive concept, with its charming festive atmosphere, high-quality crafts and culinary delights, and the design of its distinctive lighting and decoration. Particular recognition was given to the way the market combines strong regional traditions with a European spirit, giving it a unique character. With this new distinction, the Goslar Christmas Market is now officially among Europe’s leading festive markets, reinforcing its reputation as a magical experience in the heart of the historical Old Town. www.weihnachtswald.de/europa-auszeichnung-top-12

Tourism Highlights 2025

70 years of the Pied Piper open-air play

In 2026, the Pied Piper theatre group in Hamelin will celebrate its 70th anniversary. Since 1956, the legend of the disappearing children has been performed every summer as an open-air play in front of the Hochzeitshaus, becoming a well-established tradition in the town. The anniversary season will run from 17 May to 20 September. A particular highlight is 26 June, the traditional ‘Piper’s Day’, which will feature an additional performance and extended supporting programme. As in previous years, the play will be performed every Sunday at 12:00 from May to September, offering visitors a free 30-minute insight into the town’s intangible cultural heritage.

www.hameln.de/de/der-rattenfaenger/rattenfaenger-freilichtspiel

40 years of Niedersachsen’s Wadden Sea National Park

The Wadden Sea National Park was officially designated on 1 January 1986 and is the first of its kind in the state and the fourth in Germany. Niedersachsen’s Wadden Sea is the second largest national park on the European mainland outside Russia, with the first largest being the Schleswig-Holstein part of the Wadden Sea. In 2026, the park will mark its milestone anniversary. Under the motto ‘The National Park Makes a Difference!’, the anniversary will highlight the wide-ranging impact of the park – on habitats, inhabitants, conservation, innovation, local communities and visitors alike.

www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/wissensbeitrag/nationalpark-wirkt

20 Years of the Harz National Park

Covering an area of around 24,700 hectares, the Harz National Park is Germany's second largest national park. Twenty years ago, on 5 January 2006, Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) and Sachsen-Anhalt (Saxony-Anhalt) merged their protected areas. Just under 9,000 hectares are located in Sachsen-Anhalt and nearly 16,000 in Niedersachsen. 97% of the park is forested.
www.nationalpark-harz.de

State Garden Show in Bad Nenndorf

From 29 April to 18 October 2026, the historical spa and landscape park in Bad Nenndorf will be transformed into a vibrant paradise. Just 30 minutes west of Hanover, the 34-hectare show will combine garden design, environmental education and culture. Visitors can look forward to imaginative themed gardens, carefully curated planting, green knowledge stations and the unique Süntelbuchenallee – all inviting them to explore how captivating well-designed gardens can be and enjoy an impressive diversity of plants. More than 1,500 individual events are planned for the eighth Niedersachsen State Garden Show. A joint initiative with the three other state garden shows will, for the first time, allow season ticket holders to attend each of the four events once at no extra cost. The other state garden shows are at Ellwangen, Leinefelde-Worbis and Neuss.
www.landesgartenschau-badnenndorf.de/aktuelles

Roswitha Year in Bad Gandersheim

2026 promises to be a remarkable year for Bad Gandersheim: under the theme 'Roswitha 2026 – A Thousand Years of Literary Heritage', the town will celebrate its cultural roots and strong sense of community. Roswitha, widely considered the first German female poet and one of the most remarkable women of her time, was a trailblazing 10th century canoness, dramatist and author who was born in Bad Gandersheim. Several programme highlights have already been confirmed: The 50th presentation of the prestigious Roswitha Literature Prize for German women writers will have a new format in 2026, while a charming monastic market is planned at Brunshausen Abbey. Another highlight will be the grand Roswitha Festival on 19-20 September 2026 – a one-off event for the anniversary year, held in historical style in the centre of Bad Gandersheim. Visitors can expect a varied mix of medieval market stalls, a stage with musical performances, roaming entertainers, shows and games. The Roswitha Festival will shine a spotlight on literature, trailblazing women and medieval healing practices. Additional smaller events throughout the year will offer opportunities to explore the era of Roswitha of Gandersheim – past, present and future.
www.badgandersheim-tourismus.de/news/detail/roswitha-jahr-2026-gemeinsam-erleben-gemeinsam-gestalten

Niedersachsen Day in Brunswick

For the 39th Niedersachsen Day, several squares and streets in the centre of Brunswick and beyond will be transformed into a living festival over 12-14 June 2026. Under the theme 'Land & Lions', visitors can look forward to a diverse programme celebrating volunteerism, the history of Niedersachsen and the region's diversity. The event is jointly organised by the state of Niedersachsen, Braunschweig Stadtmarketing GmbH, the city of Brunswick, numerous state associations, institutions and local partners.

www.braunschweig.de/tdn/index.php

15th UNESCO World Heritage Day

The UNESCO World Heritage Day will mark its 15th anniversary on 7 June 2026 under the motto 'Together for Peace and Understanding'. Across Germany, all 55 World Heritage Sites will take part with special tours, exhibitions, discussions, concerts, and dedicated activities for children and young people. In Niedersachsen, the participating sites include the World Heritage churches in Hildesheim, the Fagus Factory in Alfeld, the Rammelsberg site, the historic Old Town of Goslar, and the Upper Harz Water Management System.

www.unesco-welterbetag.de/

New date: Altes Land Blossom Festival

From 2026, the Altes Land Blossom Festival will be held one week earlier, on 25-26 April. The change reflects the increasingly early blossoming of fruit trees, which in recent years has typically started by the end of April. The adjustment is intended to ensure that the festival continues to take place amid blooming orchards, allowing visitors to enjoy the full spectacle of this natural event. Organisers view the new date as a continuation of tradition under changing climate conditions and encourage visitors and tour operators to take the revised schedule into account in their planning.

www.jork.de/portal/meldungen/altlaender-bluetenfest-2026-neuer-termin-am-25-und-26-april-2026-natur-bestimmt-den-neuen-termin-904006282-20380.html

1,200 years of Bevern

Preparations are under way in Bevern for the 1,200th anniversary celebrations, which will be marked in 2026 with a series of major events. The anniversary year is based on historical records placing the town's origins between 822 and 826. The highlight of the jubilee year will be the celebration weekend of 12-14 June.

www.samtgemeinde-bevern.de/de

Celebrating 200 years since Elze rose from ashes

On the evening of 18 November 1824, around 80% of the town of Elze was destroyed by fire. It was started by a maidservant, Sophie Catherine Büscher, who set fire to a barn with a torch in revenge after being beaten by her employer for neglecting her duties. Thanks to the efforts of many from surrounding villages and the support of Pastor Christian Bauer of Wülfinghausen – who took in many of the newly homeless – the town was rebuilt in just two years. In 2026, Elze will celebrate the courage, community spirit and solidarity that enabled a new town to rise from the ashes. A highlight will be the town festival ‘Elze in Wonderland’ on 14-17 May.

www.elze.de/Leben-Freizeit/Freizeit/Terminkalender/200-Jahre-Wiederaufbau/Stadtfest-Elze-im-Wunderland-.php?ModID=11&FID=3016.22480.1&bn=1

50th Einbeck Owl Festival

In 2026, Einbeck will celebrate the 50th Owl Festival. Every second weekend in October, the town centre will be transformed into a lively festival space, featuring stage shows, fairground rides and regional offerings. A Sunday shopping event complements the weekend, with shops open from 13:00 to 18:00. The Owl Festival remains one of Einbeck’s major celebrations and continues to attract visitors from across the region.

www.einbecker-eulenfest.de/

50 years of Oldenburg Town Festival

Northwest Germany’s largest festival will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2026 and, for this special occasion, will take place one week earlier than usual – on 20-22 August. It will be followed by a series of open-air concerts, one-off events created exclusively for the anniversary. www.stadtfest-oldenburg.de/ and <https://50sommerwir.de/>

40 Years of the Brunswick International Film Festival

Contemporary European cinema of the highest calibre is a key focus of the festival in the Lion City. To mark its 40th anniversary, a very special programme is planned from 9 to 15 November, including an opening film concert. www.filmfest-braunschweig.de/en/

30 years of the Hurricane Festival

From a locally known event to an internationally acclaimed festival: the Hurricane Festival, which now attracts over 70,000 music fans each year, will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2026. On 19-21 June, both national and international artists will once again take to multiple stages. The first acts have already been announced, including Twenty One Pilots, Kraftklub, Yungblud, The Offspring, Papa Roach, BHZ, Donots, Leony and Kayla Shyx. More artists will be added throughout the year.

www.hurricane.de/en/

20 years of the International Bourtanger Moor-Bargerveen Nature Park

Tbc

www.naturpark-moor.eu/en/

10 years of Hümmling Nature Park

Tbc

www.huemmling.de/en/

New accommodation for 2026

Henri Country House Cuxhaven

The HENRI Hotel Cuxhaven is set to open in summer 2026 in the listed historical fish halls on the old fishing harbour. The 145 rooms blend historical industrial design with a contemporary residential feel – a style that carries through into the communal areas, including the lounge, communal kitchen, gym and spa, as well as a co-working space. The aim is to establish the property as an open meeting point for both guests and local residents.

www.henri-hotels.co.uk/cuxhaven.html

Motel One at the Hansa House, Hanover

The second Motel One in Hanover is expected to open in mid-2026 in the listed former Hansa House, offering around 200 rooms. Originally constructed in the early 20th century and only partially rebuilt after the Second World War, the building will feature newly installed windows based on the original designs, dormer windows and a redesigned inner courtyard that will serve as a terrace. Plans for the ground floor include a 500 m² space dedicated to food and drink.

www.motel-one.com/en/

Premier Inn in the Bredero High Rise, Hanover

The Premier Inn Group is expanding its presence in Hanover with a second location in 2026. The nine-storey new-build hotel will offer 220 rooms on a 1,188 m² plot forming part of the well-known Bredero complex. The neighbouring 23-storey high-rise – also part of the complex – stands 91 metres tall and remains a prominent feature of the state capital of Niedersachsen. As part of the site's redevelopment, the two properties have been separated in terms of both use and ownership rights. www.premierinn.com/gb/en/home.html

Penta Hotel Hanover

Opposite the New Town Hall, renovation works continue at the former Maritim Grand Hotel. The seven-storey brutalist-style building is being transformed, with all rooms set to feature distinctive design upon completion. Bars and various quiet or relaxation zones will also offer service-oriented comforts. The renovation has been delayed for some years and the opening date has yet to be confirmed. www.heftol.com/en/projects/hotel-hannover/

Stayery Osnabrück

Since autumn 2025, STAYERY has been welcoming guests to its new location in central Osnabrück. Positioned between the historical Old Town, the university area and Baroque landmarks, it offers apartments for both short and extended stays. Each apartment includes a kitchenette, bathroom, Wi-Fi and weekly cleaning. Additional on-site services include a laundry room with washing machines and dryers, a co-working space and 24-hour digital check-in. A self-service kiosk offers drinks and light snacks. There are a limited number of courtyard parking spaces available. Breakfast can be booked via a nearby bakery. Communal spaces such as the lounge serve as places to relax or work. www.stayery.com/en/osnabrueck/

Prizeotel Osnabrück

November 2025 saw the opening of the first Prize by Radisson hotel near Osnabrück's historical Old Town and main station – a flagship for the brand's new design concept. The newly built property offers 172 rooms, including ten family rooms, catering to both business and leisure travellers. With king-size beds, rainfall showers and high-speed Wi-Fi, the hotel combines style with function. A reduced cleaning schedule of every three days helps conserve resources, underlining the brand's commitment to sustainability. www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/prize-by-radisson-osnabruck

Das Friesland in Wilhelmshaven

On the lock island in Wilhelmshaven, two listed former naval warehouses – each over a century old – are being converted into a modern aparthotel called Das Friesland. Plans include 78 apartments ranging in size from approximately 50 to 125 m², along with a wellness area and food and drink facilities. The stylishly furnished apartments, with up to four rooms each, all boast water views. www.das-friesland.de

Strandhotel Otterndorf

By autumn 2026, a new aparthotel will be built near the beach at the North Sea resort of Otterndorf. It will offer 26 accessible units, each with a balcony or terrace. In addition to a regional breakfast offering, the plans include parking with electric vehicle charging points, a wellness area with sauna and relaxation room, and a small shop.

A bike hire service and organised excursions to Neuwerk and Helgoland are also being considered. www.strandhotel-otterndorf.de/

Das Eggers Ellingen

A new barn hotel is currently being developed at the *Eggershof* in Ellingen, near Soltau, with an opening planned for mid-2026. The centuries-old family estate is expanding its accommodation capacity with 33 individually designed timber rooms, inspired by the farm's historic barns and incorporating traditional structures and local materials. Communal areas for events and small groups are also part of the concept. The new hotel complements the farm's existing accommodation, which has long catered to private celebrations and short stays.

www.eggershof.de/

D&C Hotel Sulingen

As the region's first smart hotel, the D&C Hotel is being built in the *Vorwerker Heide* business park in Sulingen, with completion scheduled for late summer 2026. This digitally operated self-service hotel will offer 29 double rooms, including three accessible units. Check-in and check-out are available around the clock – either online or via an on-site terminal. There will be no traditional reception or in-house dining. Instead, vending machines stocked with drinks, snacks and hygiene products will be provided. www.instagram.com/dundc.hotel

Der Waldkater Rinteln

In summer 2025, hotel and restaurant *Der Waldkater* reopened above the old town of Rinteln after a four-year closure. 31 country-style rooms, including two suites, have been fully refurbished along with both restaurants. The rustic brewery tavern, seating 75, serves hearty German cuisine, while the more refined restaurant, with 66 seats, caters to discerning diners. Other highlights include a stylish cigar lounge offering select South American tobaccos and premium spirits, as well as the in-house brewery. www.waldkater-rinteln.de/

Konnex Inn Nordhorn by Hackmann

In November 2025, the *KONNEX INN by Hackmann* opened near Nordhorn railway station as a four-star hotel. Just a short walk from the town centre, the hotel features modern rooms incorporating design elements that reference the town's textile heritage. The top floor houses a wellness area with several saunas, an infrared cabin and a relaxation room with panoramic views. On the ground floor, the publicly accessible restaurant *Garn und Gabel* completes the overall guest experience. Altogether, the hotel provides a well-located base for business travellers and visitors to the region. www.hackmann-hotels.de/en/konnex-inn-nordhorn-1

New exhibitions in 2026

20th anniversary of phaeno Wolfsburg

Fresh from a major redesign, *phaeno Science Centre* reopened its exhibition in December – just in time to mark its 20th anniversary in 2026. After two years of planning and a seven-week closure, the venue now welcomes visitors with a brighter, more modern look and a layout that's easier to explore than ever before. The transformation includes twelve reimagined themed zones, 200 revamped exhibits and 50 brand-new ones – among them eight iconic large-scale installations. The goal: to create a forward-looking exhibition that offers a significantly improved visitor experience. To celebrate the anniversary year, a host of special events are planned – from the *phaenoBricks* exhibition to the colourful *Bubble Festival* in autumn 2026. www.phaeno.de/en/

New *WeltenRaum* exhibition at the Hanover State Museum

In November 2025, the new *WeltenRaum* opened at the Hanover State Museum (*Landesmuseum*). Set within the museum's domed hall, the 6.5-metre-wide, 4-metre-high space features 3D-animated panoramic projections that offer an interactive gateway to the museum's collections. Three panoramas provide an interdisciplinary insight into various aspects of medieval castle life, the age of dinosaurs, and the world of Impressionist painting. Designed especially with younger visitors and school groups in mind, *WeltenRaum* encourages active discovery through hands-on content selection. With its opening, the museum's extensive exhibition overhaul is now complete. www.landmuseum-hannover.de/en/

PLAKAT – KUNST at the State Museum for Art & Culture, Oldenburg | 31 January – 21 June

For the first time, the exhibition *Plakat – Kunst* shines a spotlight on posters designed by artists such as Oskar Kokoschka, Emil Schumacher, Ernst Wilhelm Nay and Günter Fruhtrunk. These striking works are accompanied by prints, paintings and sculptures that reflect the artistic landscape of the post-war period. At the heart of the exhibition is an extensive poster collection from the 1950s and 1960s, brought to light through a two-year research project. Also on show at the State Museum (*Landesmuseum*) is *Z_OL+50*, an exhibition imagining life in 2075. Through a range of media, artists explore scenarios shaped by climate change, social transformation, politics, mobility and new ways of living and working. The presentation offers an open space for ideas and visions of the future. www.landmuseum-ol.de/presse/plakat-kunst.html

Impuls Paula: An Artistic Journey of Discovery in the Worpswede Museums | 7 February – 1 November 2026

To mark the 150th birthday of Paula Modersohn-Becker, the four Worpswede museums are joining forces for a special collaborative exhibition: *Impuls Paula*. Each museum showcases a

key work by the artist as a starting point to explore thematic highlights that reveal her lasting influence on contemporary art and social questions. At *Barkenhoff*, the focus is on humans. The *Große Kunstschau* examines shifting social roles and ways of life. *Haus im Schluf* explores perspectives from the world of design, and the Wörpswede Kunsthalle art gallery presents a solo exhibition of French artist Inès Longevial and her contemporary self-portraits. This year-long exhibition forms part of a multi-year project that connects historic impulses with current artistic developments, offering a fresh context for understanding Modersohn-Becker's significance to modern art. www.worpswede-museen.de/aktuelle-ausstellungen

800 years of eternity. The people of Brunswick and their cathedral (working title) | 13 November – 23 May 2027

To mark the consecration of Brunswick Cathedral of St Blasius in 1226, the Brunswick State Museum (*Landesmuseum*) is presenting a major cultural-historical exhibition exploring the building's significance to the city and its people. Rather than focusing on the cathedral's architectural history, the exhibition looks at its role in the lives of those who have engaged with it over the past 800 years. Set across approximately 700 square metres in the museum's historic *Hinter Aegidien* building, the exhibition offers a richly layered journey from the Middle Ages to the present day. Visitors will discover the cathedral as a site of remembrance for the Royal House of Hanover, a space for ducal representation, a consecrated place reshaped during the Nazi era, and, ultimately, a parish church and symbol of tourism. Authentic artefacts, immersive displays, and a hands-on family exhibition about medieval construction techniques make it widely accessible. For the first time, visitors will also be able to experience a digital 3D reconstruction of the Brunswick cathedral as it would have appeared around 1226. A free multimedia guide links the exhibition with selected locations within the cathedral itself, creating a seamless connection between the museum and the cityscape.

<https://3landesmuseen-braunschweig.de/braunschweigesches-landesmuseum/ausstellungen>

Imperial Submarine U-16 – A new home for recovered wreckage at the Windstärke 10 museum, Cuxhaven

Cuxhaven will soon be home to parts of the salvaged imperial submarine U-16, exhibited to the public for the very first time. The *Windstärke 10* museum is taking on several select items from the wreck, including everyday objects from life on board and technical components illustrating the submarine's construction and operation. The display will also feature a large tangle of ropes and nets recovered from the wreck, bringing to life the issue of so-called 'ghost nets'. This addition gives Cuxhaven its own contribution to the preservation of this remarkable find, offering visitors a rare glimpse into the early history of submarine technology.

www.cuxhaven.de/aktuelle-nachrichten/flaschenpost/flaschenpost-1/kaiserliches-u-boot-u-16-neue-heimat-fuer-geborgene-wrackteile.html

Sustainability in Niedersachsen

***Park der Gärten* – A showcase garden for climate action**

For the 2026 season, Bad Zwischenahn will unveil a new showcase garden for climate action at the *Park der Gärten*, dedicated to sustainable garden and landscape design. Spanning approximately 3,000 square metres, the new display areas will feature climate-resilient planting schemes, innovative irrigation and drainage systems, and smart rainwater management solutions. An interactive outdoor exhibition will complement the gardens, demonstrating practical ways to make your own garden more climate-friendly. Supported by federal funding, this new development aims to present forward-looking solutions for the environmental challenges of tomorrow, while offering visitors hands-on inspiration for sustainable gardening. www.park-der-gaerten.de/gruenes-wissen/musterpark-klimaschutz

Norderney: first fully electric high-speed ferry

Since 2025, a fully electric high-speed ferry has been operating between Norddeich and Norderney, completing the journey in just 30 minutes. The INSELEXPRESS, run by AG Reederei Norden-Frisia, is a state-of-the-art catamaran with capacity for up to 150 passengers. On board, ergonomic seating, an air-conditioned lounge, modern washrooms and a snack vending machine ensure a comfortable crossing. Powered by solar energy generated in-house, the electric catamaran runs from mid-March to the end of October and is recharged directly at its berth in Norddeich harbour using high-speed charging technology – all in just 28 minutes. www.inselexpress.de/e-kat

***Echt!* routes in the Solling-Vogler region**

Whether you're travelling by e-bike, electric car or motorhome, the new *Echt!* routes in the Solling-Vogler region of the Weser Uplands combine sustainable travel with regional delights. The routes lead guests through spectacular landscapes straight to local *Echt!* producers. These family-run businesses are known for their quality, sustainability and authentic craftsmanship, offering traditional products, culinary specialities and unique items – all created locally using regional ingredients and a genuine passion for detail. With over 60 producers and more than 400 products to explore, these tours offer a true feast for all the senses. www.solling-vogler-region.de/de/p/echt-e-routen/808280229

North Sea travel pass: QR Code Safari

An innovative storytelling format powered by AI: the new QR Code Safari, part of the North Sea travel pass, offers visitors digital moments of discovery in extraordinary natural settings. At 20 stamp stations, QR codes link directly to AI-generated short videos that explain the unique features of each location – and reveal exactly how climate change is affecting them. These new stations blend physical experiences with digital functionality, including virtual stamps. A

website also provides users with recommendations for nearby activities.

<https://stempel.nordsee-reisepass.de>

***Klimapraxis* Lüneburg Heath**

Through the *Klimapraxis* project, the Lüneburg Heath region is working towards a long-term vision of climate-friendly tourism. Building on a climate risk assessment and a series of in-depth workshops held in recent years, the initiative has brought together a network of businesses, organisations and other stakeholders to implement tangible local measures. These include expert consultancy, the development of climate-friendly services, guest information materials designed to raise awareness, and new forms of regional collaboration. The project is intended as a foundation for sustainable tourism development, aiming to protect the natural landscape of the Lüneburg Heath and to strengthen the region's profile as a climate-aware holiday destination. Although the project concluded in July 2025, its measures and networking activities continue to be actively pursued. www.klima-heide.de

Horse country

Bückeburg horsemanship at the Princely Equestrian Academy

Germany's only equestrian academy is dedicated to ethical riding according to the teachings of old masters and aims to captivate visitors with the spectacle of non-violent horsemanship and to promote sustainable riding. The performances showcase the most beautiful horse breeds preserved today with the noble trained stallions of the equestrian academy from the pinnacle of Baroque horsemanship – just like in the heyday of this form of equestrianism, when there were many stud farms at Europe's noble courts. In 2004, under Alexander Prince of Schaumburg-Lippe, the over 400-year-old riding school of the former counts of Schaumburg-Lippe was converted into the dynamic Princely Equestrian Academy, a private enterprise of Wolfgang and Christin Krischke. www.hofreitschule.de/startseite

18-26 July 2026: 146th Bad Harzburg racing festival

The Harzburger Rennverein (Harzburg horse racing club), founded in 1880, is one of Germany's oldest and welcomes over 50,000 visitors to its racing festival every year, where they can enjoy exciting flat races, steeplechases and the very special lake chases (to crown Bad Harzburg's 'King of the Lake') on the two Sundays as well as a comprehensive supporting programme on non-race days. <https://harzburger-rennverein.de>

22-26 July 2026: 77th Oldenburger Landesturnier (Oldenburg Tournament)

The Oldenburger Landesturnier is a unique symbiosis of elite sport and family atmosphere and is known and loved far beyond the regional borders. An exciting sports programme with plenty of competition trials, a range of entertainment and an extensive supporting programme for the whole family enthuse spectators every year. www.oldenburger-landesturnier.de

09 August 2026: 90th Duhnen mudflat racing in Cuxhaven

The world-famous horse race on the seabed, held since 1902 in the Wadden Sea off Duhnen, is one of the most spectacular events in the international racing calendar. No other event in the world offers a comparable equestrian spectacle, where racehorses and harness racers compete against the backdrop of one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. www.duhner-wattrennen.de/startseite

Tba 2026: Celle stallion parade at the State Stud Farm

In 2025, the Celle State Stud Farm stallion parade made its comeback after a six-year break, celebrating its 290th anniversary in style – and the spectacle is set to continue in 2026. Among the highlights are the historic carriages and the grand dressage quadrille featuring 24 stallions, regularly showcased in the historic grounds during the parade.

www.landgestuetcelle.de/de/aktuelles/drei-tage-celler-hengstparade-vor-ausverkauftem-haus.html

29 October–01 November 2026: AGRAVIS Cup in Oldenburg

The AGRAVIS Cup is an event for old and young equestrian and sports enthusiasts as well as breeders, and is held in the EWE Arena in Oldenburg. The programme includes international equestrian sports with well-known riders from all over the world, as well as entertainment and a huge gala evening. Visitors can immerse themselves in lively exhibitions and adventure experiences devoted to equestrian sports and everything horsey. www.agravis.de/de/ueber-agravis/sponsoring/agravis-cup-oldenburg/

Special garden shows in Niedersachsen

18 April – 4 October 2026: Park der Gärten (Park of Gardens) in Bad Zwischenahn

In 2002, the park hosted the first-ever State Horticultural Show in Niedersachsen. After that, the area underwent further development under the name Park der Gärten (Park of Gardens). It is now home to over 40 exemplary gardens, making it the largest collection of show gardens in Germany. There are also various guided tours of the gardens, personal advice on gardening

matters and readings in the Park der Gärten. One of the Park's most captivating attractions is the annual *Illumination – a magical light display* in the park. From mid August to mid September, the park is transformed into a wonderland of colour. Inspiring garden lighting design is combined with dramatic event lighting and imaginative installations to create a truly special visual experience. www.park-der-gaerten.de/en/

29 April – 18 October 2026: State Garden Show in Bad Nenndorf

From 29 April to 18 October 2026, the historical spa and landscape park in Bad Nenndorf will be transformed into a vibrant paradise. Just 30 minutes west of Hanover, the 34-hectare show will combine garden design, environmental education and culture. Visitors can look forward to imaginative themed gardens, carefully curated planting, green knowledge stations and the unique Süntelbuchenallee – all inviting them to explore how captivating well-designed gardens can be and enjoy an impressive diversity of plants. More than 1,500 individual events are planned for the eighth Niedersachsen State Garden Show. A joint initiative with the three other state garden shows will, for the first time, allow season ticket holders to attend each of the four events once at no extra cost. The other state garden shows are at Ellwangen, Leinefelde-Worbis and Neuss. www.landesgartenschau-badnenndorf.de/aktuelles

3-7 September 2026: 73rd Flower festival in Wiesmoor

Northern Germany's biggest flower festival takes place in the East Frisian town of Wiesmoor. The flower festival has been held each year around the first weekend in September since 1952. Each year, new flower royalty is crowned. The chosen flower queen and the two princesses represent the town at various events throughout Germany. The whole of Wiesmoor is transformed into a vibrant sea of flowers for the event. www.tourismus-wiesmoor.de/blutenfest

Active and outdoor in 2026

Kraftorte Cuxhaven: extraordinary encounters with nature

Recharge in Cuxhaven with *NATURESPONSE®*. *More than you think*. 36 curated places in nature for mindful encounters with the unique coastal landscape. What makes this project so special: each of the twelve zodiac signs is linked to three individual *Kraftorte*, each with tailored mindfulness prompts. A multimedia concept offers different ways to engage with the sites: a podcast guides listeners to each location, an interactive website allows navigation by star sign, and a beautifully designed journal encourages personal reflection and notes. <https://cuxhaven-naturesponse.de>

Lüneburg Heath: Paths to Happiness

Twelve new Paths to Happiness in the Lüneburg Heath invite walkers to mindfully connect with nature, find their rhythm and recharge. Each trail offers a place of introspection and quiet connection with the surrounding landscape. The routes pass through some of the region's most picturesque spots and are inspired by filming locations from the award-winning German film *Erinner Dich! Die Reise in das LilaLand*. Together, they offer a compelling blend of natural immersion and cinematic charm. Adding to the experience is a bonus cycle route with the playful title *Schnuck 'n' Roll* – a nod to the region's iconic moorland sheep, the *Heidschnucke*. In June 2025, the Paths to Happiness were honoured with the German Brand Award.
www.lueneburger-heide.de/natur/wandern/021666/auf-glueckspfaden-wanderwege.html

Road cycling routes in Rotenburg

Nine new circular road cycling routes have been designated in the district of Rotenburg (Wümme). These include four shorter routes, known as 'loops', ranging from 60 to 70 kilometres in length, as well as five more challenging day routes of at least 100 kilometres. Among them is the Königsschleife (King's Loop), a 204-kilometre circular route covering the entire district. The route system offers smooth asphalt roads, minimal traffic and plenty of space to get into an aerodynamic position and really pick up the pace. All road cycling tours primarily follow low-traffic roads and paved farm tracks. These routes often lack dedicated roadside cycle paths, meaning the roads can be officially used by cyclists. The routes are not signposted but are available as GPX tracks for digital navigation. Downloads are available on Strava, Komoot, and the official website: www.nordwaerts.de/aktiv-entspannt/radfahren/rennradtouren/

Festivals in Niedersachsen 2026

19-22 March 2026: Kulturkrafttage Einbeck

The KULTURKRAFTTAGE in Einbeck is a cultural festival celebrating music and literature – both classical and jazz. Across a series of events, acclaimed artists and rising talents perform at the *PS.Halle* in the *PS.SPEICHER*. www.kulturkrafttage.de/

13-17 May 2026: StadtpARTie Einbeck

The StadtpARTie cultural festival transforms the town of Einbeck into an open stage for art and culture in extraordinary locations. With a diverse programme featuring both regional and international artists – from professionals to amateurs – the festival captivates audiences of all ages. It offers unique experiences and an enchanting cultural atmosphere.
www.stadtpartie-einbeck.de/

14-25 May 2026: Göttingen International Handel Festival

The International Handel Festival in Göttingen is the world's oldest festival of Baroque music. The shows will take place in different locations across the town and whole region, at both covered and open air venues, featuring well-known stars from the Baroque music scene as well as talented newcomers. www.haendel-festspiele.de/en/

16 May – 19 September 2026: 34th International Fireworks Competition in Hanover

Every year, visitors to the Fireworks Competition are mesmerised by the beautiful works of art in the sky created by the world's leading pyrotechnicians to the accompaniment of suitably atmospheric music. Germany's first fireworks competition has long since become a classic in its field. www.feuerwerk-hannover.de/en/

22 May–7 June 2026: KunstFestSpiele in Hanover Herrenhausen

The international KunstFestSpiele is a performing arts festival offering an impressive programme of musical theatre, concerts, theatre, performances, installations and much more besides. Over 20 productions will be presented at around 60 events in the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen and the city of Hanover. From installations to in-house productions and premieres – there's a bit of everything! www.kunstfestspiele.de/en/

22–24 May 2026: Norderney White Sands Festival

Traditionally, the Whitsun weekend marks a special date in the calendar for sports fans and party-goers on the island of Norderney. Thousands of visitors flock to the North Sea island to watch Germany's best windsurfers and beach volleyball players. At night, the festival grounds on the beach transform into a party animal's paradise. www.whitesandsfestival.de

3–10 June 2026: 36th Emden-Norderney Film Festival

Located by the North Sea, the International Film Festival is among the country's most highly regarded, not just in Germany but around the world too. It's become a meeting place for numerous representatives of the film industry in Germany and Northwestern Europe. Featuring 100 films shown on seven screens, the festival is first and foremost a popular major event, drawing in around 24,000 visitors who value the warm, personal atmosphere and the chance to see filmmakers up close. www.filmfest-emden.de/en/

19–21 June 2026: Hurricane Festival in Schaeßel

Three days of the finest bands: around 65,000 fans are expected at this indie, rock, pop, electronic and hip-hop festival every year. International stars, German acts and emerging artists will be there to rock the four stages again this year. www.hurricane.de/en/

3–12 July 2026: Marksmen Festival (Hanover Schützenfest)

The drill command of ‘Im Doubliertritt, Marsch!’ (‘In double step – march!’) is the traditional starting signal for the world’s longest procession of marksmen – one of the highlights of this festival, which has been celebrated since 1529. On the first Sunday of the festival, some 10,000 members of marksmen associations, folklore and carnival societies, joined by various companies and institutions, form a traditional procession through the Old Town. Over a period of ten days, the world’s largest marksmen festival offers lots of things to see and experience, from the Bruchmeister (ceremonial stewards) to marksmen skills, high-speed funfair rides, marquees and Hannover’s cult drink, Lüttje Lage, consisting of beer and a shot, served in separate glasses, but drunk simultaneously! www.schuetzenfest-hannover.de

16–19 July 2026: Deichbrand Festival at Cuxhaven Sea Airport

This popular rock festival spans four days and is a festival for both young and old. There is discounted admission for children aged between eight and twelve years old accompanied by an adult guardian. Around 60,000 fans of indie, rock, pop, electronic, and hip-hop beats are expected – and all of them can stock up on everything they need in the dedicated festival supermarket. www.deichbrand.de/en/

22 July – 2 August 2026: Maschsee Festival in Hanover

A chance to experience that holiday feeling and maritime flair in the middle of town! Over 19 days, visitors to Niedersachsen’s largest local festival can take a culinary and artistic trip around the world. Year after year, international cuisine, free concerts, water sports activities, open-air dance evenings and an exciting programme for children guarantee a non-stop holiday feeling for everyone. www.maschseefest.de/en/

29 July – 2 August 2026: Summertime @ Norderney

This music festival is held on Norderney’s north beach. A festival of different genres in a maritime setting. There’s something to suit every musical taste – pop, rock, party music and even classical feature every year. www.summertime-norderney.de

8–9 August 2026: M’era Luna Festival Hildesheim

M’era Luna is a metal, gothic rock and industrial music festival in Hildesheim, which attracts around 25,000 fans in quirky dress every year. The dark music scene’s big get-together is held at the airbase in Drispensedt. As well as performances by around 40 bands, the festival also features readings, a vibrant market area and the Gothic Fashion Show, which has become something of a tradition. www.meraluna.de/en/

4-5 September 2026: Pflasterzauber in Hildesheim

At Pflasterzauber (Pavement magic), nine venues in central Hildesheim host performances by artists from Germany and around the globe. Niedersachsen's biggest street art festival has been held every year since 2008, captivating thousands of visitors with fantastic, whimsical, spectacular and astounding performances of the highest standard. www.pflasterzauber.de

3 – 11 October 2026: 8th *DenkmalKunst-KunstDenkmal* (DKKD)

In 2026, the art festival *DenkmalKunst – KunstDenkmal* returns to Hann. Münden for the eighth time. For nine days, a wide range of historic buildings and otherwise inaccessible heritage sites across the old town open their doors, becoming the canvas for fresh interpretations by regional and international artists. The festival uniquely combines art and half-timbered architecture to present paintings, graphic art, sculpture, photography and installations. The programme also includes workshops and opportunities to meet the artists. Each evening, visitors can enjoy concerts, theatre, cabaret and literary performances. DKKD is considered one of the city's defining cultural events and is made possible by a large and dedicated team of volunteers. <https://denkmalkunst-kunstdenkmal.de/hann-muenden/>

10–16 November 2025: 39th Brunswick International Film Festival

Originally founded by 20 university students, who were dissatisfied with the films on offer at the city's cinemas, the Brunswick International Film Festival is now the oldest film festival in Niedersachsen. Cinephiles can look forward to many galactic film adventures. A wide range of new films and famous classics will be screened over seven days, comprising international and local productions, from short films to documentaries, which will attract film lovers in their droves to the Lion City. One highlight of the festival is the presentation of the ten film awards – public and panel awards – for European debut and second films, the EDDA international short film prize and the Die Europa acting award. www.filmfest-braunschweig.de/en/

FURTHER INFORMATION

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About Tourist Board Niedersachsen (TourismusMarketing Niedersachsen or TMN)

The TMN is the central point of contact for tourism in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony). The company was founded on behalf of the Niedersachsen Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport and Housing in 2001 and, since January 2014, has been a wholly state-owned company. The TMN's main task is to develop and implement measures for the future-

oriented positioning of Niedersachsen in national and international tourism competition in cooperation with regional tourism stakeholders. The focus is on regional and national marketing of Niedersachsen as a tourist destination, the development of brand concepts, Internet portals and quality management systems for tourism offerings.