

GENERAL INFORMATION

Bricks and Bauhaus

Niedersachsen's towns combine history and modernity

Vibrant cities, historical jewels, vernacular architecture and towns with maritime charm: Niedersachsen's (Lower Saxony) towns are not only centres of culture, the economy and science, but will also enchant you with their architectural styles, from half-timbered to brick and Bauhaus.

The four big ones

Niedersachsen's four large cities, Hanover, Brunswick, Osnabrück and Oldenburg, are the state's shopping and administrative metropolises. While the state capital of Hanover is the most important cultural and trade fair city in Niedersachsen, it also boasts an exceptionally large amount of green space. The atomic clock, space and biotechnology: history and modern science go hand in hand in Brunswick, the old residence of Henry the Lion. The Peace of Westphalia was concluded in Osnabrück; today, the Felix-Nussbaum-Haus attracts art lovers to the city of peace. Moreover, it is the only major German city located in the heart of a nature park – the UNESCO Global Geopark TERRA.vita. Known as the Übermorgenstadt (the City of the Day after Tomorrow), Oldenburg has made a name for itself as a science centre and is also one of the most bike-friendly cities in Europe.

Varied and vernacular

Niedersachsen's towns offer so much variety: Göttingen boasts a venerable university, which has produced more Nobel prize-winners than any other in Germany. Hamelin and Celle invite you to enjoy a leisurely stroll through their beautiful half-timbered old towns, and Lingen also charms with its numerous historical buildings. Alexander von Humboldt rightfully enthused about Hann. Münden, calling it 'one of the seven most beautifully situated cities of the world'. One of the few cities that was spared the bombing in the Second World War, the old salt and Hanseatic city of Lüneburg enchants visitors with the largest medieval town hall in the north and impressive facades which are listed as historical monuments in themselves. Stade is now a Hanseatic city again, while the young Wilhelmshaven is the most important German marine location. Emden, Aurich, Leer and Papenburg are coastal towns with maritime flair – fresh fish, shipbuilding, tea and dry Northern humour included.

Unusual cultural strongholds

Niedersachsen is home to numerous cultural institutions – and will quench more than just your thirst for knowledge: it is also the home of a world-famous herbal liqueur. Wolfenbüttel is not only the city of Jägermeister but also of the 18th-century writer Gotthold Ephraim Lessing: people from all over the world visit the museum in the Bibliotheca Augusta where Lessing

composed his most famous play, Nathan the Wise. The Volkswagen city of Wolfsburg is only 88 years young but is a cultural heavyweight, attracting visitors with the Autostadt, art museum and the experimental landscape phaeno. Verden is home to Germany's only horse museum, while Gifhorn houses the world's largest collection of mills in their original size.

Impressive buildings

Alongside charming half-timbered buildings and maritime canal cities, star architects have also immortalised themselves in buildings in Niedersachsen. The father of the Bauhaus in Niedersachsen was the architect and master builder Otto Haesler, who developed and established the Bauhaus concept in the architecture of Celle. Unsurprisingly, Celle is a treasure trove of Bauhaus architecture: Otto Haesler's settlements and buildings still dominate the townscape today. The Guardian calls the phaeno in Wolfsburg 'one of the twelve most significant modern buildings in the world'. Designed by the star architect Zaha Hadid, originally from Iraq, the phaeno building broke with many conventions when it opened in November 2005. Five years earlier, the Expo world exhibition was held in Hanover. The Uelzen train station was created in its current form specially for this occasion. Hundertwasser, who died before the opening of the Uelzen Hundertwasser station, designed the Expo conversion of the railway station, which was originally built in 1847. Lüneburg is also home to a building by a world-renowned architect - the central building of Leuphana University. Daniel Libeskind designed the futuristic building as a counterpoint to the strict and military structure of the complex.

UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in Niedersachsen's cities

Niedersachsen houses not only the globally unique Wadden Sea UNESCO World Heritage Site; there are also several UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the towns: the 1200-year-old 'rose city' of Hildesheim is the proud home of the World Heritage churches the Mariendom (St Mary's Cathedral) and St. Michaelis (St Michael's Church). Nestled in the Harz mountains, Goslar stands out with its medieval Old Town and Imperial Palace, as well as the thousand-year-old Rammelsberg Mine. The UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Harz Mountains also includes the Upper Harz Water Management System, a pre-industrial energy supply system and the largest of its kind in the world. And the small town of Alfeld houses the original Modernist building, the Fagus Factory by Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius, which has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011. And incidentally, Niedersachsen's state capital of Hanover has held the title of UNESCO City of Music since the end of 2014, thanks to its broad selection of classical, jazz, pop and rock music.

For further information, please visit: niedersachsen-tourism.com/destinations/tour-the-towns
Images at: niedersachsen-bilder.de

Sign up for our English newsletter for the travel industry here: niedersachsen-tourism.com/travel-insights

Further Information

TourismusMarketing Niedersachsen GmbH (TMN)

Annett Knechtel

Essener Str. 1 | 30173 Hannover

T +49 (0)511 | 270 488 62

trade@tourismusniedersachsen.de

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.