

GENERAL INFORMATION

Niedersachsen for all

Accessible travel – the second largest German state has an ever growing range of attractions for people with limited mobility or disabilities.

From starred hotels to holiday apartments, from museums to treetop trails, from all-terrain wheelchairs to handbikes: between the sea and mountains there's plenty on offer. Niedersachsen is also part of Germany's 'Tourism for All' certification system. Guests can peruse the tourist attractions and select suitable activities, accommodation and transport options before travelling.

Recreation for all

Wide paths without obstacles, braille signs, tactile sculptures and scent stations: it's not just the blind and visually impaired who will enjoy a walk in the Park der Gärten at Bad Zwischenahn. Wheelchair users can take a boat along Germany's own Zambezi at Hanover Adventure Zoo, dive into underwater worlds or take a voyage of discovery in the Moorwelten, a modern adventure centre themed around moors and climate. The Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen in Hanover offer accessible paths and e-scooter hire.

Towns for all

It's not just individual attractions or facilities that boast the 'Tourism for All' certification: two towns in Niedersachsen – Bad Bevensen and Bad Zwischenahn – are also proud holders of the accessibility certification. In Bad Bevensen visitors can unwind in the spa gardens between blossoming shrubs and a lily pond. They can relax in the iodine brine hot springs and stay in the modern, accessible Heidehotel. Bad Zwischenahn groups together all the accessible options by theme. The 'Culture & events by the lake', 'Activities by the lake', 'Adventure by the lake', and 'Cuisine by the lake' packages aim to attract visitors to Niedersachsen's third largest lake and provide accessible experiences, including sightseeing by boat with the Weisse Flotte, or at the spa gardens or the Park der Gärten.

Through the Wadden Sea and over hill and dale

Access all areas – for everyone in Niedersachsen. Take the boat from the accessible ferry dock to the East Frisian Islands (Ostfriesische Inseln) and travel by the Wadden Mobile through the Wadden Sea UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Aurich, the Energy Adventure Centre (ENERGIE ERLEBNIS ZENTRUM, EEZ) focused on the theme of energy is an accessible tourist attraction for young and old alike. Visitors to the heath with limited mobility can experience the classic heath landscape on specially designed circular walks. And the towns have plenty to offer too: traverse the cobblestone paths in Osnabrück with ease by hiring a dedicated wheelchair with thick wheels. And at the Lüneburg Heath (Lüneburger Heide) nature park,

visitors can explore the nature trails with the *Joëlette*, a cross between a rickshaw and a sedan chair.

Overground and underground through the Harz Mountains

The treetop trail in Bad Harzburg is just one of three accessible pathways and soars some 1000 metres above the treetops of the Harz Mountains. Likewise, the treetop trails in Bad Iburg and at Lüneburg Heath offer a completely new perspective on nature. Wheelchair users and indeed everyone and anyone take the mine train, just like the miners in days of old, down to the Rammelsberg Mines and explore the underground UNESCO World Heritage Site. And northern Germany's highest observatory, the Sankt Andreasberg observatory, offers visually impaired and blind people amazing insights into the universe with tactile models and the world's first audio-tactile sky disc – opening up new perspectives to sighted people too.

Information (in German) about accessible amenities, activities, accommodation options and where to eat can be found online at reiseland-niedersachsen.de/info-service/reisen-fuer-alle

Businesses certified under the 'Tourism for All' system can be found at www.reisen-fuer-alle.de

Images at: www.niedersachsen-bilder.de

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

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.