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Press kit 2026

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www.visit-luebeck.com

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Lübeck – Nordic beauty with style

Queen of the Hanseatic league – first German port city of the Baltic Sea

Joyful, lively, serene - that's Lübeck's heartbeat, which pulsates through the winding streets of the island-shaped Old Town and fills the impressive brick architecture with life. The Nordic beauty has retained the charm of an original port city and welcomes its visitors openly with the motto "Concordia domi foris pax" – harmony inside, peace outside.

Lübeck's Old Town is completely surrounded by water and a veritable place of yearning. The impressive brick architecture of the merchants' houses and churches is still the hallmark of this Hanseatic town which was founded in 1143 as the first port at the Baltic Sea and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987. Take a relaxed stroll through the medieval alleys and immerse in the pulsating life behind old walls and discover Nordic beauty with style. Experience the unique diversity of the listed architecture and the hidden world of the historical residential alleys and courtyards.
Our tip: Just a few minutes' walk from the busy Old Town, the Malerwinkel near the footbridge is one of Lübeck's many small oases of peace. A perfect place to relax, for a picnic and a different view of the Old Town island and its panorama.

In Lübeck, there's culture on every street corner, behind old and new walls, in hidden locations and public spaces, and it's part of everyday life. Lübeck's historic Old Town is a true treasure chest of cultural highlights. In 2026, special highlights include the 125th anniversary of „Buddenbrooks" and the HanseKulturFestival. The world-famous Holsten Gate, numerous museums, the Marzipan Museum at Café Niederegger, the museum harbour and the historic Town Hall are only a few of the places that are well worth visiting. The St. Anne's museum quarter offers visitors an experience of the history of Lübeck from the Middle Ages to the present. Well worth seeing are also the Hospital of the Holy Spirit dating back to 1280, which is one of the oldest functioning social institutions of the world. A special highlight is the European Hansemuseum which presents a fascinating interactive insight into 600 years of Hanseatic history.

Music can be enjoyed during organ concerts in the five splendid Gothic churches of the Old Town, during music events varying from classic to pop at the Music and Congress Centre, in master concerts of the University of Music, at the Brahms Festival and the international Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival. The Nordic Film Days Lübeck are considered the most important showcase of Nordic films in Europe. Lübeck is particularly proud of the town's three Nobel Prize Laureates Thomas Mann, Willy Brandt and Günter Grass. The literature museum Buddenbrook-House is going to be renovated until. The Günter Grass-House is an exhibition and research facility. By means of exciting performances and multimedia elements the Willy Brandt House Lübeck retraces the political life of former Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt as a learning location for contemporary history.

Visit www.visit-luebeck.com for further information or call the hotline +49(0)451-88 99 700.

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Tourism in Lübeck is an economic force with a great impact

dwif Study 2024 confirms almost 1 billion euros in sales, on the right track with TEK 2030

Tourism continues to be one of the most important economic factors for the Hanseatic City of Lübeck. This is confirmed by the current study by the dwif (Deutsches Wirtschaftswissenschaftliches Institut für Fremdenverkehr), which was commissioned by Lübeck und Travemünde Marketing GmbH (LTM). With gross sales of around 991.7 million euros in 2024, the tourism industry was able to grow again - an increase of 11 percent compared to 2022. Particularly pleasing: The contribution to regional value creation rose to 457.6 million euros.

There are first signs that growth is becoming more restrained: According to the study, the number of day visitors declined for the first time in 2024 and the number of people who make their living from tourism has also fallen slightly compared to 2022 at 16,782 people. Other factors - such as a tight market for skilled workers, a change in travel behaviour coupled with increasing price sensitivity among guests as well as limited public funds and a lack of funding from third-party funding - present tourism experts in Lübeck with new tasks, which, however, have already been taken into account with the Tourism Development Concept (TEK 2030): More quality instead of quantity.

"The current study confirms us in our actions and that tourism is still a supporting pillar and an important economic factor for Lübeck and Travemünde," explains Jan Lindenau, Mayor of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck. "In line with our Tourism Development Concept 2030, our goal is not to permanently increase the number of guests and overnight stays, but to put quality before quantity, to increase value creation, to strengthen sustainability in tourism and to achieve good cooperation between citizens, hosts and guests. However, this is only possible if investments are made in tourism in the future. Every euro is worth it so that everyone can continue to benefit from tourism in the Hanseatic city in the future," the mayor continued.

"Tourism works – in many ways. It creates income, secures location-specific jobs and apprenticeships, brings guests and locals together and revitalises the city centre and the seaside resort," emphasises Pia Steinrücke, Senator for Economic and Social Affairs of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck. "Our commitment in recent years to sustainable, high-quality tourism has paid off and will continue to do so in the future – for the city, the economy and the people."

Mid-term review TEK 2030 – Lübeck and Travemünde on the right track

"The study on the economic factor shows that Lübeck is on the right track – and this is clearly outlined in the Tourism Development Concept 2030," says Klaus Puschaddel, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of LTM. "For us, tourism is much more than just overnight stays and sales - it creates encounters, joie de vivre and identity. However, the TEK only works if it is financially secure. This is the only way we can continue to implement the measures step by step in order to remain competitive and think boldly into the future."

The Tourism Development Concept Lübeck and Travemünde 2030 (TEK 2030) was developed in 2020 together with various departments of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck and unanimously adopted politically and has since formed the basis for tourism development and strategic decisions in the Hanseatic city. Five years later, LTM, together with the dwif, has drawn up a mid-term review of its key projects. The result: Many measures have been successfully launched. The progress is particularly evident in the areas of *brand management & product development*, *tourism in dialogue*, *green meetings in MICE management*, *pop-up city culture* and *seaside resort culture*. Topics such as the *water experience Old Town*, *Lübeck.Travemünde climate-friendly* and *digitization* were also discussed by the support of LTM has already made noticeable progress. LTM thus proves that tourism is much more than an economic factor – it increases the quality of life locally and strengthens the city as a whole, even in times of crisis.

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For the coming years, LTM intends to further expand its role as a driving force and designer: from pure marketing to responsible destination development. The focus is on brand-defining flagship products and profile topics that position Lübeck and Travemünde sustainably in the market. To this end, LTM is pooling its strengths and focusing on its strengths – with the aim of having a noticeable impact on guests and locals alike.

"When guests stroll through the old town, linger in cafés, immerse themselves in history or enjoy the view of the water, you can feel how much our city touches people," emphasizes Christian Martin Lukas, Managing Director of LTM. "We are doubly pleased that this feeling is also paying off economically - and motivates us to continue on this path responsibly together with our service partners. But we must not forget that the success of recent years was only possible because many of our projects were financed by third parties – through foundations or state or federal funding, such as ÜBERGANGSWEISE incl. ÜBERGANGSHAUS and ÜBERGANGSGARTEN, the HanseKulturFestival or the Christmas Wonderland."

Growth engine despite slight decline in day trips
According to the study on the economic factor, day tourism in Lübeck and Travemünde, including overnight stays with relatives and acquaintances in private households (VFR segment = visit of friends and relatives), generated over 55 percent of tourism revenue and around 83 percent of the days of stay. However, the number of day trips declined slightly (13.7 million in 2024, -3.5% compared to 2022), while overnight stays in establishments rose to 3.283 million – an increase of 15.4 percent (2022: 2.844 million overnight stays). Guest spending has increased compared to 2022 in both day and overnight tourism.

Commercial establishments (with 10 or more beds) recorded 2.27 million overnight stays with a total expenditure of 162.60 euros per capita/day, private accommodations (with less than 10 beds) 0.761 million overnight stays with 80.80 euros expenditure per capita/day, and tourist and long-term camping including motorhome tourism 0.252 million overnight stays with 51.40 euros expenditure per capita/day. The daily expenses per day trip (incl. VFR) amounted to 34.80 euros.

Tourism creates employment and income
For the first time, the study shows an employment equivalent of 13,361 people in addition to the income equivalent . The basis is the average regional gross income in Lübeck. This shows the real impact of tourism on the labour market even more clearly.

A win for everyone
Almost 48 percent of tourism turnover in 2024 was accounted for by the hospitality industry (474.2 million euros), another 34.5 percent by retail (341.7 million euros) and around 18 percent by other services (175.8 million euros). The tourism industry also contributed around 91.8 million euros in sales and income tax to the financing of public budgets – not to mention local revenues from tourist tax, trade tax and the like.

Current number of overnight stays
The July figures for Travemünde are down compared to the same month last year: -7.5 percent in arrivals and -8.1 percent in overnight stays. The city of Lübeck, on the other hand, recorded an increase of +5.1 percent in arrivals and +5.9 percent in overnight stays in July compared to the previous year. For the Hanseatic City of Lübeck as a whole, this means a slight increase of +0.2 percent in the number of guests and a minus of -1.9 percent in overnight stays in July. By comparison, Schleswig-Holstein achieved +2.8 percent in arrivals and +0.5 percent in overnight stays (excluding camping) in July. The nationwide overnight stay result declined in July and was -1.2 percent.

Cumulatively, the Hanseatic City of Lübeck as a whole continues to be slightly up in 2025 in terms of arrivals (+2.9 percent) and overnight stays (+0.2 percent) compared to 2024. The information provided by the Stat. Landesamt Nord applies to establishments with 10 beds or more and without camping.

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Lübeck and Travemünde as certified climate-friendly destinations

Sustainable Development Goals reaches first milestone with TourCert certificate

In 2022, Lübeck und Travemünde Marketing GmbH (LTM) in cooperation with DEHOGA Lübeck e. V. and Lübeck Management e. V. launched **the Sustainable Development Goals in Lübeck and Travemünde**, an initiative, which has grown more over time. The aim is to bundle local forces and to have businesses certified with the independent TourCert seal for sustainability and corporate responsibility in tourism and thus the entire destination. In 2023 the commitment of the pioneers of the tourism industry in Lübeck and Travemünde is recognized by the TourCert certificate "Sustainable Destination".

As part of TourCert's certification process, sustainability factors were analysed and evaluated throughout the destination. In addition to the appointment of a sustainability officer, a basic prerequisite for certification was the establishment of a sustainability council and the establishment of a network by LTM as a coordinating organisation. The sustainability council for Lübeck and Travemünde consists of representatives of DEHOGA Lübeck, Fairtrade City of Lübeck, Lübeck Chamber of Crafts, Climate Control Centre and Cultural Office of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck, Lübeck Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Lübeck MUSES, Travemünde Kurbetrieb, Lübeck Management e. V., Convention Lübeck, Travemünde Economic Community TWG, Lübeck Economic Development Agency and LTM. The network is made up of tourism companies that act as pioneers of sustainability in the tourist destination of Lübeck and Travemünde. To date, the following have qualified: the Travemünde spa company, the Holiday Inn Lübeck, the Lübeck Music and Congress Halls, the Lübeck City Guide e. V., the Lübeck Sailing School, the ATLANTIC Grand Hotel Travemünde, the Hotel an der Marienkirche, the Hotel Die Reederin, the Ringhotel Jensen, the Kletterwald Travemünde, the Klassik Altstadt Hotel Lübeck, the European Hanseatic Museum Lübeck, The Newport Restaurant & Marina, the Maritim Strandhotel Travemünde, the Restaurant Fangfrisch, the SlowDown Travemünde and the Billard Sport Casino. The following companies are currently in the qualification phase: Hotel zur alten Stadtmauer, Hotel aja Travemünde, Hotel A-ROSA Travemünde, Konzeptladen Goldener Hirsch, Kanu-Center Lübeck and EVG Landwege eG.

All players along the tourism service chain can participate in TourCert - i.e. from accommodation, gastronomy and trade to guest tours, leisure and cultural facilities, excursion boating, mobility providers, etc. LTM supports the companies and institutions as part of their individual commitment to sustainability, actively takes over the marketing of the sustainable travel destinations and bears the general costs for the certification of the travel area.

Information on the specific commitment of the partners and further background information on the initiative can be found on www.visit-luebeck.com/responsibility.

tourcert.org/en/
www.visit-luebeck.com/responsibility

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Lübeck as a city brand among the TOP 5 in Germany

Successful Lübeck city profile in the Brand Monitor 2025

The current study of the City Brand Monitor 2025 by Brandmeyer Markenberatung certifies Lübeck's excellent brand attractiveness and strength: In the ranking of the 50 largest German cities in terms of brand strength, the Hanseatic city was able to make up two places compared to the Brand Monitor 2020 and moved up from 7th to 5th place. This puts Lübeck ahead of major cities such as Cologne, Leipzig, Düsseldorf and Berlin. The above-average positive rating by the younger population group up to 29 years of age is particularly pleasing. Topics such as living and working in Lübeck are increasingly perceived positively by this target group. The middle generation and especially the older generation aged 50 and over continue to rate Lübeck consistently well. They form an important anchor for the Lübeck brand and confirm the orientation of city marketing, which has been consistently implemented in line with the brand since 2010.

The Lübeck brand as a model for success

Mayor Jan Lindenau emphasizes: "The results show that consistency pays off. For 15 years, we have been focusing on continuity and a clear brand strategy in city marketing. This long-term commitment is bearing fruit – Lübeck is increasingly being perceived nationwide as a liveable and lovable place to live, work and as a travel destination. In this context, we have to conclude that the view of one's own city is often more critical than the view from the outside in a representative survey. We don't have to hide!"

Christian Martin Lukas, Managing Director of Lübeck und Travemünde Marketing GmbH, classifies the results in the brand work: "City marketing is not a sprint, but a long-distance run. Since 2010, we have consistently contributed to the Lübeck brand with every campaign, every measure and every story. The current ranking confirms this path and shows a recognizable positive dynamic in the city comparison. We are extremely pleased that the brand, which is particularly successful in tourism, is also having an overall impact on the attractiveness of the location."

Dirk Gerdes, Managing Director of Wirtschaftsförderung Lübeck GmbH, underlines the importance for the location: "The good and improved results, especially among young people, are a strong signal and a clear confirmation for us: On the one hand, that Lübeck is also an attractive location for the relevant target group of skilled workers. On the other hand, that our intensive brand and marketing work in recent years is having an effect in this area."

The study makers themselves also see Lübeck on a good course. Peter Pirck, Managing Director of Brandmeyer Markenberatung: "Lübeck has developed excellently in a nationwide comparison of cities. The city benefits from the fact that it has been working strategically on its brand profile for years and is addressing relevant target groups in a targeted manner."

The positive result of the Brand Monitor clearly shows that continuous city marketing strengthens the competitiveness of cities in the long term. Lübeck can confidently look back on successful brand development – and at the same time has tailwind for the future.

Inner city as brand anchor and forge for the future

Lübeck's city centre plays an important role in the positive brand image. The average approval for the statement "Lübeck has an attractive city centre" was 7.5 – a top value in a nationwide city comparison. The combination of maritime port city, historical flair and modern offerings is deeply anchored in the

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collective memory. This makes the city centre not only a tourist highlight, but also a central brand building block – and a forward-looking experience space for all generations. Compared to 2020, Lübeck has remained stable in almost all facets of attractiveness or has increased slightly, especially among young people. At the same time, the above-average rating in the areas of climate and environmental protection, digitalisation and educational opportunities shows that Lübeck is perceived as a city with prospects – rich in tradition and open to the future. A solid foundation for the next steps of urban development.

With regard to the topic of skilled workers, which has been intensively pursued by the economic development department for years, the positive evaluations of the aspects relating to living and working should be emphasized in particular. For example, facets such as "There are good reasons to live in Lübeck", "I could imagine moving to Lübeck" or "Lübeck is an economically very strong city" are not only rated above average in a national comparison - there are also significant improvements compared to 2020, especially among the young target group.

To the brand monitor:

The City Profile Brand Monitor is regularly compiled by Brandmeyer Markenberatung. Participation in the 2025 study was made possible by Lübeck und Travemünde Marketing GmbH together with Wirtschaftsförderung Lübeck GmbH.

The survey is representative of the German-speaking population of Germany between the ages of 18 and 79 (each respondent rated 5 cities, i.e. per city the values are based on the answers of about 1,000 respondents). The online survey with n=10,000 interviews was conducted from 23.07 to 25.08.2025.

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Download pdf Markenmonitor Lübeck 2025 (German)

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Hanseatic city of Lübeck – UNESCO World Heritage Site

UNESCO listed the heart of Lübeck's Old Town as a World Heritage Site in 1987

This was the first time that this honour had been conferred on an entire city district in northern Europe. Lübeck's inclusion was based on the city's well-planned layout, its original historic buildings and its unmistakable cityscape with its five Gothic brick churches and their seven spires. Take a stroll through the Old Town and walk along the parallel north-south axes and cobbled streets that lead down to the Trave and the canal, as so many thousands of locals and visitors have done over the centuries. Discover treasures large and small and find out how people live today behind the old walls.
The Old Town World Heritage Site comprises three areas that have retained their historic character and give a glimpse of the power and historical significance that Lübeck once possessed as Queen of the Hanseatic League.

The first area is the Old Town to the north and east, bounded by Fischergrube, Pfaffenstrasse, Königstrasse, Mühlenstrasse, An der Mauerstrasse and the Schlosstor. Here there are many individual listed buildings along the historic street network, the former Dominican monastery and the Schlosstor as part of the Old Town fortifications. Another important element is Koberg, an almost completely preserved district from the late 13th century with St Jacob's Church and the Hospital of the Holy Spirit, St Giles' Church and St Catherine's Church, together with St Catherine's Convent and St Anne's Convent, are also part of the area.
The second area lies between St Peter's and the Cathedral and contains magnificent patrician houses from the 15th and 16th centuries. The Holsten Gate and the old salt warehouses add to the area's venerable character. Almost all the buildings date from the time when the Hanseatic League was at its height and Lübeck controlled long-distance trade throughout northern Europe. There is also a large contiguous area of historic alleyways.
The third zone is the area around the market with St Mary's Church and the town hall in the heart of the old town. It includes a reminder of the 12th-century founder's quarter that borders this zone to the west, a quarter that fell victim to an air raid in 1942. Extensive excavations were carried out here for many years before the district was rebuilt on the old walls according to the historical model. A modern urban development project in harmony with the preservation of historical monuments.
The underground area of the three Old Town zones is also part of the World Heritage Site and archaeological excavations are part of everyday life in this "Troy of the North".

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), based in Paris, was founded in London in 1945 as a specialized agency of the United Nations. Its tasks include international cooperation in these areas, promoting people's access to education and culture, enforcing human rights and raising the level of education. With the international Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, a partnership for the preservation of the cultural heritage of all peoples and the preservation of global nature came into force in December 1975. To this end, UNESCO has drawn up a list of archaeological sites and national parks to be protected. In addition to the honourable recognition, the respective national authorities are obliged to devote the greatest energy to the preservation of these "world cultural assets". The 52 German World Heritage Sites have joined forces to form the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Germany Association. For more information, see www.unesco-welterbe.de.

www.visit-luebeck.com/old-town/unesco-world-heritage-site

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HanseKulturFestival: Lübeck celebrates

5th - 7th June 2026

Every two years, one of Lübeck's Old Town districts is transformed into a colourful festival mile. It becomes an authentic experience and a living stage for the HanseKulturFestival. On these days, everyone is a member of the Lübeck-family and can dance to music in the streets, be enchanted by acrobatics and cabaret and enjoy regional delicacies. This is the way to get to know the real Lübeck - through the people who live here! In 2026 the event will take place from 5th to 7th of June.

It all started in 2014, after the fantastic International Hanseatic Days had inspired so many people in Lübeck. There was a strong desire to organise an Old Town festival of this kind on a regular basis, albeit on a smaller scale. Since then, Lübeck has celebrated this relaxed local festival every two years in June. Numerous small creative theatres and individual, regional culinary offerings characterise this typical event.

As a festival of joy, it is not only a place of multifaceted creativity and magical cultural experiences, but also one of relaxed encounters between Lübeck residents and guests, young and old, actors and spectators. Whether with friends or the whole family with children - the focus here is on experiences characterised by typical North German cheerfulness and social conviviality.

The HanseKulturFestival is like a colourful bouquet of small, exquisite moments of culture. Here, street art and cabaret share the Old Town stage with dance, music, literary events and painting. On every street corner there is a different, fascinating theatre scene to enchant visitors. Up-and-coming bands and live performances bring the setting to life. There are also activities for children. The street festival is the perfect opportunity to relax and let go, drifting from corner to corner, always accompanied by music and laughter - and the smell of regional, often home-made food.

The HanseKulturFestival has made sustainability its guiding principle. This claim is to be fulfilled in all areas as far as possible. The participating caterers are all from the region. They offer fair-trade, environmentally friendly, regional food and drinks. Crockery and cutlery is reusable or biodegradable and the aim is to avoid waste. Decorative elements and parts of the facilities are reused. The printing of the programmes is carbon neutral and the public spaces in the event area are supplied with green electricity.

www.visit-luebeck.com/culture/hansekulturfestival

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KOLK 17 Puppet Theatre & Museum

Where brick meets concrete and dolls learn to speak

KOLK 17 is a unique place where puppet theatre art and museum experience merge. Visitors can experience professional puppet theatre performances here and at the same time discover a diverse collection of historical and contemporary figures. KOLK 17 makes the cultural significance of puppet theatre visible and tangible – as a living art form with a long tradition and current relevance.

Exhibition

The exhibition is divided into four themed rooms, which present different forms of puppet theatre. The special relationship between the actors, the characters and the audience becomes clear. The themed rooms are complemented by the "Raum der VerSammlung", which shows the diversity of the collection, invites visitors to discover and makes participatory projects visible.

The exhibition was created collaboratively: museum experts, puppeteers, external experts and associations worked together here and contributed their perspectives. The result is a polyphonic view of puppet theatre – historically grounded and at the same time relevant to the present.

Puppet Theatre – Art, Play and Living Figures

At KOLK 17, puppet theatre comes alive and can be experienced. The productions combine classic craftsmanship, creative design and modern forms of play to create impressive theatrical experiences. The focus is on the interaction between players, characters and audience as well as the diversity of this form of theatre.

KOLK 17 is a guest stage for puppet theatre. Puppeteers from all over Germany and regularly from Europe are guests here and show a wide range of different aesthetic signatures and playing styles. The performances are aimed at children, young people and adults and make it possible to experience puppet theatre as a contemporary, living art form that combines tradition and artistic innovation.

Rehabilitation and historical significance of the scour

The Kolk looks back on 850 years of history. With the designs by Konermann Siegmund Architekten, a piece of Lübeck's old town will be preserved for the future. The aim was to largely restore the "historical face" of the Kolk and at the same time to structurally secure and restore the buildings. The historic houses were integrated into an exciting ensemble with the new puppet theatre.

In the course of the construction work, Lübeck archaeologists discovered the oldest brick house in the Hanseatic city to date. The excavation pit of the stoneworks had to be braced against the slope pressure of St. Petri with heavy oak planks and large posts, which are dated to the 1170s - at the same time as the construction of St. Petri.

As part of the project "Rooms for Theatre Figures in the Kolk", archaeological excavations were carried out during construction. These brought to light new and impressive findings on the historical urban development of the area below St. Petri as well as in and around the rooms of the KOLK 17 Puppet Theatre & Museum.

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With its interplay of theatre, museum, architecture and city history, KOLK 17 is a place where puppet theatre, history and the present are combined in a special way.

Further information can be found at https://kolk17.de/en .

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European Hansemuseum in Lübeck

Courage, power and myth – in the footsteps of the Hanseatic League at the European Hansemuseum

When Low German merchants from Soest, Münster, Groningen and Lübeck landed on the banks of the Neva River in 1193, they had no idea that they were laying the foundations for a powerful union that would become known as the "Dudesche Hense" from the 14th century onwards. What began as a loose association of long-distance merchants for upcoming trade talks in the city of Novgorod would, over the next few centuries, develop into the most influential economic and urban association in Northern Europe.

The Hanseatic League

The European Hansemuseum Lübeck (EHM), which opened in 2015, shows the multifaceted development of the Hanseatic League from a group of merchants to a leading trading network with more than 200 cities. The daring of the Hanseatic merchants, life abroad, wealth, pomp and splendour as well as the organisation and meetings of the Hanseatic League are as much a part of the exhibition as the final dissolution of the former trading network. Visitors can explore special key events in the history of the Hanseatic League through reconstructed scenes. For example, they can understand how that meeting on the Neva River might have taken place as they walk past two faithfully reproduced cogs.

The exhibition also includes many valuable original objects, rare documents, paintings and collections that tell the story of the life and work of the Low German merchants. Special features also include selected loans from international museums in Bruges, London and Stockholm. For example, silver coins from the "Gotland treasure find" are on display, testifying to the island's wealth in the Middle Ages and its trade links with Western Europe since the turn of the first millennium. Another highlight is a 12th century belt buckle with animal ornaments, which comes from the Bruges Municipal Museums. In addition, interactive media stations and information graphics allow visitors to explore in detail economic contexts, travel routes and everyday life at the time of the Hanseatic League.

A special part of the exhibition is also the archaeological excavation area. In the form of a prologue, it tells of the beginnings of settlement around the year 800 and the founding of Lübeck in 1143 and reveals interesting insights into the 1,200-year-old history of the historically significant site where the EHM stands today. And with the so-called "Epilogue", the EHM received another new room in its 10th anniversary year in 2025 as a spectacular finale at the end of the exhibition. In the immersive 360° video installation, history and the present merge with each other. In this way, the Hanseatic League can be felt in the here and now: trade, markets and logistics chains come alive through historical images and photographs – a finale that resonates and raises the question: How much Hanseatic is actually still in today? Together with the archaeological excavation at the beginning of the tour, which introduces the journey through time through the history of the Hanseatic League as a "prologue", the "epilogue" forms a thematic bracket of the exhibition. History that is not over, but continues to have an effect.

The Castle Monastery of Lübeck – Stones that breathe history

Another important part of the European Hansemuseum is Lübeck Castle Monastery, one of the most important medieval monastic complexes in northern Germany. The former Dominican monastery, dating from the 13th century, has been extensively renovated and restored with the help of federal funds and will be under special supervision in the future in order to preserve its architectural and artistic heritage. On a tour of the monastery, visitors are given details of its history with the help of an audio guide. They can also discover the special decorative floors in the sacristy and the hospital, the

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murals from different periods and the keystones of the vaults, which are extremely important for the monastery.
The history of the use of the castle monastery has many dimensions and extends right up to the present day. After the Reformation, it was an almshouse, then a hospital, then a prison and, with an extension, also a courthouse. The social history of the 18th and 19th centuries, National Socialism and the post-war period have left their mark on this place, which has been preserved and made comprehensible.

Architecture

The architecture of the main building makes a confident statement in the urban space, blending the finest handcrafted brick materials with elegant modernity. Lines in the facade subtly suggest the contours of buildings that once stood on the site.

The central, public staircase connects the historic harbour with the higher Old Town in a generous gesture. Terraces, courtyards, a playground and restaurants, accessed from above, offer stunning views of the city and the water, thus creating a place of high quality.

Special exhibitions

2026 has two new special exhibitions in store, which offer very different approaches and both can be seen in the castle monastery of the European Hansemuseum. The three-month exhibition of the Archive of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck "Quite privileged! Lübeck and the Freedom of the Reich". From 9 October 2026, the special exhibition " Let's Play the Middle Ages" will transform part of Lübeck's castle monastery into a walk-in medieval gaming world that is not looked at, but played.

"Pretty privileged! Lübeck and the Freedom of the Reich"
Special exhibition of the Archive of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck in the Castle Monastery of the European Hansemuseum (18.05.2026 – 23.08.2026)
Hardly any other year is as important for Lübeck's history as 1226. With the charter of Emperor Frederick II, Lübeck was elevated to the status of a free imperial city in that year – a milestone that shaped the city's development politically, economically and culturally for centuries. And what does it mean to be "quite privileged"? In the past and today, there were and still are special rights for certain groups – in the case of Lübeck, even for an entire city. The provisions of the Imperial Freedom Charter of 1226 shaped the Hanseatic city with regard to its urban area, its law, its economy and its mentality, in part to this day. The exhibition in Lübeck's castle monastery presents various aspects of this special "privilege" with numerous objects from the past and present and shows the Reichsfreiheitsbrief (Reich Freedom Letter), probably the most important document in Lübeck's history, in the original. The anniversary year will be accompanied by a series of lectures by the Association for Lübeck History and Antiquity under the title "Quite a Lot of Freedom", which traces the history of urban autonomy and flanks the special exhibition.

»Let's Play the Middle Ages«
Special exhibition of the European Hansemuseum (09.10.2026 – 31.10.2027)
Games are one of the most influential cultural forms of our time today. They help determine how millions of people – especially younger generations – experience, interpret and feel history. Medieval game worlds, AI-generated images and epic fantasy aesthetics often shape historical imaginations far more than textbooks. At the same time, there is growing social interest in how reliable, true or distorted these images actually are. With the upcoming special exhibition "Let's Play the Middle Ages", the European Hanseatic Museum is responding to these questions – and is the first museum in Germany to take a radically new approach: From 9 October 2026, part of Lübeck's castle monastery will be transformed into a walk-in medieval gaming world that is not looked at, but played.

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European Hansemuseum

Opening hours: Daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (except 24.12.)
Please note: Tickets can be booked online in the ticket shop at www.hansemuseum.eu.

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Lübeck – the city of Nobel laureates

Research and memorial sites for Thomas Mann, Günter Grass and Willy-Brandt

Lübeck is proud of its three Nobel Prize winners: Thomas Mann (1875-1955/ Nobel Prize for Literature 1929), Willy Brandt (1913-1992/ Nobel Peace Prize 1971) and Günter Grass (1927-2015/ Nobel Prize for Literature 1999). All three consider the Hanseatic city to be their home. The writer Thomas Mann was born here in 1875 and lived in the city on the Trave until he was 23 years old. The politician Willy Brandt, who was born in Lübeck in 1913, also spent his formative youth in the Hanseatic city, while the writer Günter Grass moved to Lübeck at the age of 68 - partly - as he once said to be "close" to Thomas Mann and Willy Brandt.

All three Nobel laureates are honoured in Lübeck: The Günter Grass House houses the permanent exhibition "This is Grass" and sees itself as an exhibition and research centre - just like the Willy Brandt House, which aims to preserve the memory of Brandt's commitment to peace, democracy and human rights and pass it on to future generations. In 2020, the Buddenbrookhaus literary museum closed its doors for a comprehensive renovation of the house and its exhibitions expected to last until 2031. The Buddenbrooks will take this as an opportunity to present themselves for a few years in Lübeck's Stadtpalais Behnhaus.

Günter Grass-Haus - Forum for Literature and Visual Arts

The Tin Drum

Visitors to the Günter Grass House can now experience a completely new form of literature and art education: The novel "The Tin Drum" is being brought to life virtually. With the help of virtual reality glasses, visitors to the museum will be able to immerse themselves in the world of Oskar Matzerath in Gdansk, with the backdrop of a grocery store that has been recreated in the museum (project duration: until 31.12.2025).

"This is Grass"

The permanent exhibition "This is Grass" offers visitors new and fascinating insights into the artist's versatility. It presents themes that have accompanied the author, sculptor, graphic artist and painter throughout his life and recur in his work: the visual arts, gender relations, the confrontation with National Socialism, political commitment, scandals. Thanks to the interactive concept of the exhibition, visitors can decide for themselves in which order and with what intensity they wish to deal with the individual themes. At the end of the tour, visitors can choose which topics they would like to see explored in more detail in future exhibitions.

Exhibition highlight 2026: "Helme Heine – Once upon a time ..."

With the exhibition "Helme Heine – Once upon a time ..." (27 April 2026 to 10 January 2027), the Günter Grass-Haus is dedicated to an internationally renowned picture book artist who combines poetic imagery with social attitude. With fine humour and clear imagery, Helme Heine takes up topics such as climate change, migration, democracy and cohesion. A special focus is on works created especially for the Günter Grass House, in which Heine seeks dialogue with Günter Grass and Lübeck – an exciting artistic exchange about attitude, home and responsibility.

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Günter Grass-Haus / Forum for Literature and Visual Arts

Opening hours: January–March: Tue–Sun 11 am–5 pm
April–December: Mon–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Currently closed for renovations until 14/06/2025, closed on 24/25/12, 31/12 and 1/1
Entrance fees: Adults 8 €
Free admission for pupils, students, volunteers, severely disabled persons and their accompanying persons, LübeckCard holders, trainees,
Vocational school students and employees from the voluntary social year (FSJ)

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www.grass-haus.de

Willy-Brandt-House Lübeck: A place of learning for contemporary history

The Willy-Brandt-House Lübeck is the place for contemporary history in the birthplace of the first Social Democratic Chancellor and later Nobel Peace Prize winner. Whether as a young Social Democrat, Nazi opponent and political refugee, or later as a politician in Berlin and Bonn, Willy Brandt's lifelong commitment to democracy is still encouraging today. Like hardly anyone else, he changed the Federal Republic of Germany and stood up for peace and freedom in Europe and the world. The permanent exhibition is dedicated to this political life and offers a fascinating journey through the history of the 20th century.

The multimedia and interactive permanent exhibition on Willy Brandt's political life and work invites visitors to take a critical look at the past and present. As a place of learning about the history of democracy and human rights, the museum also offers an extensive programme of special exhibitions, discussions, lectures, guided tours and workshops. A special focus is placed on historical-political education for school classes and teachers.

Willy-Brandt-House

Opening hours: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily | closed on 4.3., 24.-26.12., 31.12. and 1.1.
Entrance free
Special opening hours for group tours are possible by arrangement.

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The Buddenbrook House - Heinrich and Thomas Mann Centre

"My childhood was a happy one. I grew up with my four brothers and sisters in an elegant town house that my father had built for himself and his family, and enjoyed a second home in the old 18th-century family house with the inscription 'Dominus providebit' on the rococo gable, in which my paternal grandmother lived alone and which is now an object of curiosity for foreigners as the 'Buddenbrook House'. This is how the birthplace of Lübeck and the

house at Mengstraße 4 came into being in the memory of the Nobel Prize winner Thomas Mann. (Collected Works XI, S.Fischer, p.98)

The "new" Buddenbrook House

The Buddenbrook House closes its doors for a complete renovation of the house and its exhibition. The Buddenbrooks took the opportunity to present themselves for a few years in Lübeck's city palace, the Behnhaus. There could hardly be a more appropriate place for the literary residents: The Behnhaus Museum gives a vivid impression of the world of the Buddenbrooks and the Lübeck merchants from which Heinrich and Thomas Mann came (renovation work is expected to last until 2031).

Exhibition "Family Affairs. 125 years of Buddenbrooks"
The central anniversary point is the special exhibition "Family Affairs. 125 Years of Buddenbrooks", which can be seen at the St. Annen Museum from 31 October 2026 to 6 June 2027.
The focus is on Consul Buddenbrook's famous formula of the family as "links in a chain". Hold or shackle? Six exhibition stations shed light on the forces that hold families together – and which conflicts can shake them. The starting point is novel characters and motifs, but the view consciously reaches into our present: What does family mean today? How do we negotiate expectations, responsibility and self-realization?
The exhibition sees itself as an invitation to dialogue – between literature and the reality of life, past and present, Lübeck and the world.

Buddenbrook House / Heinrich and Thomas Mann Centre (under construction)

Exhibition during the renovation in the Stadtpalais Behnhaus
Opening hours: January–March: Tue–Sun 11 am–5 pm
April–December: Tue–Sun 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
The Behnhaus is currently closed for renovations until August 2025
closed on 24/25/12, 31/12 and 1/01
Entrance fees: Adults from 8,00 €
Free admission for pupils, students, volunteers, severely disabled persons and their accompanying persons, LübeckCard holders as well as Bufdis, trainees,
Vocational school students and employees from the voluntary social year (FSJ)

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Information about Lübeck's museums can be found at www.die-luebecker-museen.de

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World literature made in Lübeck

Lübeck celebrates 125 years of "Buddenbrooks" with a special exhibition and a lecture series

A novel that wrote world literature – and a city that lives on in it to this day: In 2026, Lübeck will celebrate the 125th anniversary of *"Buddenbrooks. Decay of a Family".* With a large special exhibition, an inspiring lecture series and numerous accompanying formats, the Buddenbrook Year will be a cultural highlight that radiates far beyond the city limits.
After the 150th birthday of Thomas Mann in 2025, the focus is now on his most famous work. Published in 1901, the "Buddenbrooks" established Thomas Mann's world fame and brought him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1929. 125 years later, the novel is more relevant than ever – as a family epic, social analysis and timeless reflection on the tension between the individual and the community.

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The exhibition sees itself as an invitation to dialogue – between literature and the reality of life, past and present, Lübeck and the world.

Lecture Series: "A City Reads a Novel"
The anniversary year will start in February with the lecture series "A City Reads a Novel – 125 Years of Buddenbrooks", a cooperation between the Buddenbrookhaus/Heinrich-und-Thomas-Mann-Zentrum and the Lübeck University of Music.
On seven evenings, starting on 17 February 2026, renowned speakers such as Susanne Fritz, Hans Wißkirchen and Irmtraud Hnilica will discuss the political, religious, social and family dimensions of the novel. The lectures will be musically framed by students of the University of Music – works that play a role in the novel itself make the "Buddenbrooks" sensually tangible and open up new perspectives on the literary heritage.
The lectures take place every four weeks at Villa Brahms, are recorded and then made available online.

Tickets for the lecture series are available from buddenbrookhaus.de/english-information and in the museum shop "Buddenbrooks am Markt".

The "new" Buddenbrook House

The Buddenbrookhaus closed its doors in 2020 for the comprehensive renovation of the house and its exhibition. (Duration of the conversion predicted until 2030).
During the renovation, the museum shop and the information center of the Buddenbrookhaus will be located on the market square between the town hall and St. Mary's Church. The exhibition "Family Affairs - 125 Years of Buddenbrooks" will be shown in the St. Annen Museum.

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Information about the Lübeck museums at www.die-luebecker-museen.de

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The world of Lübeck's museums

The world of the LÜBECK MUSEUMS is the historic Old Town of Lübeck, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in which the Museums of the network are located – all in close proximity to each other. Visitors can stroll effortlessly from the fossil whale skeleton at the Nature Museum to the butt sculpture of Günter Grass or from the cloister of St. Anne's Monastery to the "torture chamber" of the Holsten Gate. Lübeck's Old Town city Island can be completely explored by foot - and thanks to the thematic diversity of the houses, there is a whole world to discover!

From Literature to Science
Literature, for example, which in Lübeck can boast two Nobel Prize winners, Thomas Mann and Günter Grass, is represented by the Buddenbrook House and the Günter Grass House.
These two museums are regarded as the international flagships of the LÜBECK MUSEUMS - they bring world literature to life in Lübeck. The Old Town house in Mengstraße was used by the Lübeck writer Thomas Mann in the literary setting for his world-famous novel "Buddenbrooks". The Buddenbrookhaus is currently closed for extensive renovation work until 2031; but the Manns continue to be present in the city. The Günter Grass House is dedicated to another of Lübeck Nobel Prize winners for literature. Here you can see manuscripts, original graphics and sculptures by the multi-talented Günter Grass. In a lovingly decorated grocery store, you can immerse yourself in Oskar Matzerath's Gdansk world of eels, potatoes and sherbet powder.

The spectrum of art and cultural history in Lübeck ranges from the sacred works of art and magnificent altars from the Middle Ages in the St. Anne's Museum and in St. Catherine's Church, where there is even a real Tintoretto, to the Goethe era, Romanticism and Classical Modernism in the Museum Behnhaus Drägerhaus Museum, which boasts works by Caspar David Friedrich and Edvard Munch in an enchanting 18th-century town palace, to modern art after 1945 in the St. Anne`s Museums Quarter. Here you will find Andy Warhol, among others. Art, ritual and everyday objects from foreign cultures are preserved in the Ethnographic Collection, whose extensive holdings have been gathered from every continent and over three centuries.

The theme of "history" also covers a wide range of topics in Lübeck's museum landscape. These range from the beginnings of the city's history in Lübeck's landmark, the world-famous Holsten Gate, to the more recent industrial and labour history in the Geschichtswerkstatt Herrenwyk industrial museum. If you are interested in natural history and science, you can explore the flora and fauna of the Lübeck region in the Museum für Natur und Umwelt (Museum for Nature and Environment) and immerse yourself in the local waters of the Trave, Wakenitz and Baltic Sea.

In addition to the permanent exhibitions, which are regularly updated, the museums devote themselves to exciting and current topics with an average of 15 special exhibitions a year, so that there is always something new to discover and experience in the museums.

www.die-luebecker-museen.de

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When night turns into day in Lübeck

Cultural diversity at the Museum, Theatre and Literature Nights in the Hanseatic City

At night in the museum or would you rather go to the theatre? When night turns to day and the historic Old Town becomes a stage, Lübeck is most beautiful. The Lübeck Nights are a popular highlight in the city's calendar of events. The Lübeck Museum Night with its multifaceted offerings is an integral part of Lübeck's cultural life. Lübeck's theatre scene is also constantly finding new and inspiring ways of communicating: During the Theatre Night, theatres and ensembles at numerous venues give a taste of what theatre-loving night owls can expect in the new season. Every year in February, the Great Kiesau Literature Night takes place - a very special literary event in Lübeck, where writers and actors read from contemporary works in private houses in the Old Town.

Lübeck Museum Night on August 29 2026

In Lübeck, the whole world of Lübeck's museums, galleries and cultural institutions opens up on this night. Culture lovers can discover the history of the Hanseatic League, get to know the three Lübeck Nobel Prize winners and be enchanted by the art treasures in the St. Annen Museum Quarter. Guests can look forward to a varied supporting programme throughout Lübeck's UNESCO Old Town. Streets, corridors and courtyards come alive and become the stage for around 100 atmospheric events.

The Lübeck Theatre Night on 19September 2026 – One ticket, access to all theatres!

It has become an integral part of the Hanseatic city's cultural landscape – the Lübeck‘s Theatre Night. Every year during the colourful autumn season, Lübeck's theatre professionals invite to the fireworks display of the fine arts from 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. The many facets of Lübeck's theatre world inspire young and old alike – whether in well-known venues or on unknown stages! The artistic diversity of Lübeck's theatre scene is great - whether classical theatre art, puppet, dance and music theatre, or creative improvisation shows. The Lübeck Theatre Night offers numerous productions, a look behind the scenes and discussions with theatre professionals!

Große Kiesau Literature Night on 26 February 2026 – Readings at home in the World Heritage Site!

Once a year, many private houses in Lübeck's Old Town open their doors for culture! There are readings and lively discussions. Authors and actors from German-speaking countries come to the Hanseatic city and present contemporary works in the cosy atmosphere of a private living room. Over a glass of wine, many an inspiring situation is created
– always very close to the work and the people. It also offers a unique insight into the lifes and living of the hosts in the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For more information, visit Lübeck Nights (luebeck-tourismus.de)

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Live it up on Holiday: Lübeck Day Pass & experiences

Experiences and Events in Lübeck available for booking

Whether city tours, museum visits or other events, Lübeck's visitors have a variety of options for discovering the city individually.
Lübeck und Travemünde Marketing GmbH (LTM) offers a growing number of bookable offers from various organizers directly via its website.
These include the “Lübeck Day Pass”. This offer made by Lübeck's museums gives Lübeck's guests free access to all of the city's museums for either €12.00 on one day or €16.00 on two consecutive days. The “Lübeck Day Pass Plus”, adds two more sights to the offer: St. Mary’s Church and the observation tower of St. Peter’s Church. The “Day Pass Plus” costs €18.00 for one day and €22.00 for two days.

Furthermore, visitors can also find other activities such as boat and canoe tours around the historic city isle and on the Wakenitz, classic and themed city tours, culinary events, wellness offers, bike hire and much more. An overview of the offers, further information and booking options can be found at: https://www.visit-luebeck.com/booking/experiences/experiences

For any further questions and information, please contact the Tourist-Information Lübeck.

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Favourite place - Malerwinkel

The carefree life of Lübsche on the banks of the Trave

In the dreamy "Malerwinkel" on the banks of the Trave, you can relax and enjoy the beautiful views of the picturesque old town scenery. A picnic in the countryside and the view of the small boats and bigger excursion boats gliding past on the Trave are part of the relaxed pastime. On the opposite bank of the Trave, the quieter life on the Obertrave awaits you with its small Old Town houses, alleyways and courtyards, sunny café terraces and restaurants. Here you can stroll peacefully along - past the pretty gabled facades and jetties.

The picturesque view of the southwestern side of the Old Town with the towers of St. Mary's and St. Peter's Church, the colourful gabled houses and the Dankwartsbrücke bridge in the foreground was particularly popular with painters and photographers in the 20th century. At that time, many painters sat with their easels on the banks of the Trave and captured this special angle of Lübeck's Old Town – hence the name "Malerwinkel" came about. Even today, the Malerwinkel is still a popular motif for postcards, holiday photos and many painters.

If you go for a walk in the Malerwinkel, you will be surprised by the laundry on a long clothesline right on the street An der Obertrave, which is hung out to dry there by the residents. That's why the street is jokingly called "Knicker-Avenue", but why does the laundry hang there? Legend has it that due to the constant risk of flooding, there were no drying cellars in the houses here and a privilege dating back to the 14th century allowed the inhabitants to dry their wet clothes in public on the street. Until today!

A special Lübeck experience is a tour on the water around the Old Town. Boaters can hire an electric boat from Boat Now right by the Holsten Gate on the Obertrave. Up to six people can enjoy an unobstructed view of the historic sights can be enjoyed from the comfort of their own boat. If you prefer something sportier, you can rent a SUP at the Surf Center Lübeck (see www.surf-center.de/surfschule/42-surf-und-sup-schule-wakenitz) and, after a short briefing, paddle off around the Old Town island.

Our insider tip: The sunsets are particularly beautiful in the Malerwinkel – this is where the evening sun lingers longest!

Boat Now

An der Obertrave / Ecke Marlesgrube
23552 Lübeck

Phone: +49 152 53754042
Mail: info@boatnow-luebeck.de
Boat Now – see the best of Lübeck » Englisch (boatnow-luebeck.de)

www.visit-luebeck.com/water/malerwinkel

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My beloved father city

Lübeck and its benefactors

Lübeck, the city of foundations - Lübeck was and is a city of citizens and benefactors who care about their home town and the people who live there. They are committed and take responsibility, many during their lifetime and some even after their death. Today there are more than 100 foundations in Lübeck dedicated to social and cultural projects. The tradition of the foundation system dates back to the Middle Ages; the pious deed - "pia causa" - was supposed to make God merciful and secure the founder a place in paradise.

The poor, the sick and the orphans - in the Middle Ages there were many needy people who depended on the help and alms of the wealthy citizens of Lübeck. Poverty was omnipresent, but there were also many pious and wealthy merchants and councillors who were concerned about their salvation and willing to help alleviate the plight of the needy. The best example of medieval charity is the Hospital of the Holy Spirit, founded in 1263, which is now one of the oldest social institutions in Europe. The courtyards in the Old Town still bear witness to the care of Lübeck's citizens, who wanted the widows and orphans of seafarers and merchants to be looked after. The most famous residential foundation is Füchtingshof - founded by the councillor Johann Füchting, who in 1636 set aside a third of his inheritance "for the use and benefit of the poor". However, it was not only benefactors from higher circles who cared for the people in need; brotherhoods of craftsmen and seamen also looked after the families of their brothers in need. This was also the case with the Lübeck Seafarers' Guild which was founded in 1401 as the St. Nicholas Brotherhood "for the help and comfort of the living and the dead and all those who seek their honest livelihood in shipping".

In the course of history, as well as social welfare, art, culture, education and the preservation of monuments were increasingly promoted through foundations, donations and wills. Towards the end of the 18th century, Lübeck's doctors, ministers, lawyers and teachers, driven by their interest in the exchange of knowledge and literature, began to meet privately. In 1789, they founded the "Gesellschaft zur Beförderung Gemeinnütziger Tätigkeit" (Society for the Promotion of Charitable Activities) - GEMEINNÜTZIGE for short. To this day, it is committed to cultural and social causes and supports 19 institutions, 38 subsidiaries and 33 foundations under its umbrella - from the Family Education Centre (FamilienBildungsStätte) and the Overbeck-Gesellschaft to the music school and Knabenkantorei (Boys' Choir).

Since 2004, the Gemeinnützige Sparkassenstiftung has been an important player and promotor of social commitment in Lübeck. But it is not only the large foundations - such as the Possehl Foundation, which was established in 1919 from the estate of Emil Possehl - but also the many small, hidden legacies of Lübeck's citizens that constitute a great treasure today and without which Lübeck's social and cultural life would be inconceivable.

www.visit-luebeck.com

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Marzipan from Lübeck

Lübeck and marzipan are closely linked. There are a number of very different stories about the origin of marzipan the most popular of which is the following: Around 1407 there was a famine in Lübeck and no more grain was available. In this situation the Senate instructed the bakers to bake bread using the almonds stored in the granaries. So, they had marzipan…

Another version is this: The marzipan is said to be the ‚marci panis' from Venice, i.e. the bread of Marcus, which had come to Lübeck as a result of old trade links. Linguists believe that the word ‚marzipan' could be derived from the name of the old Byzantine coin ‚Mauthaban'. This word – which has since changed to 'marzapane'– is later used in the Mediterranean region as the name of a box made out of chips which must have changed from the name of the packaging to the (sweet) contents. The only thing that can be considered as being more or less certain is that the word ‚marzipan' comes from the Middle East. In 1530 the word ‚Martzapaen' was first mentioned in Lübeck's guild-rolls. Lübeck's reputation as „the city of marzipan" was not established until 1800. Whether it was a particularly skilful and imaginative confectioner, or a competition between the confectioners of that time, that brought the production of marzipan to such a high level is no longer known.

In the past the production of marzipan - which flourished during the Christmas season - was a particularly hard and tedious grindstone work. It has now given way to industrial production. But its secret remains: The quality is determined by the specific mixing-ratio of the individual ingredients and each manufacturer keeps its secret.

Today there are several companies in Lübeck that produce and export 'Lübecker Marzipan' all over the world. Among them is Europe's market-leading producer of quality marzipan: J. G. Niederegger GmbH & Co. KG. This company employs up to 600 people during the season, producing and shipping around 30 tons of marzipan every day. By the way: Anyone buying "Lübecker-Marzipan" can be sure that it was actually made in Lübeck. After a lengthy legal battle, the name "Lübecker Marzipan" is now protected by law. Not only must "Lübecker Marzipan" have been produced in Lübeck, it must also meet particularly high standards, which have been set the Lübeck producers themselves. Amongst other things, these stipulate the quality of almonds used and limit the addition of sugar which has been kept to a minimum since time immemorial.

Marzipan Museum at Café Niederegger

Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–7 p.m. | Sat 9 a.m.–6 p.m. | Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Entrance free

Café Niederegger Altstadt
Breite Straße 89
23522 Lübeck

Phone: +49 451 53 01 – 126/127
www.niederegger.de/en/cafe-niederegger/

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Rotspon – Red wine from Lübeck

The beginnings of the red wine trade in Lübeck date back to the 13th century. At that time the first ships of the Hanseatic League sailed to the French coast in order to buy Bordeaux wine. However, it was not until 1530 that the red wine trade became important for Lübeck, when Thomas Bugenhagen became the first merchant to import large quantities of French red wine. He is said to have instructed his cellar master to let the wine to mature so that its good qualities could fully develop and make the drinker a happy and sociable person instead of a loud and boisterous one.

Since then, French red wine has been brought to Lübeck to be “refined and cultivated”. The surprising improvement in quality as a result of storage in Lübeck’s wine cellars was first noticed by French officers in 1806. After Napoleon’s army had occupied the city of Lübeck, the officers noticed that the Bordeaux-wines stored in Lübeck’s wine-cellars tasted much better than the Bordeaux-wines at home.

Back home they began to investigate the “Bordeaux-wine case” thoroughly. In Bordeaux they filled several barrels with the same wine. Some of these barrels were left in Bordeaux and the others were taken to Lübeck to be stored. After a reasonable period of ageing and storage a tasting of both wines showed that the French officers were right. But no explanation for the phenomenon has yet been found. It may be that the climate in Lübeck combined with the temperature in Lübeck’s wine-cellars has a better effect on the wine than that in Bordeaux.

The word „Rotspon“ originally referred to red wine stored in a wooden barrels. To this day “Lübecker Rotspon” stands for high quality wine - and it has the same good reputation as the famous marzipan.

More information: www.visit-luebeck.com

Wine shops in Lübeck's Old Town:

H.F. von Melle
Beckergrube 86
23552 Lübeck
Phone: +49 (0) 451 / 710 50
E-Mail: info@von-melle.de
www.von-melle.de

Miera
Hüxstr. 57
23552 Lübeck
Phone: +49 (0) 451 7 72 12
E-Mail: info@miera-luebeck.de
www.miera-luebeck.de

Nordisches Weinhaus
Fleischhauerstr. 30
23552 Lübeck
Phone: +49 (0) 451 72760
www.nordischesweinhaus.com

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The Holsten Gate – Lübeck's town gate with history

The Holsten Gate is Lübeck's most famous landmark and one of the most popular photographic motifs in the whole of Northern Europe. With its thick red brick walls and massive twin towers, it adorns countless postcards, marzipan cakes, stamps and 2-Euro coins. This impressive Gothic city gate was once a symbol of power and formed an important part of the City's fortifications designed to protect this rich Hanseatic city from enemy attacks. The green space in front of the gate presents a wonderful place to relax in the summer to everyone, who visits Lübeck. The two life-size iron lions that guard the steps to the Holsten Gate with typical Lübeck cheerfulness will persuade you to take a casual selfie.

"CONCORDIA DOMI FORIS PAX" is written in golden letters above the outer arch of the Holsten Gate. Translated from Latin it means: Harmony within, peace outside. This reflects the great need for harmony felt by the city fathers, who had to protect their rich Hanseatic city against hostile attacks for centuries. They relied more on their negotiating skills than on military conflict. A testimony to this are the 30 cannons that used to be in the weapon holes in the Holsten Gate but, according to tradition, were never fired. To this day, the golden inscription speaks of the Lübeck way of life: joyful, lively and cheerful.

Don't be surprised if the south tower of the Holsten Gate leans to one side like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. When the Gate was built in the late 15th century it was clear that sooner or later it would start to lean with walls up to 3.5 metres thick. The reason for this is the swampy ground on the banks of the river Trave on which this massive brick structure was built. Over the centuries, the two towers of the Holsten Gate have sunk unevenly into the ground despite their pile foundations, and it took extensive restoration work in 1933/-34 to stop the growing tilt. The German Foundation for Monument Protection and the Possehl Foundation contributed significantly to the costs.

Museum Holstentor

Opening hours: Jan – March: Tue to Sun from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
April – Dec: Mon to Sun from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on 24/25/31 December and 1 January
Admission: Adults 8€
Free admission for pupils, students, volunteers, severely disabled persons and their accompanying persons, LübeckCard holders, trainees, Vocational school students and employees from the voluntary social year (FSJ)

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23522 Lübeck

Phone: +49 451 122 41 29
Mail: kasse.ht@luebeck.de
museum-holstentor.de/english-information

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The hidden world of courtyards and alleyways

Space can be found in the smallest shack – a medieval labyrinth

Like other large cities of the late Middle Ages and the early modern period, Lübeck had a great number of day labourers and delivery boys. They lived mainly in small houses called “Buden” (huts), which were crowded together on street corners, at the backs of people‘s houses and in the inner parts of blocks of flats. These hidden parts were called alleyways and alley quarter. It was not long before merchants, the wealthy bourgeoisie and the clergy discovered how much could be made from a well-decorated courtyard. Naturally, the trade in small residential streets and exorbitant prices flourished widely. It was up to the landlord how many families he crammed into the tiny flats and how many buildings he erected behind his own house.

With the general population growth in the second half of the 15th century Lübeck’s population increased by 25%. This led to a pauperization of a large part of the population and to the extension and modernisation of the lanes. Towards the end of the 17th century Lübeck had more than 180 alleyways. Today, about 90 of them have survived. Some of the most popular ones are presented here:

Engelsgrube – Where the English were called Angels
The origin of this name is not to be found in the celestial spheres, but in the Hanseatic name for the English. Part of the harbour was allocated to the English merchants for loading and unloading their ships. Initially these quarters were meadows, Street names like „Engelswisch“ commemorate these „Meadows of the English”. There is hardly another street in the Old Town with a greater variety of alleyways than the Engelsgrube, where dock workers of all kinds settled: salt packers, delivery boys for chests and beams and others. Like the neighbouring Fischergrube, the Engelsgrube levelled and piled up before the turn of the century. As a result, the entrances and windows of some of the houses now lie under the landfill and stairs lead down to them.

Hellgrüner und Dunkelgrüner Gang – A green paradise in the backstreets
Through the low portal on the side of a baroque town house you enter the prettiest and cleanest of Lübeck’s alleyways: the Light and Dark Green Alley. Situated between Engelswisch and Untertrave and accessible from both ends, a forgotten world opens up, offering a glimpse of the old Lübeck: an interplay of narrow alleys, small huts, courtyard like fields, seemingly blind alleys and hidden exits. The history of this quarter dates back to the year 1357, with the first dwellings dating back to 1587. Gradually a small colony developed near the harbour, close to the water and not far from the main road to Mecklenburg. On 23rd April 1596 a huge explosion destroyed the quarter of alleyways. A Spanish resident had secretly stored unpowdered gunpowder, which spontaneously exploded and destroyed a large part of the quarter through self-ignition. Today’s buildings date from the time of the big explosion – the 17th century.

Lüngreens Gang (Fischergrube No. 38) – submerging in the labyrinth of alleys
It is one of the few streets where the remaining two-storey houses from the first half of the 17th century are listed. It is also one of the few alleys that connects two streets (Gruben). It is an adventure for tourists to get from the crooked alleys at the end towards the Bäckergang to the straight Lüngreens Gang and then to find themselves coming from the idyll into the Fischergrube.

Glandorps Gang, Glandorps Hof and Illhornstift
Many of the courtyards and residential corridors in Lübeck's historic city centre date back to medieval foundations set up by wealthy merchants for the poor or widows and orphans. The oldest of the large representative foundation courtyards is the Glandorps Hof. It was donated in the late Middle Ages by the Lübeck merchant and councillor Johann Glandorp (1558 - 1612). The buildings are located at Glockengießerstraße 39 to 53. The Renaissance-style complex consists of an elongated three-storey brick eaves house, two wing buildings, each with seven two-storey terraced houses in the courtyard, a single-storey building with 13 so-called Gangbuden in the adjoining corridor and a small front building

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on Glockengießerstraße. The richly decorated copper plaque with the foundation inscription from 1612 can still be seen above the entrance to the main building, and the family coat of arms of Johann Glandorp also commemorates the founder. The Glandorps Gang is located directly next to the Glandorps Hof. Here, destitute widows once lived in the 13 corridor huts, each with a floor area of just 16 square metres. The Illhornstift at Glockengießerstraße 39 is another example of late medieval social housing estates. The courtyard building of the Ilhornstift dates back to the middle of the 16th century. However, the front building, right next to Glandorp's corridor, is much older. In his will dated 31 August 1449, the founder Johann Illhorn designated the front building as a poorhouse with flats for 20 needy widows.

Even today, after extensive remodelling work, the original purpose of the foundation, to create flats for the elderly, is still being fulfilled in Glandorps Hof, Glandorps Gang and the courtyard building of the Illhornstift. Elderly people find an idyllic place to live here in the centre of Lübeck's historic old town.

The Füchtingshof
The Flüchtlingshof is located in Glockengießerstraße below St. Catherine’s church. It is one of the largest and most magnificent courtyards in Lübeck. The listed early Baroque residential area belongs to the charitable foundation “Johann Füchting Testament”, which still exists today as an independent foundation. Since 1639 the courtyard has been used as a housing estate for widows of sailors and merchants. Following modernisation and renovation in the 1970s 28 apartments are available. Still inhabited today, it has become an oasis in the heart of the Old Town.

www.visit-luebeck.com/old-town/alleys-courtyards

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Lübeck – Christmas capital of northern Germany

A tradition of more than 370 years – Lübeck's Christmas markets in 2026

Lübeck. From 23th November the Hanseatic city of Lübeck offers a unique cultural experience. Several Christmas markets in the heart of the Old Town, which was first documented in 1648, invite locals and guests to visit the unique UNESCO World Heritage Site during the festive season. Christmas concerts, Advent markets, exhibitions in the museums, Christmas fairy tales, readings and services in the five Gothic churches of the Old Town complete the Christmas programme. Lübeck's Christmas markets are officially opened 23th November with the event Illuminated Advent and a beautiful procession of lights.

Sparkling lights, Christmas stars and Christmas trees create an unmistakable atmosphere and invite to a stroll through the traditional Christmas market around the historic Town Hall from November 23th to December 30th. The crisp winter air smells of roasted almonds, hot spiced wine, herb sweets and roast sausages and the 120 or so sales stalls offer Christmas tree decorations, toys and many beautiful gifts. The Historic Christmas market at St. Mary's churchyard runs from November 23th – December 23rd. The medieval ambience takes visitors back in time. In front of the impressive brick building of St. Mary's church copper and silversmiths, pewterers and other craftsmen are on display while jugglers and musicians in period costume provide entertainment on the stage. The evening hours are especially beautiful with fires crackling in the large fire barrels and medieval music playing. Guests can warm up with their friends over a mug of mead.

At Koberg, from November 23th to December 30th, the Maritime Christmas Market reminds visitors of the tradition of the old seafaring district around St. Jacob's church. The smell of smoked fish, hot spiced berry wine and hot rum fills the air. Old wooden barrels, fishing nets and a stranded ship add to it the authentic maritime atmosphere.

www.visit-luebeck.com/culture/christmas-city-of-the-north

The Christmas Markets - everything at a glance:

Traditional Christmas Market
• 23. 11.-30. 12. 2026

Historical Christmas Market
• 23. 11.-23. 12. 2026

Starlit Forest at Schrangen
• 23. 11.-30. 12. 2026

Fairytale Forest next to St. Mary's Church
• 23. 11.-30. 12. 2026

Craft Market in St. Peter's Church
• 23. 11.-14. 12. 2026

Craft Market Hospital of the Holy Spirit
• 29. 11.-6. 12. 2026

Craft Market Lübsche Wiehnacht
• 21./22. 11.+28./29. 11. 2026

Niederegger Christmas Bazaar
• 23. 11.-24. 12. 2026

Maritime Christmas Market
• 23. 11.-29. 12. 2026

Harbour Glow
• 23. 11.-29.12. 2026

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Highlights from the event calendar LÜBECK 2026

125 years of "Buddenbrooks. The decline of a family”

In 2026, Lübeck celebrates the 125th anniversary of the world-famous novel “Buddenbrooks. The Decline of a Family" by Thomas Mann - a work that helped the Hanseatic city achieve international literary fame and for which Thomas Mann was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1929.
A variety of activities are planned in the city: a mobile exhibition on the global bestseller, artistic interventions in public spaces and a large, participatory reading project together with Lübeck's urban community.
buddenbrookhaus.de/en

‘Exhibition of the Possehl Prize Winner for International Art Shilpa Gupta’, Kunsthalle St. Annen

Until March 1st, 2026
Kunsthalle St. Annen presents the first solo museum exhibition of Indian artist Shilpa Gupta in Germany.
The occasion is the awarding of the Possehl Prize for International Art 2025 to Gupta, whose work addresses social, geographical and psychological boundaries and their influence on public life.
kunsthalle-st-annen.de

“A future without growth? - The economy between climate catastrophe and social division”, Herrenwyk Industrial Museum

Until March 29th, 2026
Starting in autumn, the exhibition will focus on the limits of economic growth in the face of finite resources. It invites visitors to question economic thinking patterns in times of climate change and explore new avenues.
industriemuseum-herrenwyk.de

“The Nobel Prize winner next door: Günter Grass and Lübeck”, Günter Grass House

Until April 13th, 2026
In November, the Günter Grass House will focus on the special connection between Grass and Lübeck. Personal stories and interactive stations will bring him to life as an artist, neighbour and human being.
grass-house.com

"The Lübeck Divan – a travel guide for the Silk Road", Museumsquatier St.Annen

March 6th – August 30th, 2026
The exhibition "The Lübeck Divan – A Travel Guide for the Silk Road" sheds light on the cultural diversity and exchange along the historic Silk Road between Europe, Asia and Africa. The stories of the exhibits are told in the form of a literary travel guide.
der-luebecker-divan-seidenstrasse.de

"Down to the Bone", Museum of Nature and Environment

March 21th – September 13th, 2026
The special exhibition "Down to the Bones" provides insights into the evolution, structure and function of skeletons as well as the origin of fossils. One highlight is the sperm whale skeleton, supplemented by examples of different forms of locomotion in the animal kingdom.
museum-fuer-natur-und-umwelt.de

Status: 28.01.2026, subject to change

Danzinger Paraments and Silver Treasure of the St. Anne Museum, St. Anne Museum

From March 28th, 2026

The St. Anne Museum presents a new exhibition room for the silver treasure of the former St. Anne Church. In addition, the presentation of the Gdansk parament treasure will be revised and rearranged for conservation reasons.

"Trave Diver Technique – It Doesn't Work Without Divers!", Herrenwyk Industrial Museum

April 18th - October 25th, 2026

The special exhibition "Trave Diver Technology – It Doesn't Work Without Divers!" gives insights into the work of professional divers under the water surface of the Trave. The development of diving from antiquity to the present day is shown, as well as historical and modern diving equipment.

"Helme Heine – Once upon a time ...", Günter-Grass-Haus

April 27th – January 10th, 2027

The exhibition "Helme Heine – Once upon a time ..." in the Günter Grass House is dedicated to the work of the internationally renowned picture book artist Helme Heine. On display are illustrations from well-known picture books as well as current works that deal with social and global issues such as climate change, migration, peace and democracy. The exhibition is complemented by works presented for the first time that were created especially for the Günter Grass House.
grass-house.com

34th Brahms Festival

May 2nd – 10th, 2026

Johannes Brahms is one of the most outstanding composers of the 19th century. His music continues to captivate to this day. The Brahms Festival of the Lübeck University of Music (MHL) is unique within the German-speaking university landscape. Since 1992, MHL lecturers and students have presented symphonic and chamber music of the highest artistic calibre every year. Next year, this festival will be dedicated to the motto under the sign of freedom.
mh-luebeck.de

Tango Days Lübeck 2026

May 14th – 17th, 2026

Tango Days Lübeck takes place in Lübeck's old town. The festival invites dance enthusiasts to workshops with international teachers, live music by Quinteto Galván, and atmospheric milongas in historic halls. A movie night and taster courses round off the program.
tangotage-luebeck.de

International Museum Day 2026

May 17th, 2026

With their wide range, diverse offerings and innovative ideas, museums make a significant contribution to our cultural and social life. In Lübeck, too, numerous activities and offerings invite visitors to discover the treasures of the museums.
www.museumsbund.de

Exhibition “Quite privileged” Lübeck and imperial freedom
Special exhibition by the Archives of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck at the European Hanseatic Museum

May 18th, - August 23th, 2026

What does it mean to be “quite privileged”? In the past and today, certain groups have enjoyed special privileges – in Lübeck's case, even an entire city. The Imperial Letter of Freedom of 1226 shaped the Hanseatic city in terms of its urban area, its rights, its economy and its mentality, some of which still apply today. The exhibition in the castle monastery uses numerous objects from the past and present to illustrate various aspects of this special “privilege” – including the original of what is probably the most significant document in Lübeck's history.
www.hansemuseum.eu

"Dimensions of Freedom. Carl-Henning Pedersen and Else Alfelt", Kunsthalle St.Annen
May 23th – October 25th 2026
The touring exhibition "Dimensions of Freedom. Carl-Henning Pedersen and Else Alfelt" offers an overview of the work of the Danish artist couple with over 150 works - from the avant-garde and the CoBrA group to the late work with non-European influences.

"Alfred Mahlau. Procession for the 700th Anniversary of the Freedom of the Reich in 1926", Museum Behnhaus Drägerhaus
Beginning of June until September 13th, 2026
The exhibition "Alfred Mahlau. Procession for the 700th Anniversary of the Freedom of the Reich in 1926" is dedicated to the work of the Lübeck artist Alfred Mahlau and his contribution to the historical procession of 1926.
museum-behnhaus-draegerhaus.de

HanseKulturFestival
June 5th – 7th, 2026
Every two years, one of Lübeck's old town districts becomes a colourful festival mile at the HanseKulturFestival! In 2026, the festival will take place in the traditional seafaring district. The district will be transformed into an authentic place of experience and a lively stage full of music, cabaret, acrobatics and regional delicacies.
Become part of the neighbourhood family, dance in the streets, let yourself be enchanted and discover the real Lübeck through the people who live here!
visit-luebeck.com

UNESCO World Heritage Day
June 7th, 2026
UNESCO World Heritage Day is an annual event held on the first Sunday in June. Next year, this day will take place under the motto "Together for peace and understanding". It aims to raise awareness of the importance of cultural and natural heritage. In Germany, numerous World Heritage sites open their doors to visitors on this day, offering guided tours, exhibitions, and interactive activities.
unesco-welterbetag.de

SUPERKUNSTFESTIVAL
June 12th – 14th, 2026
Germany's largest inclusive cultural festival will transport you into a true cultural frenzy! National and international artists from the worlds of music, art, theatre, film and circus will thrill audiences on six stages with around 80 shows. People with and without disabilities will come together to create this special event. Under the motto ‘Music against racism’, diversity, creativity and togetherness will be celebrated.
superkunstfestival.de

Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival
July 4th – August 30th, 2026

Every year, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival brings world-class musicians to the most beautiful locations in Schleswig-Holstein – from castles and churches to modern venues. Under the motto ‘Stockholm – Sound of the Swedish Metropolis’, 2026 will be all about the Swedish capital, its musical history from baroque to pop, its famous composers and its lively cultural scene. Look forward to unforgettable concert experiences, diverse programmes and musical highlights that will make your summer evenings special.
shmf.de

Lübeck Museum Night
August 29th, 2026
With just one ticket, the whole world of Lübeck's museums, galleries and cultural institutions opens up. A diverse accompanying program runs through Lübeck's UNESCO old town. Streets, alleys and courtyards come to life and are transformed into a stage for around 100 atmospheric events.
die-luebecker-museen.de

12th Travejazz Festival
September 3rd – 6th, 2026
The Travejazz Festival combines jazz, funk and soul. The programme features internationally and nationally established artists and bands with ties to the Hanseatic city. The main venue is Schuppen 6, a historic, listed harbour warehouse directly on the Trave River. Other concerts are held at St. Peter’s, St. Jakob’s, the Live CV Jazzclub, which has received multiple awards from the Federal Programme for Venues, and an open-air stage.
www.travejazz.de

Lübeck’s Theatre Night
September 19th, 2026
Experience Lübeck’s Theatre Night – an evening full of drama, dance, and music that brings the city’s stages to life from dusk till midnight.
www.visit-luebeck.com

"Crystal Magic – Hidden Magic of Dark Tourmalines", Museum of Nature and Environment
October 2nd 2026 – April 2027
The exhibition "Crystal Magic – Hidden Magic of Dark Tourmalines" leads into the world of minerals and makes the inner structures of dark tourmalines visible. Using backlit crystal cuts, crystals and images, it is shown how growth processes and changes are stored inside the stones and develop their own visual language.

Board gaming at the Beichthaus **October 9th 2026 – October 31th 2027**
In preparation for the special exhibition ‘Games Make the Middle Ages’, which will open at the European Hansemuseum in October 2026, the EHM is hosting special board game events. On selected Saturdays, the historic Beichthaus will be transformed into a lively board game paradise: a large selection of classics and new releases with a medieval theme will be available to play. www.hansemuseum.eu

Exhibition "Family Affairs. 125 Years of Buddenbrooks" at the St. Annen Museum.
From 30 October 2026
In 2026, the 125th anniversary of "Buddenbrooks" will be celebrated with a varied programme of events. A highlight will be the exhibition "Family Affairs" in the St. Annen Museum. The focus of this exhibition is on family relationships and their meaning. Based on the novel, the exhibition shows in six stations what holds families together and which conflicts can burden or break

them apart. Using the famous metaphor of the family as "links in a chain", family can be experienced as a support, but also as a possible fetter. The exhibition combines literature with current questions about identity, community and one's own place in life.
kunsthalle-st-annen.de

67th Nordic Film Days Lübeck **November 4th - 8th, 2026**
The Nordic Film Days Lübeck are considered the most important showcase of Nordic film outside Scandinavia. Many of the directors who presented their debut works in Lübeck have since achieved world fame. The Schleswig-Holstein Film Forum shows the exciting works of young filmmakers and a retrospective is also on the program. www.nordische-filmtage.de/en

"South Korea: between tradition and high-tech", Industriemuseum Herrenwyk
November 14th 2026 – March 14th 2027
The exhibition "South Korea: Between Tradition and High-Tech" sheds light on the many facets of the country between its historical character and the modern present. The focus is on the time of Japanese colonial rule, the subsequent division of the Korean Peninsula into North and South Korea as a result of the Korean War, and its effects to this day. In addition to historical works of art and everyday objects, the exhibition also shows modern South Korea – from K-pop and Korean cuisine to its development into a globally important industrial nation with companies such as Samsung, Hyundai and LG.
industriemuseum-herrenwyk.de

Andreas Gursky, Kunsthalle St. Annen
December 5th 2026 – May 16th 2027
The exhibition by internationally renowned photographer Andreas Gursky shows works by his students from painting, sculpture and digital art, which provide an insight into future generations of artists. Andreas Gursky, one of the pioneers of electronic image processing, co-curates the exhibition and brings his own works into dialogue with those of his students.
kunsthalle-st-annen.de

Christmas City of the North

Arts and crafts market "Lübsche Wiehnacht"
November 21th – 22nd and November 28th – 29th, 2026
In the historic-maritime harbour shed 6, a diverse range of fine and unusual handicrafts and design is offered in a family-friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Around 35 regional artisans offer handmade unique pieces from their own workshops. In a small cafeteria there are delicious waffles, home-baked cakes and snacks. The seductive aroma of coffee, punch and organic mulled wine makes the visit a sensual overall experience.
christmas-city-of-the-north

Lübeck Christmas Market
November 23rd – December 30th, 2026
Lübeck, as the Christmas City of the North, invites you to a pre-Christmas visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The glow of the festive Christmas lights and the Christmas

decorations in the old town streets create an atmospheric flair over the Hanseatic city. Officially, Lübeck is opened as the "Christmas City of the North" with the "Advent Lights".

Fairytale forest at St. Mary's Church

November 23rd – December 30th, 2026

A pre-Christmas attraction is traditionally offered by the Lübeck Fairytale Forest at the foot of St. Mary's Church. More than twenty lovingly handcrafted fairytale forest stalls show a colourful picture sheet from the world-famous Brothers Grimm stories. Among them are King Thrushbeard, Snow White, Rapunzel and the Seven Dwarfs.

Historic Christmas Market

November 23rd – December 23rd, 2026

In the churchyard of St. Mary's, you can go on a medieval journey through time. All kinds of craftsmen present themselves here, showing long-forgotten skills and offering their goods for sale. Again and again, impressive walk acts in historical costumes provide hearty entertainment. In the evening hours, it gets particularly cosy: candles and countless red poinsettias bathe the square in a magical light.

Lübeck Arts and Crafts Market St. Petri

November 24th – December 20th, 2026

Every day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., artisans from northern Germany will present their work in the historic ambience of St. Peter's Church, which was built around 800 years ago. The handicraft selection offers high-quality gift ideas for Christmas and invites you to take a relaxed stroll through the magnificent church interior with the lovingly designed artisan stalls.

Arts and crafts market at the Holy Spirit Hospital

November 29th – December 6th, 2026

In the church hall, in the small living quarters that were inhabited until the 1970s, and in the vaulted cellar of the 12th-century medieval hospital, around 150 artisans from Germany, Scandinavia, Great Britain, and the Baltic States will showcase the diversity of new and old craft techniques.