

The diversity of northern Germany: a treasure trove of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, endless beaches, rich history and cultural highlights.

Surrounded by the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, between the Danish border, the Harz mountains, the island of Usedom and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Wadden Sea National Park, there is more than just beautiful nature: In Bremen, Hamburg, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, world-famous sights, architectural masterpieces, unique events, charming harbour towns and culinary specialities invite you to enjoy extraordinary experiences. Wonderful holidays on the beach, maritime events, shopping and cultural excursions in stylish cities, relaxing moments in nature: Northern Germany is a real gem waiting to be discovered. For tourists a world full of adventure and discoveries opens up right here in the neighbouring country:

14 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Northern Germany boasts an impressive range of cultural and historical treasures. From picturesque cities and the Wadden Sea National Park to Viking villages and enchanted castles - history can be experienced up close here.

95 islands

The region boasts 95 islands in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, including the popular holiday destinations of Sylt, Norderney, Rügen and Usedom. Each island has its own unique charm and character.

2,389 kilometres of beach

The beaches in the coastal regions stretch along the North Sea and Baltic Sea. Picturesque dune landscapes and refreshing sea air replenish your energy reserves during a brisk walk by the sea.

88,000 square kilometres of holiday destination

The landscapes in northern Germany are diverse. From the Hanseatic cities of Bremen, Lübeck and Hamburg to mountain ranges in Lower Saxony, endless forests in Schleswig-Holstein and romantic river landscapes in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania - there are many breathtaking places with good infrastructure for visitors to discover.

15,600,000 warm hosts

Northern Germans have a reputation for being a little rough around the edges. Like the seas that surround them. In fact, there is a soft core behind the rough exterior. The northerners greet their guests with a cheerful 'Moin Moin' and are always happy to have a chat.

Sustainability is always at the heart of the northern Germans. Whether it is travelling by train, accommodation and restaurants or even entire travel areas that have been certified, through to the expansion of renewable energy generation and the charging network for electric cars - the north is moving forward regarding this topic and guests can enjoy not only an authentic but also a carefree holiday experience.

For **city travellers**, the Hanseatic Cities of Hamburg, Bremen, Lübeck, Stralsund and Rostock offer contrasting experiences. Typical northern German **architectural features** such as Hamburg's Speicherstadt warehouse district, the enchanted corridors and courtyards in Lübeck, Bremen's Schnoor district or city landmarks - the Bremen Town Musicians, the Holsten Gate or Marienburg Castle in Hanover - not only offer fantastic views, but can also be experienced and walked through. The centuries-old buildings of the time-honoured cities are a fascinating backdrop for the lively hustle and bustle in the streets and alleyways. Enchanting old town streets are the best examples of how an authentic **shopping culture** can develop alongside the classic promenades with major brands. In often listed buildings, retailers know how to present their goods without losing the flair of history. In the inviting city centres, guests will find an above-average number of manufactories and owner-managed shops to bring back 'genuinely nordic' souvenirs and holiday mementos.

There is also plenty to see in terms of **culture**. From Nobel Prize-winning houses in Lübeck to edutainment at the Ozeaneum in Stralsund, a trip around the world at the Klimahaus Bremerhaven and top-class concerts in Hamburg's new landmark, the Elbphilharmonie, affectionately known as the 'Elphi' by locals. In 2024, there is even a special reason to celebrate: the north will be celebrating the 250th birthday of the painter Caspar David Friedrich, whose romantic landscape paintings still enchant the world today.

There is never a dull moment on a **family holiday with children**. Whether it's a visit to the Miniature Wonderland in Hamburg, a self-guided e-boat trip around Lübeck's Old Town Island, a visit to the Hanover and Bremen adventure zoos, feeding seals on the North Sea, a day at the Hansapark amusement park right on the Baltic Sea or baking bread on a stick in the Viking village of Haithabu - there are exciting adventures to be had whatever the weather.

Nature and cycling enthusiasts can even find their way to the north of Germany via a panoramic route: the Baltic Sea Cycle and Hiking Trail. The inland area between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea is home to huge deciduous forests and numerous rivers and lakes that can be explored on the well-developed cycle paths, on foot or by canoe. In the Harz Mountains, the northernmost low mountain range in Germany, the highest mountain, the Brocken, offers breathtaking horizons. The summit can be hiked or reached by mountain bike. You can also enjoy far-reaching views on the treetop trails in the Lüneburg Heath or on the islands of Usedom and Rügen. In the seaside resort of Travemünde, the trees can even be scaled in a climbing park. Horse rides or mudflat walks on the North Sea beach offer a contrasting programme.

The **culinary delights** in northern Germany are as varied as the region itself - the choice is huge and the trend is towards fair, organic and regional food. Accordingly, there is a growing number of vegan and vegetarian restaurants and cafés. But the north of Germany also has a lot to offer when it comes to Michelin-starred cuisine; over 40 Michelin-starred restaurants invite you to enjoy exceptional flavour experiences.



If you prefer something a little more dignified, you will find fresh fish dishes and North German specialities such as Labskaus, kale and red fruit jelly in the classic and often historic northern german restaurants.

An absolute must, however, is the famous fish roll, which can be found in the coastal towns along the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. This savoury delicacy, filled with fresh fish or prawns and various sauces, is perfect for on the go - and typically North German. In Büsum, you can even experience the art of crab pulping live. There, fresh North Sea catch is processed by hand directly at the harbour. Not only can you marvel at the skills of the fishermen, but you can also pick and taste the North Sea crabs yourself, which are then used in numerous regional dishes.

The typical norther german charm can also be experienced when **staying overnight**. In addition to young design and boutique hotels or classified spa and star hotels, there are plenty of unusual accommodation options in all price ranges and for every taste with special, genuine experiences: Unforgettable nights in a sleeping beach chair directly on the beach of the North Sea and Baltic Sea, breakfast at sunrise on a houseboat on the Müritzn, waking up at lofty heights in a romantic tree house in the forest, feeding animals on a farm or a tiny house in the Lüneburg Heath.

The North offers numerous event highlights for very special moments: **Events and festivals** are in season all year round in the north. In addition to maritime festivals such as the Hamburg Harbour Birthday, the largest sailing events in the world, the Kiel and Travemünde Weeks, as well as the Hansesail Rostock, the North also has small-scale, lovingly organised festivals such as the Lübeck HanseKulturFestival or the Bremen Schnoorfest in the quaint city centres in its repertoire. Concert and art festivities such as the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and NORDart also enrich the calendar of events. Highlight of the year are the **Christmas markets** that take place all over the north. The cities are festively decorated with fairy lights, fir trees and poinsettias and tempt you to enjoy the obligatory punch paired with local and international delicacies like roasted almonds in the perfect Advent setting of historic buildings. Many stalls offer Christmas handicrafts: classic Christmas tree decorations and toys, but also regional products and unique gift ideas. A wonderful end to the year.

For further information please visit www.visit-northerngermany.com.

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