

# Places to visit

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## BIELEFELD

Bielefeld has a lot to offer and is wonderfully positioned, being surrounded by nearly 5,000 hectares of forest with 580km of good hiking trails. The 12th Century castle - the Sparrenburg - overlooks the large shopping area. In the old town there are many interesting old buildings to be seen.

Bielefeld itself is a busy city rich with arts and entertainment. The shopping is good here too with Loom Shopping Mall and IKEA being one of its most popular stores. There is entertainment of all kinds, (Bundesliga) football, a Tierpark, Burgerpark and Botanical Gardens.

### **SPARRENBURG (SPARRENBURG CASTLE)**

Am Sparrenburg, 33602 Bielefeld

For many Bielefelders and their visitors, Sparrenburg Castle is the favourite place to go for an outing.

Constructed between 1240 and 1250 by the Counts of Ravensburg, the castle has been rebuilt many times. Although often under siege, it was never stormed. After extensive restoration work, the castle is now an imposing historic site.

Visitors can explore the vast system of underground passages and climb the tower to enjoy a terrific view over the town and surrounding countryside.

Sparrenburg Castle also holds a yearly Sparrenburg Festival in July. History and culture of the late middle Ages come alive during this three-day spectacular.

Sparrenburg Castle Opening Times: Open April – October

Guided tours of underground passages and ascent of the tower is available.

Enquiries and booking visit: [www.sparrenburg.info](http://www.sparrenburg.info)

### **RAVENSBERGER SPINNEREI (RAVENSBERGER SPINNING MILL)**

Ravensberger Park 1, 33607 Bielefeld

Built between 1855 and 1857 the Ravensberger spinning mill became one of the largest flax spinning mills in Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In front of the main building is Rochdale Park, which was laid out in 1978 to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town twinning with Rochdale.

Since 1986 the former mill has housed the Bielefeld adult education centre, and an arts and events centre. They hold a Christmas market each year.

### **ALTSTADTER NICOLAIKIRCHE (NICOLAI CHURCH)**

Altstadter Kirchstrasse/Niedernstrasse

The oldest church in Bielefeld, dating from 1340. The chancel and nave are Gothic, the tower added later. Inside there is a priceless wooden altar with nine beautiful reliquaries, and over 250 figures carved in the workshops of the Antwerp Lucas guild in around 1520.

### **ST-JODOKUS-KIRCHE (ST JODOKUS CHURCH)**

Klosterplatz 1, 33602 Bielefeld

Built as a Franciscan monastery in 1511. Treasures well worth seeing inside are the Black Madonna from 1220, a wooden statue of St. Jodokus from around 1480, the 'Sufferer' by Guntermann from 1922, and the icon wall by Saweljew from 1962.

### **NEUSTADTER MARIENKIRCHE (MARIEN CHURCH)**

Kreuzstrasse, 22602 Bielefeld

Art historically Bielefeld's most significant building, this cruciform Gothic church with twin steeples. Priceless winged altar with 13 paintings dating from 1400. Starting point of the Reformation in Bielefeld in 1553.

### **ALTER MARKT (OLD MARKET SQUARE)**

Bielefeld's historic centre.

Impressive old Patrician houses, including the Cruwell House with its ornate late Gothic stepped gable from 1530. The staircase and hallways are decorated with over 7,000 Delft tiles dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the centre of the Old Market Square stands the Mercury fountain created by Volwahren in 1963

### **LEINWEBER-DENKMAL (LINEN WEAVER STATUE)**

Altstadter Kirchipark, 33602 Bielefeld

The Linen Weaver Statue created by Perathoner in 1909 is a symbol of Bielefeld's economic development, which started the processing of linen. Sparrenburg Castle and the Linen Weaver are Bielefeld's best-known landmarks.

### **STADTTHEATER (CITY THEATRE)**

Niederwall 27, 33602 Bielefeld

The Berlin architect Sehring built Bielefeld's municipal theatre and opera house in 1904. Its imposing façade incorporates a portico and obelisks within an Art Nouveau.

### **ALTES RATHAUS (OLD TOWN HALL)**

Niederwall 23, 33602 Bielefeld

Built next to the city theatre also in 1904. The two buildings form an architectural entity. Elements of Gothic and Renaissance were combined with other historical architectural styles.

A model of Bielefeld in 1650 is displayed on the ground floor.

### **GRETT'SCHER HOF**

Niederwall, 33602 Bielefeld.

A 16<sup>th</sup>-century nobleman's residence, with delightful oriels and stair tower. It is now the north wing of the Rats gymnasium, Bielefeld's oldest grammar school built in 1870

### **SPIEGELSHOF**

A manor house with ornate gables in the Weser Renaissance style, and lovely view to Sparrenburg Castle from its entrance. The Spiegelshof is the temporary home of the Natural History Museum.

## **FOOTBALL STADIUM SCHUCO ARENA ('ALM')**

DSC Armenia Bielefeld, Melanchthonstrasse 31a. Tel: 0521 131 415  
Bundesliga football club DSC Armenia Bielefeld plays its home games right in the centre of town. This modern stadium has space for up to 26,600 spectators, 15,400 seated and 11,200 standing.

## **SWIMMING POOLS**

See Clubs and Activities booklet

## **ICE RINK**

See Clubs and Activities booklet

## **CANOE TRIPS**

The rivers Aa and Were and several other local rivers offer excellent opportunities for canoeing. The organizers provide tailor-made itineraries for Sunday trips, company outings and weekend tours.

Contact: Rio Negro Kanutouren. Website: [www.rionegro.de](http://www.rionegro.de)

E-mail: [info@rionegro.de](mailto:info@rionegro.de)

## **GLIDING AND LIGHT PLANES/HOT AIR BALLOONING**

Sightseeing flights – transfers – training

Information: contact Bielefeld Airfield Tel: 0521 959 470

Website: [www.flugplatz-bielefeld.de](http://www.flugplatz-bielefeld.de) E-mail: [info@flugplatz-bielefeld.de](mailto:info@flugplatz-bielefeld.de)

## **WALKING**

Within the city boundaries, mainly in the Teutoburg Forest, there are numerous walking trails.

Stages of the 156km 'Hermann's' Way, a long-distance footpath from Rhein via Bielefeld to Horn-Bad Meinberg along the ridge of the Teutoburg Forest, and the 'Wappen' Way leading in a circle around Bielefeld, make ideal walks. Day tours on a number of other walking circuits, educational trails, and historic paths teach you about Bielefeld and its surroundings.

The Tourist Information Centre can supply you with walking maps and brochures with detailed information.

## **CYCLING TOURS**

The long-distance cycle paths R47 (from Dummer See to Buren) and R3 (from the Netherlands to Bad Pyrmont), the cycle/train route Teuto-Senne (from Osnabruck to Paderborn) and the wellness cycle route (500km circular tour through Eastern Westphalia) pass right through Bielefeld. There are also many other well signposted circuits. Suggestions on a wide range of tours can be found in the special cycling map 'Fahrradstadtplan Bielefeld' available from the Tourist Information.

## **OBERSEE**

This green recreational space, covering over 80 hectares, was created in the early 1980s as part of a large rainwater management system.

Over the years, its man-made 18-hectare lake has become a favourite attraction for nature lovers. Long cycling and walking trails stretch around Obersee, giving beautiful views from the highest points over the district of Schildesche and towards the Teutoburg Forest.

One complete circuit of the lake, 4km, is always an appealing challenge whether on foot or by bike. The park is a nature reserve, and therefore not available for water sports. There is a café and Beer garden for refreshments.

## **TIERPARK OLDERDISSEN (ANIMAL PARK)**

Dornberger Strasse 151, 33619 Bielefeld

Olderdissen houses round 450 animals, including many protected varieties. Excellent care has enabled the animal park to breed rare and endangered species like the eagle owl and raven. Since September 2000, the animal park features a special new attraction, in a very large enclosure, one of the most up-to-date in Germany, two majestic brown bears.

Turned into an animal park in the 1930s from a modest fawn nursery run by the town's forester, Olderdissen covers a large area in the Teutoburg Forest, surrounded by fields, forest, meadows and ponds. Admission is free and there is a good restaurant.

## **BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Am Kaklenberg, 33617 Bielefeld.

A favourite place for an outing close to the city centre is the Botanical Gardens, established in 1912.

A large plant collection and a variety of landscaped gardens in a tranquil setting tempt even the less botanically minded to visit. Numerous plants, including tropical varieties, present a colourful picture. The focal point in the Botanical Garden is an old half-timbered cottage dating from 1823.

## BAD SALZUFLEN

[www.stadt-bad-salzuflen.de](http://www.stadt-bad-salzuflen.de)

A very attractive town with a large park, (small entrance charge), and a 'petrified' hedge that has been crystallized by natural spa water.

## BAVARIA

[www.bavaria.by](http://www.bavaria.by)

Bavaria is an ideal all-year-round holiday area. It's beautiful, natural picturesque landscapes, castles and clean healthy air make it a perfect place to visit. One of Bavaria's most popular attractions is the Neuschwanstein Castle used in the film 'Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang'. If you like being active there is a vast range of activities, from walking to skiing. If you have the time a visit to Bavaria is well worth it just for the breathtaking views en-route. The HIVE has a copy of Bavaria – The Alpine Road Guide.

## BERLIN

[www.berlin.de](http://www.berlin.de) or [www.visitberlin.de/en](http://www.visitberlin.de/en)

Berlin is Germany's capital city, and one of the most interesting places to visit. Its history is fascinating with numerous museums and galleries. There are plenty of organised tourist trips, in English. Alternatively you can buy a tourist guide and discover its many treasures for yourself. The HIVE has also produced a Guide on Berlin.

## BREMEN

[www.bremen.de](http://www.bremen.de) or [www.bremen-tourism.de](http://www.bremen-tourism.de)

Bremen is one of those cities that you come away from feeling that you've been quietly impressed. Bremen manages to balance the new with the old very well. It has a very lively nightlife. The Old Town is something of a treasure with its little nooks and crannies, which lead you onto the riverside where the street cafes appear very cosmopolitan. The main square is very busy and fetes and festivals are quite common. It also has a new shopping mall called the Weser Park as well as a very good town shopping centre. On Sundays some of the shops are open, especially in the old town. Bremen is definitely recommended as a day or weekend away.

## BÜCKEBERG

[www.bueckeburg.de](http://www.bueckeburg.de)

Bückeburg took its first steps towards becoming a fully-fledged town in 1365 when it was granted the privileges of a village with its own church. Early 17<sup>th</sup> century Prince Ernst Zu Holstein Schaumburg made the town his residence and enlarged the castle and built an unusually designed town church. Today it is a thriving medium sized town.

### **Stadt Kirch – Town Church.**

This church was built in 1611 –15 and the interior must be seen to make the most of this attraction, with its Corinthian pillars, gold case of the massive organ, the most beautiful in the country. The Latin inscription running across the outside reads “An example of Piety not of Architecture”.

**Rathaus** – built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Bückeburg Schloss** - Dates back mostly to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Situated in a beautiful park where there is one of the largest mausoleums in the world. On the bridge over the moat are two bronzes of Venus and Adonis and the Rape of Prosperine.

The guided tours are conducted in German, but there are booklets available in English that guide you through each room.

### **Hubschraubermuseum – Helicopter Museum.**

Only one of its kind in the world. Educational displays, labelled in English and dozens of machines featuring all the famous names in helicopter designs.

Visit [www.bueckeburg.de](http://www.bueckeburg.de) for prices & opening times of all attractions

## DETMOLD

[www.stadtdetmold.de](http://www.stadtdetmold.de)

### **Detmold Schloss**

This castle is situated in the hofgarten (a park) to the north of the market. Bernhardt V111 erected the present building in 1549. The SE and NW wings were refurbished in 1705 and 1715 in the Baroque style. Up until 1918 it was the seat of Government of the Princes of Lippe. The interior reflects art and culture in a royal household from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Tours can be pre-arranged in English for groups.

### **Herman’s Denkmal**

The monument commemorates Armenius, who was a warrior prince of the Cheprusci tribe, originally allies of the Romans. Situated on the Gotenburg to the SW of Detmold. Can be reached on foot by gently ascending paths from the suburb of Hiddensen

There is a small charge for the car park and a small charge to climb the statue, but once at the top the views are terrific and the scenery can be viewed for miles.

## **Externsteine**

This is a group of bizarre shaped sandstone rocks that can be climbed. The highest being nearly 40 metres high. The rocks were once the centre of a pagan shrine and later a place for Christian pilgrimage. There is a small charge to climb the rocks, but be warned, you do need a good head for heights!

Location: Situated just before the town Horn – Bad Meinberg. Sign posted from Herman's Denkmal. There are also some pleasant walks around this sight and is an excellent picnic area.

### **Detmold Open Air Museum – Freilichtsmuseum**

This is Germany's most important Open Air Museum. It has original buildings grouped together according to their region with three simulated villages. Amongst the many attractions farmsteads, working shops, watermills, windmills etc and traditional crafts of weaving, spinning, pottery, milling and forging are demonstrated. You will need a stout pair of walking shoes, as there is a considerable amount of walking to do if you wish to see everything, Each building has information in English written outside, although a guidebook with many colourful illustrations can be obtained from the gift shop situated near the main entrance.

Location: Between Detmold and Herman's Denkmal. Sign posted around the town.

### **Adlerwarte –Eagles Watch**

Serves as a breeding station and clinic for birds of prey of which 90 are kept permanently. Demonstrations of free flight are performed daily at 11.00 and 15.00hrs.

Location: Berlebeck

### **Schiedersee**

Situated just past Detmold, Schiedersee can be reached by taking the road towards Bad Meinberg. On the same sign as Bad Meinberg will be the name Schieder-Schwalenberg. Take this right turn and continue along this road until you reach the village of Schieder (about 12km) Once in the village there will be a left hand turn with the word 'Schule'. Take this for free parking. Follow the footpath to the park. Here you will find a large outdoor swimming pool, water adventure pool, fun park for kids, boat hire and a café. Boat trips run in the summer.

### **Stuckenbrock Hollywood Safari and Amusement Park**

Approx 20 minutes from Bielefeld. Open from Easter till October. Leaflets available in the HIVE.

Visit [www.stadtdetmold.de](http://www.stadtdetmold.de) for prices & opening times of all attractions

## DORTMUND

[www.dortmund.de/en](http://www.dortmund.de/en)

A very large city, Dortmund offers Bundesliga football, a huge concert hall and Westfalenpark, - Small entry fee for admission to the tower, gardens, swimming pool, boating etc. Dortmund has a very good Christmas Market each year.

Tierpark Zoo – south of Westfalenpark, with over 300 native and exotic animals.

Head for Hamm and follow the signs for Hamm Zentrum. The park is well signposted from the town.

Romberg Park – is a show place for trees and shrubs. There is a small admission charge for the tropical house which houses plants, snakes, Cayman reptiles, terrapins etc. There is a Tierpark nearby.

#### ***Connecting Visits:***

#### **Bochum**

Berghau Museum – Museum of Mining.  
There is also a planetarium in Bochum

#### **Dattlen**

The lock is the largest of its kind. Signposted Schiffshebewerke.

### DÜSSELDORF

[www.duesseldorf.de](http://www.duesseldorf.de)

On the banks of the Rhine, the atmosphere in the old town is superb. One of the largest cities in Europe, it offers a variety of entertainments ranging from opera to Bundesliga football.

### GÜTERSLOH

[www.guetersloh.de](http://www.guetersloh.de)

In Gütersloh Mansergh Barracks you will find King's High School. Gütersloh also has a small shopping centre in the town centre where you can start the famous walk to Mohns Park - Entrance is free. Here you will find sand pits, playgrounds, paddling pools, open-air chess etc. Also table tennis, tennis, minigolf a pub and a band stand. Concerts are given here on Sundays during the summer holidays. Nordbad.

### HAMBURG

[www.hamburg.de](http://www.hamburg.de)

It has beautiful streets, which are interspersed with canals. You can even take a boat trip from the towns, non- working harbour. Hamburg's city centre is best summed up as 'the best of London's West End meets Amsterdam'. Hamburg's other well-known tourist spot, the red light area, is situated in the Reeperbahn in the St. Pauli area, approx. 10 minutes from the city centre.

### HAMELN (Hamlyn)

[www.hameln.com](http://www.hameln.com)

Nearly everyone knows the story of the Pied Piper. The play is re-enacted every Sunday from May until Sept (in German) at 12.00hrs at the Hochzeitshaustrasse in the town centre. The play is free, but it is worth getting there early if you would like a seat to be able to get a good view. Another feature of Hameln is the very pretty Alt Stadt (old town) where some of the craft and memorabilia shops are open on Sundays. You can also visit the Pied Piper house and museum, which covers the general history of Hameln.

The town's history first became apparent around the year 800 when the Imperial Abbey of Fulda founded a Benedictine Monastery near the already existing settlement of Hameln. Since then, the town can look back on a very eventful past. Being situated on the banks of the River Weser, Hameln soon became a traditional milling town and that is why the town's coat of arms includes a millstone.

Hameln town is delightfully situated in the broad Weser valley between two hills, the Klut and the Schweinberg. The old town has many half timbered houses and buildings in the Weser renaissance style. The town is delightful to walk around or to do your shopping.

### **Tour of Hameln**

The following information is to be used with the map of Hameln, as a do it yourself guided tour.

#### **Rattenfanger – Pied Piper's House.**

This building bears the name of the Pied Pipers House because of the inscription on the sidewall concerning the exodus of Hameln's children. It was built in renaissance style by Herman Arends the town Counsellor in 1602/03. The large reception hall and richly decorated front indicate a deliberate show of wealth. The whole façade is decorated with numerous ornamental designs of the late Weser renaissance period. The protruding bay windows resemble those of Leisthaus and the coat of arms is incorporated into the sills above the windows similar to those of a castle.

#### **Steftsherrenhaus.**

This picturesque timber framed house was built for the town counsellor Fredrich Poppendiek in 1556-58 and originally had four floors. This façade has been retained in its original design. The carved figures on the timber supports form the principle feature of this attractive building and represents God the Father, Christ, The Apostles, David, Simon, Cain and Able and the antique planet Gods. The master builder's choice of these motives is the characteristics of the renaissance style and bear's witness to our classical heritage. The façade was carefully renovated in 1969.

#### **Liesthaus.**

The master builder Cord Tonnies built this house for a local merchant named Gerd Liest in 1585-89. The jagged gable decoration with slender volutes above the attic has a rather bizarre appearance. Stone sills integrate the wide two-storied protruding bay window with the façade. The classically educated Gerd Leist has placed the antique figure of Lucretia on top, probably as a contrast to the cardinal virtues depicted on the frieze between the two stories of the bay window.

### **Hochzeitshaus.**

A former festival hall for the town citizens, today the registry office and town archives are housed here. A chime of bells and model figures of the Pied Piper legend are situated on the west gable. (These can be seen and heard daily at 10.05 & 11.05 chimes only, 13.05, 15.35 & 17.35 for complete play). The town council commissioned the master builder Eberhard Wilkening to build this Festival Hall for the town's citizens between 1610 – 1617. The solid and compact design, the high gables decorated with volutes and three portly dormer windows on the eve's side of the roof are typically characteristic of the Renaissance style. The lateral stone sills dividing the building into stories and emphasising the horizontal lines together with the plain and simple windows indicate that the master builder intended each dormer window on the ground floor for a wine merchant's shop, a chemist's shop and the local weights and measures office. The chemist Frederich-Wilhelm Steurner who discovered morphine once practiced in this building.

### **The Dempferhaus and Market Church**

The Dempferhaus was built for the mayor of Hameln, Tobias van Deventer or Dempfer in 1607 – 1608. Noteworthy features of this house are that the ground and first floors are made of sandstone, whereas the second floor and attics are of timber frame construction. These have been richly decorated with wooden carvings. Two coats of arms are situated above the Roman arched portal. The elegant two-storied bay window with its decorative roof increases the lively image of the sandstone façade.

### **Fischfortstrasse**

Fischfortstrasse branches off to the right from Backerstrasse. The diligence of the citizens and the skill of the craftsmen have maintained these half-timbered houses. The graphic effect of the timbered beams creates a special atmosphere.

### **Pfortmuhle**

Built in 1898, milling has been a tradition in Hameln; this is illustrated by the incorporation of the mill wheel in the town's coat of arms. This listed building was renovated and converted into the town library in 1990.

### **Rattenkrug and Lowenapoteke**

The Rattenkrug was originally built for a member of the Rike family in 1250 and remained in their possession for seven generations. The town mayor, Johann Rike had several alterations undertaken and a new façade built in 1568 – 69. The master builder Cord Tonnies created a completely new and austere façade with stepped gable and new form volutes. This work also had a decorative influence on the architecture in the prime of the Weser of the Renaissance period.

**The Lowenapoteke** or chemist's shop is an early style Gothic stoned building with typical arched windows in a high gable. The building has subsequently been extended towards the road. The hexagram situated in the gable is a sign for keeping away evil spirits from the house and family.

### **Munster St. Bonifatti**

Near the Munsterbrucke stands the massive Minster of St. Boniface (11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) with a Romanesque tower over the crossing topped by a Baroque crown. Features of the interior are the crypt under the choir, a 13<sup>th</sup> century tabernacle and a 14<sup>th</sup> century "Stiferstein" (Founders' stone) on a pier at the crossing, with figures of the founders holding a model of the Minster.

### **Rattehfanger Halle**

A new building situated on the waterfront which is used as a congress hall, many ballets, ice shows and large events needing a covered area are to be found here at various times of the year.

### **Kurie Jerusalem**

This building is an outstanding example of restoration work. The ancestors of the Fargel family, who still live in Hameln today, probably originally built it as a warehouse around 1500. Since being completely restored it now houses infants play school and children's music and art school.

### **Garrison Church**

From 1653 the Garrison's members used the town church for gatherings and special occasions and in 1670 they were given their own chapel. However this chapel soon became too small and in 1712 work began on a new Garrison church, which was completed in 1713/14. The church was built in the North German style and was used until Hameln Garrison was transferred elsewhere in 1861 when it was purchased by the town council and since 1929 has been a local savings bank.

### **Burgergarten**

Holds a variety of musical programmes during the summer months. It has beautiful flower displays and several fountains. The outdoor chessboard and children's play area are main attractions. At the entrance to the Burgergarten is the Tourist Information Office.

### **Wesreburgland Festival Hall**

This was erected in 1951 – 52. The theatre is the venue for plays, operas, concerts, musicals, ballets and other events.

### **Kunstkreis Art Gallery.**

Designed by Professor Oesterlaen, it has acquired an outstanding reputation for its art exhibitions.

### **Heptad Stone – Siebenlongsstein**

Other stories have been handed down by previous generations, one of these stories concerns the incredible report on the multiple birth of heptad (heptad meaning group of seven) babies on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1600 to Tile Romerand and his wife Anna. Apparently all seven babies died soon after birth, but this epitaph depicts the Romer family with a number of children including seven babies wrapped in swaddling clothes. Unfortunately there is no clear evidence of this multiple birth.

### **Pied Piper Bronze**

The sculptor Ulrich Nuss created the Pied Piper bronze, which was erected in the Town Hall Square in 1975.

### **Powder Tower – Pulverturm**

During the French occupation of Hameln, the Emperor Napoleon issued an order in 1806 to demolish the town's fortifications and they were actually destroyed in 1880. Only three towers of the town's defences were allowed to remain and unfortunately one of these was pulled down in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Haspelmath's tower**, (Haspelmathsturm) was named after an old Hameln family resident here since the 16<sup>th</sup> century and who used the tower to store their collection of antiques. It was then taken over by the Hameln Museum Society and has since become the property of the authorities.

### **The Lucking Family house – Luckingsche Haus**

A local corn and general merchant named Henning Wivhmann had this attractive house built in 1639 during the 30-year war. From 1900 to 1928 it was the property of the family Lucking when the town council purchased it. The richly ornamental designs together with high portal and recessed entrance are special features of the timberwork architecture in Hameln during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### ***Connecting Visits:***

### **Boat trips down the River Weser**

See beautiful Bodenwerter by taking a trip on the Weser, the Dampfschiffs leave at regular intervals from the Weser promenade.

### **Klut**

Old watch tower of the former fortress of Hameln, woodland walks and a play park complete with goats in the summer, wonderful views of the River Weser and Hameln. To climb the tower there is a small charge payable at the kiosk at the bottom of the tower.

### **Bismarkturm**

Erected in memory of the famous German Chancellor. The tower gives a fine view of Hameln. The quickest way to the tower is to walk northwest from Gordon barracks, but a pleasant ramble is from Holtensen Road to the Bismark Tower, then along then along the forest path to the historic Heisenkuche, returning to the Holtensen Road.

### **Hamelschenburg Castle** - About 10 miles south of Hameln.

This castle with a moat and a pool was built between 1588 & 1618 in the shape of a horseshoe and is one of the masterpieces of Weser Renaissance architecture. The wing overlooking the road is the most ornate.

[www.schloss-haemelschenburg.de](http://www.schloss-haemelschenburg.de)

## ***South of Hameln you will find:***

### **Bodenwerder**

This very scenic village is approximately 25kms downstream of Hameln. Idyllic home of the story-telling Baron Munchhausen, romantic river banks, fortified towers, centuries old half timbered houses, all that and more in Bodenwerder. Home of Baron Munchhausen, the King of the Liars. Like many a brave soldier he may have embellished the stories of his adventures a bit. These stories were fortunately written down and later even printed and brought him his unquestionable fame.

### **Munchhausen Mansion**

[www.muenchhausenland.de](http://www.muenchhausenland.de)

Notable as a residence of the famous teller of tall tales, Karl Fredrich Hieronymus Freiherr von Munchhausen, he was born here in 1720 and he died here in 1797. Satus von Munchhausen erected this unpretentious, sprawling Weser Renaissance building in 1603. It has been used as the Town Hall since 1935. A special room is dedicated to commemoration of the Baron and his tall stories.

### **Munchhausen Fountain**

An unusual fountain of a Lithuanian horse with liquid pouring out of its body, because its rear end was shot off in battle.

### **Bodenwerder in flames**

The outstanding tourist attraction of Bodenwerder is the annual Festival of Lights. Tens of thousands flock into the Weser town on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in August to be fascinated by the illumination on the water, on land and in the air. The climax of this colourful event is the splendid firework display. The Wesser Mountains around Bodenwerder are always fascinating. Especially worthwhile is a trip into the 'Ruhler Schweiz' the area through which the Weser River winds its way southwards, it charms the visitor throughout the year.

After a walk through the old town, you should never miss a boat trip on one of the liners of the Upper Weser Steamship Company Corona boats of Warneck's 'White Fleet'. It goes without saying that the Weser Mountains here with the Solling/Volger National Park, have a wide and well-marked network of footpaths for the wanderer. Four lookout towers in the close neighbourhood offer a wonderful panorama view over the Weser Mountains.

You can also get on a train of the Vorwhole-Emmerthal Local Railway to ride comfortably through the countryside.

### **Höxter**

Höxter is a charming city on the River Weser. On the first Saturday of the month from May – September there is a Hansel & Gretel play performed in the marktplatz at 15.00hrs that lasts for 30 minutes.

A short drive from Hoxter leads you to Sababurg

### **Sababurg**

The Sababurg is held to be the fabled castle of Grimm's' fairytale Sleeping Beauty. The Archbishop of Mainz built the castle in 1334 as a stronghold. It passed later to the Landgraves of Hesse who had it rebuilt as a hunting lodge. Today the castle is partly in ruins. The preserved parts contain a hotel and restaurant.

## HANNOVER

[www.hannover.de](http://www.hannover.de)

Hannover is a charming city, which has many historical links to England's royal family. When visiting Hannover the Rathaus is a must. Apart from the architectural interest, both inside and out, it also holds models of the entire city dating back from the 1300's through to present day. You can also climb right to the very top of the Rathaus and have a truly spectacular, panoramic view of the entire city. The city boasts many other attractions.

The town centre has many good department stores as well as an assortment of restaurants, bars and clubs, museums, theatres and an opera house. Another tourist attraction of Hannover is its zoo with its Gorilla Mountain and Jungle Palace - an experience for both adults and children.

Hannover is the present capitol of Lower Saxony. It has strong historical connections with British Royalty. Ernst August (title) married Sophie Von der Pfalz who was the daughter of Elizabeth Throne; their son George Ludwig became King George 1 in 1714. Until 1837 Britain and Hannover shared the same ruler, who divided their residency between the two territories.

### **The Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen**

The Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen are Hannover's greatest attraction. They are to be found on both sides of the road and feature very spectacular Baroque features. To the left is the Georgengarten, a beautiful English-style park, featuring trees and an artificial lake, crossed by two graceful little bridges. In this park is the Wilhelm Busch Museum (drawings, paintings and manuscripts; Heinrich Zille Collection). On the right is the Berggarten, a botanical garden with orchid and cactus houses.

To the south lies the geometrically designed Grosser Garten (the Great Garden). The best preserved example of an early Baroque garden in Germany, with a cascade, fountains, an orangery, and a garden theatre. Try to time your visit to coincide with the playing of the fountains.

[www.hannover.de/herrenhausen](http://www.hannover.de/herrenhausen)

### **Red Thread Line**

The "Red Thread ("Roter Faden") is a red line in the paving which guides visitors to 47 points of interest in the central areas (some of them only accessible by foot).

Tourist Information Office

Ernst-August Platz 8, 30159 Hannover

Tel: 0511 1682319

### ***Connecting Visits:***

**Hannover Zoo** – with its Gorilla Mountain and Jungle Palace - an experience for both adults and children. Leaflet available in the HIVE.

**Steinhuder Meer** – This large manmade lake houses the 18th century Wilhelmstein Castle, which is situated on an island.

**Dinosaur Park** – Leaflet available in the HIVE.

**Heide Park** (Soltau) Open - Easter till October. Leaflet available in the HIVE

## HARZ MOUNTAINS

[www.harzinfo.de](http://www.harzinfo.de) or [www.harz.de](http://www.harz.de)

As a quick guide take the A2 towards Hannover and follow the signs for the Harz, or come into the HIVE and we will print you out a route to the town of your choice. The HIVE holds a booklet on the Harz area.

The Harz, covering an area some 95km long and 30km across, is a range of hills, which extend farthest north into the northwest German lowlands. The higher regions are still largely forest covered, though in recent years there has been great concern over the dying of trees. Until 1990 the Harz was cut in two by the boundary between East and West Germany, which coincided with the topographical division between the Oberharz and the Unterharz. The highest point of the Harz, the Brocken (3746ft) was in the old forbidden zone close to the boarder, but now can be visited, either on foot, or by the Brockenbahn.

There are hundreds of places in the Harz worth a visit and it would be impossible to mention all of them. The following are just a few of the main attractions; we also hold a selection of brochures in the HIVE.

### **Bad Harzburg**

This is on the northern edge of the Harz on the old border of East and West Germany. The Grosser Burgberg (650ft) above the town can be walked up, or take the easier route of the cable railway. From the top are magnificent views of the area. The Spa Gardens often hold concerts and the town possesses several saline and sulphur springs. Just outside Bad Harzburg on the way to Braunlage is the beautiful Radau Waterfall.

### **Braunlage**

Braunlage is situated in the wooded upper valley of the Warme Bode. The Wurmberg (965m) towers over the popular town and has a cable car to the top. It is possible to walk one way and ride the other, or join the cable car half way up. There is a pub/café half way up and at the top. The views from the peak are well worth the effort. Next to the cable car is an ice rink. To the south of the town lies the attractive Kurgarten, and near this is the Heimat Museum.

### **St. Andreasberg**

This is the highest town in the Harz. The road to Herzberg from St Andreasberg at times runs parallel to the valley and features spectacular corkscrew bends. At the foot of the towns steep hill the Samson Mine has been made into a Mining Museum, known as Berbwerkmuseum Grube Samson. The prize exhibit being the "Fahrkunst", a lift for transporting miners to the pithead which is still in full working order with its 46ft wheel. Guided tours daily.

### **Herzberg**

The main feature of this town is the Welfenschloss (castle), which stands on the hill overlooking the town. This half-timbered castle was built in 1510. The lake in the centre of the town is nice for a ½ hour stroll, and another attraction is the tin figure museum.

## **Bad Lautenberg**

Bad Lautenberg lies on the southern slopes of the Harz, where the river Oder leaves the mountains for the lowlands in the west. The town dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century when copper mines were first opened. Today many visitors come because of the spa and to regain their health and also for the Oder Reservoir, 1 hour walk from Lautenberg. The dam was built in the 1930's for flood control and its surroundings are ideal for hiking and winter sports. The Stoberhau (2356ft) to the northeast of Bad Lautenberg has the finest panoramic view of the whole of the Southern Harz and you can see the Brocken to the north, and Kyffhausen to the south, where according to legend Emperor Frederick Barbarossa sleeps at a stone table through which his red beard grows.

Wiesbecker Teich, 30 minutes walk away has a pretty pool dug 200 years ago to supply water to Königshütte Iron and Steel Works. It is in a woodland setting and is popular for bathing.

## **Oker valley**

The main attraction is the Oker Reservoir built in 1956, the dam being 220ft high and 853ft long. The Romkerhalle Waterfall in the Oker Valley is 223ft high.

## **Goslar**

[www.goslar.de](http://www.goslar.de)

Goslar was founded about 970 when ores, especially silver, were discovered in Rammelsburg. Its name, Goslar, derives from the little River Gose. During WW2 there was a Prisoner of War camp situated in Goslar, which spared the town from bombing, and it therefore kept its original history.

## **Marketplace**

On Tuesday and Friday it is market day with specialities of fish and pastries, but it is best seen empty to appreciate it. In the middle of the square perched on top of the fountain is the imperial eagle, which dated back to 1200, although it is currently on its third copy.

## **Glockenspiel**

Situated in the market place. It chimes at 9am, noon, 3pm and 6pm. Its story starts with a knight and his horse. As legends tell the horse pawed the ground of the Rammelsberg and uncovered silver traces. When the boom began the Emperors moved in, and here a knight presents Otto 1 with a lump of silver. The remaining group show miners hacking their way from the Middle Ages through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century finishing with them in present day proudly displaying their state of the art equipment.

## **Rathaus**

Also in the square is the Town Hall built in 1450. Its most impressive room is the Huldigungssaal, or Hall of Homage.

## **Hotel Kaiserworth**

Also to be found in the square, this building was formally the guildhall of cloth merchants and tailors, it was built in 1494.

### **Marktkirche**

Situated behind the Rathaus. The market church, built of Romanesque and Gothic architecture, was dedicated to Roman martyrs Saints Cosmos and Damian.

### **Brustuch**

In 1526 a rich mine owner built this narrow house with a steep slate roof. The beams of the top story are covered with carvings from medieval life, folklore, religion, and mythology. It is known as the "Neckerchief" because the neckerchief-makers used to set up their stands in front of this house on market day. It stands at the bottom of Hoher Weg, facing the tower of the market church.

### **Kaiserpfalz.**(Imperial Palace)

This is the most famous building in Goslar, built in 1039 – 1056, to protect the ore mine in Rammelsburg. It is the largest remaining Romanesque palace complexes in Germany.

Adjoining the palace is St Ulrich's Chapel. Here the heart of Heinrich III lies buried in a heavy gilded capsule beneath a stone tombstone bearing the likeness of the Emperor.

**Zwinger.** A tower built in 1517 containing armoury and a torture chamber.

**Brier Tor.** Wide town gates with several towers built between 1443 – 1505.

**Doll Museum.** A museum of musical instruments, with a doll museum. Located in Hoher Weg.

### ***Connecting Visits:***

**Hahnenklee – Bockweise** – The foot of the Recksberg (727m) mountain, accessible by cable railway.

**Wernegerode** – A well-preserved 14<sup>th</sup> century town with a very beautiful Rathaus and other half-timbered houses with ornate facades.

**Quedlinburg** – UNESCO World Heritage town with a superb collection of timber-framed buildings.

### **HERFORD**

Tierpark Waldfrieden at Stadholzerstr 234 is a zoological garden with a wide variety of animals and an ape wood. The children's soft play area Springolinos is also found in Herford. The HIVE holds leaflets for both these attractions

## HILDESHEIM

[www.hildesheim.de](http://www.hildesheim.de)

Hildesheim's history goes back over 1000 years to AD815. According to legend, the city was founded after Kaiser Ludwig the Pious experienced what he took to be a divine revelation. During an outdoor Mass the Chaplain left a reliquary hanging on a rose bush. When he eventually came to remove it, it would no longer move. The pious Kaiser interpreted this as meaning that he should create a new bishops seat on this spot. A rose bush still grows in the Romanesque cloister of Hildesheim Dom and it is supposed to have been there since the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

White roses painted on the pavement indicate all the city's main sights. This trail of roses is some 5km long and covers 21 places of interest. The following are some of the sights; further information can be obtained from the local tourist information office.

- Rathaus – situated in the market place, was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- Templehaus – also in the market place, built 1490.
- Knochenhaueramtshaus – Built in 1529, situated in the market place. This is an almost perfect replica of what was famed to be the most beautiful half-timbered building in the world. Inside holds a museum.
- St Andreas Kirche – this Gothic building has an 114m high tower.
- Cathedral (Dom) – this has been designated by UNESCO as a world site and dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- St Michael Kirche – built between 1001 & 1033, it has been given the same UNESCO honours as the Dom.

This is a pleasant area for walking in the woods of the Hildesheimer Wald, the Vorholz & the Knebel.

### ***Connecting Visits:***

#### **Marienburg Castle**

[www.schloss-marienburg.de](http://www.schloss-marienburg.de)

Go west on the B1, turn right at Mahlerten to Nordstemmen. The Marienburg's position on a hill makes it visible from afar. Hannover's last king, George II built this castle for his wife Marie.

## IMMENHAUSEN

[www.immenhausen.de/glasmuseum](http://www.immenhausen.de/glasmuseum)

Witness the light and fire magic of yellow and amber glass in Glasshutte Sussmuth.

Glass Museum Immenhausen, Am Bahnhof 3, 34376 Immenhausen  
Tel: 05673-2060

## RHEDA-WIEDENBRUCK

It is a small town with a lot to offer. The variety of leisure pursuits on offer is comparable to a larger town. Walking, cycling, an indoor heated and two outdoor heated swimming pools, tennis courts, horse riding and crazy golf. There are regular concerts in the theatre and the old town has many old historic half-timbered houses. It also hosts many festivals throughout the year and has a really good, but small Christmas market.

## KASSEL

[www.kassel.de/englisch](http://www.kassel.de/englisch)

A big modern industrial town rebuilt after the war. It is here that the Brothers Grimm lived and worked. They collected folk tales from around the area and used them as the basis for their famous tales. There is a small Grimm museum in Schloss Bellevue.

The main point of interest however is the grandiose Wilhelmshöhe castle park and its monuments, on a hill just west of the town. It is one of Europe's greatest Romantic landscaped parks and slopes from wooded heights down to the city suburbs. At its upper end is a towering monument topped by a statue of Hercules. Below are waterfalls and fountains. Below the cascades are numerous follies, the best being the ruin of the medieval Lowenburg Castle. The Schloss itself houses a spacious museum, (Closed on Monday.). If you drive up behind the statue of Hercules, (clearly signposted) you get a memorable view down over the castle, park and town.

### *Connecting Visits:*

#### **Hann-Munden**

Picturesque town on the Rivers Fulda, Werra and Weser. Over 450 half-timbered buildings.

## KÖLN (Cologne)

[www.cologne.de](http://www.cologne.de) or [www.cologne-tourism.de](http://www.cologne-tourism.de)

The most famous place on the Rhine is Köln. It is a city of fascination with a two thousand year history and City vibrates with a zest of life. Dominating the City is the main Dom, which claims to have the bones of one of the Three Wise Men buried within its walls. Surrounding the Dom is a huge square where, for very little cost you can catch a mini tractor train to the Rhine, down to chocolate museum/factory or the Rhine where you can take a variety of boat trips. Both are close to each other in the old town area where there is also the Rathaus.

The Rathaus holds some very interesting historical artefacts as well as the entrance point to the ongoing excavation of Köln's first, original Jewish settlement. The area of the city that stretches along the Rhine is littered with restaurants and cafes whilst the city centre itself has an excellent shopping centre.

## LIPPSTADT

[www.lippstadt.de](http://www.lippstadt.de)

With its pedestrian precincts, narrow timbered buildings it is an ideal place to visit if you fancy a stroll. There are numerous parks with idyllic watercourses for you to explore, not to mention the moated castle ruin. The ruin can be reached by following an extremely pleasant footpath through the public gardens. There is also a Museum here.

## MELLE

[www.melle.info](http://www.melle.info)

Melle encompasses German life both old and modern. Within the area of Melle there are five castles and five churches, which have unusual and interesting interiors and artefacts. If you want to take a look at something a little different, why not visit any of the four mills. The two main museums in the area are the car museum (Automuseum) which is mainly classical cars dating back from the 1900's to the present day and the art museum (Alte Post). There are also 3 astronomy-viewing areas in Gronegaum Oldendorfer Berge and Gronebergpark. The most modern part of Melle is the 'Forum', which offers exhibitions, shows, live bands and much more.

## MINDEN

[www.minden.de](http://www.minden.de)

Minden came into being in approx 800 with the formation of the Bishopric of Minden by Charlemagne. In 977 Emperor Otto II granted the Bishop of Minden the right to hold markets, mint coins and levy duties. Construction of the Town Hall and its Gothic arcades in 1250 are in essence the oldest in the state of Westphalia.

The Battle of Minden took place in 1759. The allied armies from Hannover, England, Hessen, Schaumburg-Lippe and Prussia decisively defeated the French troops under Marshall Contades.

In 1973 thirteen independent municipalities and four parishes became the city of Minden.

### **The Coffee Museum**

The Melitta Coffee Company is based in Minden. In the Coffee Museum you can see how crops are grown and how the finished product is prepared for distribution.

### **Minden Lock**

The giant Minden lock (Schlacht Sclause) is like a huge lift for inland waterway shipping. In less than a quarter of an hour it enables boats to move from one waterway to another. Minden's pleasure cruises take visitors through the lock from one waterway to the other, a trip guaranteed to impress. The bridge in the town centre is the starting point for boat trips on the River Weser.

### **The Westphalian Mills.**

The area between Minden and Lubbecke has more mills than any other county in North-Rhine Westphalia. Milling and Baking Days are held each weekend from March to October. There are also several castles.

## **Town Centre**

The town centre boasts some fine buildings and impressive churches. Spend some time looking at the sights.

### ***Connecting Visits:***

**Bückeberg** – Approx 10km away, noted for its castle and helicopter museum.

**Lübbecke** – Approx 20km away. The museum of local history and an open-air theatre in nearby Nettelstadt.

**Porta-Westfalica** - Kaiser Wilhelm Denkmal provides beautiful walks and views. It is well signposted and has a café. Iron ore mines are in Klienenbremen.

**Varenholz** – Situated on the River Weser, it included a leisure centre for all water sports – water skiing, surfing, tread boats together with playgrounds, mini golf. A long sandy beach and a campsite.

**Potts Park** – Haverstadt. Adventure Park open Easter – October. Leaflets in the HIVE

**Rasti-land** – Adventure Park with rides for all ages. Open Easter to October. Leaflets in the HIVE

## **MÜNSTER**

[www.muenster.de/en](http://www.muenster.de/en)

Münster is a mixture of old and new. Much of the old has been beautifully restored and recreated. There are cloistered areas around some of the city centre and the Dom is well worth a visit. A river runs through the city and makes a nice restful change from the hustle and bustle of the large shopping area. The city's shopping area is quite large and very popular.

The University botanical gardens in the grounds of a moated Schloss are the ideal place for a stroll. There is an open-air museum, Mulenhof, which is open all year and the Allwetter Zoo, which can also be reached from a boat trip on the Aasee Lake.

### **Münster zoo**

[www.allwetter.de](http://www.allwetter.de)

Sentruper Strasse 315, 48161 Munster. Tel: 0251 89040

Parties are welcome, with reduced entrance prices for over 20 people. Family year tickets are also available.

Münster Zoo is well worth visiting. It is an all weather attraction that has a covered walkway connecting all the animal houses therefore making it ideal no matter what the weather is like.

The zoo also has a waterbus, Planetarium and a Dolphinarium with a dolphin and sea lion show. There is also an aquarium with all sorts of bizarre tropical fish, Piranhas, Morays, Hawksbill turtle and a giant Salamander from Japan.

## **Connecting Visits:**

### **Ibbenburen**

Ibbenburen is well known for its swimming pool and facilities. There are three outdoor pools surrounded by acres of grass for lounging around on and in the winter at least one of the outdoor pools is heated to 32°.

The fabulous indoor pools have a wave pool which is activated every 30 minutes or so and the place goes wild, just like being at the seaside! Another pool has large floating mats and huge tyres for the kids to play with, there's even a cavern to hide in. The indoor pools also have a diving area and a big slide.

Also within the town are a car museum and a motor bike museum, both worth a visit.

One final attraction of Ibbenburen is the Teuto-Express that goes to Bad Lear on selected days. The Teuto-Express is a steam train that has excursions through some of the most breathtaking scenery and sometime these trips can involve a canal trip too.

### **Sommerrodelbahn Leisure Park**

This park is set on a fairly steep wooded hillside to the south of Ibbenburen and it features several attractions. The first and most obvious being the summer toboggan run. The wheeled toboggans run on rails and have a fast descent to the bottom of a steep hill.

As you enter the park you will find restaurants and shops. A path climbs up the hill alongside the toboggan run. Halfway up you will find the station of the miniature train rides. On both sides of the hill you will see children's play areas and directly in front is the entrance to the Fairy Tale Wood (Marchenwald). An arched path winds through the trees leading you to huts containing fairy tale characters that move and act out fairy tales. Although the narrations to the fairy tales are in German, children and adults alike will find this walk quite fascinating.

### **Nordkirchen**

18<sup>th</sup> century baroque castle on an island surrounded by a moat. Known as the 'Versailles of Westphalia' there are several other so-called water castles in the area including Vischering.

### **Tecklenburg**

Tecklenburg is known locally as the 'Witch' village due to its occult history. Tecklenburg is a delightful village dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It's very traditional, old and attractive buildings make it worth the journey, especially when you can have a cake and coffee in some of the original houses that have now been converted into hotels and restaurants. Tecklenburg also boasts a castle that is now mainly in ruins but used at various times throughout the year as an open-air theatre.

### **Warendorf**

Warendorf is the equestrian centre for Northern Germany.

This is where the big names in British and German show jumping compete. In addition there is a large swimming pool and frequent aerial events such as parachuting.

## OBERHAUSEN

[www.oberhausen.de/en](http://www.oberhausen.de/en)

Centro is the largest shopping and recreational centre in Europe. There is a giant fast food area and promenade with another 20 restaurants and a vast selection of shops. It has a concert hall, Sea life centre and a theme park open Easter to October. It has a good Christmas Market and during January each year there is a display of ice sculptures well worth a visit.

## OSNABRÜCK

[www.osnabrueck.de](http://www.osnabrueck.de)

From Culture to cuisine – Osnabruck has the lot. At any time of the year there is a lot going on in Osnabruck! There are Spring and Autumn fairs to visit. During the May Week the entire city centre is filled with an open-air festival with live music, cabaret, food and the strong beer ‘Maibock’. It is a little more peaceful during Advent, when the Christmas market takes over the market place and the squares in front of the medieval churches

As well as boasting very fine modern shops, Osnabruck has almost all one could wish for in the way of artistic, cultural and sporting provision. The town’s attractions include a constantly developing and well-stocked zoo, a planetarium, museums, a local football team, theatres and innumerable pleasant walks.

Details on what the town has to offer can be found at the local Tourist Information Office, which is found in the town centre opposite the Rathaus.

### **Osnabrück zoo**

Am Waldzoo 2, 49082 Osnabrück Tel 0541 951050

Parties are welcome, with reduced entrance prices for over 20 people. Family year tickets are also available.

Osnabrück Zoo gives the impression of walking on a wooded hill. There are colourful forms of life in the tropical hall in the underwater world of the aquarium. The penguin playground, sea lions and the rhinoceros pen are always popular attractions too, but don't miss the elephants, giraffes and the many other animals besides. There are areas for the lions, wolves and African wild dogs, all offering a wide range of interesting opportunities to observe them. It is also possible to study the behaviour of the Amur tiger and the higher primates in detail. All small animal-lovers will adore the pens and ponds where cuddly animals can be stroked and patted; the ponds include the very tame Chinese Koi carps. There are café's and a large garden terrace with a playground nearby for the children.

## **Connecting Visits:**

### **Alfsee**

Alfsee is a great family area for outdoor activities. There are different lakes for many water activities such as water skiing, windsurfing and boat hire. If you prefer just to sit and watch the activities or to sunbathe, there is also a sandy beach around the smaller lake where paddling and swimming are also permitted. The go-karting area, with replica cars and trucks for children to drive, is also a feature attraction of Alfsee along with the trampolines and mini-golf area. Alfsee also offers camping facilities.

### **Bad Bentheim**

Bad Bentheim is best known for its castle, (or schloß,) which is one of the largest fortifications in Lower Saxony and is picturesquely situated on a cliff top. Since the 13<sup>th</sup> century it has been owned by the Counts (now Princes) of Bentheim and has been steadily grown. On one of the castle walls you will see the 'Lord God of Bentheim', a Romanesque stone crucifix which dates back to 1100. The castle is open to the public from March to October. Another interest of the town is 'Drusus Rock', known locally as 'cushion of the devils ear'. This rock is said to have been used as the judgement seat of the Roman general, Drusus Germanicus. However, is it more likely to have been used as a sacrificial site by the Celtic priests and Druids. The town of Bad Bentheim is very traditional and has many timber framed houses, which were originally servant's houses. The overall effect of the town is quite beautiful. There is also an open-air arena and a Castle Park, which is full of character. For those that like walking there are plenty of good walks around Bad Bentheim that allow you to appreciate and admire the excellent scenery and landscapes.

### **Bad Essen**

Bad Essen is a truly picturesque and historic spa town. The town/village is one of the prettiest in Northern Germany and is surrounded by beautiful landscapes and castles - the better-known ones being Schloß 'Hunnefeld and Schloß 'Ippenburg'. Unfortunately neither is open to the public. Popular destinations in Bad Essen include the Old Water Mill which is driven by water from the Schwannteich (swan pond) and the Salt Water Pools where you can swim indoors and outdoors and then head off to the 'curing' rooms for massage, body packs etc.

Another unusual feature near Bad Essen are the Dinosaur Footprints. You will find these 7 km away in Barkhausen.

### **Bad Iburg**

The village of Bad Iburg is centred around the castle, which is set high above the village. The castle is open at weekends to the public and has interesting historical links with Osnabruck and even the British Royal Family. The Schloss overlooks a small boating lake and there are lots of woodland walks in the area, ideal for walking or cycling around.

The village of Bad Iburg is easily walked around with a small but comprehensive range of shops. During the summer months, on weekdays there's a very popular cheese market. Just outside the village you'll find a lake, complete with fountain and ducks; great for walking or cycling around. There is a clock museum (Uhenmuseum) that has a collection of over 300 pieces.

## **Bad Oeynhausen**

This spa town hosts one of the largest car and cycle museums in the local area.

Aqua Magica is a day out not to be missed. A 20 acre landscaped park with natural water geyser, high ropes course and many playgrounds for young and old.

## **Bad Rothenfeld**

Directions: Route 33 to Osnabruck. Take turn off for Bad Rotherfeld. At roundabout turn right. At T-junction in village turn left then next right into the car park.

'Air as sweet as champagne and as fresh as a sea breeze'. Bad Rothenfeld is a well-known, widely reputed spa town. However, locally it is best known for its 'petrified' hedge, which dominates the town. The hedge is enormous and has been crystallised by natural spa water. Around the hedge, which is split in two sections, is a park. Not big for serious walkers but big enough for a pleasant stroll. The park has two large ponds with swan and ducks. There is also a paddling pool; crazy golf and children's play area. Whilst walking in the park you will also find such items as life size wooden crocodiles and horses. The town centre is quite small but does have a weekly market and the cafes and Italian ice cream cafes allow a real treat.

## **PADERBORN**

[www.paderborn.de](http://www.paderborn.de)

Paderborn entered history in 799, when Charlemagne held an important meeting with Pope Leo III, reaching an agreement that led the following year to the creation of the Holy Roman Empire. The site of the palace where this meeting took place was discovered during the rebuilding of the city after WWII. It is a lovely town with a large Dom, or Cathedral, which dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It has an excellent shopping centre with many old buildings.

From Paderborn you can also drive into the very pretty Sauerland.

### ***Connecting Visits:***

## **Bad Driburg**

Waldglashutte Museum, contains exhibits of Driburg crystal. Free entry.

## **Bad Waldesborn**

A little known spa town near Lippstadt. During the summer there is a concert most days in the Kurpark, which itself is a delightful place to stroll amongst the fountains and flowerbeds.

## **Lippsee**

Situated on the Sande Road from Sennelager. Ideal for a bike ride or a walk. It has a beach and there is also mini-golf and surfing.

**Lippstadt** With its pedestrian precincts, and narrow timbered buildings it is an ideal place to visit if you fancy a stroll. There are numerous parks with idyllic watercourses for you to explore, not to mention the moated castle ruin. The ruin can be reached by following an extremely pleasant footpath through the public gardens. There is also a museum.

## **Reitburg**

Lovely old town, with lots of character. There is an excellent carnival in February.

## **Wewelsburg** (drive time approx 40mins)

WWII museum and castle are close by. The castle is famous for being used by Himmler during the war as a retreat. Himmler also used it as a training camp for the SS during the war. Nearby he set up Neiderhagen Concentration Camp as a labour force for an intended rebuilding programme. Now it is a museum showing the history of the SS in Wewelsburg. It also has a restaurant and a Youth Hostel. Leaflets available in the HIVE.

## **SOEST**

[www.soest.de](http://www.soest.de)

A delightful medieval town surrounded by ancient walls. It is one of the oldest towns in the area. There are plenty of quaint old houses in narrow streets in the centre. There are 2 churches worth a visit: St Patroclus and a short walk away Wiesenkirche. Pumpernickel, the rye bread is made in this town.

### ***Connecting Visits:***

## **Mohndamm**

Probably the most famous of the 3 dams breached by the Dam busters in WW2 and now restored to its original condition. The Mohnesee reservoir behind the dam is very popular with the sailing fraternity and there are some pleasant walks in the wooded slopes surrounding the dam.

There are round trips by sightseeing boats in the summer. Brochures available in the HIVE. There are also sandy beaches, indoor pools, fishing, tennis, mini-golf, badminton, horse riding, ice sports, and water sports such as sailing, wind-surfing, rowing and canoeing. Bikes, ice-skates and surfboards can all be hired.

The British Mohnesee Sailing Club is based here, information available in the HIVE.

## **Biggensee and Atterhohle Caves**

The Atterhohle at Atterdorn claims to be the largest cave in Germany. There are impressive stalagmites and stalactite formations. Atterdorn stands at one end of the lake, it is possible to take a steamer trip on the lake in the summer.

**Burg Althena** – open all year except Mondays

**Burg Waldeck** – A vast complex overlooking the Eder Lake. Open March to November.

**Loh-Hof Open Air Museum** – Westphalian farmhouses on B457 towards Beckum. Head for Berwicke.

**Ramsbach Mines** (approx 8km from Meschede)  
Open to visitors, includes a 1.5km ride in a train.

## WUPPERTAL

[www.wuppertal.de](http://www.wuppertal.de)

The overhead railway (Schwebebahn) is the main feature of the town. It runs from Oberbar to Vohwinkel and is well worth a ride. There is a large zoo built into the side of the hill and a large swimming complex.

## WARSTEIN

[www.warstein.de](http://www.warstein.de)

There is a very large brewery here where Warsteiner Beer is brewed. Brewery trips are available if you contact them in advance.

Leaflets available in the HIVE.

An annual International Balloon Festival is held in Warstein each September.

### ***Connecting Visits:***

#### **Bilsteinhöhle Caves**

[www.bilsteintal.de](http://www.bilsteintal.de)

The Bilsten Caves were discovered in 1887. The guided tour lasts about 30mins. Explore stalagmites, stalactites and all its other structures that, over the years have been formed by the constantly dripping limestone.

At the lower end of Bilstein rock is a park where lynx, fallow and red deer and wild boar are kept. Entry to the park is free and it is open all year.

Nearby there is also an adventure play-park, a fitness park, and well marked wander paths.

## WINTERBERG

[www.winterberg.de](http://www.winterberg.de)

Winterberg is a well-known ski resort, whilst Kustelburg, although quieter, is very pretty. For a good view it is worth walking up to the top of the Kahler Asten, the highest point in all Westphalia.

The Bobsleigh and Toboggan track at Winterberg allows the public to try their skill (with the professionals in the sleigh for safety!). Guests will get a "Courage passport" in memory of their successful test on the bobsleigh and toboggan run. The bobsleigh run is 1600m long and the trip down (with an experienced driver) lasts about 60 seconds.

When you arrive the Tourist Offices are well signposted. They will help you find accommodation if you need it. It is also the place to pick up maps and get any directions you might need.

WinterbergTourist- Info. Tel: 02981 92500

For information on the run, events, the taxi bobsleighbing and tobogganing contact:

Erholungs und Sportzentrum Winterberg GmbH

Tel: 02981 7071/1508

Winterberg Ski - Hotline. Tel: 0190 51222

To hire skis, snowboards etc, look out for the "Skiverleih" sign. The quieter ones as you approach the area are probably best during busy times.

There are ski-schools here as well.

## THEME PARKS

The HIVE holds details on many Theme Parks in the area. Call in and collect a leaflet.

## FESTIVALS

You're not truly living in Germany until you've enjoyed one of its festivals. And that's easy to do, since they're all year-round! Call in and collect a leaflet.

## FACTORY TOURS

### **Chocolate Museum**

Imhoff-Stollwerck-Museum, Am Schokoladenmuseum 1a, 50678 Köln

[www.chocolatemuseum-cologne.com](http://www.chocolatemuseum-cologne.com)

Located about 5 minutes walk up the Rhein Promenade, right from the Romano Germanic Museum and the Philharmonie.

We hold leaflets in English about this museum in the HIVE.

### **Furstenberg Porcelain factory**

Meinbrexener Straße 2, 37699 Fürstenberg/Weser

[www.fuerstenberg-porzellan.com](http://www.fuerstenberg-porzellan.com)

Situated on the River Weser in the village of Fürstenberg near the town of Höxter. The factory has a museum housed in the family castle, also a shop and café.

### **Hummel factory**

W Goebel Porzellanfabrik, Coburgerstr 7, 96472 Rodental

[www.hummelmuseum.de](http://www.hummelmuseum.de)

The Hummel factory has a showroom with pottery and figurines. They have English speaking guides and show a 35 minute film in English on the Hummel making process. There is a counter selling seconds at retail prices.

### **Kaiser factory**

Auwaldstr 8, 96231 Bad Staffelstein.

[www.kaiser-porzellan.de](http://www.kaiser-porzellan.de)

### **Steiff Teddy bears**

Margerite Steiff Factory and Museum, Margerite Steiff Platz 1, 89537 Giengen  
[www.steiff.com](http://www.steiff.com)

The Steiff museum on the factory site offers a fascinating introduction to the world of Steiff, showing the evolution of the company from the early techniques to the sophisticated production of today. Steiff toys can be purchased at reasonable prices from the Steiff Shop, opposite the museum.

### **Swarovski Crystal**

Swarovski (Deutschland) GmbH, Postfach 920D, 87587 Kaufbeuren.

Swarovski crystal has its headquarters in the Austrian Tyrol, although they have factories in other parts of Europe. Factory tours are apparently only available on a limited basis for Swarovski Collector Club members. There is however a large shop attached to the main shop at Wattens.

D Swarovski & Co, Swarovski Strasse 30, A-6112 Wattens/Tyrol.

[kristallwelten.swarovski.com](http://kristallwelten.swarovski.com)

## CONCERT TICKETS

Tickets for concerts and theatre can be booked at:  
Bielefeld Tourist Information Office, Niederwall 23, 33602  
Tel: 0521 51 69 99  
Online booking: [www.bielefeld-ticketservice.de](http://www.bielefeld-ticketservice.de)

## FOOTBALL TICKETS

It is possible to obtain tickets for many football clubs in and around Germany.  
Below is a list of some of the clubs with contact details

### **Arminia Bielefeld Football Club:**

Tel: 0521 966 110  
Address: Melanchtonstrasse 31A  
33615 Bielefeld  
Club web page: [www.arminia-bielefeld.de](http://www.arminia-bielefeld.de)  
E-mail: [kontakt@arminia-bielefeld.de](mailto:kontakt@arminia-bielefeld.de)

Tickets can be bought in advance at the ground or on line on the club web page

### **Borussia Dortmund Football Club:**

Ticket hot line: 01805 309 000.  
Address: Borussia Dortmund Ticketing  
Rheinlanddamm 207-209  
44137 Dortmund

### **Bayern Munich Football Club:**

Tel: 089 699 31 – 0  
Address: FC Bayern Munich  
81504 Munich  
Postfach 90 04 51

### **1860 Munich Football Club:**

Tel: 089 64 27 85 100  
Address: TSV 1860 Munich  
81510 Munich  
Postfach 90 10 65

### **VfL Osnabrück Football Club:**

Tel: 0541 770 870  
Address: Scharnhorststr 50  
49084 Osnabrück  
E-mail: [info@vfl.de](mailto:info@vfl.de)

## BREWERY TRIPS

It is advisable to check with the brewery that the tours are in English when you book your tour.

**Becks** Am Deich 18-19, 28199 Bremen

Tel: 0421 50940

[www.becks.de](http://www.becks.de)

**Bitburger** Römermauer 3, 54634 Bitburg

Tel: 06561 14 0

[www.bitburger.de](http://www.bitburger.de)

**Herforder Brauerei Felsenkeller**, Gebr.-Uekermannstr 1, Hiddenhausen

Tel: 05221 965 210

[www.herforder.de](http://www.herforder.de)

**Hohenfelder Privatbrauerei**

Wiedenbrückerstr 155, 33449 Langenberg

Tel: 05248 8004 0

[www.hohenfelder.de](http://www.hohenfelder.de)

**Warsteiner Brauerei Besucherzentrum** Domring 4-10, 59581 Warstein

Tel: 02902 88 0

[www.warsteiner.com](http://www.warsteiner.com)

*Also try in Holland-*

**Grolsch Brewery** Brouwerslaan 1, 7548 XA Enschede, Holland

Tel: 0031 53 483 3333

[www.grolsch.com](http://www.grolsch.com)

**Heineken Brewery** Stadthouderskade 78, 1072 AE Amsterdam

Tel: (0031) 20 523 9666 or 523 9239.

[www.heineken.com](http://www.heineken.com)

## CAR FACTORYS/MUSEUMS

**Volkswagen Factory Tour:** Volkswagen AG Besucherdienst  
38436 Wolfsburg  
[www.autostadt.de](http://www.autostadt.de)

**Porsche Factory:** Porschestrasse 42  
7000 Stuttgart/Zufenhausen.  
[www.porsche.com](http://www.porsche.com)

**Mercedes Benz Museum:** Mercedes Strasse 100  
70372 Stuttgart  
[www.mercedesbenz.com](http://www.mercedesbenz.com)

**BMW Welt:** Am Olympiapark 1  
80809 Munich  
The visit of BMW Welt is free of charge.  
[www.bmw-welt.com/en](http://www.bmw-welt.com/en)

**BMW Group Munich Plant Tours:** Am Olympiapark 1  
80809 Munich

**BMW Museum**  
Am Olympiapark 2  
80809 Munich





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