

Hamburg



Hamburg is a world-renowned center of commerce, especially within Northern Germany. It is also a city of diverse cultures, all of which are accepted within the city.

The port is the second-largest container terminal in Europe and Hafencity is Europe's largest urban construction project. It is the gateway to the markets in north, central and eastern Europe, the bridge between continental Europe and the rest of the world and the most important overseas port for Scandinavia and central/eastern Europe. Harbor tours start from the 700 meter floating pontoon on the Landungsbrücken jetties.

The river Elbe, where the port is located, has been vital in shaping the city's development throughout history. The Alster lake is a recreational area in the heart of the city. Blankenese is an exclusive residential suburb; the baroque church of St. Michael is Hamburg's most famous landmark. The Speicherstadt warehouse district is the world's largest former warehouse complex – and last but not least there is the Reeperbahn, the renowned "red light district". Permanent exhibitions offer interesting insights into Hamburg's history and other specific themes. There are fascinating art exhibitions in the Deichtor Halls, two renovated market halls.

St. Michael's Church

Hamburg's skyline is defined by the steeples of its principal churches. The 132 meter tower of St. Michael, known locally as "Michel", is Hamburg's famous landmark. Climb the 453 steps to the viewing platform and be rewarded by fabulous views over Hamburg and the harbor.

"Speicherstadt" warehouse district

The 100-year-old warehouse district is between the Deichtor Halls and Baumwall. It is a very pretty quarter - not at all the kind of place visitors expect to find in an international port - with its Wilhelminian brick Gothic buildings, unusual gables and little towers. Behind the thick walls, high-value goods such as coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and tobacco are stored. This is also the location of the world's largest Oriental carpet store.

Altona Fish Market

It may be billed as a fish market, but there is just about anything and everything on sale at this lively, colorful Hamburg market that takes place early on Sunday mornings, and has done since 1703. There is a restaurant in the historic Fish Auction Hall, along with some live musical entertainment, to rejuvenate tired shoppers.

Address: The market is between Hexenberg and Grosse Elbstrasse Telephone: (0)40 380 120

Opening time: Daily 5am to 12pm; from 7am in winter.

www.fischmarkt-hamburg.de 

Warehouse complex

Warehouse complex (Speicherstadt), Hamburg © Hamburg Tourismus GmbH

The world's oldest warehouse complex, built of red brick with gables and turrets, is a century old and still in use for storing exotic goods from around the world. Known as the Speicherstadt in German, this historic section of the Free

Port between the Deichtorhallen and Baumwall has been turned into a tourist attraction by the addition of an open air theater, a spice museum, a miniature exhibition and an old Russian submarine open for exploration. Another attraction is the 'Hamburg Dungeon', an interactive experience showcasing the more unpleasant and gory aspects of the city's history. The Speicherstadt is illuminated at night, creating an enchanting spectacle, particularly viewed from a boat on a harbor night tour (Tel: 040 31 31 30).

Reeperbahn

Reeperbahn © Hamburg Tourismus GmbH

Hamburg's notorious red light district to the east of the city center in the St. Pauli zone has become its second-greatest tourist attraction, according to the city management. The Reeperbahn (Rope Street) is where rope used to be produced for the ships in the harbor. It is now a half-mile long street which, along with its cross-streets, is filled with bright lights and flirtatious prostitutes, crammed with bars and establishments offering erotic entertainment. The Reeperbahn became the neighborhood where sailors of old were encouraged to seek entertainment after they were banned from invading the city's more respectable areas in the 19th century. The district also boasts an Erotic Art Museum (at Nobistor 10A), which is privately owned and restricted to persons over 16.

Transport: St. Pauli (U3) or bus 36, 37, 112.



Hamburger DOM funfair

Three times a year, the Heiligengeistfeld is crammed with food and drink stands, fairground rides, stalls and much more. Fun and games, thrilling rides and interesting attractions - the DOM is an adventure for all ages! The DOM is one of Germany's largest funfairs.

The Alster Fair

The Alstervergnügen ("Alster enjoyment") is an annual street fair held around the Binnenalster which takes place throughout the first weekend of September.

The Fair attracts thousands of people every year to the Inner Alster. Over a period of four days, on a total of 15 stages and arenas, artists perform all kinds of music, dance, theater and sports. There are also plenty of food and drink stands. It is the biggest summer street festival and a highlight of the year for all the family

Deichtor Halls

The two dilapidated former market halls were renovated in 1911 to create two of the largest and most beautiful exhibition spaces in Europe. The Deichtor Halls show contemporary international art in themed exhibitions as well as individual shows from Warhol to Lichtenstein to Haring. There are also photographic works by names such as Newton, Leibowitz and Penn.

Hamburg Dungeon

The ancient, gloomy catacombs of Hamburg's historical warehouse district are the setting for the Hamburg Dungeon, a special kind of exhibition occupying an area of 500m². Not for the faint-hearted, the Dungeon is a combination of museum and interactive chamber of horrors. Behind its walls lie terrible scenes from almost 2,000 years of Hamburg

history. Actors lead the visitors into the depths of the past – starting with the Great Fire of Hamburg in 1842, to the terror of plague and cholera in 1892 and the life and death of the notorious pirate Störtebeker. A spectacular water ride based on the terrible storm floods of 1717 promises a terrifying and thrilling few minutes. Then the chamber of horrors awaits, with glowing instruments of torture, and fear, terror and horror. Open all year round.

www.thedungeons.com 

Panoptikum

The Panoptikum in Hamburg, established in 1879, is an unusual museum which boasts Germany's oldest and most extensive collection of waxwork figures. More than 100 realistic wax figures from the worlds of history, culture, show business and sport are displayed in appropriate costumes and settings. The interesting 1950s building is home to Goethe and Schiller, Napoleon, Cleopatra, Frederick the Great, Picasso, Uwe Seeler, Steffi Graf, Harry Potter, James Dean, Elvis Presley and the Beatles, to name but a few. Princess Diana and Michael Jackson are here too. The medical history collection is a little creepy, featuring waxwork recreations of a birth in breech presentation, a newborn, skin rashes, a collection of glass eyes and much, much more. Guided tours on request.

www.panoptikum.de 

Burg Coffee Museum

An enticing aroma welcomes visitors as they approach the premises of the Burg Coffee Museum in Hamburg. Coffee fans can enjoy the delicious freshly-brewed coffee while learning all about the green beans. The museum's collection includes traditional items as well as individual coffee beans before and after the roasting process. With almost 3,000 exhibits in total, including 900 different coffee grinders from grandma's days and an old bag-closing machine, visitors can learn a lot about this popular beverage, its history and its accessories, from the first filters (1920), to types of tea, spices, jams, drinks, etc. Guided tours and coffee seminars available. Closed on Sundays.

www.kaffeemuseum-burg.de 

Museum of Ethnology

Founded in 1879 and based around a small ethnographical collection, the Museum of Ethnology sees itself as a symbol of Hamburg's cosmopolitan outlook. One of the largest museums of its kind in Europe, it presents around 350,000 exhibits illustrating the history of folk art and culture around the world. A permanent exhibition entitled "A roof for all cultures" in the magnificent "boat hall" provides an insight into the museum's work with numerous rarely or previously unseen objects and photos. The vibrant museum involves its visitors on several levels. It regularly holds an international arts and crafts market where you can watch artisans from a number of countries at work and browse their creations. Closed 24, 25 and 31 December, 1 January, and on Mondays (except public holidays and arts and craft market days).

www.voelkerkundemuseum.com 



Speicherstadt Museum

In the authentic surroundings of an over 100-year-old dockland warehouse, the Speicherstadt Museum provides an insight into the everyday life of a docker. It documents the history of maritime trade in Hamburg, and shows what happened to coffee, tea, cocoa, nuts and spices before they found their way into the shops. Exhibits such as tools, equipment and sample goods

illustrate the work that went on in the docking companies and merchant houses. There is even a recreation of a female worker sorting coffee beans. Though her job is now obsolete, there's still a call for the lightermen, who transport goods by barge between the freighters and the quays. Also on show are historical photos chronicling the construction of this remarkable dockland warehouse. Closed on Mondays, guided tours available.

www.speicherstadtmuseum.de 

HSV Museum

Hamburg, known as HSV in Germany, is one of the country's leading football clubs. A 600m² museum celebrating their history is housed within their AOL Arena, a 2006 World Cup stadium. Visitors can learn all about the club, which was founded in 1887. Football fans will love the stunning range of memorabilia and historical football-related items. There are nine exhibition spaces, each with a different theme – for example "Emotions and Legends" and the old "Rothenbaum" stadium. There's even a soccer trivia tunnel! You can see trophies, match-day kit and Franz Beckenbauer's changing room. The 1920s ice-hockey equipment on display is a reminder of how German clubs often participate in a variety of sports. Frequent stadium tours give fans a behind-the-scenes insight into a top-level football team. An experience for all the family. Open daily. Disabled access.

www.hsv-museum.de 

BallinStadt Emigration Museum

BallinStadt Emigrant Museum opened in 2007 in Hamburg's Veddel district. The site was originally built by the HAPAG shipping company to accommodate the millions of Europeans departing for the New World. Learn all about the history of emigration, the way people travelled, and how their lives unfolded. You can even go in search of relatives in the huge research center – with access to the world's largest genealogical database of over 600 million entries. Between 1850 and 1939, Hamburg was the last port of call for some five million people. They hoped for a better life in the "land of opportunity", fleeing political and religious persecution, or looking to escape poverty and starvation. With passenger lists detailing the destinations of over five million people, BallinStadt is a unique historical resource. Qualified staff are on hand to help you get the most from your visit. Open daily.

www.ballinstadt.de 

Rickmer Rickmers Museum Ship

The SS Rickmer Rickmers, a 110-year-old tall ship and the floating symbol of Hamburg's Hanseatic tradition, has been open to the public since 1987. Located at the Landungsbrücken jetties, her exhibits and display panels illustrate the ship's tumultuous history and paint a picture of the beauty and the harshness of life on board. Built in 1896 in Bremerhaven, this fully-rigged steel vessel harks back to the days when sea-faring was powered by wind alone. The hull is 97 meters in length and around twelve meters wide, with a draught of six meters and a sail area of 3,500 m². She embarked on voyages all over the seven seas, transporting valuable cargo such as rice, bamboo and coal. Open daily.

www.rickmer-rickmers.info 


Cap San Diego

Dubbed the White Swan of the South Atlantic for her elegant beauty, the Cap San Diego is a unique reminder of an almost forgotten maritime era. This floating monument has been moored in her home port of Hamburg since 1986. Found at the Überseebrücke jetty, it is the world's largest museum freighter that is still seaworthy – a fascinating, hand-on experience that brings maritime history to life. Built in 1962, the cargo freighter boasts 4,000m² of exhibition space, chronicling shipping down the ages. The vessel itself is also a sight to behold, both inside and out. Lots of equipment is on display, and virtually every corner can be explored -from the shaft tunnel in the depths of the ship to the bridge up above. There is also a focus on the thoughts and feelings of the five million emigrants who departed Europe between 1850 and 1934. For them, Hamburg was the "Gateway to the World". Open daily.

www.capsandiego.de 

U-Boat Museum

Hamburg's Baakenhafen is the new home of the U-434, one of the world's largest non-nuclear submarines. A fascinating, informative tour of this undersea craft is not to be missed. Built in 1976 in Nizhny Novgorod, this Tango class U-Boot had a maximum operating depth of 400 meters. Until 2002, it was part of Russia's Northern Fleet and was subject to the utmost secrecy. The U-434 was an espionage submarine used in special operations. These included clandestine missions off the East Coast of the USA and long-distance patrols in the territorial waters of the Soviet Union. Its specially designed rubber coating made it virtually invisible to the sonar devices employed by Western intelligent services. At stealth speed, the submarine was propelled by four electric engines. A behind-the-scenes guided tour of the U-434 takes visitors on a journey into the world of espionage and the spartan lives led by the undersea crew. Information boards explain the submarine's complex technology in a simple, straightforward manner. Open daily.

www.u-434.de 


Zoological and Botanical Museum

In an area covering 2,000m², the museum displays around ten million zoological specimens from almost 90,000 species. The Animal Kingdom is represented by insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish, mollusks, birds, mammals and invertebrates. There's even acoustic accompaniment in the form of whale and birdsong. Experts rate the zoological collections as some of the most important in Germany. The botanical section exhibits the various plants cultivated by humans. These include spices, fibrous plants, natural rubber, oil plants, sugar plants, dye plants, cereals and indigenous fungi. Among the highlights are an enormous strangler fig from Cameroon and the largest seed in the plant world – the coco de mer or "Seychelles nut". Special exhibitions and guided tours complement the wide range of attractions. Closed on Mondays and public holidays.

www.biologie.uni-hamburg.de 

Hagenbeck Zoo

In 1907 Carl Hagenbeck (1844-1913) fulfilled his dream by opening a zoo just outside Hamburg. With a great mix of wildlife, parkland and culture, it makes for an ideal day out. Hagenbeck's prestigious zoological garden is one of the most important in Europe, and its panoramic views and open-air enclosures still influence modern day zoo architecture. Over 2,500 animals from 360 species have been gathered from every corner of the globe. They live in natural surroundings in spacious outdoor environments. Orangutans, Asian elephants and giant otters from South America have all found sanctuary at Hagenbeck. You can feed giraffes or baby camels, and watch free-flying macaws and pelicans, and the huge elephant enclosure is always popular. Opened in 2007, the aquarium and reptile house is home to 13,000 exotic animals, including sharks, moray eels, Nile crocodiles, anacondas, bats, cave fish and scorpions. Spread across an astounding 7,000m², it contains 31,000 liters of fresh water and two million liters of saltwater. Open daily all year round.

www.hagenbeck.de 

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www.cometogermany.com 

www.germany-tourism.de 

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