



CULTURE AND EDUCATION

University, colleges and lots of culture – a widely varied programme in a richly diverse city

Hildesheim is home to a widely varied, broad-ranging cultural scene. The renowned **ROEMER- UND PELIZAEUS-MUSEUM**, with its world-famous, 100-year-old Ancient Egyptian collection, one of the largest Ancient Peruvian collections in Europe and the impressive paleontological collection has a distinguished reputation that goes far beyond the borders of the region. The museum also organizes high-profile special displays on a regular basis.

The heart of the **THEATRE FOR LOWER SAXONY (TFN)** also beats in Hildesheim. The TFN was created by the amalgamation of the Hildesheim City Theatre and the Hannover State Theatre and has had its head office in Hildesheim since then. In addition to the permanent venues in Hildesheim and Hannover, the theatre company also travels to more than 50 other venues throughout Lower Saxony and has made a name for itself with theatre performances, musicals, operas and concerts.

With concerts organised by the 'Kulturring' (Cultural Ring) or events staged in the 'Bischöfsmühle' (Bishop's Mill), the traditional **JAZZTIME** and the **M'ERA LUNA FESTIVAL** for Gothic fans, galleries, some of which feature spectacular exhibitions, and the 'KulturFabrik' (Cultural Factory), a venue for the free cultural scene in Hildesheim – the city offers a widely diverse, broad range of cultural activities.

Hildesheim owes its rich diversity in the field of education not least to more than 10,000 of students who take advantage of the many courses of study offered at the **UNIVERSITY OF HILDESHEIM**, the **UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS OF HILDESHEIM/HOLZMINDEN/GÖTTINGEN (HAWK)** and the **NORTH GERMAN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANTS**. Lifelong learning – that's something you can find in Hildesheim. The educational landscape here provides optimal coverage for all types of schools. The local community college, the **VOLKSHOCHSCHULE HILDESHEIM**, and the **HILDESHEIM SCHOOL OF MUSIC** round out the offer.

PHOTO TOP Theatre for Lower Saxony © TFN, photographer: Andreas Hartmann
PHOTO BOTTOM 'Pflasterzauber' – Street art festival in downtown Hildesheim



WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORY

UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites and historical sites

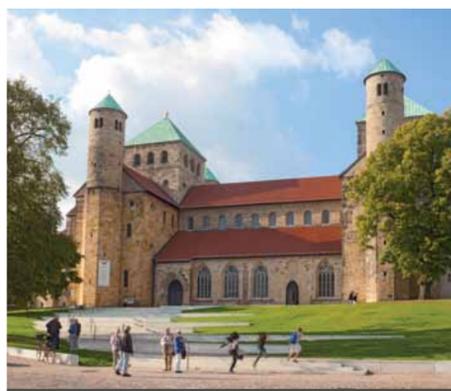
Hildesheim makes history come to life. Originally founded in the 9th century A.D., the city still has cultural assets of intrinsic value to show from that time. The UNESCO honoured this by adding both **St. Michael's Church** and **St. Mary's Cathedral** with its bronze castings – Christ's pillar and the Bernwardian door – to the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites in 1985.

St. Michael's Church has a monumental painted ceiling dating from the 13th century. It depicts the lineage of Jesus Christ and makes St. Michael's one of the most beautiful early Romanesque churches in Germany. No less spectacular is the **HILDESHEIM CATHEDRAL TREASURY**, which is one of Europe's largest church treasures: Its precious objects are on display in the Cathedral Museum. **THE 1000-YEAR-OLD ROSEBUSH**, which still blooms each spring at the apse of the Cathedral, is also widely known. After being refurbished and restored for five years, the Cathedral was once again opened in August 2014.

The **HISTORICAL QUARTER** takes us back to the early history of the city. This is where approximately 1,900 magnificent half-timbered buildings once stood. On March 22, 1945, about 90 % of this historical quarter was destroyed during an air raid in WW II. The old streets that still remain intact show how beautiful this part of the city must have been. The 'Wernersches Haus' opposite St. Godehard's Church is also a sight worth seeing.

THE HISTORICAL MARKET SQUARE, with its impressive half-timbered buildings, forms a bridge to the present. From 1984 to 1990, it was reconstructed on the basis of the original plans on the initiative of the citizens of Hildesheim and with the help of generous donations. The famous **BUTCHERS' GUILDHALL** houses the **CITY MUSEUM**, which invites visitors to travel back in time through the history of the city and the region. The reconstructed **'UPENDED SUGAR-LOAF'** on St. Andrew's square, which was also rebuilt on the basis of the original plans in 2010, is another jewel in the city.

PHOTO TOP St. Mary's Cathedral – UNESCO World Heritage church © Bishop's Press Office Hildesheim, photographer: Ina Funk
PHOTO BOTTOM St. Michael's Church – UNESCO World Heritage church © Hildesheim Marketing, photographer: Nina Weymann-Schulz



NATURE AND HEALTH

Beautiful greenery all around – a place to enjoy the outdoors and relax

Forests, lakes, idyllic parklands – nestled in the foothills of low mountain ranges – combine the city feeling in Hildesheim with its natural surroundings.

In summer as well as in winter, the people of Hildesheim love to go outdoors. **THE HOHNSEN LAKE** recreation area, embraced by **THE INNERSTE RIVER** and the Innerste flood basin, becomes a natural skating rink in the winter and refreshes the many adventurous bathers in the summer. Families with small children enjoy the fine **SANDY BEACH** in the neighbouring **OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL, THE 'JOHANNISWIESE'**, and schoolchildren from all over Lower Saxony anxiously await the start of the summer holiday courses at **THE CANOE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE** each year.

Anyone in search of some real peace and quiet is drawn to **THE 'ERNST-EHRLICHER PARK'**. The park, which is approx. 12 acres in size, conveys a sense of relaxation and repose with its old trees, idyllic ponds and secluded park benches. Play-

grounds and sunbathing lawns make the park a popular place to meet.

Joggers like to run their rounds on the green **KEHRWIEDERWALL**, the remnants of the city fortifications. Hikers will also find what they are looking for in the great outdoors in Hildesheim – theme hikes in **THE HILDESHEIM FOREST** and around **THE 'GALGENBERG'** are no longer the insider tips they used to be. Cyclists can expect to find well-developed bicycle paths and well-signed routes on a total of approx. 430 kilometres throughout the **REGION OF HILDESHEIM**. The main route includes the **LEINE-HEIDE BICYCLE PATH**, the **INNERSTE BICYCLE PATH**, the **BICYCLE PATH TO ART**, the **CULTURAL ROUTE** and **AMBERGAU BICYCLE PATH** (new from July 2015) and the **HI-RING**.

Healthy living is a top priority in Hildesheim – evidenced not only by the abundance of nature but by the steady growth of the health care sector as well. **THE HELIOS KLINIKUM HILDESHEIM** and **St. BERNWARD HOSPITAL** with the affiliated **MEDICAL SPECIALISTS' CENTRES** as well as the many doctors in private practice have a permanent place in supplying the city of Hildesheim with excellent medical and

PHOTO TOP Roses in bloom in the Baroque Magdalena Gardens
PHOTO BOTTOM 'Ernst-Ehrlicher Park'



THE HISTORY OF HILDESHEIM

From Louis the Pious to the 1,200-year anniversary in the year 2015 – the history of Hildesheim is impressive, indeed

815	Louis the Pious founds bishopric of Hildesheim.
872	Bishop Altfried consecrates first stone cathedral.
11th century	Bishop Bernward (993-1022) builds St. Michael's Church. St. Michael's Church is consecrated in 1022. The canonisation of Bishop Bernward and his successor, Bishop Godehard (1022-1038) transforms the city into a pilgrimage centre.
1196	Founding of a competitive settlement to the west of the city for Flemish colonists: 'Dammstadt' (dam city).
ca. 1215	Founding of the 'Neustadt' (new city).
1345	Participation of the guilds in the city government.
1367	Hildesheim joins the Hanseatic League.
1460	End of the internal constitutional conflicts.
1583	Unification of the old and new parts of the city (Final unification in 1806).
1802 – 03	Secularisation of former Hildesheim monastery.
1813	Hildesheim falls to the Kingdom of Hannover.

1859	Opening of the Roemer-Museum in the Martini Church.
1866	The city becomes Prussian.
1911	Opening of the Pelizaeus-Museum with collections of Ancient Egyptian art of international renown.
1938	Destruction of the synagogue in Hildesheim.
1944 – 45	The city is destroyed by air raids.
1970/71	Founding of the college (university since 1989) and the technical college.
1974	Population of more than 100,000: Hildesheim attains big-city status until 2013.
1985	The UNESCO declares the World Cultural Heritage of humanity in Hildesheim.
up to 1990	Reconstruction of the historical market square.
2009	The Butchers' Guildhall celebrates the 20-year anniversary of its reconstruction.
2010	The laying of the cornerstone of St. Michael's Church celebrates its 1,000-year anniversary.
2011	The Ancient Egyptian collection of the Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum celebrates its 100-year anniversary.
2015	Large scale celebration of 1,200 years of Hildesheim', the anniversary of the founding of the city and bishopric.

PHOTO TOP Historical market square © Hildesheim Marketing, photographer: Leif Obornik
PHOTO BOTTOM Certificate on the Covenant, 1345 © City Archive Hildesheim



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH STEEPLE

Of all the well-known landmarks in Hildesheim, the steeple of St. Andrew's Church is certainly the most prominent. 114.5 metres high – the highest steeple in Lower Saxony – it literally 'towers' far above the roofs of the city. 364 steps take visitors to the viewing platform at a height of 75 metres.

For more information, go to: www.hildesheim.de/churches

Admission (Subject to change without notice)
Adults € 2.50
Reduced price* € 2.00

*Children, pupils, holders of handicapped ID, pensioners with ID, Social Card holders, groups of 10 and more

It is also possible to climb up the tower outside of the regular opening hours, during the winter break during a guided city tour or on request for a service fee of € 13.00 plus admission.

CITY TOURS

'GETTING TO KNOW HILDESHEIM'

The 2-hour walking tour is the ideal way to get a first overall impression of the history of the city, the UNESCO World Heritage sites and to see the other most important sights (tours in German).

(Subject to change without notice)
April 1 to October 31
Daily at 2 p.m.

November 1 to March 31
Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm, tours on 24 and 31 December at 11 am, no tours on 25, 26 December and 1 January.

(Subject to change without notice)
€ 7.00 per person, families € 14.50 (2 adults + 3 children up to 12 years) or € 9.00 (1 adult + 3 children up to 12 years)

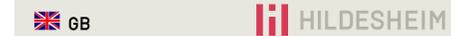
Under the arcades in front of the City Hall on the historical market square. No advance reservation required for single persons and small groups.

PHOTO TOP St. Andrew's steeple
PHOTO BOTTOM Historical city model



A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO HILDESHEIM

World.Culture.Heritage.



SERVICE, ADVISING AND BOOKING

WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE REGARDING

- UNESCO World Heritage sites: St. Michael's Church and St. Mary's Cathedral Hildesheim and Fagus Factory in Alfeld
- Accommodation and arrangements
- Meeting and conference services
- Guided tours and costumed tour guides
- Guided tours in the region
- Segway tours through Hildesheim
- Climbing the St. Andrew's church tower
- Hiring e-bikes
- Souvenirs, travel guides, books and maps (also online at www.hildesheim.de/online-shop)
- Special exhibitions in the museums
- Events and festivals
- Cycling, hiking and walking tours
- Sights to see in and around Hildesheim and much more

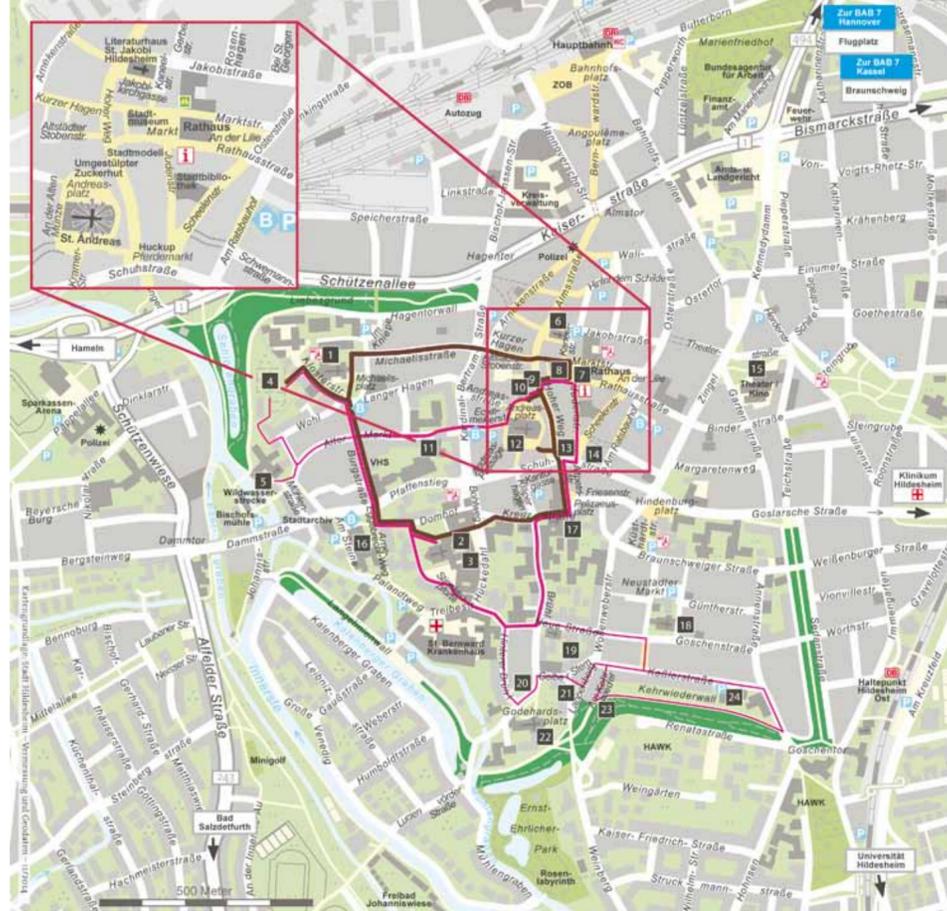
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HILDESHEIMMARKETING HILDESHEIM





WELCOME TO HILDESHEIM

DEAR GUESTS,

unique World Cultural Heritage sites, world-famous exhibits, historical half-timbered buildings, a colourful cultural scene and attractive shopping opportunities with a beautifully picturesque surrounding countryside – your stay in Hildesheim promises to be very interesting, indeed.

The Bishopric of Hildesheim was first founded in 815 and Bishop Bernward and Bishop Godehard both played an integral role in shaping the bishopric and the city. Today, you will find a widely varied offer spanning culture, nature and lots of history in a modern, flourishing city with a population of about 100,000.

Of course, the main focus is on the World Cultural Heritage sites – St. Michael's Church and St. Mary's Cathedral with its unique bronze castings – but these are only part of the many notable sights that Hildesheim has to offer and the other treasures that you will discover.

You have probably already heard of the famous 1000-year-old rosebush. The legend of the rose at the apse of the Cathedral goes back to a moment of carelessness on the part of Louis the Pious – the son of Charlemagne – who fastened his St. Mary's reliquary to a bush to pray and then forgot it there. When he went back to retrieve it, it was firmly intertwined with a bush, which was later identified as a rosebush. Louis the Pious considered this as a sign from God and built a chapel on the spot, the birthplace of the bishopric and the city of Hildesheim.

Hildesheim's **TOUR GUIDES AND COSTUMED GUIDES** have this and other interesting stories to tell. Let them take you back in time to experience a part of history the way it was in days gone by.

Hildesheim is also very rich in terms of culture. The Roemer-und Pelizaeus-Museum boasts one of the most important Ancient Egyptian collections in the world. The Cathedral Museum is home to precious objects that are part of the most important church treasures in Europe. The reconstructed historical market square with the famous Butchers' Guildhall is also a very impressive sight.

In Lower Saxony, however, Hildesheim has really made a name for itself in the theatre scene – the Theatre for Lower Saxony (TfN) plays for the entire state from this home base here in Hildesheim. But the free theatre and cultural scene and the more than 10,000 students also make Hildesheim a city filled with energy and creativity.

Immerse yourself into the vibrant life – learn more about the many different facets of the city and its people.

WE BID YOU A WARM WELCOME TO HILDESHEIM!

To find out more about Hildesheim on the Internet, please go to www.hildesheim.de/english

PHOTO TOP Tour guide in historical costume
PHOTO TOP RIGHT E-bikes on the historical market square
PHOTO BOTTOM RIGHT View of St. Michael's Church

A LOT TO SEE AND EXPERIENCE IN HILDESHEIM

- 1 ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH – UNESCO**
The early Romanesque church is an outstanding example of Romanesque-Ottonian architecture and has been on the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage since 1985.
- 2 ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL WITH ROSEBUSH – UNESCO**
St. Mary's Cathedral, which has been on the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage since 1985, is famous for its bronze castings and the legendary 1000-year-old rosebush at the Cathedral apse.
- 3 CATHEDRAL MUSEUM – UNESCO**
The Museum is home to precious objects, marking the history of the Cathedral and the Cathedral treasure, which is also on the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage.
- 4 MAGDALENA GARDENS**
The Magdalena Gardens were redesigned in Baroque style.
- 5 ST. MAGDALENA'S CHURCH**
The church was originally the first convent in Hildesheim.
- 6 ST. JACOB'S HOUSE OF LITERATURE**
The 500-year-old pilgrimage church is now used as a city and cultural church for literature.
- 7 HISTORICAL MARKET SQUARE**
The market square, which was rebuilt according to the original plans, combines the historical with the modern.
- 8 BUTCHERS' GUILDHALL AND CITY MUSEUM**
The exhibitions take you back in time through the history of the city and the region.
- 9 CITY MODEL**
The city model portrays Hildesheim as a fortified city with moats, walls and bastions.
- 10 THE UPENDED SUGARLOAF**
The reconstructed building gets its name from the way it looks: like an upended sugarloaf.
- 11 'KAISERHAUS' FAÇADE**
Roman statues and emperor portrait profiles of the former Renaissance building decorate the façade.
- 12 ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**
At 114.5 metres, the Gothic church boasts the highest church steeple in Lower Saxony.



- Tourist-information
- Car park
- Hospital
- Coach parking
- Bike boxes
- Public toilets
- Pedestrian zone
- World Heritage Path
- Rose Route with additional routes

- 13 HUCKUP (MONUMENT)**
The bronze monument portrays a man who has stolen a bag of apples and has the weight of a goblin (his guilty conscience) on his back.
- 14 HORSE MARKET (MONUMENT)**
A bright blue horse on the pavement reminds us that this was once the horse market in Hildesheim.
- 15 THEATRE FOR LOWER SAXONY (TfN)**
Musical theatre, plays, musicals, concerts, children's and young people's theatre are all featured in the 100-year-old city theatre.
- 16 ROEMER-UND PELIZAEUS-MUSEUM**
The museum is world-renowned for its ancient Egyptian collection and different special exhibitions.
- 17 HOLY CROSS CHURCH**
The central aisle of the church is Romanesque, the south side aisle Gothic and the north side aisle Baroque.
- 18 ST. LAMBERT'S CHURCH**
The Peter-and-Paul altar and the Baroque organ are sights worth seeing in the late Gothic church.
- 19 HALF-TIMBERED QUARTER WITH THE NEISSER ARCHIVE**
Exhibits from the Upper Silesian Neiss region are on display in the old half-timbered building.
- 20 'WERNERSCHES HAUS'**
The 'Wernersches Haus' is one of the most beautiful half-timbered buildings.
- 21 MEMORIAL ON THE 'LAPPENBERG'**
Remembrance of the persecution of the Jews on the spot where the former synagogue stood.
- 22 ST. GODEHARD'S CHURCH**
Romanesque church that has remained virtually unaltered in its original form today.
- 23 'KEHRWIEDER' TOWER**
The last remaining city gate of the old city fortifications.
- 24 'LOGENHAUS'**
The Lodge House has been owned by the Hildesheim Free Masons since 1804, which makes it one of the oldest buildings in Germany to be used as a lodge house almost without interruption.

PHOTO BOTTOM LEFT Christmas market in Hildesheim © Van der Valk Hotel
PHOTO BOTTOM Hezilo chandelier in St. Mary's Cathedral © Bishop's Press Office Hildesheim, photographer: Ina Funk



HOW TO GET TO HILDESHEIM

Hildesheim is located in southern Lower Saxony, just 30 km from the state's capital city, Hannover, and is very easy to get to using different means of transportation.

BY CAR OR COACH

From Hamburg – Hannover or Frankfurt – Kassel:

Autobahn E45/ A7, exits at Hildesheim-Drispstedt and Hildesheim and from there it takes only minutes to reach downtown Hildesheim.

From Berlin or the Ruhr Region:

Autobahn A2 to the main junction at Hannover-East, then Autobahn A7 towards Hildesheim – Kassel and on to one of the exits mentioned above.

BY OVERLAND COACH

The 'Mein Fernbus', 'Deutsche Touring' and 'FlixBus' offer an inexpensive alternative for getting to Hildesheim.

BY TRAIN

Quick national connections are guaranteed by the ICE trains. Hildesheim can be reached directly via ICE, for example, from Berlin, Braunschweig, Frankfurt am Main, Göttingen, Munich and Stuttgart. Other nationwide connections are available with German Rail ('Deutsche Bahn'), 'Erixx' and 'NordWestBahn'.

PHOTO BOTTOM 'Kehrwieder' tower in the half-timbered district



DID YOU KNOW THAT IN HILDESHEIM ...

- ... you can find the church with the tallest steeple in Lower Saxony?
- ... the Theatre for Lower Saxony (TfN) has its own musical company?
- ... there are two churches on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites?
- ... the world-famous tenor Thomas Quasthoff was born?
- ... more than 60% of the total area is covered with forest and green spaces, gardens and cultivated land?
- ... there is one of the largest mirror telescopes in Lower Saxony in the 'Gelber Turm' (Yellow Tower) observatory?
- ... the painted wooden ceiling in the early Romanesque St. Michael's Church is approximately 800 years old?
- ... Marienburg Castle, located nearby, was a gift from the last King of Hannover, George V, to his wife, Queen Mary of Saxe-Altenburg?
- ... there is one of the oldest orchid nurseries, established since 1891?

- ... the bronze castings in St. Mary's Cathedral – the Bernwardian door and Christ's pillar – were cast in one piece at the beginning of the 11th century, making them a masterpiece for that time and that they are now on the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage?
- ... traditional 'pumpernickel', a dark, coarse sourdough bread, is made?
- ... in the city district known as 'Himmelsthür' (Heaven's Gate) children who write letters Santa Claus still get answers?
- ... St. Godehard, after whom one of the most important Alpine transit routes (Gotthard Pass) was named, was a bishop?
- ... such well-known artists as Georg Baselitz and regional artist Micha Kloth live and work or lived and worked in the surrounding area?
- ... the 'Hildesheimer Allgemeine Zeitung', which is owned by the Gerstenberg Publishing House, is the oldest newspaper still published in Germany?
- ... the first mass-produced gyrocopter went into production? (Tickets for a ride are available at tourist-info.)
- ... the 1200st anniversary of the founding of the city and bishopric will be celebrated in 2015?

PHOTO TOP 1000-year-old rosebush at the apse of St. Mary's Cathedral
PHOTO BOTTOM Detail shot of the fountain on the market square

