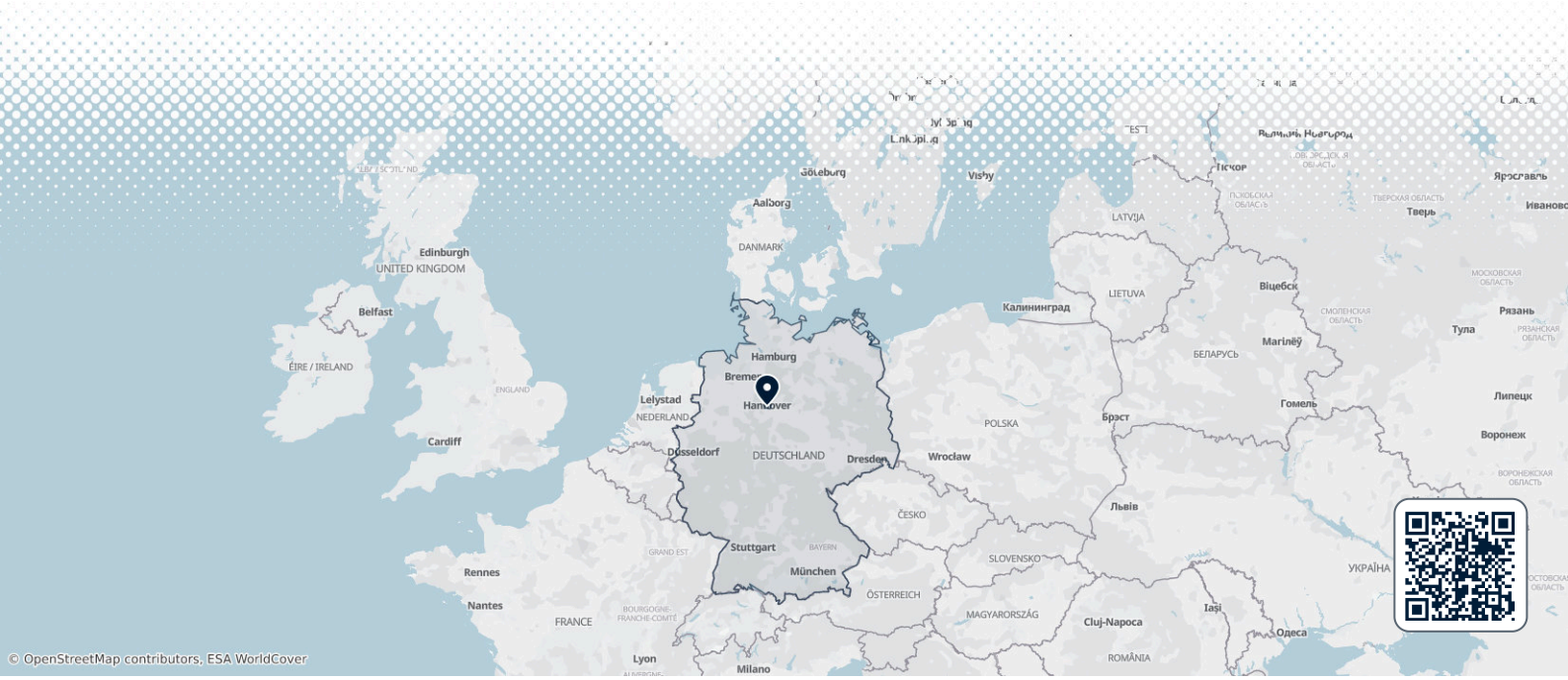


Hanover

Lower Saxony · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Hanover is the capital of Lower Saxony. It is a green, calm city with a small historic core and large parks. Most of the old centre was destroyed in World War II, so the city mixes rebuilt old buildings with modern ones.

It suits a trip of two or three days. The main draws are the Baroque gardens of Herrenhäuser Gärten, the city lake Maschsee, the city forest and good art museums. It is also a base for day trips to old towns nearby. Hanover is a big trade-fair city, so business visitors fill many hotels in some weeks.

The philosopher *Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz* lived and worked here for decades. The city is also known as the home of the Leibniz biscuit.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. Days are mild and warm, and the gardens and lake are at their best. Winter is cold and grey, but the Christmas markets in the old town are a good reason to come.

The biggest annual event is the Schützenfest, a marksmen's festival and funfair. It runs for about ten days from late June to early July and draws around two million visitors. Book a hotel early for these dates and for the big trade fairs, such as Hannover Messe in spring.

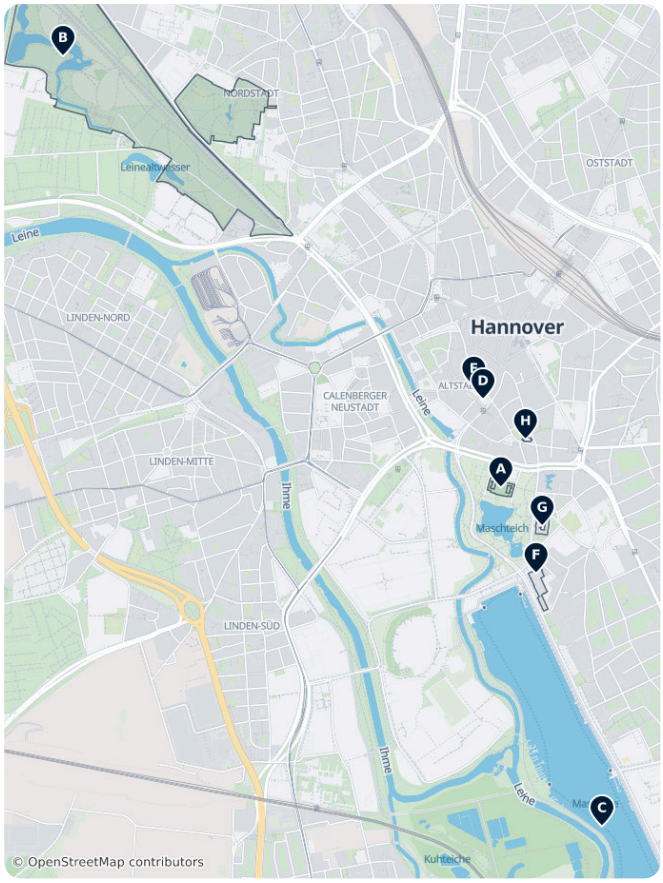
Official events calendar: Hannover tourism board

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -3°	-2° / -11°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like -1°	-1° / -10°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 17° Feels like 4°	1° / -5°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	14° / 22° Feels like 10°	4° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25° Feels like 15°	8° / 3°	12 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 28°	12° / 7°	13 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	14° / 10°	16 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	14° / 10°	14 rainy days
September	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27°	10° / 6°	Dry air
October	Good Good for cycling	15° / 21° Feels like 11°	7° / 0°	13 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	8° / 14° Feels like 4°	3° / -4°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like -1°	0° / -9°	15 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Neues Rathaus is the large city hall from 1913. A curved lift rises inside the dome to a viewing gallery. In the entrance hall, four city models show Hanover in 1689, 1939, 1945 and today.
- B Herrenhäuser Gärten are the main attraction of the city. The Great Garden is a formal Baroque garden with a very tall fountain. The Berggarten is a botanical garden next to it, and the grotto by *Niki de Saint Phalle* is full of colourful mosaics.
- C Maschsee is an artificial lake from the 1930s. A path of about 6 km goes around it. You can walk, rent a boat or swim at the beach in summer.
- D Altes Rathaus is a Gothic brick town hall from the Middle Ages. It stands in the rebuilt old town, next to the main church.
- E Marktkirche is the main church of the old town. It is a Gothic brick church that was rebuilt after the war.
- F Sprengel Museum stands on the shore of the Maschsee. It holds a major collection of 20th-century art, with works by Picasso, Klee and *Kurt Schwitters*.
- G Niedersächsisches Landesmuseum combines art, natural history and archaeology in one building. The art gallery has works by Rembrandt, Rubens and Dürer, and *Caspar David Friedrich*'s Times of Day cycle.
- H Aegidienkirche is a church ruin from the war. It is kept as a memorial and stands in the middle of the city.

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What to experience

These experiences are special to Hanover.

- Follow the Red Thread. A red line on the pavement is 4.2 km long and links 36 sights in the centre. It is a self-guided tour of the old town.
- Come for the Maschseefest. The lake festival lasts almost three weeks in summer, with food, music and boats.
- Walk or cycle in the Eilenriede. It is a 640-hectare city forest with about 80 km of paths.
- Visit a Christmas market in the old town in December. The stalls stand around the old town hall and the main church.

Day trips

Several old towns are close by. Most are easy to reach by train.

- Brunswick: about 30 to 60 minutes by train. The old castle square has the Brunswick Lion, a bronze statue from the 12th century. The city has a cathedral and museums.
- Hildesheim: about 30 to 40 minutes by train. The cathedral and St. Michael's Church are UNESCO World Heritage sites. The market square is rebuilt in the old style.
- Celle: about 40 to 50 minutes by train. The old town has hundreds of half-timbered houses. The ducal palace is also worth a visit.
- Hamelin: about 1 hour by S-Bahn line S5. This is the town of the Pied Piper legend. The old town has many half-timbered houses in the Weser Renaissance style.
- Goslar: about 1.5 hours by regional train. The old town and the old Rammelsberg mine are UNESCO World Heritage sites. It is the gateway to the Harz mountains.

Where to explore

These destinations in Lower Saxony are farther away. Most need a car or an early start.

- Soltau is in the Lüneburg Heath, to the north.
- Luneburg is a well-preserved old salt town to the north-east.
- Osterode am Harz and Sankt Andreasberg are in the Harz mountains, to the south-east. They suit hiking in summer and winter sports.
- Cuxhaven is on the North Sea coast, far to the north.
- Eastern Friesland is a coastal region in the north-west, close to the Dutch border.

Getting there

- **By air**: Hannover Airport (HAJ) is about 11 km north of the centre. S-Bahn line S5 runs to the main station every 30 minutes and takes about 17 minutes.
- **By train**: Hanover is a major ICE hub. Hamburg is about 1 hour away and Berlin about 2 hours. Frankfurt is about 3 hours away and Munich about 4.5 hours. Book on Deutsche Bahn. During big trade fairs, many long-distance trains also stop at Hannover Messe/Laatzen station.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches stop at the central bus station next to the main station.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Üstra runs the Stadtbahn (light rail, partly underground) and the buses. The S-Bahn is part of the same fare system. Buy tickets in the Üstra app or at ticket machines. See Üstra for fares and the route planner.
- **On foot and by bike**: The old town, Neues Rathaus and the main station are all within walking distance. The city is flat. Cycling is easy to Maschsee, the Eilenriede forest and Herrenhäuser Gärten.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town and main sights in the centre are close together and easy to walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The city is flat and the forest and lake paths suit bikes.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: No for a city stay. The centre is compact and transit is good. A car helps only for the Harz and the heath.

Food & drink

Look for local dishes such as Calenberger Pfannenschmaus, a traditional meat dish. Try a Lüttje Lage, a local ritual of drinking beer and schnapps together from two small glasses.

For a casual meal, go to Markthalle, the market hall in the old town. For restaurants and bars, try the streets of the old town, the Linden district and the Lister Meile shopping street.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

Hanover is a safe city for visitors.

- Watch your bag in crowds, such as at the main station, at the Christmas markets and at the Schützenfest.
- Take a taxi late at night if you stay near the main station and feel unsure.

History

Hanover grew as a trading town on the river Leine. From 1714 to 1837, the rulers of Hanover were also kings of Great Britain.

The court had its summer residence at Herrenhausen. The Baroque gardens of Herrenhäuser Gärten still survive from that time. The court also supported *Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz*, who lived in the city until his death in 1716. The front of Leibnizhaus, his home, was destroyed in 1943. It was rebuilt in the 1980s at a new site.

In World War II, more than 90 percent of the city centre was destroyed. Aegidienkirche was left as a ruin and is now a memorial. Neues Rathaus was damaged but still stands.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



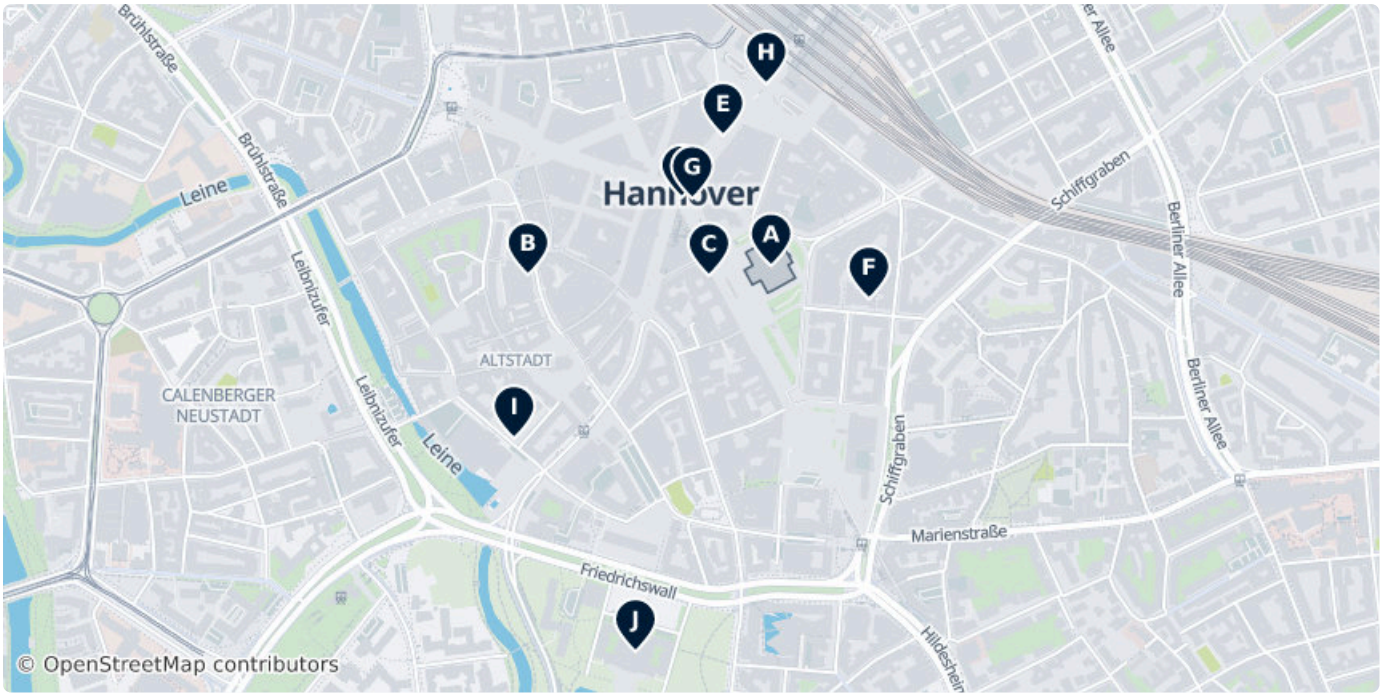
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LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Hanover Essentials

Hanover's city center blends royal heritage with contemporary cultural venues. The area is anchored by the 19th-century Staatsoper and the bronze equestrian statue of King Ernest August I. Central life revolves around Kröpcke square and its historic clock, which connects to the Niki de Saint Phalle Promenade shopping district. Cultural highlights include contemporary exhibitions at the Kunstverein and live performances at the GOP Varieté-Theater. The New Town Hall tower provides panoramic views, while the Schloßbrunnen marks the historic government quarter near the Leineschloss.





A Opera House Hannover

Staatsoper Hannover is a German opera house and company in Hanover, the state capital of Lower Saxony.

Opernplatz 1, 30159 Hannover, DE (52.37335, 9.74092)

staatstheater-hannover.de/oper/, +49 511 999900



B Brauhaus Ernst-August

This brewery offers not only great local beer, but also beer cocktails and regional dishes. There is usually live music in the evening.

Schmiedestraße 13, 30159 Hannover, Germany (52.37321, 9.73457)

Mo–Th	08:00–03:00
Fr–Sa	08:00–05:00
Su	09:00–03:00

brauhaus.net, +49 511 365950



C GOP Varieté-Theater Hannover

Artists, acrobats and comedians are here to entertain you. Together with the Gondel Restaurant, they promise a unique experience.

Georgstraße 36, 30159 Hannover (52.37320, 9.73930)

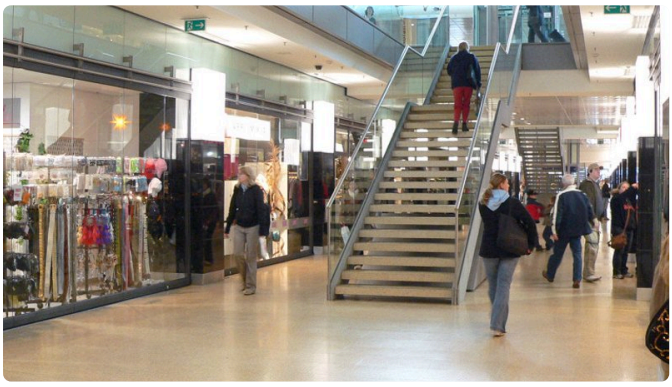
variete.de/spielorte/hannover/, +49 511 30186710



D Kröpcke

Kröpcke is the central square of the city of Hanover in Germany. The square is situated at the crossroads of Georgstraße, Karmarschstraße,...

13 Niki-de-Saint-Phalle-Promenade, Hannover 30159, Germany (52.37444, 9.73858)



E Niki de Saint Phalle Promenade

This well known shopping street is named after the artist Niki de Saint Phalle. Buy something pretty or just go window shopping.

Niki-de-Saint-Phalle-Promenade, 30159 Hannover, Germany (52.37543, 9.73966)

niki-promenade.de/startseite.html, +49 511 307 5570



F Arts Society of Hannover

Everyone who wants to discover and understand art is welcome here. The exhibitions focus on international contemporary art.

Sophienstraße 2, 30159 Hannover (52.37282, 9.74347)

Tu–Sa	12:00–18:00

kunstverein-hannover.de, +49 511 16842698



G Kröpcke Clock

A reconstruction of the 1885 original, this cast-iron clock serves as a central meeting point in the city's main square.

16A Rathenaustraße, Hannover 30159, Germany
(52.37443, 9.73886)



H Statue of Ernest Augustus

Placed in front of the main station, the bronze equestrian statue is a popular meeting point among locals. It depicts king Ernest August I.

1 Ernst-August-Platz, Hannover 30159, Germany
(52.37625, 9.74079)



I Schloßbrunnen

Situated on Hannah-Arendt-Platz opposite the Leineschloss, this fountain is a key feature of the historic district surrounding the Lower Saxony State Parliament.

2 Hannah-Arendt-Platz, Hannover 30159, Germany
(52.37060, 9.73420)

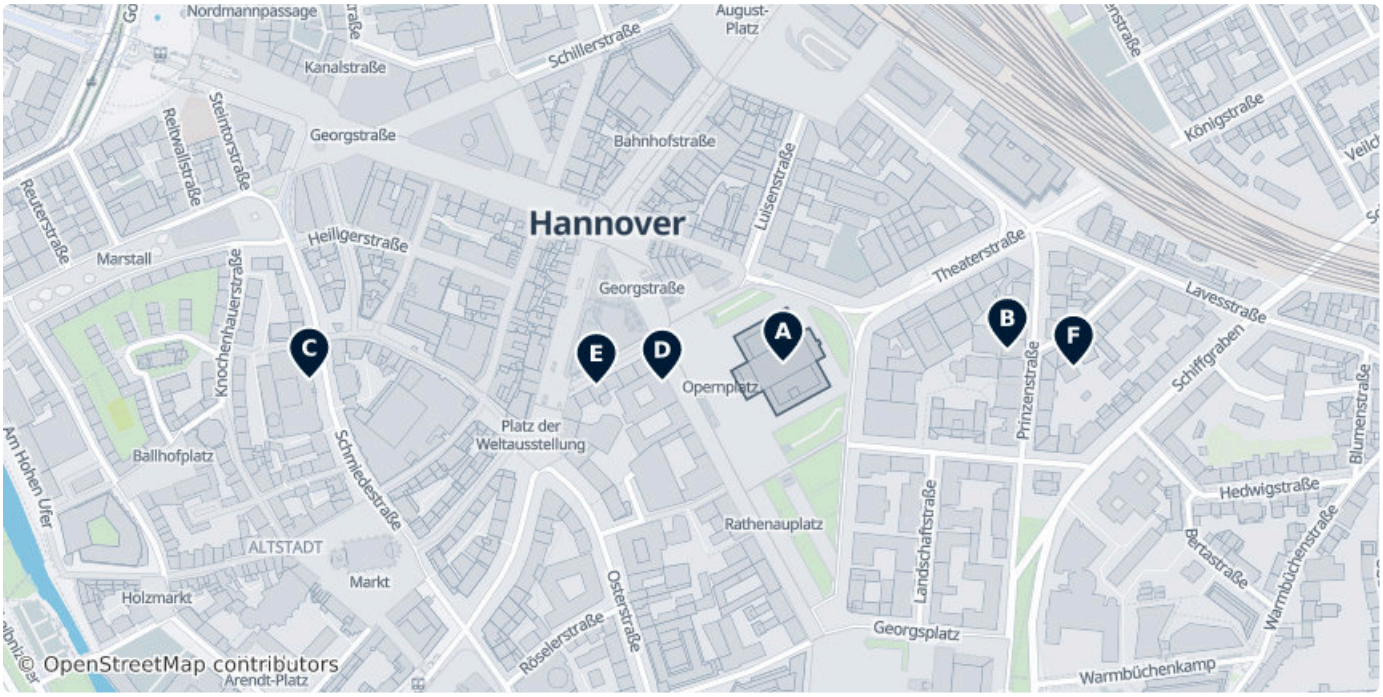
J Rathausturm

The New Town Hall tower features a unique arched elevator that climbs the dome at a 17-degree angle, leading to an observation deck with views of the city and Maschsee.

(52.36721, 9.73738)

Hidden Gems of Hanover

Hanover's cultural landscape features a mix of historic venues and modern entertainment. The Opera House showcases regional heritage, while the Schauspielhaus focuses on contemporary drama within modern architecture. For variety, the GOP Varieté-Theater hosts acrobats and comedians, and Marlene Bar & Bühne provides a 1920s-themed setting for stand-up and concerts. Culinary traditions are represented by Brauhaus Ernst-August, known for local beer and regional dishes, and the Holländische Kakao-Stube, a long-standing cafe famous for its hot chocolate and traditional cakes.



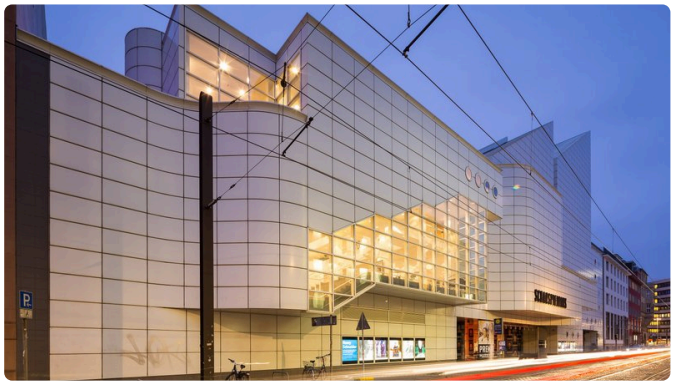


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staatstheater-hannover.de/oper/, +49 511 999900



B Schauspielhaus Hannover

Hanover Drama is a theatre company in Hanover, the state capital of Lower Saxony, Germany.

Prinzenstraße 9, 30159 Hannover, DE (52.37346, 9.74392)

Mo–Fr	10:00–19:30
Sa	10:00–14:00

staatstheater-hannover.de, +49 511 99990



C Brauhaus Ernst-August

This brewery offers not only great local beer, but also beer cocktails and regional dishes. There is usually live music in the evening.

Schmiedestraße 13, 30159 Hannover, Germany (52.37321, 9.73457)

Mo–Th	08:00–03:00
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brauhaus.net, +49 511 365950



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Georgstraße 36, 30159 Hannover (52.37320, 9.73930)

variete.de/spielorte/hannover/, +49 511 30186710

E Holländische Kakao-Stube

This is a must - delicious coffee, hot chocolate, fresh cakes and pies. The place is like heaven for everyone who has a sweet tooth.

Ständehausstraße 2, 30159 Hannover, Germany (52.37317, 9.73841)

Mo–Sa	10:00–18:30

hollaendische-kakao-stube.de, +49 511 304100

F Marlene Bar & Bühne

Have a drink in this stylish bar decorated in the style of 1920s. Concerts, theatre, or stand-ups take place there.

Prinzenstraße 10 (52.37331, 9.74481)

marlene-hannover.de, +49 511 368 1687

Memorials & Statues

Hanover's public spaces are defined by monuments honoring its royal heritage and civic heroes. This collection features the iconic equestrian statue of King Ernest Augustus I at the main station and the memorial to the Göttingen Seven, representing the fight for constitutional rights. It also includes the medieval Siebenmännerstein at the ruins of Aegidienkirche and statues of military leaders like Carl von Alten and Georg von Baring, who played pivotal roles during the Napoleonic Wars.





A Friedrich Schiller

Bronze statue of the German poet and philosopher located in the Georgstraße pedestrian zone, designed by Ernst von Bandel and unveiled in 1863.

10 Georgstraße, Hannover 30159, Germany
(52.37518, 9.73549)



B Statue of Ernest Augustus

Placed in front of the main station, the bronze equestrian statue is a popular meeting point among locals. It depicts king Ernest August I.

1 Ernst-August-Platz, Hannover 30159, Germany
(52.37625, 9.74079)



C Siebenmännerstein

A late Gothic relief on the outer wall of the Aegidienkirche ruins, commemorating seven citizens who died defending Hanover during a siege in 1480.

16 Breite Straße, Hannover 30159, Germany
(52.36931, 9.73957)

D Bademeister D. H. Schrader

Memorial honoring David Hinrich Schrader, a local swimming instructor credited with saving hundreds of people from drowning in the Leine river during the 19th century.

(52.36477, 9.73183)

E Georg Freiherr von Baring

Monument dedicated to the commander of the 2nd Light Battalion of the King's German Legion, known for his defense of La Haye Sainte at the Battle of Waterloo.

4 Lavesallee, Hannover 30169, Germany
(52.36926, 9.73058)

F Einigkeit Recht Freiheit

Located near the Landtag, this memorial honors the Göttingen Seven, a group of professors who protested the revocation of the kingdom's constitution in 1837.

(52.37071, 9.73339)

G Carl von Alten

Bronze statue commemorating the Hanoverian general and statesman who led the King's German Legion and served at the Battle of Waterloo.

1 Am Archiv, Hannover 30169, Germany
(52.36934, 9.73083)

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