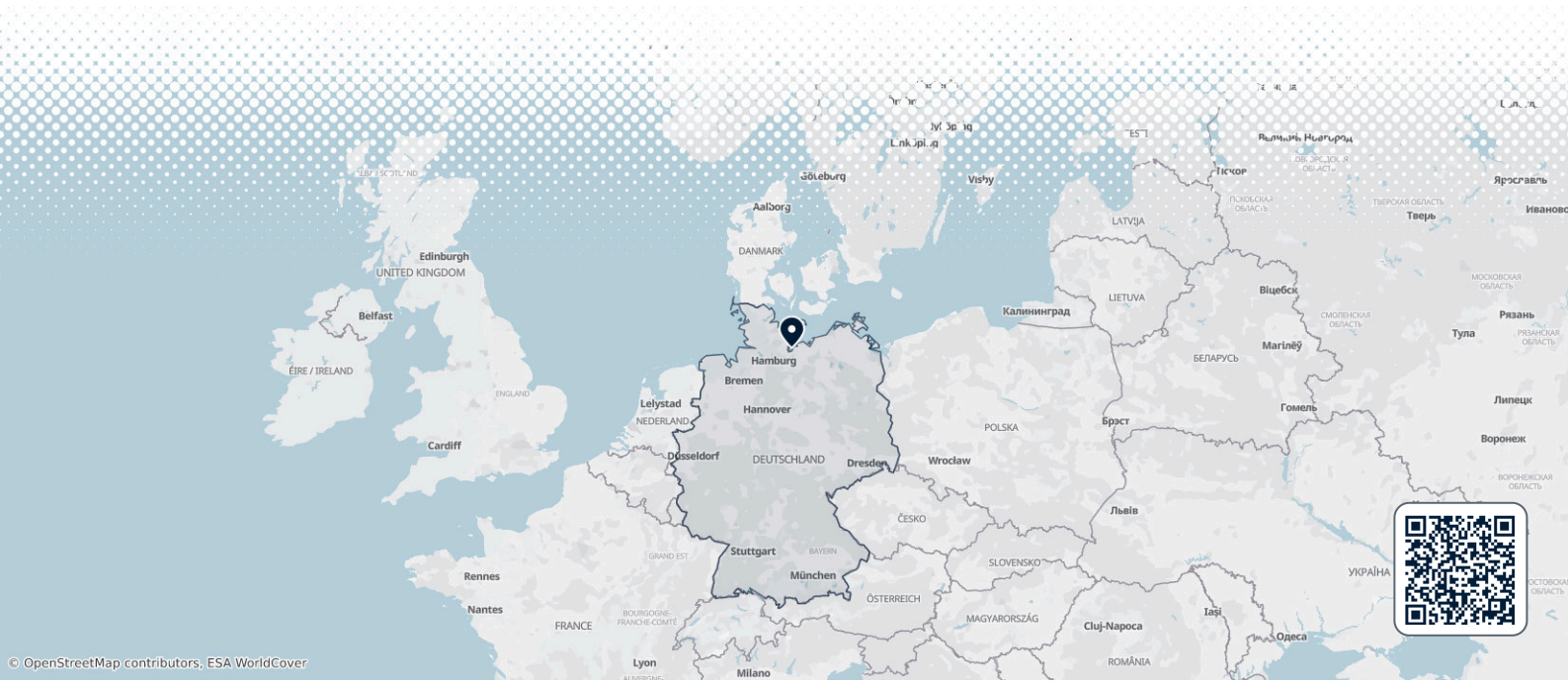


Lübeck

Schleswig-Holstein State · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Lübeck is a Hanseatic city on the Trave river, close to the Baltic coast. Its old town sits on an island and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Red-brick churches, gates and merchant houses fill the narrow streets. The city is compact, so a trip of two or three nights suits it well.

Lübeck suits travellers who like history, architecture and museums. It also works as a base for a beach day at Travemünde. Three famous people are linked to the city: the writer *Thomas Mann*, the writer *Günter Grass* and the former chancellor *Willy Brandt*. The city is also known for its marzipan.

When to visit

Late spring to early summer and late summer are the most pleasant seasons. Days are long and mild.

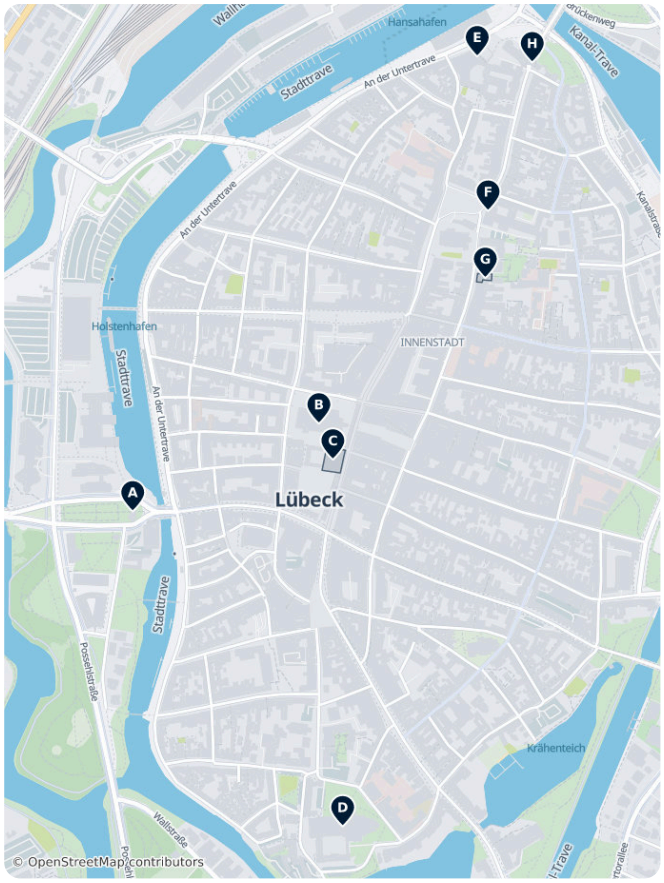
Winter is cold and grey. The Advent period is the exception, because the Christmas markets in the old town draw many visitors. Book rooms early for December weekends.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 9° Feels like -3°	-1° / -9°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like -2°	-1° / -8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 14° Feels like 2°	1° / -5°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	12° / 19° Feels like 8°	4° / -1°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 23° Feels like 13°	8° / 3°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 26°	11° / 8°	13 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 27°	14° / 10°	15 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 28°	14° / 10°	14 rainy days
September	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 24°	11° / 7°	Dry air
October	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 18° Feels like 9°	7° / 2°	13 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 13° Feels like 3°	3° / -2°	14 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 9° Feels like -2°	0° / -8°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, August

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

Top sights



- A Holstentor is the city's symbol. This red-brick gate with two round towers marks the western edge of the old town.
- B St.-Marien-Kirche is a large Brick Gothic church. Its style became a model for many churches around the Baltic.
- C Rathaus stands on the market square.
- D Lübeck Cathedral is the cathedral at the southern end of the old town. Inside, look for the large medieval triumphal cross.
- E Europäisches Hansemuseum tells the story of the Hanseatic League. It shows why Lübeck was rich and powerful.
- F Heiligen-Geist-Hospital was paid for by wealthy merchants in the 13th century as a home for the old and sick. It is now a museum.
- G Behnhaus Drägerhaus is an art museum in two historic merchant houses.
- H Burgtor is a gate on the northern edge of the old town. It is a quiet spot away from the crowds at the Holstentor.

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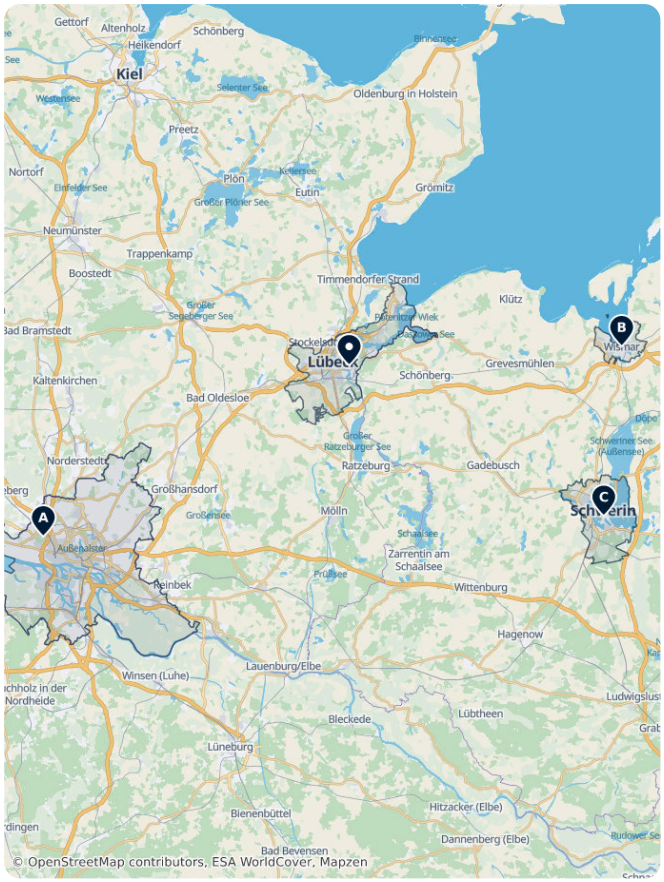
What to experience

- **Christmas markets**: In Advent, stalls fill the old town.
- **Boat tour**: Harbour and canal tours show the old town from the water.
- Church tower view: Climb the tower of St. Petri for a view over the old town.
- Beach day in Travemünde: In summer, take the regional train to the Baltic beach. Walk the promenade and watch the ferries.

Day trips

These trips start from Lübeck and return the same day. They are listed from closest to farthest.

- **Travemünde**: Lübeck's seaside district on the Baltic, about 30 to 60 minutes away by regional train or bus. Come for the beach, the promenade and the old lighthouse.
- **Ratzeburg**: a small town on an island in a lake, about 30 to 60 minutes away by regional train or bus. It suits a quiet walk by the water.
- Ⓐ Hamburg is a big port city, about 1 hour away by train. It has many museums and a lively harbour.
- Ⓑ Wismar is another Hanseatic town with a Brick Gothic centre. Allow about 1 to 1.5 hours each way by train or bus.
- Ⓒ Schwerin is a lake city with a large castle. Allow about 1.5 hours each way by train.



Where to explore

Other destinations in Schleswig-Holstein:

- Kiel is the state capital on the Baltic coast, known for sailing and its fjord.
- Flensburg is a harbour town near the Danish border.
- Sankt Peter-Ording is a North Sea resort with a very wide beach.
- Heligoland is a small red-rock island in the North Sea.

Getting there

- **By air**: Hamburg Airport (HAM) is the main gateway. From there, take the S-train to Hamburg central station and then a regional train to Lübeck. Allow about 1.5 to 2 hours in total.
- **By train**: Lübeck central station has direct regional trains from Hamburg, about 1 hour away. Book long-distance tickets on Deutsche Bahn.
- By bus: Long-distance coaches link Lübeck with Hamburg and other northern cities.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small and mostly flat. The central station is a short walk from the Holstentor. Most sights are within 15 minutes of each other.
- **Public transport**: City buses connect the station, the old town and outer districts. Regional trains and buses go to Travemünde.
- Cycling: The terrain is flat. Cobblestones in the old town make cycling slow.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is small, flat and easy to explore on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The terrain is flat, but cobblestones in the old town slow cycling.

Food & drink

Marzipan is the local speciality. Many shops and cafés in the old town sell it as chocolates, loaves and cakes. Niederegger, near the town hall, is a well-known marzipan shop.

Fish dishes from the Baltic are common on local menus. For a meal, look along the Trave riverside and in the streets around the market square.

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

Lübeck is a safe city for visitors. Violent crime against tourists is rare.

- Pickpockets can work in crowds. Watch your bag at the Christmas markets and around the station.
- Do not leave bags or bikes unattended, especially bikes.

History

Lübeck was founded in the 12th century and grew rich on trade across the Baltic. It became the leading city of the Hanseatic League, and people called it the "Queen of the Hanse". The merchants built the red-brick churches, gates and houses that you see today. Holstentor and St.-Marien-Kirche date from this period of wealth.

In 1942, an air raid damaged large parts of the old town. After the war, the city repaired much of it. The old town became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987. The Europäisches Hansemuseum now explains this long history.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

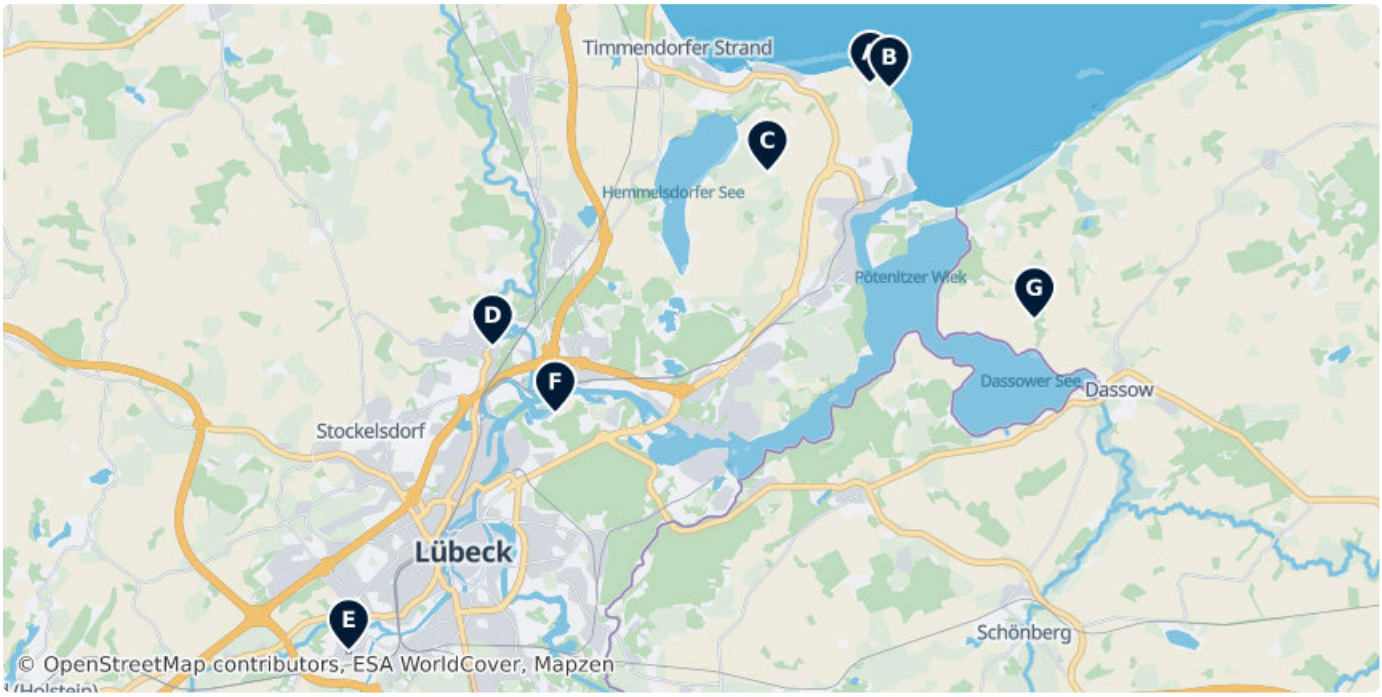
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Lübeck Essentials

This collection highlights the diverse landscape of Lübeck, from the four-kilometer-long Brodtener Steilufer cliffs on the Baltic Sea to the historic architecture of the city's outskirts. It includes the 18th-century Baroque manor house Schloss Johannstorf and the Jewish Cemetery in Moisling, the largest of its kind in Schleswig-Holstein. For families, Karls Erlebnis-Dorf offers farm-themed activities, while viewpoints like Lagunenblick and Panorama provide perspectives over the coastal scenery and local nature reserves.





A Brodtener Steilufer

A four-kilometer-long active cliff coastline on the Baltic Sea reaching heights of up to 20 meters. It stretches between Travemünde and Niendorf, featuring a hiking trail with views of the Lübeck Bucht.

18 Großenhof, Brodten 23570, Germany
(53.98896, 10.86529)

B Panorama

Scenic viewpoint situated along the Brodtener Steilufer, providing elevated views over the Baltic Sea and the coastal cliffs.

(53.98770, 10.87379)

C Karls Erlebnis-Dorf

Agricultural-themed adventure park featuring a farm shop, strawberry-based products, and family attractions. The facility is wheelchair accessible and includes on-site cafes.

(53.96593, 10.81973)

Mo–Su 08:00–19:00

karls.de/warnsdorf/, +49 4502 888432

D Altes Amtsgericht

Historical former district court building designated as a heritage site, reflecting the region's administrative architectural history.

(53.92036, 10.69785)



E Jüdischer Friedhof

Located in the Moisling district, this is the largest Jewish cemetery in Schleswig-Holstein, serving as a significant historical and cultural record of the regional Jewish community.

90 Niendorfer Straße, Lübeck 23560, Germany
(53.84078, 10.63397)

F Aussichsplattform Lagunenblick

Observation deck offering views across the local lagoon landscape and surrounding nature conservation areas.

(53.90302, 10.72564)

G Schloss Johannstorf

An 18th-century Baroque manor house designed by architect Rudolph Matthias Dallin. The estate is a notable example of aristocratic architecture in the Lübeck region.

Am Hof, 23942, Germany (53.92748, 10.93815)

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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- Jüdischer Friedhof — "Jüdischer Friedhof Lübeck in Lübeck-de:Lübeck-Moisling, alte Gräber" by MrsMyerDE, CC-BY-SA-3.0

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