



## CULTURE AND EDUCATION

University, colleges and lots of culture – a wide-ly varied programme in a richly diverse city

► Hildesheim is home to a widely varied, broad-ranging cultural scene. The renowned **ROEMER AND PELIZAEUS MUSEUM (16)**, 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') (15)** also beats in Hildesheim. The 'TfN' was created by the amalgamation of the Hildesheim City Theatre and the Hanover State Theatre and has had its head office in Hildesheim since then. As well as its permanent base in Hildesheim and Hanover, the ensemble tours more than 50 venues across Lower Saxony and the surrounding states and its stage plays, musicals, operas and concerts have a strong following.

With concerts organised by the 'Kulturring' (Cultural Ring) or events staged in the 'Bischofsmühle' (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.

More information about events in Hildesheim can be found at: [www.hildesheim.de/veranstaltungen](http://www.hildesheim.de/veranstaltungen)

Hildesheim owes its rich diversity in the field of education not least to more than 11,000 of students who take advantage of the many courses of study offered at the **UNIVERSITY HILDESHEIM**, the **UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS HILDESHEIM/HOLZMINDEN/GÖTTINGEN (HAWK)** and the **'NORDDEUTSCHE HOCHSCHULE FÜR RECHTSPFLEGE' (HR NORD)** [NORTH GERMAN ACADEMY FOR JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION]. 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. UNESCO reserved particular praise for **St Michael's Church (1)** and **St Mary's Cathedral (2)** with its bronze castings – Bernward's Column and the Bernward Door – when both sites were added to the World Heritage list as a joint UNESCO World Heritage Site 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 (3)**, which is one of Europe's largest church treasures: Its precious objects are on display in the Cathedral Museum. The **1000-YEAR-OLD ROSEBUSH** is also widely known. The multimedia presentation at the **WORLD HERITAGE VISITOR CENTRE HILDESHEIM (1)** on the historic Market Square is a great place for visitors to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites to start.

The **HISTORIC 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 **'WERNESCHES HAUS' (20)** opposite **St Godehard's Church (22)** is also a sight worth seeing.

The **HISTORIC MARKET SQUARE (7)**, with its impressive half-timbered buildings, forms a bridge to the present. On the initiative of the citizens of Hildesheim and following a major fund-raising campaign, it was reconstructed between 1984 and 1990 to be a faithful replica of the original, which was all but destroyed in the Second World War. The famous **BUTCHERS' GUILDHALL** houses the **CITY MUSEUM (8)**, which invites visitors to travel back in time through the history of the city and the region. The reconstructed **'UPENDED SUGAR LOAF' (10)** 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 – places 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'**. 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. Playgrounds 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. 460 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** 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 CLINIC IN HILDESHEIM** and the **St BERNWARD HOSPITAL** with affiliated specialist medical centres plus the many GP practices in the area are vital for the provision of medical and nursing services in the city of Hildesheim.

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 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).
app. 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 Hanover.

1859	Opening of the Roemer Museum.
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 (now HAWK).
1974	Population of more than 100,000: Hildesheim attains big-city status.
1985	UNESCO declares St Mary's Cathedral and its Cathedral Treasury, along with St Michael's Church an important World Heritage Site.
up to 1990	Reconstruction of the historic Market Square.
2009	The Butchers' Guildhall celebrates the 20-year anniversary of its reconstruction.
2010	St Michael's Church celebrates its 1,000-year anniversary.
2011	The Ancient Egyptian collection of the Roemer and 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 Historic Market Square © Hildesheim Marketing, photographer: Leif Obornik  
PHOTO BOTTOM Certificate on the Covenant, 1345 © City Archive Hildesheim

## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH STEEPLE

The highest church steeple in Lower Saxony – a viewpoint high above the city and the region of Hildesheim

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 information, go to: [www.hildesheim.de/churches](http://www.hildesheim.de/churches)

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.

## 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 pm

**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)  
€ 8 per person, families € 18 (2 adults + 3 children up to 12 years) or € 10 (1 adult + 3 children up to 12 years)

🚩 Under the arcades in front of the City Hall on the historic Market Square. No advance reservation required for single persons and small groups.  
[www.hildesheim.de/stadtfuehrungen](http://www.hildesheim.de/stadtfuehrungen)

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

## A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO HILDESHEIM

World. Culture. Heritage.

🇬🇧 GB HILDESHEIM

## SERVICE, ADVISING AND BOOKING

- UNESCO World Heritage exhibition
- Accommodation and arrangements
- Conference and congress services
- Ascent of St Andrew's Church steeple
- City and costumed guided tours
- Special tours around the region
- Segway tours of Hildesheim
- E-bike rental
- Souvenirs, travel guides, books and maps (also available online at [www.hildesheim.de/online-shop](http://www.hildesheim.de/online-shop))
- Special museum exhibitions
- Events and festivals
- Cycling and hiking tours
- Places of interest in and around Hildesheim

Hildesheim Marketing GmbH  
**World Heritage Visitor Centre Hildesheim & Tourist Information**  
Rathausstraße 20 (Tempelhaus) · 31134 Hildesheim  
☎ +49 (0) 5121 1798-0 📠 +49 (0) 5121 1798-88  
✉ [tourist-info@hildesheim-marketing.de](mailto:tourist-info@hildesheim-marketing.de)  
[www.hildesheim.de/tourism](http://www.hildesheim.de/tourism)  
🕒 Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., April to October and during Advent, including Sunday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Closed on public holidays.

📍 tourist information HILDESHEIM

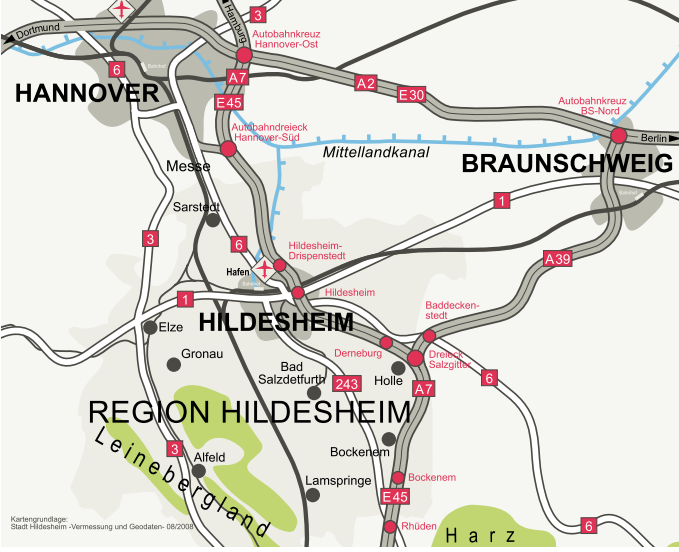
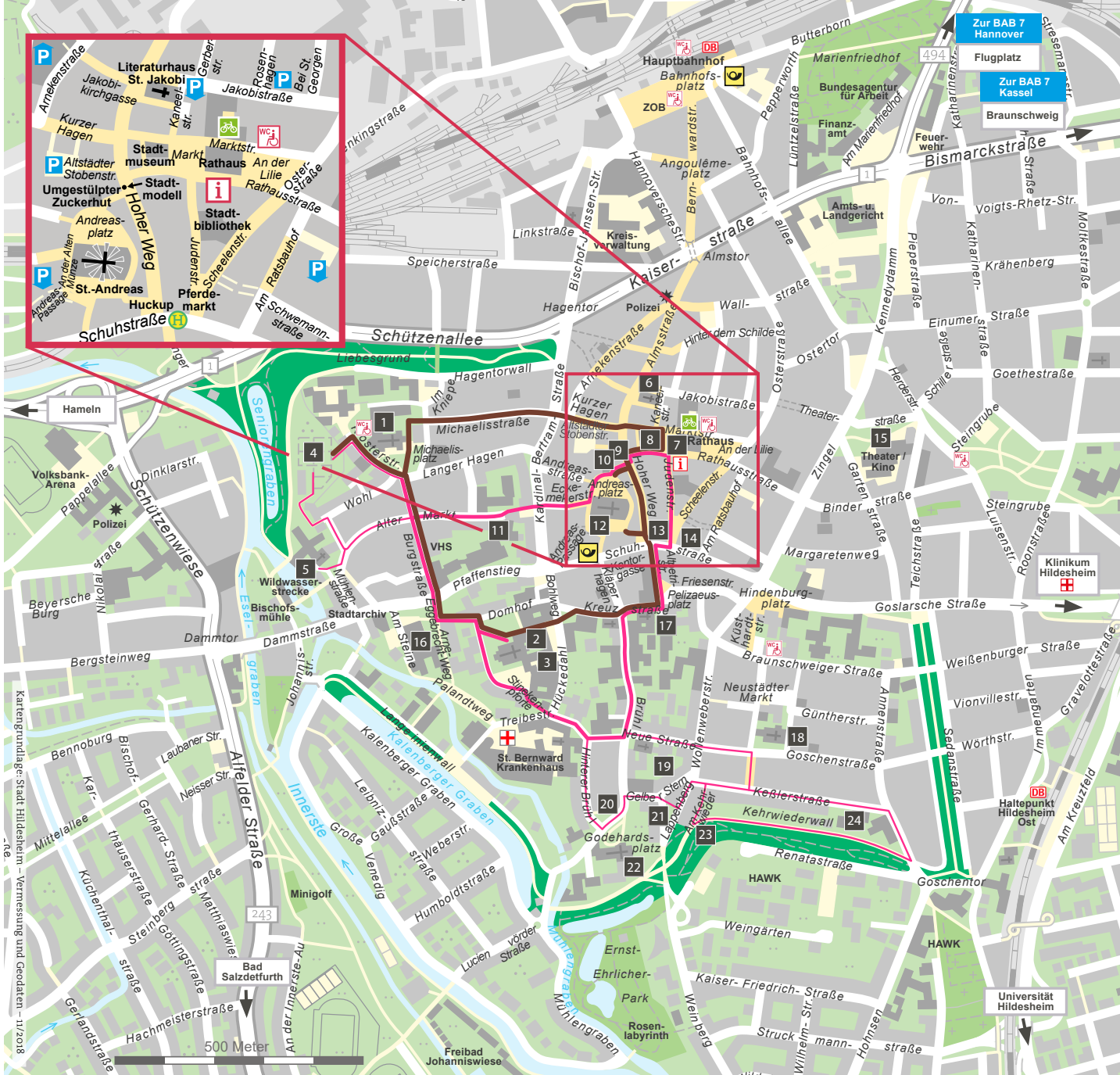
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HILDESHEIMMARKETING HILDESHEIM







## 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. These days, you will find culture, nature and history abound in a modern, thriving city of more than 100,000 inhabitants.

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 and 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 historic 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 11,000 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/tourism](http://www.hildesheim.de/tourism)

PHOTO TOP  
PHOTO TOP RIGHT  
PHOTO BOTTOM RIGHT

Tour guide in historical costume  
E-bikes on the historic Market Square  
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-Ottoman 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 HISTORIC MARKET SQUARE**  
The Market Square, which was rebuilt according to the original plans, combines the historical with the modern. A multimedia presentation at the World Heritage Visitor Centre Hildesheim on the Market Square gives visitors more information about the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- 8 CITY MUSEUM IN THE BUTCHER'S GUILDHALL**  
The exhibitions take you back in time through the history of the city and the region.
- 9 HISTORIC 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.
- 13 HUCKUP (MONUMENT)**  
The bronze monument portrays a man who has stolen a bag of apples and has the weight of a goblin 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)**  
Theatre, plays, musicals, concerts, children's and young people's theatre.
- 16 ROEMER AND PELIZAEUS MUSEUM (RPM)**  
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 NEISSER LOCAL MUSEUM IN THE HALF-TIMBERED QUARTER**  
Exhibits from the Upper Silesian Neiss region are on display in the old half-timbered building.
- 20 'WERNERSCHES HAUS'**  
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 watchtower on the city walls today serves as an exhibition room for the art association.
- 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  
PHOTO BOTTOM

Christmas market in Hildesheim © Van der Valk Hotel  
Hezillo 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, Hanover, and is very easy to get to using different means of transportation.

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

### BY CAR OR COACH

**From Hamburg – Hanover 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 Hanover-East, then Autobahn A7 towards Hildesheim – Kassel and on to one of the exits mentioned above.

### BY OVERLAND COACH

The 'Eurolines' 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, Brunswick, Frankfurt am Main, Göttingen, Karlsruhe and Mannheim. Hildesheim also has good regional and local public transport connections.

### BY MOTORHOME/CARAVAN

There are several caravan and camping sites for motorhomes in Hildesheim and the surrounding region. More information can be found at:  
[www.hildesheim.de/wohnmobil](http://www.hildesheim.de/wohnmobil)

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 Hanover, 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 'pumpnickel', a dark, aromatic cookie, is made?
- ... in the city district known as 'Himmelsthür' (Heaven's Gate) children who write letters to 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.)
- ... in 2015, the city and bishopric celebrated its 1,200-year anniversary?

PHOTO TOP  
PHOTO BOTTOM

1000-year-old rosebush at the apse of St Mary's Cathedral  
Detail shot of the fountain on the Market Square

