BEST OF BREMEN
Time for a turnaround!

Summer destinations from BRE

Valid from 28.03.2021

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Flight destinations

Gran Canaria

Hubs

Vilnius
When, on the 1st October 1958, a ship transporting over 1,000 US soldiers docked at the Columbuskaje in Bremerhaven, the curiosity of onlookers and reporters could barely be contained. The reason: Elvis Presley, the ‘King of Rock ‘n’ Roll’ was on board. The American superstar had been stationed in Europe on military service. His first steps on German soil were thus taken in the harbour town.
BIRTHPLACE
OF THE EURO

In 1978, with its resolution to set up a European currency system, the conference of the European Council in Bremen’s Rathaus laid one of the cornerstones of the ECU – the predecessor of the Euro. One of the main drivers of the top secret diplomatic negotiations was the German chancellor of the time, Helmut Schmidt.

TAKING PART IS WHAT COUNTS

Since 1358, the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen has been a member of the Hanseatic League. With accession, the city guaranteed that it would respect all decisions and rules of the Hansa. This is as much in force today as it was before and is an important part of local identity. That is why, even today, business between Hanseatic merchants is frequently sealed with a simple handshake.

TAKING THE BREMEN ACROSS THE POND

The aircraft ‘Bremen’, a Junkers W33, was the first to cross the Atlantic from East to West on the 12th April 1928. It completed the stretch from Dublin to Greenly Island in Canada in around 36 hours and can still be admired today in the Bremen Hall of the local airport. What’s more, one year later North German Lloyd’s steamer ‘Bremen’ received the Blue Ribbon for the fastest Atlantic crossing.
**LET IT ROLL!**

The Cinema im Ostertor was founded in 1969 as the first art house cinema in Germany, and remains to this day the first port of call for film buffs aside from the Hollywood mainstream.

**HARBOUR PIONEERS**

The first artificially created harbour in Europe was built in 1618 in Bremen-Vegesack. This was necessary because the Weser was gradually silting up towards its upper reaches, so that the large trading ships could no longer reach the harbour in the old town of Bremen.

**WHO DARES WINS**

‘Buten un binnen – wagen un winnen’, that is, ‘outside and in – to dare and to win’, remains today the slogan of the Bremen merchants. It is ascribed to the former mayor of Bremen, Otto Gildemeister (1823-1902) and hangs resplendent above the entrance of the Schütting, the seat of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce, directly on the market square.
They decorate Bremen’s ‘front room’, the marketplace, and are the landmarks of the Hanseatic city: the Rathaus (city hall), built in 1405 in Gothic and Weser Renaissance styles, and the stone statue of Roland. Since 2004, the ensemble has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Roland has gained renown as a symbol of freedom the world over – and it all began in Bremen. This figure represents emancipation from the church and the citizens’ independence. There are now more than 85 preserved and new Roland statues all around the globe, including in New York and Rolândia in Brazil. Napoleon himself is said to have been so impressed with the Roland statue during the French occupation that he wanted to have it dismantled and put on display at the Louvre in Paris.
BIRTHPLACE OF THE HELICOPTER

Bremen-born aviation pioneer Henrich Focke created the world’s first fully functional helicopter – the FW-61. The prototype’s successful maiden flight took place on 26th June 1936 on the site of what is now Bremen Airport.

THE NAKED TRUTH

In 1905 the open-air bathing area on the Stadtwerder peninsula was extended to allow for naturist bathers. This makes this spot on the Weser one of the first of its kind in Germany.

BARELY CONTAINABLE

On the 6th of May 1966, the US vessel ‘Fairland’ unloaded the first shipping container ever brought onto a German dock, revolutionising maritime cargo handling in doing so. But beginnings are always tricky, and this was no exception: the second container to be unloaded accidentally crashed onto a lorry.
Bremen – hotspot of the digital future

team neusta unites numerous neusta-companies and start-ups into one big ‘digital family’ at the Übersee Campus. The spirit of innovation is omnipresent in the historic Schuppen Eins and the modern Office Center Überseestadt – among other things, this is ensured by qualified young talents from local universities. Using agile processes, our experts develop customised software, mobile and e-commerce solutions and offer services including concept, communication, design and usability.
BUILT NEAR THE WATER

Did you know? The name of the city is derived from the old Saxon word ‘bremo’ and means ‘on the edge’, referring to its position on the dunes by the Weser. The somewhat antiquated term ‘verbrämen’, meaning to decorate the edge of something, and the English word ‘brim’ are also derived from this root.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Named after its location at a shallow point in the Weser estuary, the Roter Sand lighthouse first entered service in 1885, and is the oldest offshore building in the world. With the lighthouse out of service, the tower is now a listed building.

UNDER FULL STEAM

Germany’s first ever steamer plied the stretch between Bremen and Brake between 1817 and 1833 and was called ‘Die Weser’.

THE FIRST IN BREMEN

On the 10th June 1950, the consortium of public-service broadcasters in Germany was founded in Bremen – that’s ARD for short.
TALLEST IN TOWN

As one of the most prominent visual exclamation marks in the city, the Cathedral of St. Peter (St. Petri Dom) was built at the highest point in the city – the Bremen dune. There is an old tradition that no other building may exceed the cathedral in height. A blind eye is turned only for functional buildings, such as the television tower and drop-tower, where technical reasons require it. Inside the cathedral, the only ‘Bleikeller’ (lead cellar) in Germany offers real fascination: it was here that centuries-old mummies, discovered during organ construction in the 17th century, found their final resting place.

STARS & STRIPES MEETS BREMEN’S “BACON FLAG”

In 1794, the USA opened one of its first European General Consulates in Bremen – at the personal request of George Washington. Since the end of the American War of Independence in 1783, the Hanseatic city has nurtured close trade relationships with the United States.
Bremen’s Sebaldsbrück district is home to the second largest Mercedes factory in the world (and the largest one in Germany), where around 12,500 members of staff work to produce a good 400,000 cars every year. Daimler has been making cars at this site since 1978, with more than ten different models now rolling off the production line here. This includes the EQC electric car as of 2019.
COTTONING ON

As the birthplace of Germany’s cotton trade, Bremen has been home to the Bremen Cotton Exchange for almost 150 years. Already at the start of the 17th century the Hanseatic city started importing the raw material which is now used in clothing, pharmaceuticals and even bank notes.

LOFTY HEIGHTS

One of Europe’s largest and most modern high-bay warehouses is operated by the BLG Logistics Group in Bremen at Germany’s largest cargo distribution centre. The warehouse handles two million pallets each year – that equates to 8,000 every day.

FROM BRE ACROSS THE WORLD

Founded back in 1913, Bremen Airport was the first in Germany to have a paved runway. And now it is the gateway to the rest of the world for the region, with direct flights taking off to many destinations in Europe and North Africa, including a number of major international hubs. It is also Europe’s fastest departure airport and is just an eleven-minute tram journey away from Bremen city centre.
CRADLE OF TRADE AND CRAFTS

The Bremen Chamber of Commerce (1451) and Bremen Chamber of Crafts (1849) are the oldest in Germany.

SETTING SAIL

With well over 1.3 million cars being handled every year, the harbour city of Bremerhaven is Europe’s hub for automotive imports and exports. Every day, several thousand cars enter and leave the Weser estuary harbour, which covers the equivalent of 450 football fields.

IN AND OUT

Bremen is a hotspot within the region, with around 120,000 commuters making their way from the surrounding Lower Saxony area every day. In fact, commuters account for over 20% of Bremen’s workforce.

A BIT OF CAR FOR EVERYONE

Over 25 years ago the people of Bremen began to share cars. It was through this that the city became the first to establish a politically agreed car-sharing concept. This support continues to this day and has been accorded the European Sustainable Energy Award by the EU.
THE HEART OF EUROPE

Bremen’s cargo distribution centre, which just so happens to be the oldest of its kind in Germany, was ranked as the best cargo distribution centre in Europe as part of an independent assessment in 2020. With 38 logistics criteria to satisfy, the centre in Bremen managed to beat almost 300 other sites in over 30 countries to the delight of more than 160 companies and over 8,000 members of staff based there.

THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH

Bremen is one of the most important hubs for the aerospace industry, with more than 12,000 people working in that industry. Some 140 companies and 20 institutes working in the sector in the region generate a yearly turnover of over four billion euros between them.

HEAVYWEIGHTS

The riverside quay at the ‘Wilhelm Kaisen’ Bremerhaven Container Terminal measured 700 metres in length when it was created in 1968. It is now the longest in the world, spanning around 5,000 metres. With 14 berths for large container ships, over five million of the huge boxes can be processed every year at Europe’s fourth largest container terminal.
The aerospace company Airbus develops and produces the high-lift systems for all its craft and equips the wings of the A330 and A350 with all vital flight systems here at its second-largest German location. Bremen is also responsible for the operation of the European elements of the International Space Station ISS and the development and construction of the service module for the Orion spacecraft. The Ariane 5 and 6 launch vehicles are also developed and manufactured here.
Museum visits? Never again!

Anyone under 18 can visit museums FOR FREE thanks to:

Die Sparkasse Bremen


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Hafenmuseum  botanika  Museen Böttcherstraße  Weserburg

More information: www.sparkasse-bremen.de/vorteile
The Lürssen shipyard in Bremen-Vegesack enjoys a world-class reputation in its own specialist area: it manufactures naval vessels and some of the largest luxury yachts ever built – with sumptuous furnishings from the wine-cellar to the cinema.

ACTEGA DS GmbH is the world market leader for seals in packaging and crown caps. One in three bottle caps around the world contains a composite material from Bremen.
Berlin is the only hub for young, creative start-ups? Think again! From vegan and vegetarian alternatives (CheWow) and customised clothing (Huddy) to a sausage toaster (Smart Wurst) and artificial intelligence for online chats (IDA Bot), a plethora of great ideas have been born in the Hanseatic city and gone on to become big hits with customers, sometimes with the backing of city initiatives.

Resident in today’s Überseestadt for over 120 years, Stroever GmbH & Co. KG is the only company in Europe to produce shellac, a product used worldwide. From sweets and fruit to medicines – shellac brings shine and durability.

ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, GO!

INDUSTRY 6.0

Measured by turnover, Bremen is placed 6th among the largest German industrial cities.

MARITIME MILLING

The Rolandmühle (Roland mill), located directly on the quay of the Bremen timber and factory port, is the only one in Europe with a direct harbour connection.
SMITHS OF SUCCESS

The dream of every footballer comes to life in the silverware workshop of ‘Koch & Bergfeld Corpus’: in this traditional Bremen firm, since 1967, trophies for the best football teams of Europe have been manufactured. Alongside the original creation of the current Champion’s League Cup, replicas are also made for DFB Cup and German Championship winners. The Goldene Kamera and several Formula-1 cups also came from Bremen’s Überseestadt.

RACE FOR SPACE

The aerospace company OHB develops top class technology. Complete satellites for the European satellite navigation system ‘Galileo’ are constructed in Bremen – the core module for the Mars probe Trace-Gas-Orbiter was also built here.

SMILE PLEASE!

The largest fashion photography studio in Europe is located in Überseestadt. In the 4,500-square-metre shed 1 at Wiethe, 140,000 items a year – from shirts to shoes – are photographed for online shops and e-commerce.
Vector Foiltec is the global market leader in building shells made of transparent ETFE (ethylene tetrafluoroethylene) film. The Bremen-based company has completed over 1,500 projects globally so far, having worked on stadiums, universities, shopping centres, public indoor and outdoor spaces, zoos, swimming pools and government buildings. Its portfolio includes the plastic film roof on the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, which encompasses over 22,000 square metres, making it one of the largest of its kind in North America.
At Universum Bremen, visitors have three different areas to explore: technology, humans and nature. The interactive centre is one of the most popular science museums throughout Germany thanks to its hands-on approach and frequently updated temporary exhibitions.
WORKSHOP FOR TOMORROW

Research into innovative lightweight building materials is key to the future of mobility and energy efficiency within the aerospace, automotive, wind power and shipbuilding industries. Since 2019, some 500 employees have been developing materials for the future at Eco-MaT, a technology centre in a class of its own leading the way in Germany from Bremen’s Airport-Stadt district.

COFFEE?

Decaffeinated coffee is a Bremen discovery. The Bremen merchant Ludwig Roselius discovered and patented the process, going on to found Kaffee-Handels AG (Kaffee HAG) in 1906.

A BIG DISCOVERY

On the coast of the South West African state Namibia, the scientist Heide Schulz of the Max-Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen discovered microorganisms with a diameter of up to 0.75 millimetres – the largest type of bacteria yet found, known as ‘sulphur pearls’.

WIRED TO WIN

Inventors from the University of Bremen and the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence, represented by their team called ‘B-Human’, have been crowned world champions at seven robot football tournaments, putting them at the top of the global Standard Platform League. They most recently walked away with the 2019 RoboCup. The robots are pre-programmed but have to make all their own decisions during the game.
**COMPLETELY WEIGHTLESS**

There can be no doubt that the drop tower at the Centre of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity at the University of Bremen is the highest lab in the city. Here, research experiments can be carried out in zero gravity, under conditions that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world.

**TRIUMPHANT DISCOVERY**

The first movement of the Triumphlied (Op. 55) by Johannes Brahms was premiered, with the composer himself as the conductor, at St. Peter’s Cathedral in Bremen in 1871. In 2012, music experts came across the materials from the performance – previously presumed lost – in the music archive belonging to Bremen’s Philharmonic Society and managed to reconstruct the work. The results exceeded all expectations, with the composition having more than 300 differences to the later version we all know and love. In fact, it was so different that it can be viewed as a separate piece in its own right, known as the Bremen version of the Triumphlied.

**TIME-TRAVELLING**

Here in the north, wind and rain are very much at home, from time to time. It is all the more astonishing that Bremen has the highest density of fixed sundials in the country – 120 in total.
ETERNAL ICE

The Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research may be based in Bremerhaven, but its members feel right at home in an eternally icy setting. These scientists have dedicated their working lives to exploring the polar regions – whether that be on board research boats, up in the air on the ‘Polar 5 and 6’ planes that set off from Bremen Airport or at the Neumayer Station III in the Antarctic. Take the MOSAiC project in 2019/2020 for example. On what has been dubbed the greatest Arctic expedition of all time, the team on board an icebreaker called ‘Polarstern’ drifted across the Arctic Ocean in freezing conditions on floating ice for a whole year, taking unique measurements and recording interesting findings along the way.

THE WHOLE WORLD IN ONE PLACE

People from more than 100 countries live and study on campus at the international Jacobs University Bremen (JUB). The private university in the north of Bremen has always been supported by the Swiss Jacobs Foundation, which awarded the institution the highest education grant to ever be allocated by a foundation in Europe back in 2006. Going forward, the JUB may be managed by a new consortium that plans to turn it into a research centre for artificial intelligence.
TWO CITIES, ONE STATE
OUR FEDERAL STATE
IN NUMBERS*

POPULATION
Bremen: 566,000
Bremerhaven: 113,000
(Around 2.7 million people live in the metropolitan region of Bremen/Oldenburg)

SIZE
Bremen: Approx. 325 km²
Bremerhaven: Approx. 94 km²
(You need to travel around 60 km through Lower Saxony to get from one part of the state to the other)

EDUCATION
Bremen:
Eight universities in total (state and private)
Bremerhaven: One state university
With some 20,000 students, the University of Bremen is the state’s largest higher education institution

*Correct as at: November 2020
Bremen is the German state with the highest industrial export rate (2018: 65%). Bremen’s inflation-adjusted economic growth is 2.1%, placing it above the state average in Germany (1.4%).

**TOURISM** (2019)

Bremen: 2,350,379 overnight stays  
Bremerhaven: 455,252 overnight stays  
(Lots of places in Bremen are accessible – visit www.bremen.de/barrierefrei)

**SEA FREIGHT** (2019)

Bremen: Approx. twelve million tonnes handled  
Bremerhaven: Approx. 57 million tonnes handled
Of the 15 most densely populated cities in Germany, Bremen has the most green spaces. In fact, the city boasts the equivalent of 44.9 square metres of green space in the form of parks, playgrounds, allotments and so on for each of its 566,000 inhabitants. That’s around 70% more gorgeous green space per person than you would find in Hamburg or Berlin. The most beautiful of them all? That has to be Bremen’s Bürgerpark, a park funded solely by donations since it first opened its gates back in 1866. Spanning 202.5 hectares, it’s the largest privately funded park in an urban setting in the whole of Germany.
WITH HEART AND HAND

As the first establishment in Germany for the care of people with disabilities, Werkstatt Bremen, with almost forty locations across Germany, has the highest number of individual institutions. In total, 2,000 workers make use of the varied range of services provided by the Werkstatt.

DROP A COIN IN THE BREMEN HOLE

At first glance, an inconspicuous manhole cover. But it hides much more beneath: right next to the Bremen Bürgerschaft is the Bremer Loch (Bremen Hole), an underground donation box belonging to the charity Wilhelm-Kaisen-Bürgerhilfe. Every time a coin is dropped in, the sounds of one of the town musicians of Bremen is heard from beneath the earth. In this way, thousands of euros are collected each year for charitable purposes.

POLAR BEAR, SEAL AND FRIENDS

On the 24th of June 1928, the Zoo am Meer (zoo by the sea) in Bremerhaven opened its doors (then under the name of the ‘animal grottoes’) and since then has attracted many visitors with its polar bears, seals, and penguins.
...makes a wide bend. There you can find the only stadium in Germany that is completely surrounded by a photovoltaic casing and thus produces up to a million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. With this quantity of electricity, around 300 households can be supplied over the same period. What’s more, fans can arrive at the game by boat, as there is a ferry dock directly by the stadium – also unique for Germany.
The people of Bremen traditionally get involved in their city, thus showing their responsibility for their fellow citizens. The ever-growing number of charitable foundations confirms this: with over 300 such institutions, the federal state of Bremen has the second-highest density of charitable foundations in the country.

LESS TALK, MORE ACTION

THREE TIMES IS BREMEN LAW ...

... or so goes the famous saying, often used to mean ‘third time lucky’. It harks back to the middle ages, when the city had its own peculiar legal principles: for example, three stages of legal recourse, three witnesses needed for evidence to have legal force, three proclamations required for legal validity to be achieved. Aside from this, the people of Bremen were also guaranteed three special rights by the Emperor: the right to wear gold and fur for the aldermen, the city’s own legal jurisdiction and the freedom of shipping on the Weser.
ROOSTER, CAT, DOG, BIKE

Bremen is a city for bicycles. 25 percent of all journeys are made by bike: more than in any other major German city. In comparison with other cities in Europe, Bremen is in third place, surpassed only by Amsterdam and Copenhagen. Cycling is a part of everyday life in Bremen, and emblematic of the city’s attitude. And that’s a good thing, because cycling helps improve the quality of life in urban areas. The latest rankings have given the city a special status, which we will continue to build on. An example is the Neustadt district, a model cycling neighbourhood in which bike riders can roll comfortably through the first official “bicycle zone” in Germany. There is also a city-wide bike rental scheme and a free-of-charge Bike Citizens cycle route planner app, so you can always find the best way to go. Whether you’re off to work, going shopping, visiting an out of town festival venue, the museum, the Sommergarten on the banks of the River Wümme or going swimming in the Werdersee – it’s better by bike.
MOIN YOU

Cosmopolitan city, active tolerance, vibrant culture: Moin!
Welcome to Bremen.

bremen.eu/tourism
+49 (0)421 / 30 800 10
NO DRY-DOCKS IN SIGHT

Formerly the inner-city harbour, the ‘Schlachte’ has become Bremen’s much loved promenade for all along the banks of the Weser. Especially in the summer, the 660-metre-long esplanade is very inviting for a stroll, while its beer-gardens and bars are much frequented.
Will the Weser 'flow' or 'freeze'? Since 1830, this question has been answered every year on Epiphany Day, the 6th of January, during the traditional 'Eiswette', or ice-wagering. Amid festive surroundings, a tailor tests whether the Weser is frozen or not.

THE KEY OF BREMEN AS A SIGN OF THE ‘ZEIT’

The key of Bremen from the arms of the senate is part of the emblem of the weekly newspaper 'Die Zeit'. A curiosity, especially as the newspaper has had its headquarters in Hamburg since its establishment. There, the city government of the time forbade the use of the gate seen on Hamburg's coat of arms, considering it a misuse of an emblem. However, the mayor of Bremen, Wilhelm Kaisen, gave free usage rights to his city’s symbol.
MARKETS OF POSSIBILITY

The Bremen Freimarkt, the largest funfair in the north of Germany, adds a fifth season to calendars in the Hanseatic city. ‘Ischa Freimaak’ (as it is called locally) has been held annually since 1035 and now attracts over four million people to the Bürgerweide during 17 days in October. The Christmas market and Schlachte-Zauber fair are just as popular. Combined, they come in third place in the ranking of the busiest Christmas markets in Germany. One British newspaper even once said that the two together make for the best festive fair experience in Europe.
Überseestadt is one of the largest urban development projects in Europe. A new district was created in the former harbour area in the west of Bremen and it continues to evolve. It blends the traditional charm of the harbour with modern commercial and residential complexes such as the Weser Tower, Bremen’s tallest office block reigning 82 metres over the city. Überseestadt is famous for its creative scene, top restaurants and unusual leisure activities like UV golf in the dark, a permanent vintage car exhibition, escape rooms, the GOP Varieté Theatre and, as of the summer of 2019, the Waller Sand beach park, complete with pier lighthouse, for hours of fun and frolics just a few miles out of the city centre.
The Alexander von Humboldt sailing ship, known for its starring role in a Beck’s beer TV advert, put Bremen on the map around the world. It returned to its permanent mooring in the Hanseatic city in 2015 and now doubles up as a restaurant and hotel on the Schlachte Embankment.
BREMEM BRINGS HOME THE BACON

The people of Bremen like to call their flag the ‘bacon flag’. The reason is its red and white stripes and the way they break down into squares – lardons, perhaps – next to the flagpole.

A WATCHFUL EYE TO THE NORTH AND BALTIC

The maritime rescue crews of the German Maritime Search and Rescue Service (DGzRS) have operated out of Bremen for over 150 years, ensuring safety on the North and Baltic seas voluntarily, independently and supported by donations.

The DGzRS Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Bremen Neustadt coordinates more than 2,000 operations every year among the 60 rescue units between Borkum and Usedom.

A TOP EXPORT

In the USA there are in total eleven cities called Bremen. In 2003, passengers and crew of the cruise ship MS Bremen discovered a previously unrecorded island, which since then has been officially known as ‘Bremen Island’. It is separated from its neighbouring island by the ‘Bremen Canal’.
Around 3,000 bottles of Beck’s are consumed globally every minute. That means the Bremen-based company is responsible for producing the most popular German beer in the world. An impressive craft beer scene has also emerged in Bremen. With delicious offerings from the likes of Union Brauerei, Grebhans, Hopfenfänger and Schüttlinger, hand-crafted beer created with an eye for detail and an experimental approach is never in short supply. Word of this fine brewing tradition has even made its way to Costa Rica, where the Florida Brewery has been selling a light beer called ‘Bremen’ for quite some time now.
WANDERING IS THE BREMER’S JOY

In north-west Germany, going on a ‘Kohlfahrt’, or kale-walk, in the period between the start of November and the end of February, is a must. Traditionally, the excursion is done through the countryside in the bitter cold with a handcart full of drinks, warming up again afterwards with a shared meal of kale, Kassler gammon, Bregen and Pinkel sausages. But don’t get confused: Braunkohl (in Bremen) and Grünkohl (in the surrounding region) may sound like two completely different kettles of cabbage, but mean the same thing.

WINE BY THE BARREL

The cellar of the Bremen Rathaus (Ratskeller) houses the largest collection worldwide of high-quality German wines – around 650 different vintages. Among them is the oldest German cask wine, from 1653. One area of the cellar is named after the poet Wilhelm Hauff, who in 1827 wrote the wine novella ‘Fantasies in the Bremen Ratskeller’.

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GOOD TASTE

Bremen and Bremerhaven are home to no end of foodies, with the likes of Beck’s, Nordsee, Frosta, Mondelez (formerly Kraft Foods), Vitakraft, Univeg and coffee brands Melitta and Jacobs having their head offices or large production sites here. Did you know that the harbour city produces so many fish fingers (2.7 billion every year) that they would reach all the way around the world five times if they were all lined up lengthways?

SWEET TOOTH

There are some treats you can only find here. For example, Bremer Babbeler lollies have been hand-produced since 1886. The same can be said for Schnoorkuller – balls of meringue nougat coated with milk chocolate and hazelnuts – and Klaben – a cake similar to Stollen but with more fruit. Kluten is another delicacy unique to Bremen, consisting of peppermint fondant half-dipped in dark chocolate. Just picture a domino to get an idea of what it looks like! And Bremen Kaffeebrot is a special crispy treat that locals like to dunk in their hot drinks.
Mercedes-Benz Plant Bremen: Production facility with global responsibility

The Mercedes-Benz Plant in Bremen is one of Mercedes-Benz AG’s largest passenger car plants. With currently ten different models, its more than 12,500 employees are building a broad product variety and in its role as leadplant the site supports the global production of the C-Class and the GLC.

In 2019, Bremen celebrated another important milestone: the start of production of the EQC (energy consumption combined: 20,8 – 19,7 kWh/100 km; CO₂ emissions combined: 0g/km), the first all-electric model of the EQ brand.

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ROLLING IN PEPPER

During excavation work in 1989, a peppercorn dating back around 800 years was discovered in the city, making it the oldest to be found north of the Alps. This caused quite a stir in academic circles, as it proved that Bremen was involved with global trade back in the 13th century and that rich people who could afford the luxury of exotic spices lived in the area at that time. The peppercorn is on display at the Focke Museum despite the fact that it measures a mere three millimetres.

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE

The first coffee shop to open in Germany, Austria or Switzerland was in Bremen. Coffee was served here as early as 1673, pre-dating even Vienna’s coffee houses. The famous HAG Marble Hall can be found in the former HAG factory, which is now home to Lloyd Coffee. Having been built in 1914, the room is reminiscent of the thriving coffee trade in Bremen and is now protected given its historical status. To this day, the beans used to produce every other cup of coffee in Germany have passed through the Hanseatic city.
Bremen’s Schaffermahlzeit is the world’s oldest ‘Brudermahl’, or fraternal feast, still in existence. Since 1545, merchants, sea-captains and invited guests from the worlds of politics and business have met in the Rathaus of Bremen for a five-hour banquet.

THE BREMEN TAKE ON THE HAMBURGER

Patties in Bremen aren’t made from beef. Instead, the focus is on fillets of white fish (like pollock or hake) coated in crispy bread-crums and served with a mix of herbs, sauce and fried onions.
DINNER IS SERVED

Meals served in Bremen tend to be hearty with a focus on taste rather than appearance. Knipp – crispy fried sausage mixed with grains – is a prime example of this attitude to food. And Labskaus – a dish of mashed potatoes mixed with corned beef and beetroot – is often served with pickled herring, gherkins and a fried egg. Meanwhile, poussin is at the heart of a traditional Bremen ragout. The ‘Schaufenster Fischereihafen’ in Bremerhaven is the place to go, however, for anyone looking to remove the meat from a crab in the good old-fashioned way and feast on fresh fish.

EAT IN OR TAKE AWAY?

Bremen is the birthplace of the hugely popular ‘rollo’, a thin baked flatbread that is generously filled and rolled up with its ends folded over before being heated up quickly in a hot oven. Clever owners of fast-food stalls started selling these tasty wraps back in the early 1980s and now they can be found on menus alongside the classic Doner kebab.
The ‘Town Musicians of Bremen’ by the Brothers Grimm is a popular fairytale the world over. So popular, in fact, that it has been turned into a musical in South Korea. 2019 marked the 200th anniversary of the tale, which is one of the very few that actually mention the name of a city in their title. And the animals never even make it all the way to Bremen. Nevertheless, a visit to the town hall wouldn’t be complete without checking out the nearby statue and wrapping both hands tightly around the donkey’s legs whilst making a wish!
FESTIVALS ON THE BANKS OF THE WESER

The Breminale combines culture, music and good food along the Osterdeich. Some 200,000 people flock to the riverside to relax and dance to international tunes over five days during the spring or summer. A little further north, in the Vegesack district, shanty choirs, Irish and Scottish rock bands, Celtic folk groups and many more groups come together every August for the international Maritime Festival. They sing about the wind, the sea and their home-town ports during more than 150 concerts spread across ten open-air stages.

BREMEN CLASSICS

Since 1992, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie has had its base in the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen. The chamber orchestra has become world famous in the past years thanks to performances, among others, of the complete Beethoven symphonies. But it also takes an interest in local affairs: as part of the ‘Melody of Life’ project, musicians and pupils at the Bremen-Ost comprehensive come together. The young people bring thoughts, ideas and feelings from their school day, which are then made into music and presented on stage.
CULT(URE) STREET

Böttcherstraße is an exciting road near the marketplace, where visitors can find museums, art galleries and craft workshops alongside cafes and boutiques. Plus, a glockenspiel made of Meissen porcelain sounds at certain times throughout the day and special panels tell the story of the Atlantic crossing in pictures. Atlantis House is an architectural highlight and its famous Sky Room is not to be missed.

LISTEN...

Because of its unique acoustics and elegant art-deco ambience, the Glocke (‘bell’), which opened in 1928, is today one of the most renowned concert-halls in Europe. The original chapter house on this site, initially part of a monastery, existed since the 9th century. Then, in 1869, it was repurposed as a concert-hall.

TAKE ONE, ACTION!

In 1974, Radio Bremen started the first talk show in Germany, ‘3nach9’. The programme airs every four weeks late on Friday evening and is still produced in Bremen.
The Rhododendron Park in Bremen’s Horn-Lehe district covers an incredible 46 hectares and is home to the ‘botanika’ botanical gardens, where all kinds of flora and fauna are just waiting to be discovered. Home to more than 3,000 cultivars and almost 600 species, the park and science centre boast the second biggest collection of rhododendrons in the world between them. The Dalai Lama is giving every continent a golden Buddha statue standing at 2.4 metres tall. Europe’s gift makes for a special highlight in its spot in the Japanese Garden at botanika, representing peace and respect between nations.

BE POLITE!

The supposed defender of good manners Adolf Freiherr von Knigge – his name equivalent in German to ‘Debrett’ – spent the last years of his life in Bremen. He is buried in the Cathedral of St. Peter. His book ‘On Human Relations’ is still falsely seen today as an etiquette guide. Knigge’s approach was, in fact, directed less towards good behaviour and more towards sociological aspects.
Since 1989, around 23,000 lovers of classical music have flooded every year into Bremen from across the entire north-west for the three-week music festival in Bremen. Taking place in late summer, the festival puts on nearly 40 events in well-known concert locations in the region.

ANOTHER STRING TO BREMEN’S BOW

The three-master, built in 1927, was used as a sailing training ship for the merchant navy and is the only full-rigged ship left in Germany. With a sail area half the size of a football field, it continues to make a lasting impression on young and old. It its berthed today in Vegesack north Bremen.
The international street circus festival La Strada transforms the squares around Roland, the Rathaus and the Town Musicians into a giant arena every summer. For several days, clowns, performers and dancers from across the world give an al fresco taste of their art.

Showcasing the likes of Picasso, Monet and van Gogh, Kunsthalle Bremen has been dedicated to lots of different artists for as long as anyone can remember. The art gallery wows its adoring international visitors year on year with its stunning temporary exhibitions. The Bremen Art Association helps make this possible as a private sponsor. The Weserburg Museum of Modern Art is the place to go in Bremen for contemporary masterpieces from around the world. It opened its doors in 1991 as Europe’s first collector’s museum and is home to a unique collection of artists’ publications and records.
SAMBA, NORTH-GERMAN STYLE

Europe’s largest samba and masked carnival parade takes place every year in Bremen. One week before Shrove Tuesday, friends of the exotic dance from across Germany and the neighbouring countries bring a breath of Brazil into the Bremen streets and onto the open-air stages.

NOT YET SWEPT AWAY?

If you see a young man in front of the cathedral, busily sweeping bottle-caps from the steps, you can be sure he is a genuine bachelor. Traditionally, men who are still unmarried on their 30th birthday, have to sweep the cathedral steps, only being released on receiving a maiden’s kiss. Their counterparts are young women who clean the door handles.
Every summer, culture vultures flock to the musical picnic in the Knoops Park in north Bremen. At the ‘Summer in Lesmona’ they listen to open-air concerts by the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie of Bremen in the midst of the park’s lush greenery.

Schnoor is a Medieval district made up of winding alleyways that ooze the charm of bygone centuries. Bremen’s smallest house, covering a mere four square metres, can also be found here. It is believed that this pretty old town’s name could have come from all the handiwork that used to go on here to produce cords and ropes for ships. After all, ‘Schnoor’ is the old Low German word for string, cord or line. An alternative explanation is that the houses are all lined up like pearls strung together.

The Bremen Theatre on the Goetheplatz lets in about 170,000 audience members a year. In 2007, it was selected as the ‘Opera House of the Year’, going on to be honoured a year later by the ‘Germany – land of ideas’ initiative.
BREMEN’S MEMORY

For over 100 years, the Focke Museum has collected and preserved interesting, weird and unique objects from Bremen’s history. Numerous exhibits, peppered with finds from family collections and Bremen handicrafts, have made the state museum for art and cultural history famous across the country.

HOUSEBUILDING, HANSEATIC STYLE

They define the cityscape in many places: two to three-storey buildings with a cellar, front-gabled rather than side-gabled, with high ceilings inside, often standing in rows. Since the middle of the 19th century, this architectural type has been known as the ‘Altbremer Haus’ or old Bremen house – even beyond the walls of the Hanseatic city.

OVERSEAS IN 100 STEPS

With its unique collection, encompassing ethnology, trade and natural history, as well as its extensive exhibitions from across the world’s oceans, the Übersee-Museum, or Overseas Museum, directly by the main station of Bremen, is one of the most important museums on this continent. It has already been nominated several times for the European Museum Prize and was honoured as a ‘Select Location in the Land of Ideas 2010’.
Bremerhaven has so much to offer right by the Weser estuary. Visitors can shop till they drop at the outlet centre, find out about climate change at Klimahaus Bremerhaven 8° Ost, learn about maritime history at the Deutsches Schifffahrtsmuseum and consider past and present perspectives on migration, at the Auswandererhaus, which explores topics like immigration in Germany. Anyone looking for a place to stay for the night will be in luck here too – the nearby hotel inspired by the iconic Burj al Arab in Dubai has been a striking feature of the city’s skyline since 2008.
Jan Böhmermann, a German radio and TV presenter, entertainer and satirist, comes from the north of Bremen. He started his career at a local newspaper company, Bremer Tageszeitungen AG, in 1997. His provocative satire aimed at Yanis Varoufakis, the Greek Minister of Finance at the time, in 2015 and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2016 helped him gain more fans around the world. He started hosting Magazin Royale, a talk show that airs on German channel ZDF on Friday evenings, in autumn 2020.
JÜRGEN TRITTIN

Born in 1854 in Bremen-Vegesack, Jürgen Trittin became known as Environment Minister representing the political party Bündnis 90 / Die Grünen (1998 to 2005).

HEINO FERCH

The German actor Heino Ferch was born in Bremerhaven in 1963. He became well-known in the 1990s through the films 'Comedian Harmonists' and 'Winter Sleepers'. Ferch first trod the boards in the main theatre of his home town at the age of 15.

VICCO VON BÜLOW

Bernhard-Viktor Christoph-Carl von Bülow became renowned across Germany as Loriot: from 1976 to 1978, he produced the eponymous television series at Radio Bremen. There is much in the Hanseatic city to remind one of the unique author, parodist, actor and comedian: a square named after him, a bronze replica of the Loriot sofa, with pug, on the forecourt in front of Radio Bremen and the famous green sofa itself in the foyer of the broadcasting studios.
**BERNHARD »BERT« TRAUTMANN**

During the Second World War, this Bremer ended up in British captivity and remained in England after the end of the war. Already at that stage he loved playing football. In 1949 he was discovered as a goalie by top-league team Manchester City. Experiencing initial hostility as a German, his performance quickly made him a crowd favourite. The high-point: at the cup final in 1956, he played to the end despite five broken vertebrae in his neck. Bert’s team won. In 2004 he was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to German-British relations.

**JAMES LAST**

Hans Last, one of Germany’s most famous musicians, was born in Bremen’s Sebaldsbrück district in 1929. By the mid-1960s, he had become famous on the global stage with his orchestra of 40 musicians. In 1978, he was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit. He died in 2015 and will forever be remembered as a legendary star.

**RUDI CARRELL**

The Netherlander was the first to combine the roles of compère and comedian on German television. He made his first steps in the business right here at Radio Bremen. He became famous through programmes such as ’Am laufenden Band’ (the German original of ’The Generation Game’), ’Herzblatt’ (a dating show) and ’Lass dich überraschen’ (based on ’Surprise Surprise’). He lived near the Hanseatic city until his death in 2006.
The actor, born in 1963 in Bremen, took her first steps as an artist in the Hanseatic city: as a ballet pupil, aged five, on the stage of the Goetheplatz Theatre, and later in a theatre group of the Gymnasium am Barkhof. Her acting breakthrough came in the mid-1980s with the six-part television film ‘Summer in Lesmona’.

From Bremen to South Korea. From inexperienced swimmer to 2019 world champion in the 1,500-metre freestyle event and ten-kilometre open-water swimming event. Wellbrock is actually the first individual swimmer to win a gold medal in both pool-based and open-water events at a world championship.

The CDU politician was born in Bremen in 1914. From 1979 to 1984, he was the federal president and thus head of state of the Federal Republic of Germany.
Bremen-born Bärbel Schäfer first became known as a television presenter and producer when she hosted her own afternoon talk show in the 1990s. At the moment, she has a radio slot on hr3 in Germany and hosts a talk show called ‘Weser-Strand’ for the Weser-Kurier, a local paper.

Ben Becker

Born in Bremen in 1964, Ben Becker is a charismatic actor who has won many awards. He grew up in Berlin and experienced his breakthrough when he appeared in the 1995 film ‘Brother of Sleep’. His sister Meret Becker, another Bremen-born star, can also be seen on screen. She plays a police inspector working in Berlin in hit German crime drama ‘Tatort’ and will be continuing in this role until 2022.

Hape Kerkeling

If the German police had been more alert just before the Dutch state visit to the German president in 1991, the comedian Hape Kerkeling would never have become so famous in his role as Queen Beatrix. It was then that, for a Radio Bremen production, Kerkeling had himself chauffeured by limousine, as Beatrix, into the square in front of Bellevue Palace, the German presidential residence – using Bremen number plates.
HANS-JOACHIM KULENKAMPFF

The favourite of German television viewers from the 1960s to the 1980s was born in Bremen in 1921. It was here, at the age of 22, that ‘Kuli’, as he was known, made his stage debut in the Bremer Schau- spielhaus. With wit and charm, he captivated the audience and twice won the Goldene Kamera for the most popular German showmaster. To this day, he remains an inspiration for many presenters.

ARND ZEIGLER

Radio and TV host, singer, author, columnist, stadium announcer... Is there anything this Bremen-born talent can’t do? ‘Zeiglers wunderbare Welt des Fußballs’ [Zeigler’s Wonderful World of Football] draws in an audience in its thousands every week. No matter what he turns his hand to, his huge passion for football and commitment to the local Werder Bremen club shine through.

LENNARD KÄMNA

Originally from the suburbs of Bremen, Lennard Kämna likes training in the city’s Blockland district and won a stage of the Tour de France in 2020. He was just eleven years old when he started off as a racing cyclist and he won all the titles in his age category time and time again. Many experts predict that he will win the Tour de France one day.
The musical number ‘Lili Marleen’ made Lise-Lotte Helene Bunningberg, alias Lale Andersen, world famous in 1939. Born in Bremerhaven-Lehe in 1905, she moved to Berlin at the beginning of the 1930s, where she achieved her breakthrough at the Kabaret der Komiker (Cabaret of Comedians).

ERNST ROWOHLT

The founder of the publishing house of the same name was born in 1887 in Bremen. Here he finished an apprenticeship in the Carl F. Plump & Co. banking house, then took a traineeship in a printing works in Leipzig, founding the Rowohlt Verlag there.
LAURA WONTORRA

Bremen-born Laura Wontorra studied Media Management and specialised in PR and Communication. After taking on internships and unpaid work in TV, it wasn’t long before she became a sports presenter for Sky, Sport1 and the RTL Group. She also hosts a cookery show on VOX. Her talent was clearly passed down to her by her father Jörg Wontorra, another German television presenter and sports journalist from Bremen.

LUDWIG QUIDDE

Bremen’s Ludwig Quidde was a driving force in the German pacifist movement during the years of the Weimar Republic. For this, he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1927.

JOHANNES STRATE

The son of a pianist and a guitarist, Strate was born in Bremen in 1980. Already at ten, he was taking guitar lessons and founded his first band four years later. Nowadays, he rocks the stages of Germany with the gold and platinum band ‘Revolverheld’.
SV Werder is obviously the most popular football team in Bremen and the surrounding area. But there are also fan clubs in China, the USA and many neighbouring European countries. Werder is still holding on to its third-place position in the all-time Bundesliga league table. Did you know that the first-ever Bundesliga goal was scored on Bremen’s Osterdeich?
GREEN AND WHITE THROUGH AND THROUGH

In August 1949, shoemaker Alexander Salot from Bremen’s Blumenthal district filed a patent application for the screw-in stud system he had developed for football boots. The Bremen-born inventor was three whole years ahead of Adi Dassler (the founder of Adidas) and screw-in studs are still sometimes used in football to this day.

NO SCREWS LOOSE

Football isn’t the only exciting sport on offer in the state, which also has a professional basketball team called Eisbären Bremerhaven and a top ice-hockey team known as the Fischtown Pinguins from REV Bremerhaven.

SAILOR’S HAVEN

‘Sail in Bremerhaven’ is one of the largest Windjammer regattas in Europe. Every five years it unites the largest sailing ships in the world in the harbour city on the Weser estuary.

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The cycle race, Sixdays of Bremen, is one of the most popular events of its type, with around 60,000 spectators per year. For over 50 years, the Sixdays have managed to combine parties and sport together in January.

THE SIXTH SEASON OF BREMEN

LET’S DANCE

The Grün-Gold-Club Bremen and TSG Bremerhaven are world leaders in competitive dance. Both clubs together have over 20 world championship titles – having drawn for the win, even, in 2007’s Latin formation.
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‘I’m nothing here, and long to be worth more, because this town is real, and real is rare.’

Writer and poet Joachim Ringelnatz in his ‘Travel Letters of an Artist’ about Bremen.