

Tourist highlights in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) 2023

375 years of the Peace of Westphalia

A year of special events is planned to mark the anniversary of the unique historical Westphalian peace agreement of 1648. The programme shows what we can learn today from the Peace of Westphalia and how civil society, politicians, scientists, artists and business representatives can work together to resolve conflict. The main celebration will take place on the anniversary of the historical day of peace, 25 October 2023. There will be cultural activities, activities in public spaces and large-scale events drawing international attention. www.osnabrueck.de/kultur/2023-375-jahre-westfaelischer-friede

125th birthday of Erich Maria Remarque

This is another anniversary with an extensive programme of planned events. Remarque's birthday is on 22 June. To mark the occasion, an exhibition will open at the Erich Maria Remarque Peace Centre on 22 and 23 June. www.remarque.uni-osnabrueck.de/aktuell.html#ausstellung

25th anniversary of the Felix Nussbaum House

This anniversary will take place during the 'Engagement and Resistance' focus week in September and will be observed with a special exhibition titled 'I never tire of resisting – Felix Nussbaum and artistic resistance today') in Osnabrück's museum district. The exhibition opens on 9 September with Daniel Libeskind and other guests in attendance. www.friedensstadt.osnabrueck.de/de/jubilaem/7-monate-7-themen/friedenspreise-und-besondere-jubilaen/25-jahre-felix-nussbaum-haus

900 years of Westerstede

Events are planned in Westerstede throughout the year to mark 900 years of the town. On 22 February the official opening will be held in St Petri church. There will then be various services continuing into next winter, a spring market and the harvest parade. The Rhodo, the famous rhododendron show, is also back as the climax of the festivities. www.westerstede900.de

State Garden Show in Bad Gandersheim

Bad Gandersheim is hosting the seventh Lower Saxony State Garden Show from 14 April to 15 October 2023. At more than 1,500 events over 185 days, attractions in the cathedral city include model gardens, flower shows, activities, a games and sports park, and lots of cultural events. The event was postponed by a year because of the pandemic. It is the first state garden show to be held in southern Niedersachsen. www.laga-bad-gandersheim.de

20 years of Park der Gärten

On 22 April 2023 the park will mark its anniversary with characteristic resplendence. 65,000 spring-flowering bulbs have been planted for the occasion. What's more, model gardens have been redesigned especially for the occasion. www.park-der-gaerten.de

'Bock rocks in Einbeck!'

Einbeck is the home of 'bock' beer, which will be celebrated in the bock beer year of 2023. Beer has been brewed there since the 13th century. The 700+ homes with brewing rights originally brewed beer only for their own consumption or for sale in town. But from the 14th century, 'Ainpöckisch' beer became so popular that it was sold throughout the region. Thanks to Einbeck's membership in the Hanseatic League, its beer was exported throughout the German-speaking territories and abroad. A master brewer from Einbeck was recruited in 1614 to produce the popular beer in Munich. With a little help from the Bavarian dialect, 'Ainpöckisch' became 'Oanpock' and later 'Bockbier'. Under the motto 'Bock rocks in Einbeck!', the town is celebrating its brewing tradition and the history of its hit export. Courses and workshops (for example on art made with crown caps), guided tours and tourist packages will be on offer throughout the year, and a pop-up beer garden with a medieval flair is planned for June and July. www.einbeck-tourismus.de/bockbierjahr-2023

200th anniversary of the City of Leer

The port city of Leer received its city charter on 11 July 1823; this anniversary will be observed in numerous events from 11 July to 1 August 2023. www.touristik-leer.de/events/veranstaltungshighlights/200-jahre-stadtrechte-wir-feiern-unsere-geschichte

25th anniversary of the German Naval Museum in Wilhelmshaven

Festivities are planned for the anniversary on 24 April 2023. www.marinemuseum.de

20 years of Harzer-Hexen-Stieg

Tba

www.osterode.de/regional/veranstaltungen/detail-912010605-21351.html

Tourist news 2023

River surfing on the Leinewelle in Hanover

In May 2023 the Leinewelle – a mechanically-generated standing wave for surfing on the River Leine – will open to all enthusiasts. In the meantime, the waves are being tested and assessed by members of the Leinewelle e.V. association. Surfing in the city will soon be possible under the castle bridge. Surfing in the city is known as river surfing and is possible when a standing wave arises as flowing water passes over an obstacle. In the Leine there are no natural obstacles, so the standing wave is generated mechanically. www.leinewelle.de

Harz Skywalk in Torfhaus

Germany's highest wooden lookout tower is set to open in Torfhaus in spring. The 65m high helicoidal tower and 45m high skywalk offer an amazing view of the Brocken and the surrounding national park. A 110m long slide, café and shop complete the attraction. www.harzturm.de/

Barefoot park in Friedeburg

Wooden discs, acorns and pine cones: you can feel all these and more over 8.5 kilometres of trails in Europe's biggest barefoot park from 1 April. Its attractions include a labyrinth with two-metre-high yew trees and a small hill that visitors can walk up along a gently inclining, winding trail 100 metres long. Training equipment for balance exercises, Kneipp basins, moor and mud paths, as well as a playground promise adventure for visitors of all ages. www.leguano.eu/leguano-barfusspark

Accessible four-star hotel in Benersiel

Easter 2023 will see the opening of Meerzeiten, an accessible four-star hotel in Benersiel not far from the beach. People with and without disabilities will be able to enjoy top-notch relaxation here. This will be a boon, and not just to wheelchair users or visually impaired people requiring a barrier-free experience: families with small children and prams, the elderly and people with limited mobility will benefit from the accessible nature of the hotel. www.hotel-meerzeiten.de

New exhibitions 2023

China behind Glass: Relics of a Forgotten Art at the Hanover State Museum from 25 November to 16 April 2023

China of the 19th and 20th centuries comes to life brilliantly on the exquisite reverse glass paintings from the Rupprecht Mayer collection. Created between 1850 and 1965 in China, these vibrantly coloured works represent characteristic motifs and mythological, historical and literary themes from Chinese culture. The paintings, by mostly unknown artists, also depict scenes from everyday life, thus documenting social preferences and changes. www.landesmuseum-hannover.de/ausstellungen/china-hinter-glas/

Cinema Culture in 1950s Hanover at the Hanover Museum of History from 12 November 2022 to 31 October 2023

In the 1950s, Hanover became a cinema metropolis and city of premieres. In the post-war period, two of the main film studios were located in Niedersachsen. But even beyond Niedersachsen, Hanoverians were known as cinephiles, so many production companies premiered their films in Hanover. This cinema boom saw no less than 52 cinemas spring up in Hanover. This exhibition focuses on the boom era – setting the stage for cinema architecture, films and stars. Two small film cabinets provide an insight into the most popular films of the time.

www.hannover.de/Veranstaltungskalender/Ausstellungen/Historisches-Museum-Hannover/Premierenfieber

Elementarteile (Elemental Parts) at the Sprengel Museum Hanover until 31 December 2023

The Sprengel Museum Hanover is marking its 40-year anniversary with the *Elementarteile* exhibition in the annex. Over 150 works from the 20th century to the present day come together here to be explored as fundamental questions of art. The exhibition showcases an impressively wide range of art forms, from painting, sculpture, prints, drawings and photography through to film by artists such as Max Beckmann, Louise Bourgeois, Grethe Jürgens, Niki de Saint Phalle, Pablo Picasso and Gerhard Richter. www.sprengel-museum.de/ausstellungen/elementarteile

'HERE I AM!' Women artists' self-portraits Emden Art Gallery, 4 March – 3 September 2023

Self-portraits are an important artistic genre that can express how artists see themselves or want to be seen by others. The exhibition's focus is on the ways women artists portrayed themselves in the 20th and 21st centuries, emphasising phenomena

such as pregnancy, motherhood, identity issues and masquerades. The discourse on women's roles is presented very clearly in the artists' portraits. The artists range from Paula Modersohn-Becker and Lotte Laserstein to Marina Abramović, Joan Jonas and Cindy Sherman, and to younger artists such as Martine Gutierrez and Bunny Rogers.

www.kunsthalle-empden.de/ausstellungen/kuenstlerinnen-selbstportraet

Back to the beginning! 100 years of Franz Radziwill in Dangast

Franz Radziwill House, from 26 March 2023

The painter Franz Radziwill and the artists' village of Dangast are inextricably linked today. They have been connected for 100 years, since Radziwill bought his house there in 1923. That led to a radical change in his painting: in just a few years in Dangast, Radziwill transformed from an Expressionist into a painter of the New Objectivity school. This exhibition honours this century-long connection and provides insights into his expressive early works. www.radziwill.de

Special exhibition of the segmented armour of a Roman legionary, in Kalkriese Museum and Park

Segmented armour only became standard issue to Roman legions in the days of Emperor Augustus and were produced in the millions. The armour consisted of around 30 individual panels, held together by hinges and leather straps. The segmented armour found in summer 2018 in Kalkriese near Osnabrück is the oldest and most complete set of segmented armour ever discovered. To protect it from damage, it was recovered and removed as a single block and is now being separated piece by piece in the museum. The segmented armour is set to be presented in a special exhibition in summer 2023. www.kalkriese-varusschlacht.de/museum-park/ausstellungen.html

'Speed. Speed! Speed? A history of speed'

Hanover State Museum, Schloss Derneburg Art Museum and PS.Speicher Einbeck, 9 June 2023 – 4 February 2024

Niedersachsen played an important role in speeding things up from the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. As early as 1786, James Watt, inventor of the first powerful and economical steam engine, travelled to the Harz Mountains to study the mining technology used in the Dorothea mine, and cars have been produced in Wolfsburg without interruption since the 1930s. When three key institutions in Niedersachsen join forces to tell the story of speed from different perspectives, they also highlight the history of Niedersachsen. The exhibition is being held at three locations: The Schloss Derneburg Art Museum focuses on speed in contemporary art, Europe's largest museum for vintage cars in Einbeck highlights technical progress, and the Hanover State Museum explores acceleration and deceleration in nature and culture through history. The cooperation of these three institutions within 100 kilometres of each other enables a sweeping portrayal of the obsession with speed that dominates our lives.

Active/outdoor events in Niedersachsen

Mountain biking in Niedersachsen

The Volksbank Arena in the Harz mountains and the Solling Vogler regional mountain bike nature park with their rapid downhill are a mountain biker's paradise and are considered to be top mountain biking locations. But apart from these hotspots, nearby forests and mountains are also perfect for an adrenaline-fuelled adventure: Deister, Süntel, Göttingen forest and the Harburg mountains all offer an abundance of challenging terrain. www.niedersachsen-tourism.com/experiences/cycling-in-lower-saxony/mountain-biking

Certified cycle routes and hiking trails

When it comes to choosing the right cycle or walking path, certification offers a good point of reference, especially for novices. Signposting and the quality of the paths are thus becoming increasingly important. Niedersachsen has a wide selection of certified high-quality cycle routes and hiking trails to offer its visitors. www.niedersachsen-tourism.com/experiences/hiking-trips/hiking-tours and www.niedersachsen-tourism.com/experiences/cycling-in-lower-saxony/typical-lower-saxony-by-bike/quality-cycling

Microadventures in Niedersachsen

The advent of New Work, forging closer links between work and leisure, has spawned a new type of adventure: microadventures are very popular in Niedersachsen too. They include geocaching, a short hike starting directly from your doorstep and a cycling trip to a farm shop in the countryside. In other words, just about anything you can do before or after work. www.niedersachsen-tourism.com/interessen/geocaching-in-niedersachsen

Stand-up paddle boarding in Stade

The Stade SUP club offers a special kind of city tour. Enjoy your own voyage of discovery by paddle board on the moat around the Old Town and on the Schwinge river. See Stade from a whole new angle on the water, surrounded by idyllic countryside. [SUP Club Stade - stade-tourismus.de](http://stade-tourismus.de) / www.beyondsurfing.com/sup-stade/

***Wanderbares Deutschland* (Walkable Germany): Solling-Vogler region**

The Solling-Vogler region was the first in Niedersachsen to be certified as a quality-assured walking region (*Qualitätsregion Wanderbares Deutschland*) by the German Hiking Association (DWV) in 2022. A certified quality region guarantees visitors a superior hiking experience, from the signage and nature of the trails to hiker-friendly hosts and a comprehensive service for hikers. Only five regions in the whole of Germany meet the strict criteria of the DWV. www.solling-vogler-region.de/de/p/wandern/45678512

Horse country

TBA: 2023: Art gala at the Princely Equestrian Academy in Bückeberg

In this magnificent and imaginative gala show, equestrians transform the historical Reithaus into twelve different scenes from the mystical, historical and international worlds inhabited by horses. The equipment, dress and riding manoeuvres are creatively and innovatively staged. www.hofreitschule.de/startseite

TBA: 2023: Traditional race day of the Oldenburger Landesrennverein (Oldenburg Racing Society) in Rastede

The traditional race day has been held every year in the Rastede castle grounds since 1987. Around 100 participants line up at the start for the trotting and galloping races. Trotters, English and Arabian thoroughbreds, as well as half-breed horses and ponies from all over northern Germany and the Netherlands are all there. Horses and riders gallop past spectators at up to 50 km/h to cross the finish line. www.rastede-touristik.de/veranstaltungen/grossveranstaltungen/

TBA: 2023: 73rd Oldenburger Landesturnier (Oldenburg Tournament)

The Oldenburger Landesturnier is a unique symbiosis of elite sport and family atmosphere and is known and loved far beyond the regional borders. An exciting sports programme with plenty of competition trials, a range of entertainment and an extensive supporting programme for the whole family enthuse spectators every year.

www.oldenburger-landesturnier.de

TBA: 2023: Ride of America in Wenden, Nienburg

Circle L Reitverein Wenden e.V. riding association is again this year planning a diverse programme for the Ride of America tournament week. To mark the 30th jubilee of the Ride of America, visitors will enjoy amazing horses, breathtaking riding, a wonderful atmosphere and fantastic acts at the Circle L Ranch in Wenden. All six days will feature top class Western riding in various categories and classes. www.ride-of-america.de

15 July 2023: 120th Duhnen mudflat racing in Cuxhaven

The world-famous horse race on the seabed, held since 1902 in the Wadden Sea off Duhnen, is one of the most spectacular events in the international racing calendar. No other event in the world offers a comparable equestrian spectacle, where racehorses and harness racers compete against the backdrop of one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. www.duhner-wattrennen.de/startseite

22-30 July 2023: 143rd Bad Harzburg racing festival

The Harzburger Rennverein (Harzburg horse racing club) (founded in 1880) is one of Germany's oldest and welcomes over 50,000 visitors to its racing festival every year, where they can enjoy exciting flat races, steeplechases and the very special lake chases (to crown Bad Harzburg's 'King of the Lake') on the two Sundays as well as a comprehensive supporting programme on non-race days.

www.bad-harzburg.de/event/141-bad-harzbuerger-galopprenwoche/

TBA: 2023: Summer pleasures and stallion parades in Celle

The mecca of Lower Saxony's horse breeding culture offers not only a varied show featuring famous stallions and guest acts, but also entertainment for those who aren't particularly horsey. The magnificent historical buildings of the state stud farm host an array of exhibitions devoted to the home and garden, fashion, hunting and dogs – and horses, of course! www.landgestuetcelle.de/en/events/stallion-parade/

26-29 October 2023: AGRAVIS Cup in Oldenburg

The AGRAVIS Cup is an event for old and young equestrian and sports enthusiasts as well as breeders, and is held in the EWE Arena in Oldenburg. The programme includes international equestrian sports with well-known riders from all over the world, as well as entertainment and a huge gala evening. Visitors can immerse themselves in lively exhibitions and adventure experiences devoted to equestrian sports and everything horsey. www.agravis.de/de/ueber-agravis/sponsoring/agravis-cup-oldenburg/

Special garden shows in Niedersachsen

14 April – 15 October 2023: State Garden Show (Landesgartenschau) in Bad Gandersheim

With the motto 'Garden.Festival.Games' Bad Gandersheim is hosting the seventh state horticultural show in Niedersachsen. Attractions in the cathedral city include model gardens, flower shows, activities, a games and sports park and lots of cultural events. The event was postponed by a year because of the pandemic. It is now the first state horticultural show to be taking place in southern Niedersachsen in 2023. www.laga-bad-gandersheim.de

13-21 May 2023: Rhodo in Westerstede

This year's Rhodo is the highlight of the town's 900-year anniversary celebrations. The vibrant blaze of colour will be something to behold in both the historical town centre and in the streets and alleys of Westerstede. The supporting programme also boasts many music and cultural highlights. As always, the rhododendron royalty will be crowned and the rhododendron blossom christened during the festivities. www.rhodo.de/

2-5 September 2023: Flower festival in Wiesmoor

Northern Germany's biggest flower festival takes place in the East Frisian town of Wiesmoor. The flower festival has been held each year around the first weekend in September since 1952. Each year, new flower royalty is crowned. The chosen flower queen and the two princesses represent the town at various events throughout Germany. The whole of Wiesmoor is transformed into a vibrant sea of flowers for the event.

www.tourismus-wiesmoor.de/bluetenfest

Festivals in Niedersachsen 2023

11-28 May 2023: KunstFestSpiele in Hanover Herrenhausen

The international KunstFestSpiele is a performing arts festival offering an impressive programme of musical theatre, concerts, theatre, performances, installations and much more besides. Over 20 productions will be presented at around 60 events in the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen and the city of Hanover. From installations to in-house productions and premieres – there's a bit of everything! www.kunstfestspiele.de/en/

26-28 May 2023: 24th Norderney White Sands Festival

Traditionally, the Whitsun weekend marks a special date in the calendar for sports fans and party-goers on the island of Norderney. Thousands of visitors flock to the North Sea island to watch Germany's best windsurfers and beach volleyball players. At night, the festival grounds on the beach transform into a party animal's paradise.

www.whitesandsfestival.de

07-14 June 2023: 33rd Emden-Norderney Film Festival

Located by the North Sea, the International Film Festival is among the country's most highly regarded, not just in Germany but around the world too. It's become a meeting place for numerous representatives of the film industry in Germany and Northwestern Europe. Featuring 100 films shown on seven screens, the festival is first and foremost a popular major event, drawing in around 24,000 visitors who value the warm, personal atmosphere and the chance to see filmmakers up close. www.filmfest-empden.de/en/

16-18 June 2023: Hurricane Festival in Scheeßel

Three days of the finest bands: around 65,000 fans are expected at this indie, rock, pop, electronic and hip-hop festival every year. International stars, German acts and emerging artists will be there to rock the four stages again this year.

www.hurricane.de/en/

20-23 July 2023: Deichbrand Festival at Cuxhaven Sea Airport

This popular rock festival spans three days and is a festival for both young and old. Since 2022 there has been a children's programme with the theme 'Holiday on the farm'. Everything else will remain unchanged: some 55,000 fans can expect a heady mix of indie, rock, pop, electronic and hip-hop sounds. www.deichbrand.de/en/

26-30 July 2023: Summertime @ Norderney

This music festival is held on Norderney's north beach. A festival of different genres in a maritime setting. There's something to suit every musical taste – pop, rock, party music and even classical feature every year. www.summertime-norderney.de

5-6 August 2023: M'era Luna Festival Hildesheim

M'era Luna is a metal, gothic rock and industrial music festival in Hildesheim, which attracts around 25,000 fans in quirky dress every year. The dark music scene's big get-together is held at the airbase in Drispensstedt. Top acts confirmed for 2023 include In Extremo, Subway to Sally, Letzte Instanz and many more. As well as performances by around 40 bands, the festival also features readings, a vibrant market area and the Gothic Fashion Show, which has become something of a tradition. www.meraluna.de

25 August – 11 September 2023: International Music Festival in Buxtehude

Since 2010, the International Music Festival has been held every year in Buxtehude, presenting stars of the world stage as well as up-and-coming talents from Germany and further afield. With its large audience and unusual concept, the classical festival has long since established itself as a cultural mainstay in the region. www.klassik-buxtehude.de

1-2 September 2023: Pflasterzauber in Hildesheim

At Pflasterzauber (Pavement magic), nine venues in central Hildesheim host performances by artists from Germany and around the globe. Niedersachsen's biggest street art festival has been held every year since 2008, captivating thousands of visitors with fantastic, whimsical, spectacular and astounding performances of the highest standard. www.pflasterzauber.de

FURTHER INFORMATION

TourismusMarketing Niedersachsen GmbH (TMN)

Annett Knechtel

Essener Str. 1 | 30173 Hanover

T +49 (0)511 | 270 488 62

trade@tourismusniedersachsen.de

About TourismusMarketing Niedersachsen/TMN (The Tourist Board of Lower Saxony)

The TMN is the central point of contact for tourism in Niedersachsen. The company was founded by the Niedersachsen Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Construction and Digitalisation in 2001 and, since January 2014, has been a wholly state-owned company. The TMN's remit is to competitively position Niedersachsen within the national and international tourism market in cooperation with regional tourism stakeholders. The focus is on marketing Niedersachsen as a tourist destination both regionally and nationally, and on developing brand strategies, online portals and quality management systems for tourist attractions.