

Bremen



Small is beautiful? Bremen is delicious proof of that particular pudding. Officially, the name describes a Hanseatic city and Germany's tiniest state, but most visitors – shh, don't mention it to the locals – would recognise it as more of a town really.

Or they might call it two towns, for the state of Bremen consists of a pair of distinct flecks of land dotted across the Lower Saxony landscape: industrial Bremerhaven at the Weser River's mouth and riverside Bremen, 65km south. They've been linked politically since 1827, when Bremen's mayor cleverly bought the river delta from Hanover.

And yet, despite its diminutive dimensions as both a state and a city, Bremen is a winner. Compact and easy to get to know in a weekend, it's a perfect example of what's called *schön klein* – the German equivalent of good things coming in small packages.

The picturesque red-brick capital will take you from an unusual Art Nouveau street to a quaint district of winding medieval lanes and on to an alternative student quarter, all within minutes. Imbibing the local Beck's beer on the waterfront 'Schlachte' promenade, Bremers might even talk of their oyster-shaped science centre as one of several modernising features.

To the north, Bremerhaven is reinventing itself with an impressive Emigration Centre that's a perfect companion piece to New York's Ellis Island. Meanwhile, back in the capital, Bremen has long settled on its unique brand image, courtesy of fairy-tale writers the Brothers Grimm. Everywhere you move, the picture of four animals riding piggyback – *The Town Musicians of Bremen* – stares out from statues, souvenirs and shop windows.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Grand Designs** Marvel at the golden archangel and red-brick angles of Böttcherstrasse (p644)
- **Window shopping** Check out the quaint outlets of the medieval Schnoor district (p644)
- **Prost!** Make merry on the Schlachte promenade with a Beck's beer (p648)
- **Off-beat Experience** Peek in at the blackened mummies in the Dom St Petri's lead cellar (p645)
- **Living History** Follow an ancestor across the ocean at the German Emigration Centre (p650) in Bremerhaven



■ POPULATION: 2.58 MILLION

■ AREA: 404 SQ KM

CITY OF BREMEN

☎ 0421 / pop 550,000

When you think about going to Bremen, the name seems somehow comfortingly familiar. A background character in a famous fairytale, it's a place many people have heard about on their mother's knee. After which, never have they devoted a second thought to it.

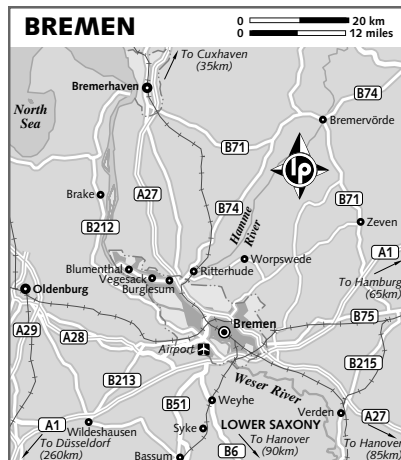
Which is a shame, because the little city on the Weser River offers a wonderfully relaxing short break, with its unexpectedly impressive old town centre, shop-lined mini-maritime quarter and unique Art Nouveau laneway.

As they mingle in the bars along the waterfront Schlachte promenade, Bremers can toast their perfectly-judged pace of life – not too fast, not too slow, just right.

That's another fairytale, of course, but in Bremen's case the reality is better than any fiction.

HISTORY

Bremen was known as the 'Rome of the North' during its early history, because after its establishment by Charlemagne in 787, it was used as the main base for Christianising Scandinavia. The city grew by leaps and bounds in the following centuries, and by 1358 was ready to join the Hanseatic League. In 1646 it became a free imperial city, a status it – sort of – still enjoys today as a 'Free Hanseatic City'.



ORIENTATION

Bremen's compact centre is easy to get around on foot, but trams cover most of the city. The Altstadt lies south of the Hauptbahnhof (central train station), on the north bank of the Weser River. The Art Nouveau Böttcherstrasse lies directly south of the central Markt and the popular Schlachte promenade southwest of this.

The Schnoor maritime quarter is found to the southeast, and the art galleries and studenty Das Viertel nightlife district lie to the east along Ostertorsteiweg (also known, for obvious reasons, as O-Weg).

INFORMATION

ErlebnisCARD (1 adult & 2 children for 1/2 days €6.50/8.50) Free public transport and discounts on sights; available from tourist office.

Internet.Center Bremen (☎ 277 6600; Bahnhofplatz 22-28; per hr €3; ☎ 10am-10pm Mon-Sat; noon-8pm Sun)

Main post office (Domsheide 15; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat)

Police (☎ 3621; Am Wall 201)

Post office (Bahnhofplatz 21; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat)

Schnell und Sauber (Vor dem Steintor 105; per wash €3.50; ☎ 6am-11pm) Laundry, just east of centre.

Tourist Office branch (Obemstrasse/Liebfrauenkirchhof; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat & Sun)

Tourist Office Hauptbahnhof (☎ 01805-101 030; www.bremen-tourism.de; Hauptbahnhof; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, to 6pm Sat & Sun)

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Incredibly, little Bremen has witnessed serious violence along the club mile of Rembertiring in recent years (hence the dubious 'Bremen Fight Club' T-shirts sold in Das Viertel). A couple of people have been fatally shot or stabbed, as rival gangs fight over who installs doormen at individual clubs. A strong police presence has removed most of the danger, but it pays to be mindful of the problem when queuing here.

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Markt

With tall, old buildings looming over a relatively small space, Bremen's Markt is one of the most remarkable in northern Germany. The twin towers of the 1200-year-old **Dom St Petri** (St Petri Cathedral; see also p645) dominate the northeastern edge, beside the ornate

BREMEN

0 300 m
0 0.2 miles

	A	B	C	D	
INFORMATION					
Internet.Center Bremen.....	1 C4	Wilhelm-Wagenfeld Haus.....	20 C6	Stromburg.....	(see 14)
Post Office.....	2 C4	Windmill.....	21 B4	Überflus.....	(see 28)
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SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		SLEEPING 🛏		DRINKING 🍷	
Bleikeller.....	5 B5	Bremen Hilton.....	(see 9)	Zraumlounge.....	39 D5
Dom St Petri.....	6 B5	Bremer Backpacker Hostel.....	22 C4	Airport.....	(see 41)
Domuseum.....	(see 6)	Hochzeitshaus.....	23 B6	Bodega Del Puerto.....	40 A5
Gerhard Marcks Haus.....	7 C6	Hotel Bölts am Park.....	24 D3	Feldmann's.....	41 A5
Glockenspiel.....	(see 15)	Hotel Lichtsinn.....	25 C5	Lemon Lounge.....	42 C5
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Haus der Bürgerschaft.....	10 B5	Hotel Überflus.....	28 A5	ENTERTAINMENT 🎭	
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Knight Roland Statue.....	12 B5			La Viva.....	45 C4
Kunsthalle.....	13 C6	EATING 🍴		NFF Cream Club.....	46 B5
Neues Museum Weserburg.....	14 A5	Café Engel.....	30 D6	Schauspielhaus.....	(see 48)
Paula Modersohn-Becker Haus.....	15 B5	Casablanca.....	31 C6	Stubu Dancehouse.....	47 C5
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Roselius Haus.....	(see 15)	Energie Café.....	33 B5	Goetheplatz.....	48 C6
Schnoor.....	17 B6	Katzen Café.....	34 B6		
Town Musicians of Bremen Statue.....	18 B5	Luv.....	35 A5	SHOPPING 🛍	
Übersee Museum.....	19 C4	Restaurant Flett.....	36 B5	Hachez.....	49 B5
		Salomon's.....	37 C6		
		Schnoor Teestübchen.....	(see 23)	TRANSPORT	
		Schröter's.....	38 B6	Central Bus Station.....	50 C4

THE FANTASTIC FOUR

In the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, the *Bremer Stadtmusikanten* (Town Musicians of Bremen) never actually make it to Bremen, but when you do arrive in the city, you might enjoy a quick reminder of what the fuss is about. Starting with a donkey, four overworked and ageing animals, fearing the knacker's yard or the Sunday roasting pan, run away from their owners. They head for Bremen intending, like many young dreamers, to make their fortune as musicians.

On their first night on the road, they decide to shelter in a house. It turns out to be occupied by robbers, as our heroes discover when they climb on the donkey to peer through the window. The sight of a rooster atop a cat, perched on a dog, which is sitting on a donkey – and the 'musical' accompaniment of braying, barking, meowing and crowing – startles the robbers so much, they flee. The animals remain and make their home 'where you'll probably still find them today'.

On Sunday from May to early October, this story is charmingly re-enacted (at noon and 1.30pm) in Bremen's Markt.

and imposing **Rathaus** (town hall). Although the Rathaus was first erected in 1410, the Weser Renaissance balcony in the middle, crowned by three gables, was added between 1595 and 1618.

Bremers boasts that the 13m-high **Knight Roland statue** (1404) in front of the Rathaus is Germany's tallest representation of this just, freedom-loving knight, and his belt buckle is certainly in an interesting position. However, it's the statue tucked away on the Rathaus' western side, in front of the **Kirche Unser Lieben Frauen** (Church of our Beloved Lady) that people more readily identify with this city. Sculptor Gerhard Marcks has cast the **Town Musicians of Bremen** (1951) in their famous pose – one on top of the other, on the shoulders of the donkey (see boxed text). The donkey's nose and front legs are incredibly shiny after being touched by visitors for good luck.

The one obviously modern building on the Markt is the **Haus der Bürgerschaft** (State Assembly; 1966), whose geometrical steel-and-concrete structure features artfully moulded pieces of metal attached to its façade, helping it to blend in with the historic square.

Böttcherstrasse

If Bremen's Markt is striking, the nearby Böttcherstrasse (1931) is unique. A charming laneway with a golden entrance, staggered red-brick walls and a spiral staircase with colourful inlaid glass, it's a superb example of expressionist–Art Nouveau styling.

This 110m-long street was commissioned in 1931 by Ludwig Roselius, a merchant who made his fortune by inventing decaffeinated coffee and founding the company Hag in the early 20th century. Most of the street's

design was by Bernhard Hoetger (1874–1959), including the **Lichtbringer** (Bringer of Light), the golden relief at the northern entrance, showing a scene from the Apocalypse with the Archangel Michael fighting a dragon.

Hoetger's **Haus Atlantis** (now the Bremen Hilton) features a show-stopping, multi-coloured, glass-walled **spiral staircase** (☎ tours 10am-noon & 2-4pm Mon); peek at it through the doors anytime. Hoetger worked around the existing, 16th-century **Roselius Haus**, but the **Paula Modersohn-Becker Haus**, with its rounded edges and wall reliefs, is his design too.

Today these two houses adjoin **museums** (☎ 3365077; combined ticket adult/concession €5/3; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun). The first showcases the art of the eponymous painter, Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876–1907), an early expressionist and member of the Worpswede colony (see p651). The second contains Roselius' private collection of medieval art.

Outside, the **Glockenspiel** (Carillon; ☎ hourly noon-6pm May-Dec; noon, 3pm & 6pm Jan-Apr) chimes while a panel honouring great sea explorers, such as Leif Eriksson and Christopher Columbus, rotates.

Böttcherstrasse is all the more enjoyable for having survived a Nazi destruction order. Roselius convinced the authorities to save the 'degenerate' street as a future warning of the depravity of 'cultural Bolshevism'.

Der Schnoor

Over the years, Bremen's former maritime and then red-light district has transmogrified into a quaint maze of restaurants, cafés and boutique shops. It's a honey-pot for tourists, but its restaurants are also popular with locals in the evenings.

The name Schnoor is north German for 'string', and refers to the way the 15th- and 16th-century cottages – once inhabited by fisherfolk, traders and craftspeople – are 'strung' along the alleyways.

Cathedral Cellar

What's most unusual about Bremen's cathedral (Dom St Petri) is what lies beneath. In the incredibly dry air of its **Bleikeller** (Lead Cellar; ☎ 365 0441; adult/concession €1.40/1; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat, noon-5pm Sun Easter-Oct) corpses mummify, and you can still spy eight preserved bodies in open coffins here. The figures include a Swedish countess, a soldier with his mouth opened in a silent scream, and a student who died in a duel in 1705. It's slightly macabre and uncomfortable viewing, though, and not for the very squeamish.

The Bleikeller has its own entrance, to the south of the main door. The 265 steps to the top of the cathedral's **tower** (adult/child €1/0.70; ☎ Easter-Oct) can also be climbed.

Beck's Brewery

You have to feel a little sorry for Beck's. Its once distinctive brand name is now more readily associated with a certain English footballer who's a regular in international gossip magazines. Still, the firm is far from crying into its – light, refreshing – beer, and is happy to show you what pumps that smell of hops out over Bremen during a two-hour tour of the **brewery** (☎ 5094 5555; Am Deich; tours €7.50; ☎ hourly 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 10am-3pm Sun). A tour in English leaves at 2pm daily. Take tram 1 or 8 to Am Brill. *Prost!*

Museums

Bremen has a strong aerospace industry, and space buffs will enjoy the eye-catching, oyster-shaped **Universum Science Center** (☎ 334 60; www.universum-bremen.de; Wiener Strasse 2; adult/child €12/8; 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 7pm Sat & Sun), where you can make virtual trips to the stars, as well as to the ocean floor or the centre of the earth. Take tram No 6 from the main train station to Universität/NW1 stop.

The renovated **Übersee Museum** (Overseas Museum; ☎ 1603 8101; www.uebersee-museum.de; Bahnhofplatz 13; adult/concession €6/2.50; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) offers to take you 'around the world in 80 minutes' with its dazzling collection of exotic artefacts from abroad. These include African art, tropical plants and gold from South America.

Meanwhile, the **Hafenmuseum Speicher XI** (Harbour Museum Warehouse 11; ☎ 303 8279; www.speicherelf.de; Am Speicher XI; adult/concession €3.50/2.50; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun; Bus 26 to Speicher XI) expounds on Bremen's waterside history.

For art, the rather short Kulturmeile (Cultural Mile) boasts the excellent modern collection of the **Kunsthalle** (☎ 329 080; www.kunsthalle-bremen.de; Am Wall 207; adult/concession €5/2.50, special exhibitions €9/6; ☎ 10am-9pm Tue, 10am-5pm Wed-Sun) and two other galleries devoted to Bremen-born lads – the Kunsthalle's café alone is worth visiting. The **Gerhard Marcks Haus** (☎ 327 200; Am Wall 208; adult/concession €3.50/2; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) showcases sculpture, while the **Wilhelm Wagenfeld Haus** (☎ 338 8116; Am Wall 209; adult/concession €3.50/1.50; ☎ 3-9pm Tue, 10am-6pm Wed-Sun) features household objects from this Bauhaus luminary.

Across from the Schlachte, above a sign reading 'Auf Sand gebaut, tatsächlich (aus) auf anderem Grund; Built on sand, actually on another base (basis)', is the **Neues Museum Weserburg** (☎ 598 390; www.nmwb.de; Teerhof 20; adult/concession €5/3; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri, 11am-6pm Sat & Sun) with changing exhibitions of art hot off the press.

Other Attractions

The city's typical Dutch **windmill** (Am Wall; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-midnight May-Sep, 10am-11pm Oct-Apr) houses a restaurant. Plant-lovers shouldn't miss a trip to **botanika** (Rhododendronpark; free Jul-Mar, adult/child €8/5 Apr-Jun; ☎ 9am-5pm) and its replicated landscapes from Borneo, the Himalayas and Japan. To get here, take tram 4 to Horner Kirche.

TOURS

Leaving from the Hauptbahnhof, the tourist office runs a **city bus tour** (adult/child under 12 €15.50/10; ☎ 10.30am Tue-Sun) which offers English and German commentary. Otherwise, ask the office about its plethora of German-language tours.

Hal Över Schreiber Reederei (☎ 338 989; www.hal-oever.de; Martinianleger, Schlachte 2) operates a 75-minute **Weser and harbour tour** (adult/child €8.50/4.50) up to five times daily between April and October. The tourist office has a full schedule of candlelight cruises, weekend party cruises and boat trips to the islands of Helgoland and Sylt. Scheduled services also ply the river (see Getting There & Away, p649).

SLEEPING Budget

Camping Stadtwaldsee (☎ 841 0748; www.camping-stadtwaldsee.de; Hochschulring 1; per adult/tent/car €7/4/1.50) Rebuilt in late 2005, this features modern amenities, a supermarket and a café with a lakeside terrace. By car, take the A27 to the university exit in Bremen Nord. Tram 6 will get you close, and bus 28 goes past the doorstep.

Jugendherberge Bremen (☎ 163 820; www.jugendherberge.de/jh/bremen; Kalkstrasse 6; dm under 26y/over 26y €21/24, s/d €32/56; ☒ ☒) Like a work of art from the exterior, with a yellow and orange Plexiglas façade and slit rectangular windows, this refurbished building is even better inside. Comfortable dorms all have bathrooms, while there's a bar-breakfast room with huge glass windows overlooking the Weser River, and a rooftop terrace.

Bremer Backpacker Hostel (☎ 223 8057; www.bremer-backpacker-hostel.de; Emil-Waldmann-Strasse 5-6; dm/s/d €16/27/44; ☒ ☒) At this place, five minutes from the train station and tucked away on a quiet street, you'll find simply furnished but spotless rooms, a kitchen and living room. The communal showers are all on the ground floor – thanks to low water pressure, we presume from the slow-running taps on the first floor.

Midrange

Hotel Bölts am Park (☎ 346 110; www.hotel-boelts.de; Slevogtstrasse 23; s/d €50/80; ☒) This family-run hotel in a leafy neighbourhood has real character, from the wonderfully old-fashioned breakfast hall to its well-proportioned rooms. A few singles with hall showers and toilets cost €40.

Hotel Residence (☎ 348 710; www.hotelresidence.de; Hohlenstrasse 42; s €65-100, d €80-140; ☒ ☒) This century-old terrace has been converted to a charming hotel. The cheaper rooms are a bit snug, but the best doubles (rooms 12 and 22) have balconies overlooking a quiet street. A sauna, solarium, bar, dining room and London black cab (parked on the forecourt) complete the package.

Hotel Lichtsinn (☎ 368 070; www.hotel-lichtsinn.com; Rembertrasse 11; s/d €80/105; ☒ ☒) Wooden floorboards, Persian carpets and vaguely Regency-style furniture characterise most of this hotel's rooms, although one has an old German-style four-poster bed. A favourite with the theatre world (and even a NASA astronaut or two), it's a very civilised experience.

Hotel Stadt Bremen (☎ 949 410; www.hotelgruppe-kalber.de; Heinkenstrasse 3-5; s €75-85, d €100, tr €105; ☒ ☒) Very popular, although this is probably as much as for its convenient location as its keep-it-simple modern décor. Surprisingly, some rooms come with a TV in the bathroom.

Turmhotel Weserblick (☎ 949 410; www.hotelgruppe-kalber.de; Osterdeich 53; s €75-85, d €90-100; ☒ ☒) ; tram 2, 3, or 10 to Sielwall) Another outlet from the same local group as Hotel Stadt Bremen, this looks like an atmospheric old pile from the exterior. However, inside there are renovated and extremely spacious rooms, with bare floorboards and Persian carpets. The tower rooms overlook the river and have a kitchen.

Top End

Hotel Überfluss (☎ 322 860; www.hotel-ueberfluss.com; Langenstrasse 72/Schlachte; s/d €135/180; ☒ ☒ ☒) Dragging quaint Bremen into the 21st century is this stunning design hotel, with green-tinted windows overlooking the Weser River, black bathrooms and glowing fibre-optic curtains imported from Las Vegas. However, the friendly staff prevent it from becoming too snooty.

Park Hotel (☎ 340 80; www.park-hotel-bremen.de; Im Bürgerpark; s €185-280, d €235-330; ☒ ☒ ☒) This domed mansion, surrounded by parkland and overlooking a lake, is pure extravagance. It has excellent spa and beauty facilities, and there's a bathroom where you can watch the world below through the window beside the tub.

EATING Town Centre

Energie Café (☎ 277 2510; Cnr Sögestrasse & Am Wall; mains €3.50-12.50; ☒ 9am-8pm Mon-Sat) A delightfully upbeat café run by a local power company, this serves delicious cut-price lunches and solid early-evening meals. Amuse yourself while waiting by watching the model surfer on the wave-motion display, or whatever is their latest energy-related gimmick.

Delano (☎ 338 7400; Queerenstrasse 1; mains €5-18.50) The black wood furniture, fat columns, ringed black-and-white lampshades and high density of men in shirt collars give this Italian brasserie a sophisticated air, but you can eat very cheaply here. Each menacingly large pizza (€7 to €10) comes in an elongated oval shape and is *meant* to be eaten between two.

Restaurant Flett (☎ 320 995; Böttcherstrasse 3-5; most mains €7-15) Come here for local specialities like

THE SMALLEST HOTEL IN THE WORLD...PROBABLY

If you've ever struggled to open a suitcase in a hotel room where you can touch all four walls from your bed, Bremen's claim to having possibly the world's tiniest hotel won't immediately impress you. Small isn't usually beautiful in the world of tourist accommodation, but in the Schnoor quarter's **Hochzeitshaus** (Wedding House; ☎ 0170-461 8333; www.hochzeitshaus-bremen.de, in German; Wüste Stätte 5; 1/2 nights €320/520) it is. Aimed at loved-up couples willing to pay to have an entire hotel to themselves, this renovated medieval house has just one bedroom, occupying the entire upper floor, with a bathroom and whirlpool tub on the level below, and a kitchen beneath (should you really want to come back to earth during your romantic sojourn).

According to the owners, wedding houses were common in medieval cities, because couples coming from the country to get married in the cathedral needed somewhere to stay – and consummate the marriage – before returning home. So as they hang out the 'Do not disturb' sign on their narrow three-storey abode, guests can take extra pleasure in the knowledge that they're carrying on a long tradition.

Labskaus (a hash of beef or pork with potatoes, onion and herring) or **Knipp** (fried hash and oats) or try the Schweinhaxe or Alsatian, pizza-style *Flammkuchen*. Touristy it might be, but it's hard to dislike the photo-bedecked room, featuring first-hand snaps of celebs from Elvis to Clinton to Gerhard Schröder.

Salomon's (☎ 244 1771; Ostertorstrasse 11-13; mains €12-20) This designer restaurant in a former law courts building is smart enough to impress a business partner or date, but there are a few bench seats where you won't feel alone dining on the Eurasian cuisine. A bar, courtyard and club are found in the same complex.

Schlachte & Around

Luv (☎ 165 5599; Schlachte 15-18; most mains €6-15) A friendly, upbeat atmosphere reigns in this large bistro with comfy cushioned banquettes arranged on staggered levels. The menu criss-crosses the globe, from Texas burgers to *Wiener Schnitzel* and back.

Stromburg (☎ 240 2100; Teerhof 21; snacks €4.50-9.50, mains €9-22) This retro restaurant is relaxed and chilled, with pink, purple and beige overtones, plus tasty international cuisine. Try the king prawns on Asian greens with mushrooms, mint, coriander and lime sauce, or see if they're still offering the Sunday evening 'surprise' menu, where you can pay only what you think their invention was worth.

Überfluss (☎ 322 860; Langenstrasse 72/Schlachte; mains €11-23) Fibre-optic curtains glow in the background as you savour skilful Eurasian dishes under low-hanging, silver globe lights. Yet, despite such cutting-edge chic, kids are obviously welcome here, particularly on the cowhide chairs in the informal lounge

area. Toilets are divided into men, women and children's – with the last appropriately downsized!

Schnoor

Katzen Café (☎ 326 621; Schnoor 38; mains €8.50-16.50, 3-course menu €19.50) This Moulin Rouge-style restaurant opens out into a rear sunken terrace bedecked with flowers. The menu runs the gamut from Alsatian to Norwegian, with seafood a strong theme.

Schröter's (☎ 326 677; Schnoor 13; mains €11-18) A modern bistro with artful decoration, Schröter's is known for its antipasti and has plenty of Mediterranean mains, from risotto to fish. The Toulouse-Lautrec room upstairs, decorated with plenty of copies of the painter's pictures, is more formal.

Das Viertel

This arty, student neighbourhood is where to head for cheap eats.

Casablanca (☎ 326 429; Ostertorsteinweg 59; meals €3-11) The emphasis is on the 'Casa' in this homey Bremen institution, where goths, grannies and particularly students while away the hours within scuffed walls painted to look like marble, and under a ceiling that's a trompe l'oeil jungle canopy.

Piano (☎ 785 46; Fehrfeld 64; mains €5.50-9.50) Another enduringly popular café, this serves pizza, pasta, steaks and veggie casseroles to a broad neighbourhood mix, from ad types checking proofs to young mums. Breakfast can also be ordered until 4pm.

Café Engel (☎ 766 15; Ostertorsteinweg 31; meals €6-12) Housed in a former pharmacy, this is a popular hang-out that matches black-and-white tiled

floors with dark wood furniture. In summer, tables spill onto the pavement.

Cafés

Schnoor Teestübchen (☎ 326 091; Wüste Stätte 1) If you can ignore the hint of twee tourist shop about it, this is a great place to indulge in Frisian tea-drinking rituals – putting huge crystals of sugar into your cup with tongs, or twirling honey into your char. Some local blends are wonderfully smooth, too.

DRINKING

The waterfront Schlachte promenade is wall-to-wall bars catering to all tastes. For a grungy student vibe, head to Das Viertel and just walk along O-weg. Check listings mags, such as *Prinz Bremen4U* or *Port01*, for more details.

Lemon Lounge (☎ 514 8855; Am Wall 164; ☎ from 5pm) Don't spend too much thought on the fact that this is a one-time *Playboy* bar of the year. Up the galleried metal stairs there are no bunnies, just friendly staff mixing up great cocktails from the 30-page drinks list. Join the cool but unpretentious crowd of early 20s to early 40s, by planting yourself on a red leather sofa and enjoying the loungey house music.

Zraumlounge (☎ 745 77; Auf den Höfen; ☎ from 7pm) Another lounge, another great bar and the reliable lynchpin of the somewhat flagging Auf den Höfen scene. Sitting in the space-age orange chairs, you have photos of groups of friends looking down on you, and real people on the mezzanine above. A variety of theme evenings – Desperate Housewives, Oriental and student – brighten up the early part of the week.

Bodega Del Puerto (☎ 178 3797; Schlachte 31a) Essentially, the point of the Schlachte is to walk along it and see which bar you most like the look of. However, should you be in the mood for a Spanish-style place that's a bit quieter than most, pop in here.

Feldmann's (☎ 168 9192; Schlachte 19/20a) A slightly older crowd can be found chatting and lingering over the wide range of Haake-Beck beers in this modern *Bierhaus*, which also sells food.

Room (☎ 276 5945; Herdentorsteinweg 2-3; ☎ from noon Mon-Sat, from 5pm Sun) This trendy new downtown bar, with red crocodile leather seats and a tiny dance floor, also hosts some gay evenings.

Airport (☎ 745 12; Am Dobben 70; ☎ closed Sun) A small 1970s retro bar in Das Viertel.

ENTERTAINMENT Clubs

Clubbing in Bremen is relatively cheap; expect to pay €4 to €8 at the door for regular nights, although special events may cost more.

Modernes (☎ 505 553; Neustadtwall 28; ☎ from 11pm Fri & Sat, plus special events) South of the river in Neustadt, this converted old movie theatre also hosts live music, and remains Bremen's best club bar none. The centerpiece is the domed roof that can be opened to let in some much-needed air towards the end of the evening.

NFF Cream Club (☎ 345 199; Katherinenstrasse 12-14; ☎ Fri & Sat, plus special events) With a futuristic looking bar, a chic dance-floor and lots of cocktails, Nur Für Freunde (Just for Friends) is the place for house, dance and electro. It's also where famous German and international DJs come to spin the tunes.

Stubu Dancehouse (☎ 321 423; Rembertiring 21; ☎ from 9pm nightly) This long-term Bremen institution has spread its wings and now offers five different spaces over three floors, from the traditional 'music club' in the basement to the new Skyline area, with house, funk and chart hits.

Stubu is on a street of wall-to-wall clubs, including the huge, ex-multiplex **La Viva** (nr Rembertiring & Auf der Brake). Many Bremers, however, dismiss this area as largely for 'teenies'. See also Dangers and Annoyances (p642).

Theatre & Music

Die Glocke (☎ 336 699; Domsheide) Bremen's concert hall has two house orchestras and welcomes visiting performers with its excellent acoustics.

Schlachthof (☎ 377 750; Findorffstrasse 51; bus 25 to Theodor-Heus-Allee) Ethnic and world-music concerts, theatre, cabaret and variety are all complemented here by art exhibitions and a café.

Theater am Leibnizplatz (☎ 500 333; www.shakespeare-company.com; Am Leibnizplatz; tram 4, 5 or 6 to Leibnizplatz) The highly acclaimed Bremer Shakespeare Company mixes the Bard (in German) with fairy tales and contemporary works.

Theater am Goetheplatz (☎ 365 30; Goetheplatz) The famous 1970s film director, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, honed his craft with this

company. The main theatre stages opera, operettas and musicals.

In the attached **Schauspielhaus** (☎ 365 3333; Ostertorsteinweg 57a) you'll find updated classics and avant-garde drama.

Sport

After the FIFA Football World Cup 2006, local team **Werder Bremen** (☎ 01805-937 337; www.werder.de) became hugely popular, thanks to its inclusion of Miroslav Klose, the winner of the tournament's 'Golden Boot' award for most goals. National footballers Torsten Frings and Tim Borowski also play for Werder Bremen, whose home games are at the **Weser Stadion** (www.weserstadion.de; Franz-Böhmer-Strasse 1a; tram 3 to Weserstadion, tram 2 & 10 to St Jürgen-Strasse). Sadly, at the time of writing, these were virtually sold out for a year.

SHOPPING

It's fun to reacquaint yourself with the fairy tale of *The Town Musicians of Bremen* (see the boxed text on p644) via one of the many English-language editions. Otherwise, the most obvious buy in Bremen is sweets. **Hachez** (☎ 339 8898; Am Markt 1) is a good port of call, as the local purveyor of chocolate and specialties like *Kluten* (peppermint sticks covered in dark chocolate).

Both Böttcherstrasse and the Schnoor Viertel are full of interesting jewellery, from antique silver and oodles of amber to modern designer pieces. Ostertorsteinweg, in Das Viertel, is the place to look for funky streetwear.

There's also a renowned flea market on the Bürgerweide, north of the Hauptbahnhof (open 7am to 2pm most Sundays; check exact dates at the tourist office).

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Bremen's **airport** (☎ 559 50; www.airport-bremen.de) is about 3.5km south of the centre and has flights to destinations in Germany and Europe. Airline offices here include **Air Berlin** (☎ 0421-552 035) and **Lufthansa Airlines** (☎ 01803-803 803). Low-cost carrier **easyJet** (www.easyjet.com) flies from here to London Luton airport.

Boat

Hal Över Schreiber Reederei (☎ 338 989; www.hal-oever.de, Martinianleger, Schlachte 2) operates scheduled services along the Weser between

April and September. Boats from Bremen to Bremerhaven (one-way/return €13.50/21.50, 3½ hours), with numerous stops en route, depart at 8.30am every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and 9.30am on Sunday. Shorter trips ending at Brake (€9/14.50, 2½ hours) depart on Tuesday at 12.30pm. Students and children pay half-price.

Bus

Eurolines (☎ 040-247 160; www.eurolines.com) runs from Bremen to Amsterdam (five hours), and other European destinations. Check prices online as they are extremely variable.

Car & Motorcycle

The A1 (from Hamburg to Osnabrück) and the A27/A7 (Bremerhaven to Hanover) intersect in Bremen. The city is also on the B6 and B75. All major car-rental agencies have branches at the airport, including **Avis** (☎ 558 055), **Hertz** (☎ 555 350) and **Budget** (☎ 597 0016).

Train

Frequent trains go to Hamburg (€18.30 to €22, one hour), Hanover (€18.70 to €27, one hour to one hour, 20 minutes) and Cologne (€52, three hours). Some IC trains run direct to Frankfurt-am-Main (€76, 3¾ hours) and Munich (€100, six hours) daily.

GETTING AROUND

Tram 6 travels between the Hauptbahnhof and the airport (€2.90, 15 minutes). A **taxi** (☎ 140 14, 144 33) costs about €15.

buses and trams are operated by **Verkehrsbund Bremen/Niedersachsen** (☎ 01805-826 826; www.bsag.de). Main hubs are in front of the Hauptbahnhof and at Domsheide near the Rathaus. A €2.05 single covers most of the Bremen city area, while a day pass (Tageskarte) costs €5.

For bike rental, contact the **Fahrradstation** (☎ 302 114; ☎ 6am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-8pm Sat) just outside the Hauptbahnhof (bring your passport).

AROUND BREMEN

BREMERHAVEN

☎ 0471 / pop 130,000

Ship ahoy! Bremerhaven is a bit of a boy's-own adventure for anyone who likes industrial machinery and has dreamt of running away to sea. Although it could never be called charming

and is definitely best seen on a day trip, the city has an unusual zoo and many boats you can clamber over, so it's a hit with kids.

Most of all, Bremerhaven's new emigration centre is worth coming to see. Of the millions who landed at New York's Ellis Island, a large proportion sailed from here, and this enticing exhibition allows you to share their history.

A new climate house (looking in plan a bit like the bubbly Kunsthaus in Graz, Austria) and the new Atlantic SailCity hotel (like a mini-version of Dubai's Burj Al-Arab) should open in 2008, giving 'Fishtown' (as it's nicknamed for all its fresh fish) some much-needed pulling power.

Orientation

Before coming here, ask the Bremen tourist office for a free map of Bremerhaven. Alternatively, the bus office outside Bremerhaven's train station sells them for a small fee.

The city is essentially one long streak, running southwest to northeast, a kilometre or so north of the train station. Most attractions – the emigration centre, zoo and ship museum – are clustered around the Alter and Neuer Hafen, northeast of the train station. The Fischereihafen lies to the northwest of the station. See opposite for more details.

Information

Bremerhaven Touristik (☎ 414 141; www.bremerhaven-tourism.de; H-H-Meier-Strasse 6;

☎ 8.30am-6pm Mar-Oct, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat & Sun Nov-Feb) When you cross from the bridge behind the Auswandererhaus, this is in the building ahead, but is unhelpfully hidden on the far side.

Tourist Info Columbus Center (Columbus-Center, Obere Bürger 17; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Wed, 9.30am-8pm Thu & Fri, 9.30am-4pm Sat)

Tourist Info Schauenster Fischereihafen (☎ 9am-7pm mid-Mar-Oct) Fischkai, near the FMS 'Gera' ship. Also rents bicycles.

Sights & Activities

GERMAN EMIGRATION CENTRE

'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses,' invites the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour. Well, Bremerhaven is one place that most certainly did. Millions of those landing at Ellis Island departed from here, and the **Deutsches Auswandererhaus** (☎ 902 200; www.dah-bremerhaven.de; Columbusstrasse 65; adult/concession/child/family €8.50/7.50/6/22; ☎ 10am-

6pm, to 7pm Sat Apr-Oct, 10am-5pm, to 6pm Sat Nov-Mar) now chronicles and commemorates some of their stories.

Opened in late 2005, this is Europe's largest exhibition on emigration, and it does a superb job of conjuring up the experience. For added piquancy, it's on the very spot where more than 7 million people set sail, for the USA and other parts of the world, between 1830 and 1974.

The exhibition recreates their travelling conditions, as you move from a third-class passengers' waiting room, to docksides, to the gangway, into the bowels of a ship. You also stop in the huge 'Gallery of the 7 Million', which contains emigrants' personal details (a few thousand of them) in pull-out drawers and tries to explain why people left home. Your electronic entry card contains the biographical details of one particular traveller, whom you can follow throughout the exhibition. Everything is available in both German and English.

Later sections land you in the reception centre at Ellis Island, and show a film of emigrants talking about their new homeland and discussing the migration today. If your forebears moved from Germany to the States, you can start doing research here; although some trips must be investigated at the **Historisches Museum Bremerhaven/Morgenstern Museum** (☎ 201 38; An der Geeste; www.historisches-museum-bremerhaven.de; adult/concession €3.20/2.50; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun).

Unfortunately, information about emigrants to other countries is sketchier.

OTHER SIGHTS

Behind the Deutsches Auswandererhaus, the **Zoo am Meer** (☎ 308410; www.zoo-am-meer-bremerhaven.de; H-H-Meier-Strasse 6; adult/concession/child €6.50/3.50/3.50, slightly cheaper on Mon; ☎ 9am-7pm Apr-Sep, 9am-6pm Mar & Oct, 9am-4.30pm Nov-Feb, last entry 30 mins before closing) isn't quite as spectacular inside as it looks in photos. Still, young families seem to love watching the polar bear, polar foxes, seals, penguins, pumas and chimpanzees in enclosures built into one big artificial 'rock' formation. Windows below water level allow you to watch creatures swim. Check the website or ask the tourist office for feeding times.

A highlight of the **Deutsches Schifffahrtsmuseum** (German Maritime Museum; ☎ 482 070; www.dsm.de; Hans-Scharoun-Platz 1; adult/concession €5/3.50;

☎ 10am-6pm daily Apr-Oct, closed Mon Nov-Mar, last entry 30min before closing) is the reconstructed **Bremer Hansekogge**, a merchant boat from 1380. Partly reassembled from pieces rescued from the deep, it's the German equivalent of the famous *Mary Rose* in England. The collection of 500 boats inside is complemented by a harbour full of museum ships – and a submarine – which you can explore. Some have small additional entrance fees.

Succulently fresh fish is served at the many restaurants of the remodelled **Fischereihafen** (Fishery Harbour) complex. There's also an aquarium and puppet theatre; the on-site tourist office can help with details.

A **Hafenbus** (adult/child €9.50/6.50) does a circuit of town, passing the impressive container terminal. It runs daily all year, and between April and October it runs two or three times a day.

Getting There & Around

Frequent trains from Bremen to Bremerhaven take about one hour. Singles cost €9.60, but for day trips a €17 return Niedersachsen ticket is cheaper.

Travelling by car, Bremerhaven is quickly reached via the A27 from Bremen; get off at the Bremerhaven-Mitte exit. An alternative is a leisurely boat ride from Bremen (see Getting There & Away p649).

Within Bremerhaven, single tickets/day passes cost €1.95/4.80. From the train station, buses 502, 504, 505, 506, 508 and 509 make the 1.3km journey to Alte Kirche, near the Alter and Neuer Hafen. Buses 504, 505 and 506 also go to Schauenster Fischereihafen, in the other direction.

WORPSWEDA

☎ 04792 / pop 9000

Originally an artists' colony established by the expressionist–Art Nouveau architects and painters later associated with Bremen's Böttcherstrasse, Worswede has, like so many of its ilk, developed into one of those cutesy artisans' towns where nearby city-dwellers come to mooch around on weekends. Outside Germany, the community's most famous member was the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, who dedicated several books to this pretty Niedersachsen village. Other major names involved include Paula Modersohn-Becker (see p644) and her husband Otto Modersohn, plus the future designer of Böttcherstrasse, Bernhard

Hoetger, architect and painter Heinrich Vogeler, and painter Fritz Mackensen.

They weren't the first writers and artists to be attracted to the stark, melancholic landscape here. Earlier individuals had drawn inspiration from the dramatic clouds and moody light over the **Teufelsmoor** (Devil's Moor) peat bog. But from the end of the 19th century, this group made the place their own. Today, not only can you visit their buildings and view their art in some seven museums, but you can also shop for porcelain, jewellery, posters, soap made from moor products and other trinkets.

Add plenty of opportunities to stop for coffee and cakes, enjoy a spa, go hiking, cycling or canoeing, and even younger visitors not particularly attracted by the expressionist–Art Nouveau style will find Worswede a pleasant outing.

The **tourist office** (☎ 935 820; www.worswede.de; Bergstrasse 13; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat & Sun) can provide more details, but one highlight is the short stroll to the 55m-tall **Weyerberg dune** at the heart of the moor, where Hoetger's **Niedersachsenstein** sculpture looms like a giant eagle. A memorial to the fallen of WWI, it's a controversial beast for both the way it 'spoils' the natural landscape and its original purpose as a victory column.

The creative heart of the colony was the **Barkenhoff** (☎ 3968; Ostendorfer Strasse 10; adult/concession €4/2; ☎ 10am-6pm), a half-timbered structure remodelled in Art Nouveau style by its owner Heinrich Vogeler. Today, it's a museum. Meanwhile, Vogeler's beautiful **Art Nouveau train station** (www.worsweder-bahnhof.de) has been transformed into a restaurant. Another eatery worth stopping at is Hoetger's **Café Worswede**. Looking part half-timbered house, part Art Deco-style building and part tepee, it's locally known as Café Verrückt (Café Crazy).

Sleeping

Worswede has several charming hotels, often integrated with art galleries.

DJH (☎ 1360; www.djh.de; Hammeweg 2; dm under/over 26yr €15.80/18.80, s/d from €23.80/39.60; (P) ☒) This hostel is located in a brick farm-style building, one bus stop (800m) from the village centre.

Haus im Schluch (☎ 950 061; www.haus-im-schluch.de; Im Schluch 37a; s/d/tr from €60/75/100; (P) ☒) Sleep among Art Nouveau furnishings in a former

Vogeler residence, down a leafy winding lane.

Hotel Village (☎ 935 00; www.village-worpswede.de; Bergstrasse 22; s/d/tr from €80/125/145; (P) (X) (W)) Split-level units are divided into ground floor living and mezzanine sleeping areas, above a restaurant and basement art gallery.

Hotel Worpsweder Tor (☎ 989 30; www.hotel-worpsweder-tor.de; Finddorfstrasse 3; s €95-125, d €115-145; (P) (X) (W)) This new four-star establishment near the main bus stop subtly harks back to the Art Deco era, with fat-armed lounge chairs, dark wood and four circular 'tower' rooms.

Getting There & Around

From Bremen's central bus station, bus 670 (€3.30 one-way) makes the 50-minute trip to 'Worpswede Insel' 21 times a day during the week and every two hours on weekends. The vintage **Moor Express** (☎ 04761-993 116; www.moorexpress.net; one-way adult/child/family €9/4.50/19) train has been resurrected between Worpswede and Bremen (and on to Stade), but still only operates three daily return trips on Saturdays and Sundays.

Fahrradladen Eckhard Eyl (☎ 2323; Finddorfstrasse 28) hires out bikes from €6 a day.