

Schleswig-Holstein



Cows and coastline – these are the two faces of Schleswig-Holstein’s split personality. But while this flat peninsula between the North and Baltic Seas is 70% covered in farmland, it’s the other 30% that interests most visitors.

Sandy beaches, jaunty red-and-white striped lighthouses, fjords, sandpipers and seals have traditionally made this Germany’s stay-at-home summer retreat. Since reunification in 1990 more adventurous souls have been heading to Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (p703). However, the islands off Schleswig-Holstein’s western coast remain the country’s answer to the Côte d’Azur. Of course, the northern European weather makes for a funny sort of answer, as cold winds and dark clouds periodically drive the hardest holidaymakers from their *Strandkörbe* (sheltered straw seats). Yet, there’s something unusually beguiling about the state’s wide horizons, grass-covered dunes and meandering canals. Snuggled up against Denmark, Schleswig-Holstein belonged solely to that country until 1864 and you’ll find Scandinavian overtones and remnants of a Viking past, particularly in the town of Schleswig, which also boasts the state’s best art museum.

Local artists are among the few to have positively embraced the moodier side of Schleswig-Holstein’s beauty. At home in Seebüll, Emil Nolde swirled his brushes into stormy oil-paint waves; Theodor Storm set his novella, *Der Schimmelreiter* (The Rider on the White Horse), along the Husum coast; and contemporary literary giant Günter Grass moved to Lübeck years ago. Lübeck is a story unto itself, as memorable as one of Grass’ thumping great tomes. The former headquarters of the medieval Hanseatic League, it’s one of Germany’s best-preserved medieval towns – and reason alone to visit the region.

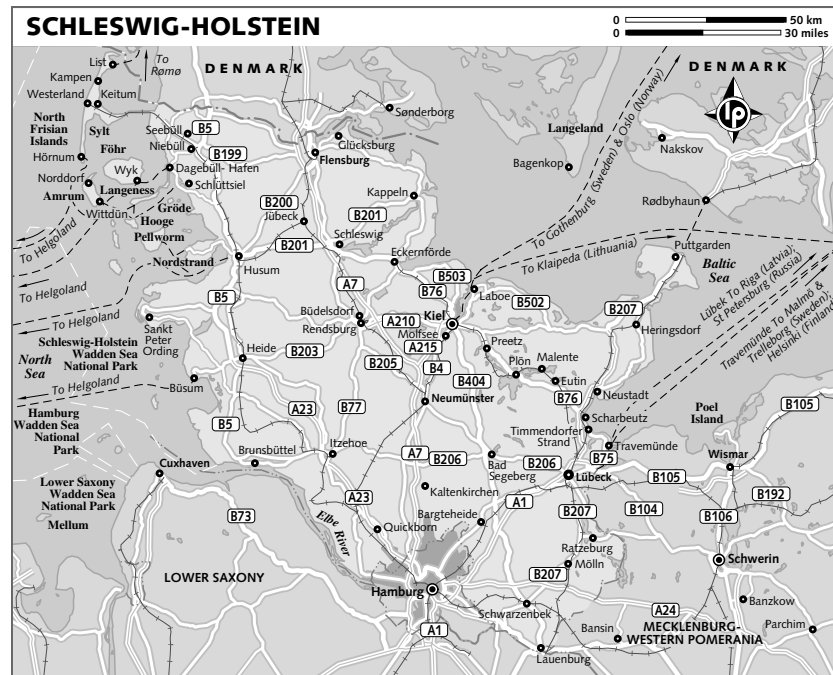
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Historic City** Feast on Lübeck’s fairy-tale skyline (p683), as well as its delicious marzipan
- **Nordic Walking** Hike among the otherworldly dune landscape near List (p698) on Sylt
- **Adrenaline** Go windsurfing (p697) off Sylt’s North Sea coast
- **Planet Watch** See the 17th-century night sky spin at Schleswig’s Schloss Gottorf (p690)
- **Highbrow** Read up on both Thomas Mann and Günter Grass in their Lübeck museums (p686)
- **Offbeat Experience** Celebrate a Midsummer’s Day evening at Schleswig’s Wikinger Museum (Viking Museum; p691)



■ POPULATION: 2.58 MILLION

■ AREA: 15,729 SQ KM



KIEL

☎ 0431 / pop 233,800

Rebuilt in a hurry after its U-Boot (submarine) base meant that it was shattered during WWII, modern Kiel has the sort of face only a mother could love. But then what an unfeasible number of mothers it turns out to have too! Yes, some locals admit, the Schleswig-Holstein capital is *grottenhässlich* (ugly as sin) downtown, but they staunchly defend the place for its location on an 18km-long *Förde* (firth) and its friendly, relaxed personality. The waterfront Kiellinie is its most popular promenade, and there are some pretty quarters inland (if you look hard enough).

Whether visitors leave convinced depends on whom they meet and their fascination for places where you have to scratch below the surface. There’s little debate that ‘Kiel Sailing City’s’ most romantic aspect is the water, where huge ferries transport millions of passengers to and from Scandinavia during the year and the international Kieler Woche regatta fills the city with sailing ships and merrymakers every June.

Orientation

Kiel’s main thoroughfare is the pedestrianised Holstenstrasse, about 100m inland from the firth. It runs between the Sophienhof, a huge indoor shopping mall opposite the Hauptbahnhof (central train station) on Sophienblatt, to Kieler Schloss (Kieler Castle) about 1.5km north. The central bus station is just to the north of the Hauptbahnhof, through the ‘City/Fernbus’ exit leading to Auguste-Viktoria-Strasse.

The Deutsche Bahn (DB) service counter inside the Hauptbahnhof has central Kiel maps.

Information

There’s an ATM inside the Hauptbahnhof.
Kiel tourist office (☎ 01805-656 700, 679 1024; www.kiel-tourist.de; Neues Rathaus, Andreas-Gayk-Strasse 31; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm Sat)
Post office (Stresemannplatz 5; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat) Around the corner from the tourist office.
Schnell und Sauber (Knooper Weg 27; per load €3.50; ☎ 6am-11pm) Laundry.
Silver Angel Café (☎ 888 1919; Schlossstrasse 16; per hr €3-4; ☎ 10am-10pm Mon-Sat, noon-10pm Sun) Internet access.

University Medical Clinic (Universitäts-Klinikum; ☎ 5970; Brunswiker Strasse 10)

Sights & Activities

DIE KIELLINIE & FERRY RIDES

Since its waterfront is indisputably its most attractive side, it's always good to head there quickly. The popular waterfront promenade known as the Kiellinie begins north of the pedestrian zone, past the Schloss and through the green Schlossgarten. There's an overpass crossing Düsternbrooker Weg; the Kiellinie is accessed by heading behind this.

Sailing clubs and restaurants line the way, but the only real attraction per se is the **aquarium** (☎ 600 1637; Düsternbrooker Weg 20). It has seals in an outside tank (no admission), where public feedings take place at 10am and 2.30pm Saturday to Thursday.

Walk as far as your legs will take you before stopping at a restaurant or café. From the Revenloubücke just before Louf restaurant, ferries will take you back into town or on to Laboe (p682). If you continue along the Kiellinie past Blücherbrücke, you'll come to the sailing harbour used during the 1936 Olympics, now full of yachts.

PARKS

Kiel also has several attractive parks, including the **Schrevenpark** and **Old Botanical Gardens**. One of the few picture-postcard views of Kiel city (as opposed to Kiel firth) can be enjoyed from the intersection of Lorenzdamm and Legienstrasse, situated between the two **Kleiner Kiel** lakes. Children will love the playful **Jeppe Hein Fountain** in the **Hiroshimapark** next to the westerly lake and behind the Opera House.

DOWNTOWN

The pedestrian zone is unattractive but usually unavoidable. You'll have to traverse it to get to the Kiellinie. As you wander from the Sophienhof, through Holstenplatz and along Holstenstrasse, you'll pass the **Altes Rathaus** (old town hall) to your left down Fleethörn, with its 106m tower.

Outside the **Nikolaikirche** (Church of St Nicholas) on the Alter Markt (old square) stands a striking Ernst Barlach statue. **Der Geistkämpfer** (Ghost Fighter) was removed during the Third Reich as 'degenerate art', but was later found buried in the Lüneburg Heath.

Dänische Strasse, at the far left corner of Alter Markt, is one of the more successfully restored sections of old Kiel. The **Schloss** isn't so exciting. The west wing is the only original section still surviving.

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

Next to the tourist office, with its own café, Kiel's **Stadtgalerie** (☎ 901 3400; Andreas-Gayk-Strasse 31; adult/concession €3/1.50; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue & Wed-Fri, to 7pm Thu, 11am-5pm Sat & Sun) features some really attention-grabbing displays of contemporary art.

Near the start of the Kiellinie, the **Kunst-halle** (☎ 880 5756; www.kunsthalle-kiel.de; Düsternbrooker Weg; adult/concession €5/3; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue & Thu-Sun, 10am-8pm Wed) is also quite impressive. Individual sections are dedicated to Emil Nolde, Antony Gormley and Bridget Riley, plus there are frequently changing temporary exhibitions.

Atmospherically located in a former fish market, the **Schiffahrtsmuseum** (Maritime Museum; ☎ 901 3428; Am Wall 65; adult/concession €3/1.50; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Oct, 10am-8pm Nov-Mar) has its own pier, where three historic ships are moored from April to October.

NORD-OSTSEE-KANAL

Kiel lies at the point at which the 99km-long Nord-Ostsee-Kanal enters the Baltic Sea from the North Sea. Inaugurated in 1895, the canal sees some 60,000 ships pass through it every year, and is the third most trafficked canal in the world, after Suez and Panama.

Between June and September, boats will take you along the canal to Rendsburg and back, from Bahnhofstrasse in Kiel. These run on Wednesday and Sunday, cost €31.50/19 per adult/child and take about eight hours. On certain days, the historic steamship **Raddampfer Freya** (☎ 04651-987 00; www.raddampfer-freya.de) also runs trips. The tourist office is your best contact for all bookings.

If you don't have time for such a trip, but would like a closer look at the canal, you can see the **Schleusen** (locks) at Holtenu, north of Kiel. There's a **museum** (☎ 360 30; adult/concession €2.30/1.50) on the southern side of the canal. **Tours of the locks** (☎ 360 30; adult/concession €2.30/1.50) depart at 9am, 11am, 1pm and 3pm daily from the northern side. To get to the locks, take bus 11 to Wik, Kanal. A free ferry shuttles back and forth between the southern and northern banks.

Festivals & Events

Kiel's most famous event is **Kieler Woche** (Kiel Week; ☎ 679 100) traditionally held during the last full week of June, although sometimes earlier. It's a giant festival revolving around a series of yachting regattas, and attended by more than 4000 of the world's sailing elite and half a million spectators. Even if you're not into boats, it's one nonstop party – so you need to book ahead.

Sleeping

Kiel long concentrated on business travellers, but new hostels and a nice cheap hotel are making it a backpacker mecca.

DJH hostel (☎ 731 488; www.jugendherberge.de/jh/kiel; Johannesstrasse 1; under/over 26yr €16.80/18.80, s/d €25/42; ☎ ☒ ☑) On a hill across the firth from the Hauptbahnhof, this 30-year-old red-brick hostel has great night-time views of Kiel. Take bus 11 or 12 to Kieler Strasse.

Peanuts Hostel (☎ 364 2208; www.peanuts-hostel.de; Harriesstrasse 2; dm €17, d per person €20; ☎ reception 8.30-11am & 5-10pm) This humble but central and pleasant hostel – with just eight beds in three rooms and a homy living space – is in one of Kiel's few historic buildings and run by one of the city's most staunch defenders. She'll point out all the city's attractive features.

Bekpek Kiel (☎ 888 8009; www.bekpek-kiel.de; Kronshagener Weg 130a; dm €21, d €54; ☎ reception 8am-noon & 4-9pm; ☎ ☒ ☑ ☒) To get here, you have to take a bus from the centre (No 34, 100 or 101 to Dehnckestrasse). However, it's worth it for the friendly atmosphere and nice, modern rooms, painted in yellow, with turquoise lockers. Bekpek is also run by knowledgeable locals and offers a laundry, kitchen and more. Little extras include homemade jam and fresh peppermint tea courtesy of the plant on the balcony.

Hotel Garni am Schrevenpark (☎ 915 57; www.am-schrevenpark.de; Goethestrasse 7; s/d from €30/55) This lovely budget hotel is back from the street in a courtyard, and has only a handful of rooms. Most are decorated in a simple white, blue and grey Nordic style, but one has an interesting beach mural. The breakfast room is in a separate building, across the small garden.

Hotel Nordic (☎ 986 800; www.nordic-hotels.com; Muhliusstrasse 95; s €55-60, d €80-85; ☎ ☒ ☒) Rooms here are modern and spacious, with Picasso tribute paintings. Nothing is too much for the friendly staff, whether organising a courier or feeding a hungry guest after hours. There are

several other recommendable Kiel branches, including the 2004-renovated Am Sophienhof (☎ 626 78) at Königsweg 13.

Hotel Berliner Hof (☎ 663 40; www.berlinerhof-kiel.de; Ringstrasse 6; s €70-75, d €90-95; ☎ ☒ ☒) Although completely modern, this central hotel has a touch of old-world class. Above the faux-marble floor, red leather lounges and Persian rugs in reception, there are two main types of room: a newer, lighter variety, and a cheaper, slightly older type. Accommodation for those with disabilities is available.

For good views of the firth, try the centrally located and upmarket **Steigenberger Hotel Contihansa** (☎ 511 50; www.kiel.steigenberger.de; Schlossgarten 7; s €95-145, d €120-175; ☎ ☒ ☒) or the **Hotel Maritim Bellevue** (☎ 389 40; www.maritim.de; Bismarckallee 2, Kiel-Düsternbrook; s €95-225, d €120-290; ☎ ☒).

Eating

For a quick bite, head to the north of Euro-paplatz, where there is a series of popular if not particularly distinguished eateries. (And we don't mean the McDonald's, but those opposite.)

Club 68 (☎ 617 39; Ringstrasse 68; mains €7-15; ☎ dinner) This scurrilous little *urige Kneipe* (down-to-earth and authentic pub) is decked out like the local in popular cartoon *Werner*. Even those unfamiliar with the strip will enjoy the unusual décor, including old Mercedes car seats with wooden armrests. Food runs from pasta to schnitzel.

Louf (☎ 551 178; Reventloullee 2, cnr Kiellinie; mains €8-16) In summer, Kiel's hipsters lounge around on the deckchairs on the lawn, while behind them a distinctly mixed crowd – from young mothers to skiving businessmen – lap up the delicious smell of waffles, and the taste of pasta, Thai curries, meat dishes, wine, beer and aperitifs. Outdoor heaters and blankets keep things going in cooler seasons.

Ratskeller (☎ 971 0005; Rathaus; mains €9-18.50) Freshly caught fish in summer and artery-choking warming meals in winter make Kiel's Ratskeller much better than most. It's conveniently located and is open every day of the week.

Fuego del Sur (☎ 364 6036; An der Halle 400, Willy-Brand-Ufer; mains €9-19) Its open grill means this Argentine *parilla* (grill) establishment is as steaming as the pampas it evokes. So in summer the huge noisy crowd totally ignores the indoor tables and chairs – plus the area of low gaucho-style seating – and decamps to the

terrace. Big bloody steaks are accompanied on the menu by pasta, pizza, polenta and crème caramel made from *dulce de leche* (a thickened condensed-milk confection).

Lüneburg-Haus (☎ 982 600; Dänische Strasse 22; mains €10-22; ☹ closed Mon) Despite the designer touches, there are still historic hints in this lovely century-old restaurant, and the mix of delicious regional cuisine and modern international dishes leaves lasting culinary memories.

Drinking

Prinz Willy (Lutherstrasse 9; ☎ 2-10pm Tue-Sat, 10am-10pm Sat) A cool little café-bar patronised by book-reading arty types and students, this is located in one of Kiel's tucked-away historic quarters.

Two Irish pubs, **O'Dwyer's Irish Pub** (☎ 556 227; Bergstrasse 15) and **Mc Lang's Irish Pub** (☎ 828 456; Lange Reihe 17), are local stalwarts. Everyone seems to have their favourite of the two; you'll have to pop in for a Guinness in each to discover yours.

You'll pick up reasonably priced meals at many of Kiel's numerous watering holes, such as the traditional brewery **Kieler Brauerei** (☎ 906 290; Alter Markt 9), the legendary student pub **Oblo-mov** (☎ 801 467; Hansastrasse 82) or **Forstbaumschule** (☎ 333 496; Dvlsbeker Weg 46), which is a huge beer garden in a park about 3.5km north of the city centre.

Getting There & Away

AIR

The bus service **Kielius** (☎ 666 2222; www.kielius.de) shuttles 36 times a day (18 times in each direction) between Hamburg airport and Kiel's central bus station (one-way/return €16/27). Lübeck airport is also quite close (see p688).

BOAT

See p760 for details of ferry services to Kiel from Gothenburg, Oslo and Klaipeda in Lithuania.

BUS

Interglobus Reisen (☎ 666 1787; ☎ 2-5pm Mon-Fri), located in the central bus station, has daily buses to Poland. Many other services head from the central bus station to towns in Schleswig-Holstein, although the train is often more convenient.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Kiel is connected with the rest of Germany via the A210 and A215, which merge with the A7 to Hamburg and beyond. The B4, B76, B404, B502 and B503 also converge here.

TRAIN

Numerous trains shuttle between Kiel, Hamburg-Altona and Hamburg Hauptbahnhof (€15.20, 1½ hours). Trains to Lübeck leave hourly (€13.40, 1¼ hours). There are regular local connections to Schleswig, Husum, Schwerin and Flensburg.

Getting Around

Bus trips cost from €2 one-way or €6.60 for a day card. For a taxi, call ☎ 680 101.

A **ferry service** (☎ 594 1263) along the firth operates daily until around 6pm (to 5pm on weekends) from the Bahnhofbrücke pier behind the Hauptbahnhof. Short journeys cost €2.40 and the trip to Laboe is €3.40.

AROUND KIEL

Laboe

☎ 04343 / pop 5300

At the mouth of the Kiel Firth, on its eastern bank, lies the village of Laboe. It is home to a

THE FIRST EUROPEAN UNION

A trading bloc capable of raising an army to safeguard its commercial interests, the medieval Hanseatic League was a more pugnacious version of the EU and NATO combined. Formed before the era of the nation state, it united more than 150 merchant cities – from Novgorod to London, and as far south as the German Alps – in an 'association' (for which the medieval German word was 'Hanse').

The league wasn't so much born; rather, it grew organically. In the mid-12th century, rich merchants in Northern Germany began signing deals to safeguard each other's commercial shipping, and in 1241 Lübeck and Hamburg completed a mutual protection treaty. Other towns, including Bergen, Bruges, Riga, Tallinn, Braunschweig, Cologne, Dortmund, Lüneburg, Magdeburg, Rostock and Stralsund, subsequently joined the compact, which lasted some 500 years.

While its initial aim was to ensure that neither war nor piracy interrupted trade in the North and Baltic Seas, its collective power soon made the Hanseatic League a dominant political force. Through its meetings in Lübeck, it dictated policy by fixing the prices of commodities such as grain, fur and ore, or by threatening to withhold trading privileges. In 1368 it even went to war. Challenged by Danish King Valdemar IV for control of the southwestern Baltic, the league's members raised an army and comprehensively defeated the Danes.

Mostly, however, the Hanseatic League was a bastion of stability in a time of endless feudal squabbles and religious ruptures. Commercial prosperity sat well with its citizens. Plus, its far geographical reach fostered political exchange between different societies. Even author Thomas Mann, born in Lübeck, admired its power in creating 'a humane, cosmopolitan society'.

The league began to crumble in the 16th century, with the rise of strong English and Dutch authorities and an increasing focus on national interests. The ruin and chaos of the Thirty Years' War in the 17th century delivered the final blow.

Although the league met for the last time in 1669, three members still call themselves Hanseatic cities: Bremen, Hamburg and Lübeck.

U-Boot (☎ 427 00; adult/child €2.50/1.50; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Apr-Oct, 9.30am-4pm Nov-Mar) and associated **Marine Ehrenmal** (adult/child €4/2.50, combined entry with U-Boot adult/child €5/3.50). The sub is the kind featured in Wolfgang Petersen's seminal film *Das Boot* (1981), and actually served during WWII. It's now a museum where you can climb through its claustrophobic interior. Next to the sub is a naval memorial built in the shape of a ship's stern and housing a **navigation museum**. From Kiel, take the ferry (see opposite) or bus 100 or 101.

Schleswig-Holsteinisches Freilichtmuseum

South of Kiel, in Molfsee, is the **Schleswig-Holsteinisches Freilichtmuseum** (Schleswig-Holstein Open-Air Museum; ☎ 0431-659 660; Alte Hamburger Landstrasse 97; adult/child/family €6/2/13; ☎ 9am-6pm Apr-Oct, 9am-8pm mid-Jun–mid-Aug, 11am-4pm Sun & holidays Nov-Mar) This open-air museum features some 70 traditional houses typical of the region, relocated from around the state and providing a thorough introduction to the northern lifestyle. Take bus 500/504 from Kiel's central bus station.

LÜBECK

☎ 0451 / pop 213,000

Oh, how the mighty are fallen. But Lübeck doesn't look like she cares. The centre of the powerful Hanseatic League, or 'Queen of the Hanse' (see boxed text, above), is now merely a provincial city, albeit with a picture-book appearance.

Yet what a fairy tale it seems. The two pointed cylindrical towers of the landmark Holstentor (gate) lean together across the stepped gable that joins them, behind which the streets are lined with medieval merchants' homes and spired churches forming Lübeck's so-called 'crown'. It's no surprise to learn that this 12th-century gem, including more than 1000 historical buildings, has been on Unesco's World Heritage List since 1987. It looks so good you could eat it – especially the red-foil-wrapped displays of its famous marzipan, which you actually can.

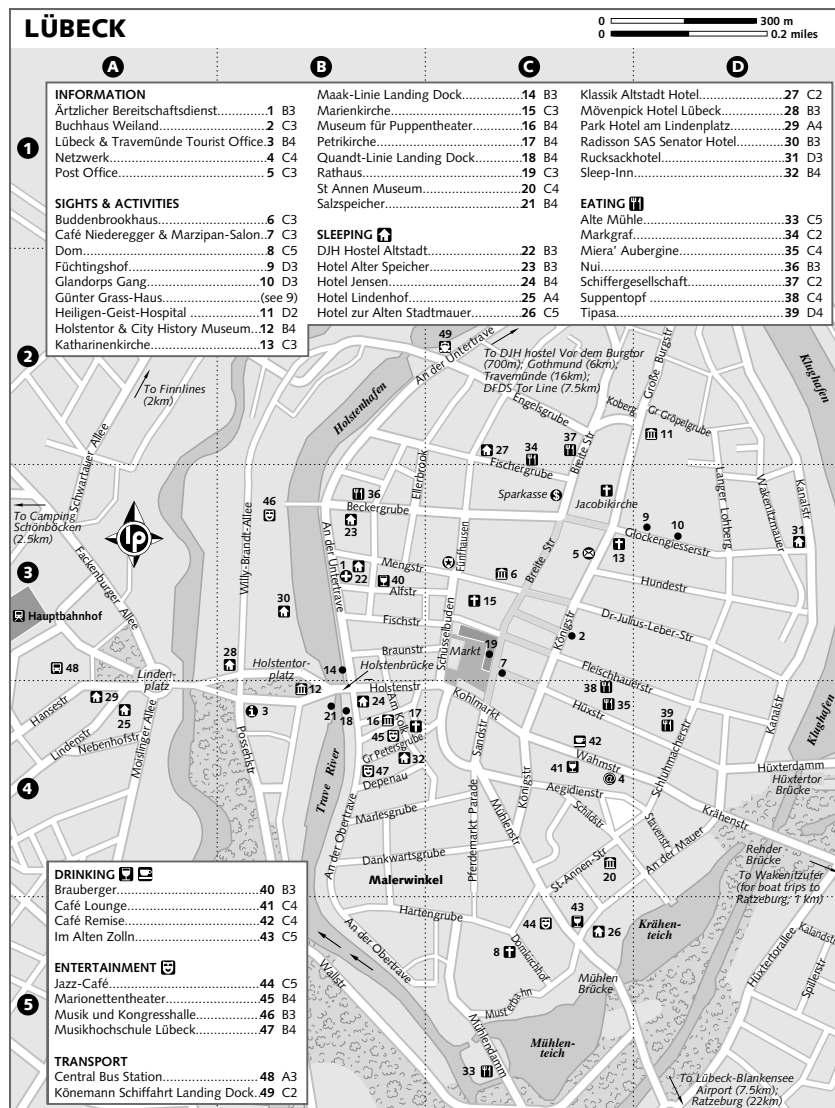
Orientation

Lübeck's Altstadt (old town) is located on an island that's ringed by the Trave River, which has been canalised. The Holstentor

A MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The gentle lowing of cattle is the sound one most expects to hear emanating from a barn, but during the state-wide **Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival** (www.shmf.de) in late summer you might find yourself down on the farm listening to a chamber orchestra instead. Over seven weeks, leading international musicians and promising young talents perform some 150 concerts in 55 venues throughout Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg, ranging from the castle in Kiel and music academy in Lübeck to churches, warehouses and animal stalls, and sometimes even ferries to the North Frisian Islands.

Each year, the festival takes a different country as a theme (in 2006, for example, the Netherlands) and, although performances are largely classical, you'll also find pop, rock and jazz on the menu. Tourist offices throughout the state, and in Hamburg, can help with details.



forms the western gateway to the Altstadt, with the Hauptbahnhof and central bus station conveniently located only several hundred metres west of here. You will find there's a map on a billboard just across from the Hauptbahnhof exit, and others dotted around town, and this really makes it difficult to get lost.

Information

The Lübeck-Travemünde tourist office sells a German-language book of tours and tips called *Lübeck rundum* (€2.90). There's also a pocket-sized map in English (€0.90) with a walk, museums and other basic details. **Ärztlicher Bereitschaftsdienst** (☎ 710 81; An der Untertrave 98) Medical services.

Buchhaus Weiland (☎ 160 060; Königstrasse 67a) Stocks a selection of foreign-language books.

Happy Day Card (per 1/3 days €5/10) Free public transport and museums discounts.

Lübeck & Travemünde tourist office (☎ 01805-882 233; www.lubeck-tourism.de; Holstentorplatz 1; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat, 10am-2pm Sun Jun-Sep, 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat Oct-May)

With café, and internet terminals.

Netzwerk (☎ 396 8060; Wahnstrasse 58; per hr €3; ☎ 10am-10pm Mon-Sat, to 8pm Sun) Internet access.

Post office (Königstrasse 46)

Sights & Activities

Lübeck has good English signposting, with information on the sides of landmarks and in museums. Some churches also have multi-lingual electronic information points.

HOLSTENTOR & AROUND

Lübeck's small Holstentor city gate really is quite stunning. It captivated Andy Warhol (his print of it is in the St Annen Museum) and it's a sight where people sit and stare. Its twin pointy-roofed circular towers, tilting together across a stepped gable, have made it a true German icon, which has graced postcards, paintings, posters, marzipan souvenirs and even the old DM50 note, as you'll discover in the engaging **City History Museum** (☎ 122 4129; adult/concession €5/3; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun Apr-Sep, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar) inside. Built in 1464, the gate has been under renovation recently, but should be out of its trompe l'oeil wraps by now, so that its famous Latin inscriptions are visible: 'Concordia Domi Foris Pax' (roughly translated as 'Harmony within, peace abroad') on one side, and 'SPQL' (Senate and People of Lübeck) on the reverse.

Just behind the Holstentor (to the east) stand six gabled brick buildings. These are the **Salzspeicher**, once used to store salt transported from Lübeck, which was then bartered for furs from Scandinavia and used to preserve the herrings that formed a substantial chunk of Lübeck's Hanseatic trade.

BOAT TOURS

Just behind the Salzspeicher lies the Trave River, which forms a moat around the old town; and if you arrive between April and September one of the first things to do is to take a boat tour. Sure, you start off viewing an industrial harbour, but the trips soon start passing beautiful leafy surrounds. **Maak-Linie**

(☎ 706 3859; www.maak-linie.de) runs good one-hour tours, leaving from the north of the Holstentorbrücke. **Quandt-Linie** (☎ 777 99; www.quandt-linie.de) leaves from just south of the bridge. Boats are scheduled to leave every half-hour, although many wait until they're half-full. Prices are adult/concession €8/5.50.

MARKT & AROUND

Sometimes described as a 'fairy tale in stone', Lübeck's 13th- to 15th-century **Rathaus** (☎ 122 1005; Breite Strasse; guided tours in German only €3/2; ☎ tours 11am, noon & 3pm Mon-Fri) is regarded as one of the most beautiful in Germany. Unfortunately, it's become a little grubby and its impact is somewhat limited by new buildings around the marketplace, which block previously open views. Inside, a highlight is the Audienzsaal (Audience Hall), a light-flooded hall decked out in festive rococo.

To be brutally honest, however, the attention of most people is going to be drawn across the street to **Café Niederegger** (☎ 530 1126; Breite Strasse 89; ☎ 7am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat, 10am-6pm Sun). This is Lübeck's mecca of marzipan, the almond sweet from Arabia, which Lübeck confectioners have excelled in making for centuries. Even if you're not buying, the stop is a feast for the eyes. In the upstairs **Marzipan-Salon** you'll learn that in medieval Europe marzipan was thought of as medicine, not a sweet.

CHURCHES

Each of Lübeck's churches offers something different. Near the Markt rise the 125m twin spires of Germany's third-largest church, the **Marienkirche** (Schüsselbuden 13; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Sep, to 5pm Oct, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Nov-Mar). It's most famous for its shattered bells, which have been left where they fell after a WWII bombing raid, as a peace memorial. Turn left upon entering the church and go to the end of the aisle. There's also a little devil sculpture outside, with an amusing folk tale (in German and English).

If you want panoramic views over the city, head for the **Petrikirche** (Schmiedstrasse; lift adult/concession €2.50/1.50; ☎ 11am-4pm Tue-Sun, to 6pm mid-Nov-mid-Dec, closed Feb), which has a tower lift to the 7th floor.

The **Dom** (Cathedral; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-6pm Sun) was founded in 1173 by Heinrich der Löwe (see boxed text, p619) when he took over Lübeck. Hence it's the oldest church in town. Locals like to joke that if you approach the Dom from the northeast, you

have to go through *Hölle* (hell) and *Fegefeuer* (purgatory) – the actual names of streets – to see **Paradies**, the lavish vestibule to the Dom. Otherwise, the building is quite spartan.

Art lovers will enjoy the towerless **Katharinenkirche** (cnr Glockengiesserstrasse & Königstrasse; admission €0.50; ☎ 10am-1pm & 2-5pm Tue-Sun Apr-Sep). It houses sculptures by Ernst Barlach and Gerhard Marcks, plus *The Resurrection of Lazarus* by Tintoretto.

COURTYARDS & MEWS

In the Middle Ages, Lübeck was home to numerous craftspeople and artisans. Their influx soon meant demand for housing outgrew the available space, so tiny single-storey homes were built in courtyards behind existing rows of houses. These were then made accessible via little walkways from the street.

Almost 90 such *Gänge* (walkways) and *Höfe* (courtyards) still exist, among them charitable housing estates built for the poor, the so-called *Stiftsgänge* and *Stiftshöfe*. The most famous of the latter are the beautiful **Füchtingshof** (Glockengiesserstrasse 25; ☎ 9am-noon & 3-6pm) and the **Glandorps Gang** (Glockengiesserstrasse 41-51), which you can peer into.

If you head south along An der Obertrave, you pass the idyllic **Malerwinkel** (Painters' Quarter), where people sit on garden benches among blooming flowers in summer, looking out at the houses and white picket fences across the water. This is one of Lübeck's most lovely corners, and shouldn't be missed.

LITERARY MUSEUMS

There must be something in the water in Lübeck, or maybe it's all that marzipan, for the city has connections to two Nobel Prize-winning authors (as well as Nobel Peace Prize-winning former chancellor Willy Brandt).

The winner of the 1929 Nobel Prize for Literature, Thomas Mann, was born in Lübeck in 1875 and his family's former home is now the **Buddenbrookhaus** (☎ 122 4190; www.buddenbrookhaus.de; Mengstrasse 4; adult/concession €5/2.60; 'Kombi' card with Günter Grass Museum €7/4; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Dec, 11am-5pm Jan-Mar). Named after Thomas' novel of a wealthy Lübeck family in decline, *The Buddenbrooks* (1901), this award-winning museum is a monument not only to the author of such classics as *Der Tod in Venedig* (Death in Venice) and *Der Zauberberg* (The Magic Mountain), but also to his

brother Heinrich, who wrote the story that became the Marlene Dietrich film *Der Blaue Engel* (The Blue Angel). There's a rundown of the rather tragic family history, too.

While born in Danzig (now Gdansk), Günter Grass had been living just outside Lübeck for 13 years when he collected his Nobel Prize in 1999. But Germany's post-war literary colossus – the author of, among many other works, 1959's searing *Die Blechtrommel* (The Tin Drum) – initially trained as an artist, and has always continued to draw and sculpt. So the **Günter Grass-Haus** (Günter Grass House; ☎ 122 4192; www.guenter-grass-haus.de; Glockengiesserstrasse 21; adult/concession €4/2.20; 'Kombi' card with Günter Grass Museum €7/4; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Dec, 11am-5pm Jan-Mar) is one of the most aesthetically inviting literary museums you'll ever see. The author's leitmotifs – flounders, rats, snails and eels – are brought to life in bronze and charcoal, as well as in prose, offering a fascinating insight into his creative genius. Here, you can view a copy of the first typewritten page of *Die Blechtrommel*, while the man himself occasionally appears for readings.

Both museums have extensive English annotations and the Buddenbrookhaus in particular houses a great shop.

OTHER MUSEUMS

If you're travelling with children – or have a particular interest in marionettes – don't miss the **Museum für Puppentheater** (☎ 786 26; Am Kolk 14; adult/concession/child €4/3/1.50; ☎ 10am-6pm). It's a private collection of some 1200 puppets, props, posters and more, from Europe, Asia and Africa.

You're most likely to enter the four bare walls of the former **Heiligen-Geist-Hospital** (Königstrasse; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun, to 4pm Dec-Feb) if you're coming to Lübeck's superlative **Christmas Market**. Although the building is largely an elegant shell these days, there are resonances of Germany's first hospital (dating back to 1227). Through an early-Gothic hall church, you'll come to the hospital hallway, where you'll see the little chambers that were built around 1820 to give the sick and old a certain degree of privacy.

The **St Annen Museum** (☎ 122 4137; St-Annen-Strasse 15; adult/concession €4/3.50; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun Apr-Sep, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar) houses a browsable mish-mash of ecclesiastical art (including Hans Memling's 1491 Passion Altar),

historical knick-knacks and contemporary art in its modern Kunsthalle wing. The latter houses the Andy Warhol print of Lübeck's Holstentor.

Sleeping

If you want to experience historic Lübeck, stay in one of the restored *Gänghäuser* (mews houses), in the *Stiftsgänge* courtyards (see opposite) away from the street. They usually cost €50 to €70 per night for two people, but there's often a three-night minimum. The tourist office can help with bookings, but there aren't many so ring ahead.

BUDGET

Campingplatz Schönböcken (☎ 893 090; fax 892 287; Steinrader Damm 12; per tent/person/car €4.50/3.50/1; ☎ Apr-Oct) This modern camping ground has a kiosk, entertainment room and children's playground. It's a 15-minute bus ride west of the city centre (take bus 7).

DJH hostel Vor dem Burgtor (☎ 334 33; www.jugendherberge.de; Am Gertrudenkirchhof 4; junior/senior dm €16.80/19.80; ☎) Those fussy about their furnishings might like this huge, modern hostel. However, it's popular with school groups, and outside the old town – just.

DJH hostel Altstadt (☎ 700 0399; www.jugendherberge.de; Mengstrasse 33; dm under/over 26 yr €17.90/20.90) If you prefer convenience, opt for this central hostel. It isn't particularly new, but it's cosy and comfortable enough.

Hotel zur Alten Stadtmauer (☎ 737 02; www.hotelstadtmauer.de; An der Mauer 57; s/d with shared bathroom from €38/65, with private bathroom from €45/75; ☎) With pine furniture and splashes of red or yellow, this simple 25-room hotel is bright and cheerful. The wooden flooring means sound carries, but customers tend not to be the partying type. Back rooms overlook the river.

Two very cheap and basic places are **Sleep-Inn** (☎ 719 20; www.cvjim-luebeck.de/cvjim; Grosse Petersgrube 11; dm €12.50; ☎ mid-Jan–mid-Dec) and the **Rucksackhotel** (☎ 706 892; www.rucksackhotel-luebeck.de; Kanalstrasse 70; dm €13-15, d €34-40, linen €3, ☎). The latter has a vegetarian café open to the public and serves breakfast for €3 to €5.

MIDRANGE

Hotel Lindenhof (☎ 872 100; www.lindenhof-luebeck.de; Lindenstrasse 1a; s €65-80, d €85-110, f €100-135; ☎ ☎) Its rooms are businesslike and small, but a healthy breakfast buffet, friendly service and little extras (such as free biscuits, newspapers

and snack service) propel the Lindenhof into a superior league.

Park Hotel am Lindenplatz (☎ 871 970; www.parkhotel-luebeck.de; Lindenplatz 2; s €65-80, d €85-110; ☎) Art Deco overtones distinguish the public areas of this small, friendly hotel. With their low lighting, the rooms, like Lübeck itself, are ideal for a romantic interlude.

Hotel Jensen (☎ 702 490; www.hotel-jensen.de; An der Obertrave 4-5; s €65-85, d €85-110) Classic and romantic, this old *Patrizierhaus* (mansion house) is conveniently located facing the Salzspeicher across the Trave River. Its seafood restaurant, Yachtzimmer, is also excellent.

Klassik Altstadt Hotel (☎ 702 980; www.klassik-altstadt-hotel.de; Fischergrube 52; s/d €75/130, ste from €135; ☎ ☎) Each room here is dedicated to a different, mostly German writer or artist (somehow Russia's Nikolai Gogol creeps in). It's a token gesture, though, and the overwhelming impression is of a decent, traditionally furnished hotel. Some cheaper singles (€45) at the back share bathrooms.

Hotel Alter Speicher (☎ 710 45; www.hotel-alter-speicher.de; Beckergrube 91-93; s €65-100, d €75-125; ☎ ☎) Well located and comfortable, this also benefits from friendly service. However, the brightly patterned carpet (red and yellow splotches on a dark blue background) in most rooms might give design-conscious guests a headache.

TOP END

Mövenpick Hotel Lübeck (☎ 150 40; www.moevenpick-luebeck.com; Willy-Brandt-Allee 1-5; s €140-145, d €180-190; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) Although it might be a chain with an ugly concrete exterior, this hotel's renovated superior rooms are startling stylish and designer-y. Decorated in tones of either slate grey or burnt sienna, they even feature tasteful abstract works from local artists. Ordinary rooms are, well, more ordinary, but the location near the Holstentor and tourist office couldn't be more convenient.

Radisson SAS Senator Hotel (☎ 1420; www.senatorhotel.de; Willy-Brandt-Allee 6; s €140-145, d €180-190; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) The Lübeck option that really works, the Senator resembles something from *War of the Worlds* with its three parallel rectangular wings cantilevered out into the Trave River. Plate-glass windows in the riverfront restaurant and the lofty atrium ensure front-row views of the old town (beautiful at night or in winter), while in 2006 rooms were renovated in a Southeast Asian colonial style.

Eating

Suppentopf (☎ 400 8136; Fleischhauerstrasse 36; soups €3.50; ☎ 11am-4pm Mon-Fri Sep-Jun) Join Lübeck's office workers for a stand-up lunch of delicious, often spicy soup, in this progressive modern kitchen.

Tipasa (☎ 706 0451; Schlumacherstrasse 12-14; mains €3.60-16) Pizzas, curries and other budget meals are served below the faux caveman frescos of animals and Australian Aboriginal dot paintings.

Alte Mühle (☎ 707 2592; Mühlendamm 24; mains €4.50-23; ☎ from 3pm Mon-Sat, from 12.30pm Sun) Located, as the name suggests, in an historic old mill on the banks of the Trave River, this atmospheric wood-lined bistro attracts a savvy mix of Lübeck citizens with its *Flammkuchen* (Alsatian pizzas), chilli con carne, steaks, seasonal specialities, beer and wine. Well worth the detour.

Nui (☎ 203 7333; Beckergrube 72; sushi €1.80-15.50, mains €8.50-17; ☎ dinner only Sat, closed Sun) Tempting smells waft from the artfully organised designer plates in this trendy but relaxed Thai-cum-Japanese restaurant.

Miera' Aubergine (☎ 772 12; Hüxstrasse 57; mains €9-20; ☎ delicatessen-bistro 10am-midnight, restaurant Tue-Sat evenings) Eat antipasti for lunch in the delicatessen-bistro or dine in the restaurant on more formal Italian food.

Markgraf (☎ 706 0343; Fischergrube 18; mains €9.50-21.50; ☎ dinner Tue-Sun) While Schiffergesellschaft (following) can be touristy, this similarly historic restaurant is the epitome of elegance, with white tablecloths and silverware laid out under the chandeliers and black ceiling beams of this 14th-century house. The cuisine displays Mediterranean and Asian influences, with dishes such as pumpkin soup with coconut, and ginger-spiced perch.

Schiffergesellschaft (☎ 767 76; Breite Strasse 2; mains €10-23) Ships' lanterns, models of 17th-century ships and orange Chinese-style lamps with revolving maritime silhouettes hang from the painted and wooden-beamed ceiling in this low-lit former sailors' guild-hall. As you sit on long benches resembling church pews, staff in long white aprons bring you Frisian specialities.

Drinking

Café Lounge (☎ 307 2950; Wahnstrasse 40; ☎ from 11am Mon-Sat, from 3pm Sun) Turntables hang like paintings on the wall and you have a choice

of viewing – the aquarium or TV – in this hip, narrow bar, where you have to squeeze past your neighbours to get to your seat.

Café Remise (☎ 777 73; Wahnstrasse 43-45) This cult café does serve humble fare, but it's far better to pop into its courtyard instead for its wide range of teas, coffees, beer and wine.

Im Alten Zolln (☎ 723 95; Mühlenstrasse 93-95) Classic, slightly alternative pub, where patrons people-watch from the terrace in summer and watch bands inside in winter.

Brauberger (☎ 702 0606; Alfstrasse 36; ☎ closed Sun) This traditional German brewer has been serving its own golden amber since 1225.

Entertainment

Local listings magazines include *Piste* and *Ultimo*. The tourist office's *Lübeck rundum* (€2.90, German only) is also useful.

MUSIC

Ask the tourist office about church organ concerts.

Musikhochschule Lübeck (☎ 150 50; Grosse Petersgrube 17-29) This music academy puts on a number of high-calibre concerts throughout the summer and winter semesters, and these are mostly free.

Musik und Kongresshalle (☎ 790 40; Willy-Brandt-Allee 10) This concrete monolith across from the Altstadt – notable for the colourful statues on its roof – is where big international names play when in town.

Jazz-Café (☎ 707 3734; Mühlenstrasse 62) Jam sessions and a wide programme of concerts make this slick, sleek place Lübeck's top meeting spot for jazz lovers.

THEATRE

Marionettentheater (☎ 700 60; Am Kolk 20-22; ☎ Tue-Sun) This terrific puppet theatre puts on a children's show at 3pm, and another for adults on some Thursdays and every Saturday at 7.30pm.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Low-cost carrier **Ryanair** (www.ryanair.com) flies from London to Lübeck-Blankensee, calling it Hamburg-Lübeck. Synchronised shuttle buses take passengers straight to Hamburg (one-way €8, 1¼ hours). Alternatively, scheduled bus 6 (€2.15) takes passengers into Lübeck's Hauptbahnhof and central bus station.

BOAT

DFDS Tor Line (☎ 399 270; www.dfdstorline.de; Lübeck Siems pier, Unter der Herrenbrücke 21) sails to Riga, and **Finnlines** (☎ 150 70; www.finnlines.de; Nordlandkai, Einsiedelstrasse 43) to St Petersburg. See p760 for details.

Könemann Schifffahrt (☎ 0451-280 1635; www.koennemanschifffahrt.de; Teerhofinsel14a) has ferries to and from Travemünde (one-way/return €8/14) three times daily in season.

BUS

Regional buses stop opposite the local buses on Hansestrasse, around the corner from the Hauptbahnhof. Kraftomnibusse services to/from Wismar terminate here, as do the Autokraft buses to/from Hamburg, Schwerin, Kiel, Rostock and Berlin.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Lübeck is reached via the A1 from Hamburg. The town also lies at the crossroads of the B75, the B104 to Schwerin, the B206 to Bad Segeberg and the B207 to Ratzeburg.

TRAIN

Lübeck has connections every hour to Hamburg (€10, 45 minutes), Kiel (€13.40, 1¼ hours) and Rostock (€18.80, two hours) via Bad Kleinen.

Getting Around

Lübeck's centre is easily walkable, and since some streets (Königstrasse and all the Altstadt streets to the east of it) are pedestrianised and off limits to all but hotel guests' vehicles between 11.30am and 6pm (from 10am on Saturday), many people just park their cars and go on foot.

Bus tickets for a few stops cost €1.40, ordinary singles €1.90 and day cards €5.60. The last two are valid for Travemünde and Gotmund.

AROUND LÜBECK Travemünde

☎ 04502

Writer Thomas Mann declared he spent his happiest days in Travemünde just outside Lübeck and many German holidaymakers feel the same way. Bought by Lübeck in 1329 to control the shipping coming into its harbour, this is now a popular coastal playground. With 4.5km of sandy beaches at the point where the Trave River flows into the

Baltic Sea, beach sports are the main draw. There's an annual **sand sculpture festival** (www.sandworld.de) in July and August, a **sailing regatta** (www.travemuenderwoche.de) in the last week of July and much more.

The town takes great pride in its historic sailing ship, **Passat** (☎ 122 5202), which used to do the run around South America's Cape Horn in the earlier part of the 20th century. Now it's a living museum. The **Passat Choir** (www.passatchor.de) performs concerts of sea shanties and other appropriate tunes, on board the ship itself or sometimes on land. If you want to hear it for free, it practises most Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Pommerzentrum at Europaweg 3. Ask **Lübeck & Travemünde tourist office** (☎ 01805-882 233; www.travemuende-tourismus.de; Strandbahnhof; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat, 10am-2pm Sun Jun-Sep, 9.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm Sat Oct-May) for more details.

The tourist office can also help with accommodation. Camping is particularly fun, with a couple of beachfront sites, but there's the usual range of accommodation. The town's two most famous hotels are the luxurious **Columbia Hotel Casino Travemünde** (☎ 3080; www.columbia-hotels.de; Kaiserallee 2) and the brand-new spa resort **A-Rosa** (☎ 307 00; www.a-rosa.de; Aussenallee 10), where you have to book a package; it specialises in preventative medicine and youth-giving treatments. Both hotels are in historic, 19th-century buildings.

Könemann Schifffahrt (☎ 0451-280 1635; www.koennemanschifffahrt.de; Teerhofinsel 14a) has ferries going to and from Lübeck (one-way/return €8/14) three times daily in season. Otherwise, regular trains connect Lübeck to Travemünde, which has three train stations: Skandinavienkai (for ferries), Hafenbahnhof and Strandbahnhof (for the beach and tourist office). Buses 30 and 31 provide direct services from Lübeck's central bus station. The B75 leads northeast from Lübeck to Travemünde.

Travemünde is as much a gateway to Scandinavia as Kiel, with three major ferry lines sailing from its Skandinavienkai, as follows:

Finnlines (☎ 150 70; www.finnlines.de) to Helsinki.
Finnlines Nordö-Link (☎ 805 20; www.nordoe-link.com) to Malmö, Sweden.

TT-Line (☎ 801 81; www.ttline.de) To Trelleborg, Sweden.

Ratzeburg

☎ 04541 / pop 13,700

An historic town scenically located on an island and connected to the surrounding land by three narrow causeways, Ratzeburg makes another idyllic day trip. Highlights in town include the **Dom** built by Heinrich der Löwe (see boxed text, p619) and a former **residence of the Dukes of Mecklenburg**. However, it's the surrounding waterways that are most interesting in this so-called 'Amazon of the north'. While that moniker is rather optimistic, there is a lush variety of plants, animals and landscapes – deciduous trees, water lilies, herons, swans, marsh and fen – and as the area was in the shadow of the Iron Curtain it was virtually untouched for half a century.

These days, **boat tours** (☎ 0451-793 885; www.wakenitz-schiffahrt-quandt.de; Wakenitzufer 1c) sail from Lübeck up the 14.5km Wakenitz River to the Ratzeburger Lake (one-way/return €11/17.50, four departures daily each way between May and September).

If you're interested in spending more time in the town itself, ask the Lübeck & Travemünde tourist office (p685) or **Ratzeburg Information** (☎ 858 565; info@ratzeburg.de; Schlossweise 7; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 11am-4pm Sat & Sun May-Sep, reduced hours in winter).

Gothmund

Lined with fishermen's cottages, this charming village on Lübeck's outskirts hasn't changed for years. Stroll along Fischerweg, a path running in front of the cottages, or take the same path west, which leads through a nature reserve beside the Trave River.

Take bus 12 (leaving three times an hour from Lübeck's central bus station) to the last stop.

SCHLESWIG

☎ 04621 / pop 25,000

Still some 45km to go before the Danish border, but Scandinavia feels much nearer in Schleswig, the 'Viking town' on the longest Baltic Sea fjord. Suburban red-brick houses and well-kept lawns give the place a Nordic look, while the tall cathedral spire stands proudly above the water, hinting that little Schleswig wasn't always this sleepy.

This is certainly true. Founded in 804, after a major Viking community put down roots across the Schlei fjord, it was the continent's economic hub for some 200 years.

A lot of other people have since come and gone, including the Dukes of Gottorf (who made Schleswig their power base from the 16th to 18th centuries) and later generations of humble fishers. But all have left remarkable reminders, making Schleswig a charming stopover. As host of the 2008 *Landesgartenschau* (State Garden Show) it hopes to build on that legacy.

Orientation

Schleswig's Hauptbahnhof is about 1km south of Schloss Gottorf and 3km from the town. Most buses from the Hauptbahnhof will take you into town, and the long footpath from the Hauptbahnhof to the Schloss, and onwards into town, is very clearly marked. In town, the central bus station is on the corner of Königstrasse and Plessenstrasse, with the tourist office, Dom and Altstadt just to the southeast.

Information

There are late-opening internet cafés in the Hauptbahnhof and bus station.

Post office (Poststrasse 1a)

Tourist office (☎ 981 616; touristinformation@

schleswig.de; Plessenstrasse 7; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-12.30pm Sat May-Sep, 10am-4pm Mon-Thu, 10am-1pm Fri Oct-Apr) There's a hotel board and phone outside this office for late arrivals.

Sights & Activities

SCHLOSS GOTTORF

Wartime destruction of Kiel meant that the **Schleswig-Holstein Landesmuseum** (☎ 8130; www.schloss-gottorf.de, adult/concession/family €6/3/13; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Oct, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Nov-Mar) was moved to the Dukes of Gottorf's 12th-century castle in Schleswig. The collection fitted perfectly and has stayed here ever since. Its sterling reputation brings visitors from Scandinavia and even Russia to view its treasures, and Schloss Gottorf certainly doesn't disappoint.

The Historischer Rundgang (historical tour) creates a memorable first impression with a roomful of paintings by Lucas Cranach the Elder and a wood-panelled 17th-century wine tavern from Lübeck. There's also the rococo **Plöner Saal**, with faïence from the Baltic region; the stunning **Schlosskapelle** (room 26); and the elegant **Hirschsaal**, the former banquet hall named for the bas-reliefs of deer on the walls.

The more contemporary collection is equally noteworthy. There's an entire **Jugendstil Abteilung** (Art Nouveau department; ☎ closed 1-2pm), featuring chairs by Henry van de Velde and Joseph Hoffman, among others. Plus the **Stiftung Rolf Horn**, in one of the smaller buildings, has outstanding 20th-century paintings, sketches, lithographs and woodcuts from German artists such as Emil Nolde and Ernst Balach (as well as Ludwig Kirchner, Erich Heckel, Christian Rohlf's and Otto Müller).

And we haven't even reached the museum's two main highlights!

The first is the **Nydam-Boot**, a reconstructed and preserved 28-oar rowing boat from 350 BC, which is housed in its own hall (and sometimes goes on loan to other museums).

More recently, a reconstruction of the famous **Gottorfer Globus** (Gottorf Globe; adult/child Mon-Fri €10/6.50, Sat & Sun €13/10.50; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Oct, to 4pm Nov-Mar) has been placed in its own house a five-minute walk behind the castle grounds. The original 17th-century globe was lauded as one of the wonders of the world – its first planetarium – but through war ended up being taken from Schleswig to St Petersburg. It's still there in the Lomonosov Museum (although it's fire-damaged).

The exterior of the 3m-diameter reconstruction shows how the continents and seas were thought to look in the 17th century. The real magic is inside, however. Several people can fit on a bench inside the globe and watch the Renaissance night sky change as the globe spins around them; it takes eight minutes to simulate a day.

Russian president Vladimir Putin accompanied his pal (and then Chancellor) Gerhard Schröder on a state visit to inaugurate the replica globe at the end of 2004.

There are English-language guides to the entire museum, as well as a café and restaurant on site. You'll need at least half a day to do the place justice.

WIKINGER MUSEUM

It would have been rather dangerous venturing into this area some 1000 to 1200 years ago, when Vikings ruled the roost from their base here at Haithabu, across the Schlei from Schleswig. Fortunately, these days the local warriors are a lot less fearsome, being merely actors or exhibits at the **Wikinger Museum** (Viking Museum; ☎ 813 222; www.haithabu.de; adult/concession/

family €4/2.50/9; ☎ 9am-5pm daily Apr-Oct, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Nov-Mar).

Located just outside the historic settlement (now an archaeological site), this engrossing museum features replica huts showing how the Vikings lived *en famille*. There are also seven exhibition halls (designed to resemble Viking boat sheds) with multilingual multimedia displays and artefacts discovered nearby. One of these includes a 30m longboat, since reconstructed.

Kids love the place and seasonal events include an autumn *Messe* (fair) of Viking crafts. Other good times to come are at Midsummer's Day eve, New Year's Eve and during Schleswig's 'Viking Days' every second August (held in 2006 and 2008).

The museum lies east of the B76 that runs between Schleswig and Kiel, about 3km from Schleswig's Hauptbahnhof. Between May and September, the easiest way to arrive is by ferry (see p693).

Otherwise, bus 4810 to Kiel runs all year. Alight at Haddeby.

HOLM

This traditional fishing village southeast of the Altstadt looks even cuter than it sounds – a kind of mini-me of medieval towns. It sits on a peninsula that until 1935 was an island, and its centrepiece is an almost **toy-sized chapel** in the middle of a small cemetery, which is in turn ringed by a cobbled road and tiny fishermen's houses. Only residents of Holm may be buried at the cemetery.

A handful of men still fish here, and their colourful nets hanging out to dry are a favourite photo opportunity. Continue further east, and you'll come to the **Johanniskloster** (Convent; ☎ 242 36; Süderholmstrasse).

DOM ST PETRI & AROUND

With its steeple towering above the town, the **Dom St Petri** (☎ 253 67; Süderdomstrasse 2; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 1.30-5pm Sun May-Sep, 10am-4pm Mon-Sat, 1.30-4pm Sun Oct-Apr) provides an excellent point of orientation. It's also home to the intricate **Bordesholmer Altar** (1521), a carving by Hans Brüggemann. The 12.6m by 7.14m altar, on the wall furthest from the entrance, shows more than 400 figures in 24 scenes relating the story of the Passion of Christ – the result of extraordinary craftsmanship and patience. English pamphlets (€0.30) describe lesser cathedral features.

While here, don't forget to explore the cobbled cluster of streets behind the cathedral, especially **Rathhausmarkt**. The **Königswiese meadow** south of Königstrasse will be the main site of the 2008 State Garden Show and is currently being redeveloped.

Tours

Three different companies offer a vast array of boat trips up the 40km Schlei between April and October. The leading operator is **Schleischiffahrt A Bischoff** (☎ 233 19; www.schleischiffahrt.de, in German). Check the website if you read German, or ask the tourist office for more details. Services leave from downtown Schleswig on Tuesday and near Schloss Gottorf on other days.

Sleeping

Many hotels in Schleswig close their reception at 10pm or even as early as 6pm. You can still contact them by phone after closing time, but it's always better to call at least half a day ahead.

Campingplatz Haithabu (☎ 324 50; per adult/tent/car €3.50/6/2; ☞ Mar-Oct) This camping ground is right on the southern shore of the Schlei in Haddeby, with a great view of the Schleswig skyline. Take bus 4810 or catch a ferry (see opposite) in summer.

DJH hostel (☎ 238 93; www.jugendherberge.de/jh/schleswig; Spielkoppel 1; under/over 26yr €14.10/17.10; ☞) Grab an early night in this pleasant, renovated hostel that's popular with families and school groups. (Noise is an afternoon phenomenon here.) It's wise to grab an early breakfast, too, before the locusts – your fellow guests – move in. The nearest bus stop is Stadttheater, from where it's a 10- to 15-minute walk.

B&B Schleswig (☎ 485 992; www.bb-schleswig.de; Töpferstrasse 9; s/d €60/80; ☐) You'd scarcely credit there's a building behind all the ivy, let alone one this spacious. From the long, narrow dining room, the six bedrooms and guest lounge stretch back to the private garden, where the Sinram family's two dogs roam around the teahouse. Décor combines historic, romantic and design touches, but is all very much the individual taste of the owner, who (unusually for a continental B&B) lives on the premises.

Zollhaus (☎ 239 47; www.zollhaus-schleswig.de; Lollfuss 110; s €65-75, d €80-95; ☐ ☞) Culture vultures coming to neighbouring Schloss Gottorf will enjoy the refined but totally unstuffy

atmosphere here. The 200-year-old customs house building was given a designer makeover in 2000, with a handful of stylish and comfortable rooms renovated in varying colours. The restaurant's good, too (closed Monday).

Hotel Alter Kreisbahnhof (☎ 302 00; www.hotel-alter-kreisbahnhof.de; Königstrasse 9; s/d €52/90; ☐) A former local train station, this new hotel-restaurant is an all-round winner. Just across from the bus station, its stylish modern rooms are light-filled and spacious, and some have water views. As a matter of policy, the hotel employs some staff with minor disabilities, and rooms can be equipped for special needs. You'll certainly never want for electricity sockets; we counted 10 in one room (all tastefully arranged, mind).

Eating & Drinking

Panorama (☎ 245 80; Plessenstrasse 15; mains €4.50-13.50) The tasty wood-fired pizza provides an antidote for vegetarians or those tired of seafood. There are some Asian and even Persian dishes, too.

Schleimöve (☎ 243 09; Süderholmstrasse 8; mains €11-20) This maritime restaurant rounds off the perfect Schleswig morning or afternoon. On the edges of the main 'square' in pint-sized Holm, it serves platters combining different types of fresh fish, from salmon and perch to North Sea shrimp and, for more adventurous gourmets, eel.

Senatorkroog (☎ 222 90; Rathausmarkt 9-10; mains €10-18.50) If Schleimöve is booked out, this also gives you the chance to sample a melange of different local fish as well as good old German staples. The 1884 building creates an interesting atmosphere.

Café im Wikingturm (☎ 330 40; 26th fl, Wikingturm, Wikingeck 5) For coffee and cake, guess what? This hulking great ugly tower across the Schlei enjoys the best regional views.

Schleswig also boasts a **brewery** (☎ 292 06; Königstrasse 27; ☞) from 5pm Sun-Fri, from 11am Sat, closed Sun & Mon Oct-Mar).

Getting There & Away

In one respect, it's more convenient to catch a bus from neighbouring towns, such as Kiel (bus 4810; €6.10, 1½ hours), Flensburg (bus 4810; €5.65, 50 minutes) and Husum (bus 1046, sometimes requires a change; €5.65, one hour), because the buses land you downtown, whereas the train is 3km from the centre. However, bus services are less frequent than the train, particularly on weekends.

Direct trains to Hamburg (€19.30, 1½ hours) run every two hours, while trains to Flensburg (€6.10, 30 minutes) leave several times hourly. There's also an hourly link to Husum (€6.10, 30 minutes) and Kiel (€8.70, 50 minutes).

If you're driving, take the A7 (Hamburg-Flensburg) to the Schuby exit, then continue east on the B201.

Getting Around

Tickets for Schleswig's bus system cost €1.25 per trip, or €6.15 for a six-ticket strip. If you're arriving by train, you can pick up a bicycle near the Hauptbahnhof, at **Fahrrad Verleih am Bahnhof** (☎ 335 55; www.fahrradverleih-schleswig.com, in German; Husumer Baum 36; per day from €5).

Between May and September, ferries cross the Schlei from Schleswig Hafen (just south of the Dom) between 11.30pm to 5.30pm daily (adult one-way/return €2/3.50).

FLensburg

☎ 0461 / pop 90,000

Whereas Schleswig is situated on a fjord, Flensburg is on a firch and the small name change seems to make the world of difference. Flensburg is industrial and much less pretty than its southern neighbour. However, it's a handy and lively staging point en route to nearby Denmark, and it does boast an interesting past.

Still sometimes called 'Rumstadt' for its prosperous 18th-century trade in liquor with the Caribbean, it was also the Third Reich's last seat of power, when shortly before VE Day in WWII a cornered Hitler handed power to Flensburg-based Admiral Karl Dönitz. Unsurprisingly, Flensburg makes nothing of this dark snippet, but reminders of its sea-faring, rum-trading days are found across town.

Orientation

Most attractions run north-south parallel to the western bank of the firch. The tourist office is in the northwestern corner of the central bus station, with the firch lying straight ahead along Norderhofenden (which becomes Schiffsbrücke). The pedestrian zone is just inland; turn left at the tourist office into Rathausstrasse and right into Grosse Strasse (which becomes Norderstrasse).

Information

For late arrivals, there's a hotel board and map at the Hauptbahnhof.

Flensburg tourist office (☎ 909 0920; www.flensburg-tourismus.de; Europa-Haus; ☞ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri year-round, 10am-2pm Sat May-Sep, to Sat 4pm Jul-Aug) Located behind the central bus station.
Media Speicher (☎ 840 1188; Grosse Strasse 69; per hr €3; ☞ 10am-10pm Mon-Sat, noon-10pm Sun) In the courtyard; an excellent all-bells-and-whistles internet café.
Post office (Schiffsbrückstrasse 2)

Sights

A Flensburg highlight, literally as well as figuratively, is the hill-top **Museumsberg Flensburg** (Municipal Museum; ☎ 852 956; Museumsberg 1; adult/child/family €4/1.50/8, extra for special exhibitions; ☞ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun Apr-Oct, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Nov-Mar). The museum is divided into two sections: the Heinrich-Saueremann-Haus and the Hans-Christiansen-Haus. The first contains a collection of rooms and furniture from Schleswig-Holstein history, including a remarkably painted cembalo (early piano covered in murals; room 25). In the second building, you'll find excellent Art Nouveau works by Flensburg-born painter Hans Christiansen, as well as an Emil Nolde room. Keep your ticket, as it's good for all city museums.

The other thing to do in Flensburg is to check out the town's **Kaufmannshöfe** (merchants' courtyards). These date from the 18th century, when Danish-ruled Flensburg provided supplies to the Danish West Indies (St Thomas, St Jan and St Croix) in exchange for sugar and rum. Designed to make it easier to load goods into ships, they typically consisted of a tall warehouse on the harbour side, behind which was a series of low workshops, wrapped around a central courtyard and leading to the merchant's living quarters.

The tourist office gives out free town maps marking nearly every *Hof*, or ask for its similarly free *Käpitans Weg* brochure, which follows a captain's route around town as he was preparing for a trip.

Just off Grosse Strasse 24 is a courtyard that houses the attractive **Westindienspeicher** (West Indian warehouse). If you continue south along Grosse Strasse it becomes Holm, where at No 17 you also find the **Borgerforeningen Hof**.

The prettiest courtyards can be found off picturesque **Rote Strasse** (continue south along Holm through Südermarkt). While here, you have a chance to buy some rum at **Weinhaus Braasch** (☎ 141 600; www.braasch-rum.de; Rote Strasse 26-28).

For more about the rum trade, head to the **Schiffahrtsmuseum** (☎ 852 970; Schiffbrücke 39; adult/concession €4/1.50; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Sun Apr-Oct, 10am-4pm Tue-Sun Nov-Mar), where there's a small but unremarkable **Rum Museum** in the basement.

Activities

Today, when most of us fly across borders, it's fun to have the opportunity to openly cross one on foot. Just north of Flensburg you can do exactly this, by hiking along the so-called **Gendarmenpfad** trail, where the **Schusterkate**, northern Europe's smallest border post, sits on the only bridge connecting Germany and Denmark.

Ask the tourist office for its Gendarmenpfad pamphlet. It's in German and Danish only, but the maps are easily understandable. The tourist office can help (in English) with any more details you need. Remember to take your passport.

Tours

Nordlicht Reisen (☎ 500 8990; www.nordische-seetouristik.de; adult/child return €5/3.50) operates cruises to Glücksburg on MS *Nordtor*, departing from where Norderhofenden meets Schiffbrücke. Boats leave five times daily from June to September and less frequently in winter.

A little bit closer to the bus station, the **MS Möwe** (☎ 629 45; www.ms-moewe.net; adult/child €5/3) offers one-hour cruises around the firth. Check the board for current sailing times.

Sleeping

Generally, hotels in nearby Schleswig are nicer and provide better value for money than in Flensburg. The Strandhotel Glücksburg is a luxurious exception.

DJH hostel (☎ 377 42; www.jugendherberge/jh/flensburg; Fichtestrasse 16; under/over 26yr €15.40/18.40; 📍) Hidden down a leafy lane near the local football stadium, this is very popular with school sporting teams, so brace yourself for lots of noise and restless activity. Facilities are tip-top, though, and the ride from town (on bus 3, 5 or 7 to Stadion) only takes about five minutes.

Etap Hotel (☎ 480 8920; www.etaphotel.com; Süderhofenden 14; s/d/tr €36/42/50; 📍) This McDonald's of the hotel world provides a less stressful budget option. The décor is garish and the bathrooms are plastic capsules, but the place is clean, comfortable and central – right near the bus station.

Hotel Dittmer's Gasthof (☎ 240 52; www.dittmers-gasthof.de; Neumarkt 2-3; s/d/tr €50/85/150; 📍) This flower-festooned historic inn has been run by the same family for more than 100 years. Rooms are cosy, the welcome warm, and the restaurant serves fish specialities.

Hotel Flensburger Hof (☎ 141 990; www.flensburger-hof.de; Süderhofenden 38; s €75-80, d €100, tr €120, q €140; 📍) Subtly decked out with historic Frisian touches, the breakfast room here provides a wonderful start to the day. Upstairs, some of the bedrooms are starting to look a little tired, but minibars, hairdryers, wi-fi and friendly service all help atone for that.

Strandhotel Glücksburg (☎ 04631-614 10; www.strandhotel-gluecksburg.de; Kirstenstrasse 6; s/d €90/120, ste from €150; 📍) The 'white castle by the sea' is the sort of hotel around which people will organise their itinerary. A historic villa where author Thomas Mann used to holiday, its rooms are now decked out in a modern designer style, with a spa and gourmet restaurant to boot. The ferry from Flensburg brings you nearest or get off the bus at Kurpark.

Eating & Drinking

For everyday options, simply walk down Grosse Strasse, or pick a restaurant off Rote Strasse or in Holm Passage (the courtyard, not the shopping mall).

Hansens Brauerei (☎ 222 10; Schiffbrücke 16; meals €8-14) Simple but hearty German fare is served here, although most people order their food to accompany the wide range of beers.

Piet Henningsen (☎ 245 76; Schiffbrücke 20; mains €11-38) Flensburg's most famous restaurant is cosily stuffy with exotic souvenirs brought home by its sailors, including African statues and ceramics, Indonesian wall hangings, ship models, empty rum bottles, a leopard skin and a stuffed crocodile. Argentine steaks aside, the menu is a smorgasbord of seafood. The prices can very occasionally seem jacked up on account of the place's fame (ie €17.50 for a prawn sandwich with fried eggs). But, hey, you're on holiday, and as the local saying has it: *Wer dat Piet nicht kennt, hat de Tied verpennt* (He who doesn't know Piet's has missed the tide).

Getting There & Away

Flensburg has rail connections with Kiel (€16.20, 1½ hours), Hamburg (€30, 1¾ hours) and Schleswig (€6.10, 30 minutes). Trips to Husum (€9.10, 1½ hours) require a change at Jübek.

Autokraft (☎ 690 69; www.autokraft.de, in German) has regular buses to Husum (€6.10, one hour), Niebüll (€6.10, one hour) and Kiel (€8.70, two hours); all leave from the central bus station.

Flensburg is at the beginning of the A7, which leads south to Hamburg, Hanover and beyond. The town can also be reached via the B76, B199 and B200.

Getting Around

Buses cost €1.50/4.50 for a single/day pass, but you can easily cover Flensburg on foot.

To walk from the Hauptbahnhof, which takes 10 to 15 minutes, take the exit straight ahead on your left, past the statues carved from tree trunks. Follow Bahnhofstrasse round to the left until you reach the first major crossroad. Veer left (west) across the street towards Rote Strasse. This leads into Südermarkt, which becomes Holm and then Grosse Strasse.

GLÜCKSBURG

☎ 04631 / pop 5985

This small spa town is renowned for its horseshoe-shaped Renaissance **Wasserschloss** (Moated Palace; ☎ 2213; adult/concession €5/3.50; 🕒 10am-5pm May-Sep), which appears to float in the middle of a large lake, and thus appears in many historical TV soap operas too. Even after a recent, much-needed paint job was begun in 2006, it remains a pretty rather than stunning sight, but the rest of this town 10km northeast of Flensburg is equally charming, and it's nice to stroll around the lake up to the beach.

Bus 21 goes hourly between to Glücksburg (€2.10/3.80 one-way/return) from Flensburg's central bus station. For boat services to Glücksburg, see Tours (opposite).

HUSUM & THE HALLIGEN

☎ 04841 / pop 21,000

The 19th-century German novelist and poet Theodor Storm (1817-88) called his hometown 'the grey town by the sea'. That's a little harsh, especially in late March and early April when millions of purple crocuses bloom in Husum's Schlosspark. However, Storm did have a point, especially when Husum is competing with other more attractive destinations. The author's fans will want to see where some of his books were written, including the seminal North Frisian novella *Der Schimmelreiter* (The Rider on the White Horse). Most,

though, will only visit Husum as a launching pad for explorations of the islets known as Halligen.

Orientation

Husum is compact and extremely well signposted. The Hauptbahnhof lies 700m south of the city centre. Head north along Herzog-Adolf-Strasse (passing the library and the central bus station) and turn left at Ludwig-Nissen-Strasse, following the sign saying Zentrum, to the *Binnenhafen* (inner harbour); the *Aussenhafen* (outer harbour) is just west of here. Alternatively, continue north along Herzog-Adolf-Strasse and turn left into Nordstrasse for the Markt, Grosse Strasse and tourist office.

Information

Husum tourist office (☎ 898 70; www.tourismus-husum.de; Historisches Rathaus, Grosse Strasse 27; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat Apr-Oct, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat Nov-Mar)

Sights

HALLIGEN

Is it an island? Is it a sandbank? No, it's a *Hallig*, one of about 10 tiny wafer-flat 'islets' scattered across the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park (Nationalpark Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer). In the Middle Ages, some 50 Halligen existed, but the sea has swallowed up most. Life here is rough and in constant conflict with the tides. Up to 60 times a year, floods drown the beaches and meadows, leaving the few reed-thatched farms stranded on the artificial knolls, or 'wharves', that they're built on. An aerial shot of such stranded farms is a favourite postcard image.

Most people experience the islets on day excursions. The prettiest destination is **Hallig Hooge**, which once sheltered a Danish king from a storm in the handsome **Königshaus**, with its blue and white tiles and baroque ceiling fresco. Other popular Halligen include Langeness and Gröde.

From Husum, **Wilhelm Schmid GmbH** (☎ 201 416; www.wef-schmid-husum.de) offers boat tours (€8 to €16) to the Halligen during the high season. The ride can be quite rough on windy days. Boats leave from the Aussenhafen in Husum. Some boats pass sandbanks with seal colonies. Ring and book the day before you need to travel as departure times vary.

The Husum tourist office has brochures on various other operators, some of whom leave from Schlüttsiel, about 35km north. If you're driving to Schlüttsiel, take the B5; bus 1041 makes several runs daily from Husum to the landing docks.

Some Halligen can also be reached from the North Frisian Islands (p699).

OTHER SIGHTS

Even if you've never before heard of the author, the **Theodor-Storm-Haus** (Theodor Storm House; ☎ 666 270; www.storm-gesellschaft.de; Wasserreihe 31; adult/concession €2.50/1; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Fri, 11am-5pm Sat, 2-5pm Sun & Mon Apr-Oct, 2-5pm Tue, Thu & Sat Nov-Mar) will whet your appetite. Well-placed literary snippets and biographical tidbits fill in the life of this novelist, poet and proud Schleswig-Holstein citizen. A pamphlet in English provides a brief commentary.

Ask the tourist office about other museums, including a ship museum and a couple of good options for kids. The *Kulturpfad der Stadt Husum* brochure has a handy map and short description of the town's main sights. Many focus on Theodor Storm, right down to the **fontain** in the Markt, which shows Tine, a young Frisian woman who figures in a Storm novella. Even the **Marienkirche** (1829) featured in a couple of his novellas. The church tower is supposed to symbolise a lighthouse.

In early spring, the **Schlosspark**, with millions of blooming crocuses, is the town's most colourful sight.

Sleeping

Holiday apartments, easily booked through the tourist office, are generally cheaper than hotels, though some have minimum three-night stays in the high season (April to October), when prices also rise. Private rooms are available.

DJH hostel (☎ 2714; www.jugendherberge.de/jh/husum; Schobüller Strasse 34; dm under/over 26yr €15.10/18.10; ☎ ☒) Husum's hostel is set in a typical and very atmospheric Frisian building northwest of the city centre; take bus 1051 from the central bus station to Westerkampweg. It closes during the off season, so ring ahead.

Hotel Hinrichsen (☎ 890 70; www.hotel-hinrichsen.de; Süderstrasse 35; s €45-50, d €65-75; ☎) There's a warm welcome at this privately run hotel, with modern rooms. Even if the bathrooms are largely moulded-plastic constructions, but the friendly welcome makes up for it.

Hotel am Schlosspark (☎ 202 224; www.hotel-am-schlosspark-husum.de; Hinter der Neustadt 76-86; s/d €55/95; ☎) Whitewashed and laid out like a sprawling motel, this modern hotel is popular with groups.

Hotel Altes Gymnasium (☎ 8330; www.altes-gymnasium.de; Süderstrasse 6; s €115-135, d €140-200; ☎) This five-star hotel is a splendidly atmospheric former high school, with Persian carpets, flagstones, tapestries and chandeliers in the entrance hall, plus spacious luxury rooms. But it's hardly worth it unless you can get accommodation in the older building, rather than the new wing. There are plenty of eating options around the Binnenhafen (inner harbour).

Getting There & Away

There are direct hourly train connections to Kiel (€16.20, 1½ hours), Hamburg-Altona (€24.50, 2½ hours) and Schleswig (€6.10, 30 minutes), plus several links daily to Westerland on Sylt (€14.70, one hour).

Husum has many bus connections with other towns in North Friesland, but the service is irregular. For detailed information, call ☎ 7870.

Husum is at the crossroads of the B5, the B200 and the B201.

There are high-speed boats from Amrum to Nordstrand (€18.50) and from Sylt to Nordstrand (€25) daily from April to October. They connect by bus to Husum.

NORTH FRISIAN ISLANDS

Germany's North Frisian Islands are a strange proposition. Hearing of their grass-covered dunes, shifting sands, birds, seal colonies, jaunty lighthouses and rugged cliffs, you'd imagine them as the domain of hardy nature-lovers. Instead, these North Sea islands are a favourite of the German jet-set and parts of them feel more like Martha's Vineyard. Traditional reed-thatched cottages now house luxury goods stores such as Cartier and Louis Vuitton, while car parks on Sylt are frequently crammed with Mercedes and Porsches.

Still, bicycle-riding nobodies can still – thankfully – be seen taking in the pure sea air in the more remote corners of glamorous Sylt. Amrum and Föhr, the latter across the

tidal Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea, are more peaceful still.

Note, however, that while most of Germany is very reasonably priced, on Sylt you will pay a premium for the experience, especially in Kampen.

Sylt

☎ 04651 / pop 21,000

The island of Sylt is shaped a bit like an anchor attached to the mainland. On its west coast, the fierce surf of the North Sea gnaws mercilessly at the changing shoreline. The wind can be so strong that the world's best windsurfers meet here each September for the final Surf World Cup of the tour. By contrast, Sylt's eastern Wadden Sea shore is tranquil and serene. The shallow ocean retreats twice daily with the tides, exposing the muddy sea bottom. On Sylt's north, you'll find wide expanses of shifting dunes with candy-striped lighthouses above fields of gleaming yellow rape flower, as well as expanses of heath.

For the past 40 years, Sylt has been the preferred playground of the German jet set, providing gossip for Germany's tabloid press. These days, the couplings and triplings are more discreet than they once were, but the glut of fancy restaurants, designer boutiques, ritzy homes and luxury cars prove that the moneyed set has not disappeared.

It's easy enough, though, to leave the glamour and crowds behind and get comfortably lost on the beach, in the dunes or on a bike trail.

Orientation

Sylt is 38.5km long and measures only 700m at its narrowest point. The largest town, commercial hub and train terminus is Westerland in the centre. At the northern end is List, Germany's northernmost town, while Hörnum is at the southern tip. Sylt is connected to the mainland by a train-only causeway; for details, see p701.

Information

All communities on Sylt charge visitors a *Kurtaxe* (resort tax), usually €2.50 to €3.50. In return you receive a *Kurkarte* (resort card), which you need to get onto the beach but also entitles you to small discounts at museums. If you're staying overnight, your hotel will automatically obtain a pass for you (adding the *Kurtaxe* to the room rate). Day-trippers

will need to buy a *Tageskarte* (day pass) from the kiosks at entrances to the beach.

Note that many tourist office times change from year to year, but calling around 10am or 11am is usually a safe bet.

There are various ATMs situated around Westerland.

DomAlly Internet Café (☎ 967 411; Strandstrasse 22-24, Westerland; per hr €6; ☎ 9am-11pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-11pm Sat & Sun) Enter from Bomhoffstrasse.

Post office (Kjeistrasse 17, Westerland)

Westerland

People have been complaining about the over-development of Westerland ever since it became Sylt's first resort in the mid-19th century. Their protestations seem to have gone unheeded, for the largest town on the island is now a forest of concrete towers, often blocking sea views.

Yes, in some ways, this is the Miami Beach of Sylt (albeit somewhat older and without the body fascism). But it has its attractions, mostly ones of convenience. The pedestrianised Friedrichstrasse is handily lined with shops and restaurants; and if you want to go anywhere else on the island, this is the easiest place to reach it from.

Windsurfing off Sylt is known as the most radical you'll get on the World Cup tour, with gnarly winds and waves. Yet, it's not so difficult that beginners should be deterred. **Surf Schule Westerland** (☎ 271 72; Brandenburger Strasse 15) can help you take your first steps and also rents out equipment.

Alternatively, the water park and health spa **Sylter Welle** (☎ 0180-500 9980; Strandstrasse; admission with/without sauna €16.50/9.50; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon, 10am-10pm Tue-Sun) has several saunas – Aroma, Viking or one overlooking the dunes.

Both the **Westerland tourist office** (☎ 9980; www.westerland.de; Strandstrasse 35; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Thu, to 2pm Fri) and its **Zimmernachweise** (☎ 9988; ☎ 10.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm Sat, 11am-4pm Sun, reduced hours in winter) can help with accommodation; there's also a large after-hours hotel board, with phone, just outside the Hauptbahnhof.

Kampen

If Westerland is the Miami Beach of Sylt, Kampen is its St Tropez. This quiet little village is the island's ritziest, as you immediately realise by the Hermès, Cartier, Joop! and Louis Vuitton boutiques ensconced in

the traditional reed-thatched houses. Kampen attracts aristocrats and celebrities, from megastars such as Boris Becker, Claudia Schiffer and Ralf Schumacher to German TV stars such as Dieter Böhler (a judge on popular talent show *Deutschland sucht den Superstar*). All come to see and be seen in summer along the main promenade of Stroenwai, which is better known as Whiskey Alley.

Apart from people-watching the principle reason to visit Kampen is the stunning **Uwe Dune**, at 52.5m Sylt's highest natural elevation. You can climb the wooden steps to the top for a 360-degree view over Sylt and, on a good day, to the neighbouring islands of Amrum and Föhr.

Kampen tourist office (☎ 469 80; www.kampen.de; Hauptstrasse 12; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat & Sun, reduced hours in winter) produces a quirky illustrated map of the 'in' restaurants, bars and clubs.

Keitum

Historic reed-thatched houses bedecked with ivy, lush gardens of colourful blooms, stone walls and the occasional garden gate made from two curving whalebones all combine to create the island's prettiest village.

In the old days, Keitum was Sylt's most important harbour, and there's plenty of nautical history. The late-Romanesque sailors' church of **St Severin** is known for its Gothic altar and chancel, as well as for its cemetery. Some of the gravestones are even heritage-listed.

Another notable attraction is the historic **Altfriesisches Haus** (Old Friesian House; ☎ 328 05; Am Kliff 13; admission €2.50; ☎ 10am-5pm Apr-Oct, 1-4pm Thu-Sun Nov-Mar).

The **Keitum tourist office** (☎ 337 33; www.sylt-ost.de; Am Tipkenhoog 5; ☎ 9am-noon & 2-5pm Mon-Fri year-round, 9.30am-12.30pm Sat & Sun Apr-Oct) can help with further details.

List

According to the tourist brochures everything here is 'Germany's northernmost' – harbour, beach, restaurant etc... It's a windswept, tranquil land's end, but things usually liven up in the harbour when the ferry from Rømø (Denmark) deposits its load of day-tripping Danes in search of cheap drink. Looking towards Denmark, you can also see one of the many wind farms taking advantage of the stiff breezes in this part of the world.

Towards List is the extremely popular and attractive **Wanderdünengebiet**, where people hike among the grass-covered dunes. Here,

as over the rest of the island, Nordic walking is popular; don't be surprised to see people walking with poles, using them to propel their upper body forward, as if they were skiing.

North of List is the privately owned **Ellenbogen** (literally 'elbow'). It boasts 35m-high moving dunes and beaches that are unfortunately off limits for swimming because of dangerous currents. En route to Ellenbogen – take the road branching off the main route about 4km southwest of List – you'll pass the **beach-side sauna** (☎ 877 174; admission €16; ☎ 11am-5pm Easter-Oct). The idea here is to heat up and then run naked into the chilly North Sea! To enter the Ellenbogen area by car, you must pay a €5 toll.

Information is available from the **Kurverwaltung List** (spa resort administration; ☎ 952 00; www.list.de, in German; Am Brünk 1; ☎ 9am-noon & 2-5pm Mon-Fri year-round, 9am-noon Sat Apr-Sep).

Wenningstedt

Sylt has several Stone Age graves, but the town that's just north of Westerland houses the best. You can enter its 4000-year-old **Denghoog** (Am Denghoog; ☎ 10am-5pm May-Sep), next to the town church, which measures 3m by 5m and is nearly 2m tall in parts. The outer walls consist of 12 40-tonne stones. How Stone Age builders moved these, well, it's a Stonehenge kind of mystery.

Find out more from the **Kurverwaltung** (☎ 4470; www.wenningstedt.de; Strandstrasse 25; ☎ 8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun Apr-Oct, 8.30am-12.30pm & 2-4pm Mon-Thu, 8.30am-12.30pm Fri Nov-Mar).

Tours BOAT

There is a frankly head-spinning array of boat cruises, mostly operated by **Adler-Schiffe** (☎ 987 00; www.adler-schiffe.de; Boysenstrasse 13, Westerland), but you can always get details and tickets from the **Info-Pavillon** (☎ 846 1029; ☎ 9am-4pm Jun-Aug, reduced hours in winter) on the Westerland Hauptbahnhof forecourt. Destinations and offers include the following:

Amrun & Föhr (adult/child €22/12.50; ☎ 10.05am daily from Hörnum) Choose one or both islands and a stay of between 1½ and six hours.

Hallig Hooge (adult/child €20.50/12; ☎ 11.55am daily from Hörnum) On the quicker *Adler Express*; other Halligen can be combined with Amrun/Föhr tours.

Helgoland (adult/child €32.50/20; ☎ 9am Mon & Thu from Hörnum)

Seal Colonies (adult/child €12.50/9.50; ☎ 2pm daily from Hörnum) See seals bask in the sun on their regular sand bank. The tour takes 1½ hours.

Wattwandern tours (adult/child/family €25.50/15/62; ☎ 10.05am or 11.55am on allocated days only) At low tide wander across the seabed between Amrum and Föhr. Ring for precise times or ask at the Westerland Hauptbahnhof Info-Pavillon.

BUS

SVG (☎ 836 100; www.svg-sylt.de) has two choices: **Grosse Inselrundfahrt** (Big Island Tour; adult/child €13/9; ☎ 2pm Feb-Nov, 1pm Dec-Jan) Duration of the tour is 3¼ hours.

Grosse Rundfahrt (Small Island Tour; adult/child €11/9; ☎ 11am Mar-Nov) This is a two-hour tour. You can also add boat tours to the Halligen. Buy tickets at the pavilion outside the Hauptbahnhof.

Sleeping

If you're planning a stay of three days or longer, renting a holiday flat can cost as little as €50 to €60 in the high season (May to September). Private rooms are another option – contact the tourist office. Note that few hotels on Sylt accept credit cards, so check beforehand.

Campingplatz Kampen (☎ 420 86; Möwenweg 4, Kampen; per person/tent/car €3.50/4.50/1.50; ☎ Easter-Oct) Of Sylt's half-a-dozen camping grounds, Campingplatz Kampen is one of the nicest, even if it has more caravans than tents. It's located among dunes at the southern end of Kampen.

Campingplatz Westerland (☎ 994 499; Rantumer Strasse, Westerland; per person/tent/car €3.50/8/2.50; ☎ Apr-Oct) The largest camping ground on Sylt; has a popular restaurant.

DJH hostel (☎ 870 397; www.jugendherberge/jh/list; List-Möwenberg; dm under/over 26yr €15.60/18.60; ☎ closed Nov-Dec; ☎ ☒ ☒) A beach rustic idyll, this hostel is nestled among the dunes about 2km northeast of List and just 800m from the North Sea. Buses run from Westerland to List-Schule, and between April and September there's a shuttle to the hostel itself. Otherwise, it's a 2.5km trek. It's not always open from January to April, so you'll need to ring ahead.

DJH hostel (☎ 880 294; www.jugendherberge/jh/hoernum; Friesenplatz 2, Hörnum; dm under/over 26yr €15.60/18.60; ☎ ☒ ☒) Scenically located among dunes and extensively renovated in 2000, this hostel is very handy for ferries and day cruises. Take the bus from Westerland to the

AT HOME WITH EMIL NOLDE

Bright flowers, stormy seas, red-lipped women with jaunty hats and impressionistic seaside watercolours: these are some of the recurring themes of great Schleswig-Holstein painter Emil Nolde. Born in 1867 in Nolde village near the Danish border (from whence he took his name), he first gained fame for producing postcards in which he gave mountains human features. In 1906, after spending much of his early life in Berlin, Munich and Karlsruhe, he joined the expressionist group Die Brücke.

In 1927 Nolde and his wife Ada built their own home and studio in Seebüll. Here, banned from working by the Nazis, he proceeded to produce 1300 'unpainted pictures' in secret. He died in 1956.

Nowadays considered one of the great 20th-century watercolourists, Nolde's work is found across Schleswig-Holstein (and beyond), including in Kiel's Kunsthalle (p680), the Schleswig-Holstein Landesmuseum in Schleswig (p690) and the Museumsberg Flensburg (p693). However, by far the biggest and most impressive collection is in his former atelier at Seebüll, now the **Emil Nolde Stiftung** (☎ 04664-364; www.nolde-stiftung.de; Neukirchen bei Seebüll; adult/child €4/1; ☎ 10am-6pm Apr-Oct, to 5pm Nov).

Recently renovated, the exhibition is worth a half- to whole day's excursion, which is lucky because that's what it will take you, depending on where you're coming from (Westerland or Husum are the best jumping-off points). Catch the train to Klanxbüll, and continue on scheduled bus 1001 to Seebüll (13 minutes). In summer, there's also a dedicated Nolde shuttle. Check with the Bahnhof from which you're departing for exact schedules. A 10am start is needed from Westerland.

By road, follow the B199 and then the B5 from Niebüll.

THE AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Long Island House Sylt (☎ 04651-995 9550; www.sylthotel.de; Eidumweg 13, Westerland; s €85, d €125-145, ste €165; (P) ☒) Although Sylt has hundreds of hotels and holiday apartments, only the most expensive are truly stylish. Or at least that used to be the case, before Martina Blum and Lars Poppe arrived with their young and fresh Long Island House Sylt. It's a perfect mix of 'pure' modern design and subtle maritime themes.

Mirrors like portholes, unpolished wood hinting at ship's timbers and a carved Moby Dick hanging above one bed are joined by brown quilted or white fake-fur throws, painted cane chairs, orchids and green apples. Most of the individually decorated rooms are small but well equipped, plus there's a spacious garden and a sleek Scandinavian fireplace for winter. (Oh, but the fireplace is the only thing they like smoking here.)

Hörnrum-Nord stop, from where it's about a 10-minute walk.

Single Pension (☎ 920 70; www.singlepension.de; Trift 26, Westerland; s €37.50-46, d €50-75; (P)) Not only for singles, the proprietor is keen to stress, but single-friendly, where young and old can strike up a rapport over tea or during the walking and cycling tours offered. The rooms are humble, but the location central and the atmosphere relaxed, with breakfast served to 1pm (or 4pm on request). Cheaper rooms share bathrooms.

Hotel Gutenberg (☎ 988 80; www.hotel-gutenberg.de; Friedrichstrasse 22, Westerland; s €65-85, d €115-135; (P) ☒) Pleasantly decorated in a subtle maritime style, with either blonde or sea-green stained wooden furniture, this hotel often has late availability. We can only presume that's thanks to its very central but not particularly atmospheric location in the main pedestrian zone. Otherwise, it's brilliant quality. The cheaper rooms share spotless bathrooms.

Raffelhüschchen Hotel (☎ 836 210; www.sylthotel-raffelhueschen.de; Boysenstrasse 8, Westerland; s €95, d €140-160; (P) ☒) Ground-floor rooms in this modern, stylish hotel have wooden floors and garden terraces with *Strandkörbe*. Upstairs, there's carpet and balconies. All guests are free to use the three saunas and solarium. Book well ahead.

Eating

Kupferkanne (☎ 410 10; Stapelhooger Wai, Kampen; meals €5.50-10.50) Giant mugs of coffee and huge slices of cake are served outdoors at this *Alice* in *Wonderland*-style café, where wooden tables surrounded by a maze of low bramble hedges overlook the Wadden Sea and the Braderup Heide (heath). Meals are also served in the attached Frisian house.

Sansibar (☎ 964 646; Hörnummer Strasse 80, Rantum; mains €6-32) Dine among the dunes in this large grass-roof pavilion on the beach. Or, as tables are hard to come by unless you book, opt for a drink on its terrace at sunset, with a view of the crashing waves.

Alte Friesenstube (☎ 1228; Gaadt 4, Westerland; mains €9.50-20; ☒ Tue-Sun) The interior of this 17th-century reed-thatched cottage is lined with decorative wall tiles and tiled ovens, or in summer you can choose to eat in the surrounding garden. While the handwritten menu is in largely incomprehensible *platt-dütsch* dialect, the staff can explain most of it in English.

Grande Plage (☎ 886 078; Riperstig, Weststrand, Kampen; snacks €2.50-11.50, mains €12-26) This casual bistro overlooking the western Kampen beach serves both oysters and *Currywurst* (curried sausage), plus a range of Mediterranean cuisine and seafood. The on-site sauna is also popular, although if you've just eaten the thought might give you indigestion.

Gogärtchen (☎ 412 42; Stroenwai, Kampen; mains €18-32) The place to see and be seen on Sylt, thatched-roofed Gogärtchen is renowned as a favourite of the nation's holidaying glitterati. But even if your knowledge of German celebrity starts and ends at the Shumachers and Schiffers, the modern German cuisine is a gourmet experience worth coming for in itself.

Getting There & Away

Air Berlin (www.airberlin.com) has services from Berlin and Düsseldorf to **Sylt/Westerland airport** (www.flughafen-sylt.de); **Hapag-Lloyd Express** (www.hlx.com) flies from Hannover, Köln-Bonn and Stuttgart and **Lufthansa** (www.lufthansa.com) arrives from Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich, among others. Flights are more frequent in summer.

Otherwise, Sylt is connected to the mainland by a narrow causeway exclusively for trains. Regular services travel from Hamburg (Altona and Hauptbahnhof) to Westerland (€39, three hours).

If driving, you must load your vehicle onto a **car train** (☎ 995 0565; www.syltshuttle.de; return €86) in Niebüll near the Danish border. There are constant crossings (usually at least once an hour) in both directions, and no reservations can be made.

An alternative is to catch the **car ferry** (☎ 0180-310 3030; www.sylt-faehre.de) from Rømø in Denmark to List on the island's north (one-way per person/car €5.75/38.50).

For ships to/from Amrun and Föhr, see Tours (p699).

Getting Around

Sylt is well covered by **buses** (☎ 836 100; www.svg-sylt.de). The two main north-south connections run at 20-minute intervals during the day; these are Line 1 (Westerland-Wenningstedt-Kampen-List) and Line 2 (Westerland-Rantum-Hörnrum). There are four other lines, and prices are calculated by zone, ranging from €1.45 to €5.95. Tell the driver your destination. Some buses have bicycle hangers.

Cycling is extremely popular and *Fahrradverleih* (bike-hire) outlets abound. In Westerland, the most convenient place is **Fahrrad am Bahnhof** (☎ 5803; Platform No 1, Hauptbahnhof); **Tieves** (☎ 870 226; Listlandstrasse 15, List), at the north of the island, also offers bike hire.

FÖHR

☎ 04681 / pop 10,000

Föhr is known as the green isle, although there's also a good sandy beach in the south. Its main village, Wyk, has plenty of windmills. In the north you'll find 16 tiny Frisian hamlets tucked behind dikes that stand up to 7m tall.

In the old days, Föhr's men went out to sea to hunt whales, an epoch you can learn more about at the **Friesenmuseum** (☎ 2571; Rebbelstieg 34, Wyk; adult/concession €3.50/2; ☒ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun Mar-Oct, 2-5pm Tue-Sun Nov-Feb).

The church of **St Johann** in Nieblum dates from the 12th century and is sometimes called the 'Frisian Cathedral' because it seats up to 1000 people (ask about guided tours at the tourist office).

The **Föhr tourist office** (☎ 300, 3040; fax 3068; Wyk harbour) can help with accommodation. Föhr does not have a camping ground.

Getting There & Around

To get to Föhr from the mainland, you catch a ferry (one-way €5.50) operated by **WDR** (☎ 01805-080 140, 800; www.wdr-wyk.de, www.faehe.de) from Dagebüll Hafen (reached via Niebüll). Up to 13 boats make the trip daily in the high season, taking 45 minutes to Wyk. Bikes are an extra €4, while cars (prior reservation necessary) cost €50.

For information on getting to Föhr from Sylt, see Tours (p699).

There's an hourly bus service to all villages on Föhr (less frequent in winter). There are bike-rental outlets in every village.

AMRUN

☎ 04682 / pop 2100

Amrun is the smallest North Frisian Island; you can walk around it in a day. It is also, arguably, the prettiest, blessed with glorious Kniepsand – 12km of fine, white sand, sometimes up to 1km wide – that takes up half the island. The island's harmonious patchwork of dunes, woods, heath and marsh make it the perfect place for a relaxing day trip or longer retreat. Besides the central village of Wittdün, there are Nebel, Norddorf, Odde, Steenodde and Süddorf, many boasting typical reed-thatched Frisian houses.

GOSCH: A SYLT SUCCESS STORY

You might have walked past its outlets as far afield as Berlin, Hamburg and Hanover, but you can't come to Sylt without trying some of Gosch's fish. This chain of 'fast-fish' outlets is the best-known local institution and the seafood tastes particularly fresh here.

All around Westerland and Wenningstedt, you'll find kiosks offering the usual range – from fish sandwiches and seafood pasta to smoked salmon and *Rösti* (potato cakes), lobster and caviar (most dishes €3.20 to €12.50). The best place to visit, however, is the original kiosk in List harbour or the maritime-themed **Alte Bootshalle** (☎ 870 383; Hafenstrasse 16, List; ☒ from 11am). In summer come outside main meal times to avoid a crush.

Wittdün has northern Germany's tallest **lighthouse** which, at 63m, affords a spectacular view of the island and across to Sylt and Föhr.

Much of Amrum is under protection, so you must stick to the marked paths. There are some fine walks, including the 10km walk from the lighthouse to Norddorf through the pine forest, or the 8km return hike from Norddorf along the beach to the tranquil **Ood Nature Reserve**, an ideal place to observe bird life. Alternatively you can just go swimming off the beach.

The **tourist office** (☎ 940 30; ferry landing, Wittdün) can provide information on accommodation on the island, which offers **camping** (☎ 2254; fax 4348; Wittdün), a **hostel** (☎ 2010; fax 1747; Mittelstrasse 1) and several hotels.

Getting There & Around

To reach Amrum from the mainland, take the ferry (one-way €7.80) operated by **WDR** (☎ 01805-080 140, 04681-800; www.wdr-wyk.de, www.faehe.de) from Dagebüll Hafen (change in Niebüll). The trip to Wittdün frequently goes via Wyk in Föhr and takes 1½ hours.

For information on getting to Amrum from Sylt, see Tours (p699).

The touristy **Inselbahn** (day card per adult/child €7/3.50) will take you around the island. There are also regular buses and bike-rental places in every village.

HELGOLAND

☎ 04725 / pop 1650

Its former rulers, the British, really got the better part of the deal in 1891 when they swapped Helgoland for then German-ruled Zanzibar, but Germans today are very fond of this North Sea outcrop. They laud its fresh air and warm weather, courtesy of the gulf stream, and even cynics have to admit there's something impressive about this lonesome wedge of red rock.

The 80m-tall 'Lange Anna' (Long Anna) rock on the island's southwest edge is a compelling sight, standing alone in the ocean like one of Australia's famous 12 Apostles that's been separated from its flock. There are also WWII bunkers and tunnels to explore. And as the island is still covered by an agreement made in 1840 and economically isn't part of the EU, most visitors indulge in a little duty-free shopping in the outlets lining the main drag, Lung Wai (literally 'long way'). To swim, they head to neighbouring **Düne**, a blip in the ocean that is popular with nudists. Little boats make regular trips from the landing stage on Helgoland.

The **Kurverwaltung** (☎ 814 30, room reservations 01805-643 737; www.helgoland.de, room reservations zimmervermittlung@helgoland.de; Im Rathaus, Lung Wai 28; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 11.30am-5pm Sat & Sun May-Sep, reduced hours winter) can help find a room.

AdlerSchiffe (☎ 987 00; www.adler-schiffe.de) has day cruises that leave from Hörnum on Sylt (p699). For services from Hamburg, see p677.