

Tourist news 2024 in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony)

Sensoria – House of scent and flavouring

The Sensoria – House of scent and flavouring interactive world opened later this year in Holzminden. The town has been considered the international centre of the scent and flavouring industry ever since vanillin was patented in 1874. The interactive exhibition space for scent and flavouring lies between the Weser river and the historical Old Town and spans some 850 square metres – including a permanent exhibition, a function room with aroma bar, and a fragrant roof garden. The exhibition covers seven subject areas dedicated to everyday encounters with flavouring and scents, for example mornings in the bathroom. www.sensoria-holzminden.de/

ErlebnisKontor Bad Harzburg

The 1800 square metre interactive centre at the foot of the Burgberg is set to open in early summer. The façade is constructed of larch wood beams up to six metres long and is reminiscent of the old Harzburg, or Harz castle. Here visitors can experience a multimedia show retelling the history of the castle at the time when King Heinrich IV was besieged there by insurgent Saxons and, according to legend, was able to escape through a mysterious tunnel in the castle well. Visitors are immersed in this story, being transported into the multidimensional animation on the ‘darkride’ through which they actively experience the escape with motion, wind, fire, water. At the end, they arrive in the heart of the centre, the cinema. Here, the seats are secured to a motion platform and adjust to the movements of the screen so that visitors are tilted into various historical settings during the animated film, where they meet kings and talking animals who introduce them to the history.

attraktion.com/2023/08/02/new-darkride/841/

Space Magic Aurich

A space theme park is set to open at the end of the year on the top floor of the Caro shopping centre in Aurich. The multi-entertainment adventure world for the whole family spans 4800 square metres across three levels and houses 12 attractions and a restaurant. The attraction links digital and analogue elements. In the restaurant, visitors can enjoy a perfect view of space and watch the astronauts on the ‘windows’ floating by while they construct a space station. Other attractions under the same roof include Niedersachsen’s biggest connected climbing and trampoline park as well as the state’s only Ninja Tag course, the biggest indoor leisure park for every age as well as the only Pixel Game Arena in northwestern Germany, the first Valo Augmented play area in northern Germany, the first Funwall climbing hall as well as north Germany’s only escape rooms for children. With such a large complex, sustainability is an important consideration: besides solar panels, the complex uses energy-saving lighting, and, as far as possible, all of the products used are manufactured locally and are environmentally friendly. space-magic.de

Harz Tower, Torfhaus

Germany's highest wooden lookout tower was officially opened in Torfhaus on 1 November 2023. The 65 metre high helicoidal tower and 45 metre high skywalk offer an amazing view of the Brocken and the surrounding national park. The 110 metre long Rasantia slide, café and shop complete the attraction. However, the final construction and installation work on the slide, lift and outdoor area has yet to be completed because of the weather. The Harz Tower is expected to be fully up and running by spring 2024. www.harzturm.de/

EXPEDITION riesenberghöhleVR – interactive virtual reality experience

The EXPEDITION riesenberghöhleVR interactive virtual reality (VR) experience allows visitors to virtually enter the protected Riesenberghöhle cave using state-of-the-art VR technology. Niedersachsen's largest dripstone cave is not open to the public in order to protect the sensitive cave climate with its unique dripstone formations. However, thanks to the new VR experience, it can now be explored. In addition to the unique cave formations, there is interesting information about the structure and creatures living in the Riesenberghöhle cave. The VR experience is exclusively available at the natour.NAH.zentrum Schillat-Höhle site in Hessisch Oldendorf. www.schillathoehle.de/virtual-reality-expedition

Kant-Museum Lüneburg

In 2016, the East Prussian state museum in Lüneburg took over around 3,000 exhibits relating to the philosopher Immanuel Kant from the former Königsberg museum in Duisburg and is now planning to build a 500 square metre extension to house them. This should be ready for the philosopher's 300th birthday on 22 April 2024. If the building is not completed in time, the current museum has an alternative space for an anniversary exhibition.

www.ostpreussisches-landesmuseum.de/museum/kantbau/

New festival in Heide Park

The first Heide Park Festival is set to take place on 31 August and 1 September with the motto 'Adrenalin meets music' – an event for all age groups. Up to 50,000 visitors are expected across the 290,000 square metre site to enjoy a symbiosis of musical experience and thrills. The first wave of the line-up has already been announced: The Chainsmokers are the international headline act, and from Germany Felix Jaehn, Vanessa Mai, Wincent Weiss, Leony, Levents Geiger, and Myle will be performing. Around 50 artists will perform on two stages at the festival. Pop music will be the main feature of the day programme, while evening will see the EDM acts take over. www.heide-park.de/en/explore/events/heide-park-festival-2024/

Tourist Highlights 2024

Einbeck Year of Mobility

Under the motto 'Einbeck in motion', the town will mark 10 years of PS.Speicher with lots of events and a year devoted to the theme of mobility. August Stukenbrok laid the foundation for locomotion with his mail-order bicycle business. These bikes have been produced in Einbeck since 1888. There are special themed tours dedicated to this piece of the town's history and there are even some special bikes available to try out in the city museum. Mobile piano concerts, various summer festivals, a street art mile, and other events complete the themed year. The local tourist information service is offering travel packages. www.einbeck-tourismus.de/en/year-of-mobility-2024

50 years of Serengeti-Park

There has been a piece of Africa at Lüneburg Heath since 1974. The Sepe family rolled out an innovative wildlife park concept on 220 hectares of land with the aim of improving visitors' awareness of nature by bringing them close to virtually free animals, kept humanely in spacious enclosures. The breeding and conservation of many endangered species play a key role here. In the herd of white rhinos alone, over 50 young have been born and successfully returned to the wild individually since the wildlife park opened. In addition to the 1,500 exotic animals, major attractions include Europe's biggest safari jeep parkour, a jungle safari tour, and the aqua safari with airboats and Black Mamba jetboats. The theme park boasts over 40 rides in total and various shows, making the Serengeti Park a unique attraction in Europe.

www.serengeti-park.de/en/

50 years of Magnifest Brunswick

For the 50th time, the Magnifest will guarantee a weekend full of fun with live music, an entertainment programme and delicious street food on 6-8 September. The street festival, which was held for the first time in 1974, usually takes place on the first weekend in September and its cabaret and market stalls attract up to 150,000 visitors to Brunswick's nightlife quarter. Today the area is still home to lots of half-timbered houses, most of which are very well preserved, and is one of the few remaining ensembles of such historical buildings in what used to be Germany's biggest half-timbered town. A key feature is the St. Magnus church (Magnikirche) from the 11th century, to which the district also owes its name. magni-fest.de/

Sustainability in Niedersachsen

50 years of Lake Steinhude Nature Park

Established in October 1974, Lake Steinhude Nature Park is approximately 30 kilometres north west of the state capital of Hanover and is home to a unique natural paradise: vast moorlands, floating meadows, glacial moraine landscapes, inland dunes, mountains, and Niedersachsen's biggest lake – Lake Steinhude. The nature park is also home to diverse flora and fauna: sea eagles, tree frogs, and peat bogs can be seen from viewing platforms and adventure trails.

Villages with eventful histories lie nestled between meadows and fields, waiting to be explored and enjoyed through traditional markets, festivals and regional products.

www.steinhuder-meer.com/explore/nature-and-more

New start: Kids Tidal Flats Academy in Butjadingen

The Wadden Sea and its inhabitants, sustainability, the environment and climate change – all of these topics and more are explored at the Kids Tidal Flats Academy, resuming again this year at Friesenstrand in Tossens on 8-9 June after the four year pandemic break. The aim of this fifth instalment of the event is to inspire young people about conservation and sustainability.

Together with Center Parcs Park Nordseeküste, the Butjadingen tourist service and the Tossens citizens' association, the event is also supported this year by well-known organisations, associations, and businesses, including the National Park House Museum Fedderwardersiel, Niedersachsen's national park administration, WWF Junior, Klimahaus Bremerhaven, and NABU. Organisers hope to give around 100 children aged between six and twelve the opportunity to explore the themes of sustainability and the environment at six different research stations through play and adventure over two days. www.facebook.com/KidsWattAcademy

New accommodation for 2024

Tiny-House in Wildemann

The first Tiny House in the Harz Mountains is located in Wildemann. This holiday home of 27 square metres offers a quiet location – thus guaranteeing a restful holiday. Visitors can find the perfect place to sit out at any time of the day on three patios. The surrounding garden is meadow orchard, with various fruit trees and a natural meadow. The River Gumbach runs right beside the house and is suitable for bathing in summer. The house can be rented all year round.

www.harz-tiny.de/

HIIVE – Silt & Sand and Noord

The HIIVE Group is opening two new hotels in summer/winter 2024: the Silt & Sand on Langeoog and NOORD in Carolinensiel. The Silt & Sand beach hotel occupies a prime location on the dunes – with a front row view of the sea. With individual, modern, cosy rooms, it will attract sport lovers and young families alike.

Noord, on the other hand, is cosy, elegant and Nordic. It has 146 rooms, including 11 suites and 63 apartments. The new building is on the River Harle, halfway between the historic museum harbour with its flat-bottomed boats and the marina with its adjacent sandy beach.

www.hiive.de/en/hotel/silt-and-sand

www.hiive.de/en/hotel/noord

THALASSOTHERAPY SEA SPA

In Wangerland, right by the sea, a holistic thalassotherapy health concept is being built on a 2,500 square metre site. The THALASSOTHERAPY SEA SPA represents pure thalassotherapy: a perfect and authentic spot for a new generation of spa users who love beauty and want to focus on themselves and their health. Quiet and calm on the inside, with wide open space outside. The exercises really work, harnessing the healing power of the sea. Even the architecture reflects elements of the sea! www.meeresspa.de/

JUNE SIX Hotel Hanover

The June Six, near Hanover's mainline station, is set to open in April 2024. This stylish hotel is designed to attract both business travellers and trade show visitors as well as tourists. It also lends itself to offering workstations. Besides room categories from casual to penthouse, the June Six offers co-working spaces with hotel service. june-six-hotels.com/en/hotels/hannover-city/

Hotel and At Home in the French Garden in Celle

The Hampton by Hilton and At Home in the French Garden joint venture is gathering pace: the hotel in the upper three-star segment is expected to open in April 2024; the residential complex will follow in 2025. The hotel is based on a modern lobby concept with an open reception area, a bar area, breakfast restaurant, conference room, and fitness studio. The 141 hotel rooms will include family rooms as well as accessible and wheelchair-friendly rooms.

Penta Hotel Hanover

Opposite the New Town Hall, the former Maritim Grand Hotel building is currently being renovated. The seven-storey brutalist building will boast an extraordinary design once all of the rooms are complete. Bars and various rest and relaxation rooms will offer service-oriented amenities. www.heftol.com/en/projects/hotel-hannover/

NYCE Hotel Osnabrück

NYCE Hotels boast a unique design, which is sympathetic to the distinct character of its surroundings. Hence, the new building in Osnabrück is expected to offer that certain je ne sais quoi. www.nyce-hotels.com/de/standorte/osnabrueck/Osnabrueck.html

New exhibitions in 2024

Invisible worlds at the Oldenburg State Museum runs until 4 August

The interactive exhibition at the Oldenburg State Museum showcases phenomena that ordinarily remain invisible to the human eye. It offers insights into visual wonders for visitors of all ages. Eight pavilions on the themes of origins, life, waves, thoughts, mystery, earth, brain, and cosmos invite visitors to explore in an entertaining way what nature and humankind have developed and discovered to make the invisible visible.

3landesmuseen-braunschweig.de/en/braunschweigesches-landesmuseum/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/unsichtbare-welten

New permanent exhibition It's served! A culinary trip through time at the Roemer and Pelizaeus Museum from 31 January

What we eat shapes us more than we realise. That's why eating in groups is at the centre of the new permanent exhibition. The exhibition showcases the rituals, material culture, conversations, and many other aspects of dining culture. Above all, however, it looks at what happens before we eat: various areas focus on the guest, the crockery, the fire, the ritual, and trade. The exhibition also highlights the museum's predicament following the theft of three valuable objects in October 2023. This new permanent exhibition thus had to be conceived with fewer objects than would otherwise have been the case. It therefore also illustrates how exhibitions have to be rethought in times of contract criminality. rpmuseum.de/es-ist-angerichtet/

Pablo Picasso | Max Beckmann. Man – Myth – World at the Sprengel Museum Hanover, 17 February – 16 June

The exhibition is a collaboration between the Von der Heydt Museum Wuppertal and Sprengel Museum Hanover. Pablo Picasso and Max Beckmann are key figures of modernism. Both artists made crucial contributions to redefining the possibilities and role of figurative painting in the first half of the 20th century. Yet this is the first exhibition to juxtapose these two artists and their work. www.sprengel-museum.de/en and www.sprengel-museum.de/museum/aktuelles/picasso-beckmann

Founders of Rome. Etruscan treasures from Villa Giulia at the Hanover State Museum, 15 March – 1 September

This special exhibition at the Hanover State Museum presents unique antique objects, which have never been seen outside of Italy, in conjunction with the National Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia in Rome. The Welten Museum features objects from Italy's Iron Age and also highlights the collection practices of the 19th century when antiquity was an important reference point for society and politics.

www.hannover.de/Veranstaltungskalender/Ausstellungen/Landesmuseum-Hannover/Gr%C3%BCnder-Roms-Etruskische-Sch%C3%A4tze-aus-der-Villa-Giulia

The beauty of things. The still life from 1900 until today at Kunsthalle Emden, 18 May – 3 November

The still life found its way into art history as an independent pictorial genre by the Baroque period at the latest and is today one of the classical academic genres alongside portrait, landscape, genre, and history painting. Starting with the museum's own collections, the exhibition ranges from 1900 to today and illustrates the relationship such paintings had to reality and to our environment. Ultimately, still life functions as a reflection of bourgeois reality like no other pictorial genre. kunsthalle-emden.de/ausstellungen/stilleben

Worlds in motion. 30 years of Wolfsburg Art Museum at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, 25 May – 4 August

This major anniversary exhibition not only presents highlights from the collection, but also showcases many new donations for the first time. Special guests have been invited to stage the fascinating dialogues on timeless and true-to-life topics in a particularly impactful way. Historical works are contrasted with contemporary paintings, sculptures, and expansive installations by internationally renowned artists – a 'who's who' of contemporary art.

www.kunstmuseum.de/ausstellung/welten-in-bewegung-30-jahre-kunstmuseum-wolfsburg/

Horse country

From 16 March 2024: Bückeberg horsemanship at the Princely Equestrian Academy

Germany's only equestrian academy is dedicated to ethical riding according to the teachings of old masters and aims to captivate visitors with the spectacle of non-violent horsemanship and to promote sustainable riding. The performances showcase the most beautiful horse breeds preserved today with the noble trained stallions of the equestrian academy from the pinnacle of Baroque horsemanship – just like in the heyday of this form of equestrianism, when there were many stud farms at Europe's noble courts. In 2004, under Alexander Prince of Schaumburg-

Lippe, the over 400-year-old riding school of the former counts of Schaumburg-Lippe was converted into the dynamic Princely Equestrian Academy, a private enterprise of Wolfgang and Christin Krischke. www.hofreitschule.de/startseite

9 June 2024: Traditional race day of the Oldenburger Landesrennverein (Oldenburg Racing Society) in Rastede

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

14 July 2024: 88th Duhnen mudflat racing in Cuxhaven

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

20-28 July 2024: 144th Bad Harzburg racing festival

The Harzburger Rennverein (Harzburg horse racing club), founded in 1880, is one of Germany's oldest and welcomes over 50,000 visitors to its racing festival every year, where they can enjoy exciting flat races, steeplechases and the very special lake chases (to crown Bad Harzburg's 'King of the Lake') on the two Sundays as well as a comprehensive supporting programme on non-race days. www.bad-harzburg.de/event/144-bad-harzburger-galopprennwoche/

23-28 July 2024: 75th Oldenburger Landesturnier (Oldenburg Tournament)

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

Tba: Ride of America in Wenden, Nienburg

Circle L Reitverein Wenden e.V. riding association is again this year planning a diverse programme for the Ride of America tournament week. Visitors will enjoy amazing horses, breathtaking riding, a wonderful atmosphere and fantastic acts at the Circle L Ranch in Wenden.

All six days will feature top class Western riding in various categories and classes. www.ride-of-america.de

23-25 August 2024: Summer festival at the State Stud Farm

Niedersachsen's State Stud Farm in Celle is opening its doors again to present historical carriages and the large dressage quadrille of 24 studs at the historical centre in Celle, as well as other attractions. Also on show will be old handicrafts, which are still carried on at the State Stud Farm. Savoir vivre, fashion, riding equipment, home & garden decor, and a wide range of cuisine round off the event. landgestuetcelle.de/de/veranstaltungen/sommervergnuegen-celler-hengstparade/

31 October–03 November 2024: AGRAVIS Cup in Oldenburg

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

Special garden shows in Niedersachsen

29 August–2 September 2024: 72nd Flower festival in Wiesmoor

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

20 April – 6 October 2024: Park der Gärten (Park of Gardens) in Bad Zwischenahn

In 2002, the park hosted the first-ever State Horticultural Show in Niedersachsen. After that, the area underwent further development under the name Park der Gärten (Park of Gardens). It is now home to over 40 exemplary gardens, making it the largest collection of show gardens in Germany. There are also various guided tours of the gardens, personal advice on gardening matters and readings in the Park der Gärten. www.park-der-gaerten.de/en/

Festivals and top events in Niedersachsen 2024

09-20 May 2024: Göttingen International Handel Festival

The International Handel Festival in Göttingen is the world's oldest festival of Baroque music. The shows will take place in different locations across the town and whole region, at both covered and open air venues, featuring well-known stars from the Baroque music scene as well as talented newcomers. www.haendel-festspiele.de/en/

16 May–02 June 2024: KunstFestSpiele in Hanover Herrenhausen

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

17–19 May 2024: 25th Norderney White Sands Festival

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

25 May – 14 September 2024: 32nd International Fireworks Competition in Hanover

Every year, visitors to the Fireworks Competition are mesmerised by the beautiful works of art in the sky created by the world's leading pyrotechnicians to the accompaniment of suitably atmospheric music. Germany's first fireworks competition has long since become a classic in its field. www.visit-hannover.com/en/Event-Highlights,-Culture-Leisure/Event-Highlights/Festivals-and-Specials/International-Firework-Competition/Dates-in-2024

05–12 June 2024: 34th Emden-Norderney Film Festival

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

21–23 June 2024: Hurricane Festival in Scheeßel

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

28 June – 07 July 2024: Marksmen Festival (Hanover Schützenfest)

The drill command of ‘Im Doubltritt, Marsch!’ (‘In double step – march!’) is the traditional starting signal for the world’s longest procession of marksmen – one of the highlights of this festival, which has been celebrated since 1529. On the first Sunday of the festival, some 10,000 members of marksmen associations, folklore and carnival societies, joined by various companies and institutions, form a traditional procession through the Old Town. Over a period of ten days, the world’s largest marksmen festival offers lots of things to see and experience, from the Bruchmeister (ceremonial stewards) to marksmen skills, high-speed funfair rides, marquees and Hannover’s cult drink, Lüttje Lage, consisting of beer and a shot, served in separate glasses, but drunk simultaneously! www.schuetzenfest-hannover.de

18–21 July 2024: Deichbrand Festival at Cuxhaven Sea Airport

This popular rock festival spans four days and is a festival for both young and old. There is discounted admission for children aged between eight and twelve years old accompanied by an adult guardian. Around 60,000 fans of indie, rock, pop, electronic, and hip-hop beats are expected – and all of them can stock up on everything they need in the dedicated festival supermarket. www.deichbrand.de

24–28 July 2024: Summertime @ Norderney

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

31 July – 18 August 2024: Maschsee Festival in Hanover

A chance to experience that holiday feeling and maritime flair in the middle of town! Over 19 days, visitors to Niedersachsen’s largest local festival can take a culinary and artistic trip around the world. Year after year, international cuisine, free concerts, water sports activities, open-air dance evenings and an exciting programme for children guarantee a non-stop holiday feeling for everyone.

www.hannover.de/en/Tourism-Culture/Event-Highlights/Specials/Maschsee-Lake-Festival-2024

10–11 August 2024: M'era Luna Festival Hildesheim

M'era Luna is a metal, gothic rock and industrial music festival in Hildesheim, which attracts around 25,000 fans in quirky dress every year. The dark music scene's big get-together is held at the airbase in Drispstedt. As well as performances by around 40 bands, the festival also features readings, a vibrant market area and the Gothic Fashion Show, which has become something of a tradition. www.meraluna.de/en/

Tba: International Music Festival in Buxtehude

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

6-7 September 2024: Pflasterzauber in Hildesheim

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

11–17 November 2024: 38th Brunswick International Film Festival

Originally founded by 20 university students, who were dissatisfied with the films on offer at the city's cinemas, the Brunswick International Film Festival is now the oldest film festival in Niedersachsen. Cinephiles can look forward to many galactic film adventures. A wide range of new films and famous classics will be screened over seven days, comprising international and local productions, from short films to documentaries, which will attract film lovers in their droves to the Lion City. One highlight of the festival is the presentation of the ten film awards – public and panel awards – for European debut and second films, the EDDA international short film prize and the Die Europa acting award. www.filmfest-braunschweig.de/en/

Active/outdoor events in Niedersachsen

Paddle trails in Stade

A fitness parkour on the water combined with signposts to particularly interesting places that can only be seen from the water – not only is this format unique in Germany, but since summer 2023 it has offered the best way to explore the Hanseatic city from the water. Enjoy a voyage of discovery by paddleboard on the moat around the Old Town and on the River Schwinge. Sport enthusiasts can paddleboard along the fitness trail to 15 stations with exercises for coordination, stability, and strength, or discover vestiges of times past on the history trail.

www.stade-tourismus.de/entdecken-und-erleben/aktiv-und-sportlich/wassersport/paddeltrails/

Certified cycle routes and hiking trails

When it comes to choosing the right cycle or walking path, certification offers a good point of reference, especially for novices. Signposting and the quality of the paths are thus becoming increasingly important. Niedersachsen has a wide selection of certified high-quality cycle routes and hiking trails to offer its visitors.

For cyclists, the Friedensroute is a new addition since spring 2023 and has been certified as a four-star ADFC quality route. It connects the historical town halls of Osnabrück and Münster, the venue for the five-year peace negotiations which ended the Thirty Years' War. This 163-kilometre circular cycle route, diverse in landscape and culture, follows the historical bridle paths used by the 'peace riders', who delivered news between the camps by order of the envoys of all the European powers involved. www.friedensroute.de/ and www.niedersachsen-tourism.com/experiences/cycling-in-lower-saxony/typical-lower-saxony-by-bike/quality-cycling

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

Mountainbiking in Niedersachsen

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

Microadventures in Niedersachsen

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

TourismusMarketing Niedersachsen GmbH (TMN)

Annett Knechtel

Essener Str. 1 | 30173 Hanover

T +49 (0)511 | 270 488 62

trade@tourismusniedersachsen.de

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

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