

BRASMEX-Europa GbR

On the traces of the Hanse



1st day: Arrival

Welcome by our bilingual team at the airport of Frankfurt and transfer by bus to the hotel in the center of Frankfurt. On this way we will get a first glance of this remarkable city.

2nd day: Frankfurt

In the morning of this day we will visit Frankfurt with its historical center, town hall "Römer" from the 15th century and the church of St. Paul, where from 1848 to 1849 the first constitution for Germany was elaborated. Frankfurt is known for Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who was born here in 1749, and as the finance center of today. *Frankfurt was no member of the Hanseatic League but was positioned at the main trading routes in the Middle Ages.*

3rd day: Cologne

Transfer by bus to the romantic city of Rudesheim. From Rudesheim we will take the ship to continue on the river Rhine until Koblenz. During this boat tour we will have the chance to see all the remarkable castles of the 12th century and the landscape that forms the World Heritage of the upper Middle Rhine Valley. In Koblenz our bus will be waiting for us to take us to our hotel in Cologne. After a short recreation phase we will visit the enormous cathedral of Cologne and the historic center of the city. The building of the cathedral started in 1248 but was finished only in 1880 after 600 years of construction. It's one of the greatest gothic cathedrals in the world and the symbol of Cologne.

Merchants of Cologne were the first members of the Hanse and the city of Cologne remained in the Hanse until the End. Heinrich Sundermann from Cologne was the first Counsel of the Hanse.

4th day: Munster, Bremen

After breakfast we will start towards Munster, city best known for the Westphalian peace after the war of 30 years. We will visit the town hall where the contract was signed. In Munster we will find the cobblestones with the names and the blazons of the cities of the Hanse.

After Munster we will continue our journey to Bremen with the famous town hall, the cathedral St. Petri and the statue of the Roland, together honored as World Heritage. There we can also see the so called Bremer Stadtmusikanten (donkey, dog, cat and cock). The visit of the quarters "Schnoor" and "Schlachte" as well as the street "Böttcherstraße" will complete our impression of this town and its history.

Bremen has been part of the Hanse since 1358 but the relation was not always good. Bremen was excluded three times from the organization and integrated again after some time. Nevertheless the wealth of Bremen was based on the free market secured by the Hanse.

5th day: Hamburg

We will start the day in Hamburg with a round trip by bus and boat to have a complete view of this lively town.

The contract of mutual support between Hamburg (Atlantic ocean) and Lübeck (Baltic sea) defines the start of the City Hanse. Before this only agreements between individual merchants existed. Lübeck will be our next station in the afternoon.

6th day: Lübeck

Lubeck itself is honored by the UNESCO as World Heritage due to its preserved Middle Age character. The best known example is the "Holstentor", one of the gates of the old city wall. *With Lubeck the way to the Baltic cities and with the rivers the*



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way to Russia was opened for the Hanse.

7th day: Wismar

Two main cities of the Hanse at the Baltic Sea are on our program for today: Wismar, representing together with Stralsund the character of the 14th century where the Hanse had its major influence, and Stralsund. In Wismar we will take the time to visit the historical center and the "Kogge" Wissemara, the type of ship used by the Hanse in the Middle Ages. In the afternoon we will reach Stralsund where we will visit the historical center.

8th day: Stralsund

Being in Stralsund without visiting the isle of Rügen with the National Park of Jasmund would be a pity. We have to hike for about three hours to cross the National Park until we reach the so called "Königsstuhl" but the view of the rock of chalk in the Baltic sea, topped with the famous beech wood, compensates for the efforts. The historical center of Stralsund is waiting for our visit in the afternoon.

9th day: Potsdam

Berlin and Potsdam were not part of the Hanseatic League but merit a visit in each case. This day we will go back into the 18th century into the times of

Friedrich the Great. He let construct the palace of Sanssouci in Potsdam for his recreation and the New Palace for official events. Together with the architecture of the park they form the World Heritage of Palaces in Potsdam. We will visit this in order to get our own impression. We will reach Sanssouci at lunch time and will spend the whole afternoon in the palace and the garden.

10th day: Berlin

In the morning we will visit the famous isle of museums. In the museum of Pergamum we will see the altar of Pergamum, a reconstruction of the gates of Babylon and a lot more about the ancient cultures. In the new museum we will have the chance to see the sculpture of Nefertiti. In the afternoon we will visit the town by bus with stops at the main attractions of the city.

11th day: Flight back home

On the last day we will have time free in Berlin for your disposition. In the afternoon we will meet again and drive to the airport.



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