

A CITY BUILT ON SALT

Salt, the “white gold,” brought immense wealth to Lüneburg during the Middle Ages, as salt was the only known method of preserving food. When the salt deposit under the old town of Lüneburg reached the height of the ground water, it became salty and the brine could be boiled down into salt in special pans. Lüneburg’s salt works were in operation for over a thousand years.

“Mons-Pons-Fons:” the hill, the bridge and the spring. The colonies that were to grow into Lüneburg were first established on Mount “Kalkberg,” the hill of lime near the bridge over the river Ilmenau and around the salt spring. Early chronicles from the year 795 mention a place called “Hliuni,” a sanctuary near the hill. In the 10th century a fortress was built on top of the Kalkberg, which was later pulled down by angry townsmen who rebelled against the duke. The salt works were first mentioned in official documents in 956. The third and oldest colony was the village “Modestorpe” across the Ilmenau.

Salt production and long-distance trade gave Lüneburg power far beyond its borders. The city became politically independent at the high of its prosperity between the 15th and 16th centuries and joined the Hanseatic League. About fourteen thousand people then lived in the town, making it a large city by medieval standards. Lüneburg’s proud red brick Gothic architecture is a living testimony of the wealth brought by salt into the city; citizens not only could afford to use brick for their homes, but also to adorn them with beautiful gables.

However in the early 17th century a crisis in the salt trade altered Lüneburg’s prospects. Since Lüneburg had no alternatives to salt production, it gradually lost its economic significance in northern Germany. Today, only the buildings serve as reminders of the lost splendor. The “old town” has been almost completely preserved. If you take a tour, you will experience the history of Lüneburg through its remarkable architecture.

**TOWN HALL | RATHAUS**

Building comprising rooms and halls built between the 13th and the 18th centuries. For example the “Gerichtslaube” (Court Arbor) was built in 1330 while the “Fuerstensaal” (Hall of Princes) was built during the 15th century.

The Town Hall can only be visited as a part of a tour.
Group tours available upon request.

Only guided tours:
Mon - Sun 10:00 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:00 pm
phone: +49 (0) 41 31 - 309 230

GERMAN SALT MUSEUM | DEUTSCHES SALZMUSEUM 

In the former salt works now stands Lüneburg’s most recent museum. You will discover the importance of salt – in general and also for Lüneburg in particular – through attractive displays and interactive exhibitions.

English-language information available.
Group tours available upon request and guided tours for individuals.

Opening hours year-round: Mon - Fri 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Oct - March 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Nov, Jan - April 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

phone: +49 (0) 41 31 - 450 65
fax: +49 (0) 41 31 - 450 69

LUENE CLOISTER WITH TEXTILE MUSEUM | KLOSTER LÜNE 

Medieval Cloister compound and textile museum containing white work, carpets and bench coverings from the 13th-16th centuries.

The Cloister and the Museum can only be visited as part of a tour.
Group tours available upon request.

Only guided tours: 01.04. - 15.10.
Tue - Sat 10:30 am, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm
Sun + public holiday 11:30 am, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm

phone: +49 (0) 41 31 - 523 18
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TOURS OF THE CITY 

Please enquire about our group tours in English
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Town Hall/ Am Markt, 21335 Lüneburg
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Internet: www.lueneburg.de

The Tourist Information is open for you:
Year round Mon - Fri 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
May - Oct, Dec Sat - Sun 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Nov, Jan - April Sat 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

HUMANISTIC, SUSTAINABLE, ENTREPRENEURIAL

Leuphana University is a center of vibrant activity and home to some 10.000 students. Its name refers to a location in this region found on Latin maps. Founded as a teacher’s college in 1946, the university continues Lüneburg’s tradition of a liberal, humanistic approach to education. The instructional programs emphasize interdisciplinary methodology, problem-solving skills, and a multifaceted course of study.

Leuphana College offers undergraduate degrees in ten majors and teachers’ education programs. A Graduate School allows the pursuit of advanced degrees in Arts and Sciences, Management/Entrepreneurship and Education, a Professional School offers continuing education for adults. The main university campus is located in former military barracks in the south of Lüneburg that have now been transformed into serene green open spaces.

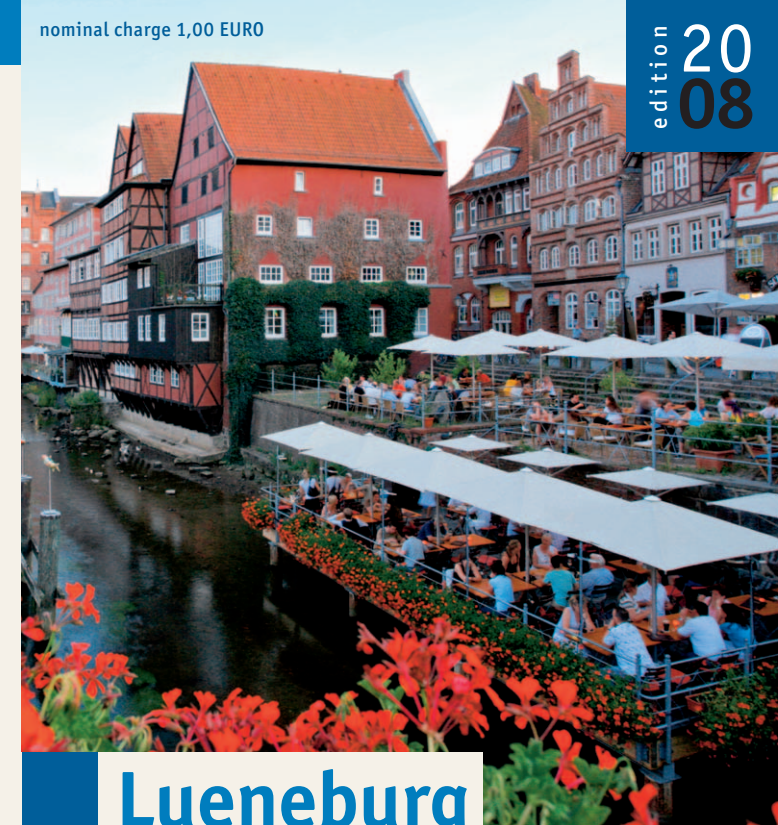
MAIN CAMPUS

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Email: info@leuphana.de
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Lueneburg

Things to see

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1 TOWN HALL | AM OCHSENMARKT/ MARKTPLATZ

The oldest part of the town hall was built around 1230. During the following 600 years the building was enlarged in successive waves resulting in the ensemble of rooms and halls visible today. The Gothic era is exemplified by the “Gerichtslaube,” or the Court Arbor, dating 1330. Also noteworthy is the “Fuerstensaal,” or the hall of Princes, which was built as a ballroom in the middle of the 15th century when Lueneburg was at the zenith of its power and wealth. The “Grosse Ratsstube,” the Great Council Chamber, with its masterly oak carvings is one of Germany’s most beautiful Renaissance halls. The façade of the town hall, which rises above the market place, is from the Baroque period and was built according to the plans of architect Georg Schultz.

2 ST. NIKOLAI | LÜNER STRASSE

This basilica was built near the port during the 15th century. This church served as a religious center for the river sailors as illustrated by the sailors’ wreath around the top of the steeple. While the wonderful medieval interior has remained almost unchanged, the exterior of the church has been subject to restoration in the 19th century. St. Nikolai contains a number of treasures among which a number of Gothic paintings and carvings.

3 THE WAREHOUSE AND THE OLD CRANE | AM STINTMARKT

Thanks to salt, the valuable herring of the Baltic Sea was an important trading commodity, hence the original name “Herring House.” The wooden, copper-roofed Old Crane was first mentioned in official documents in 1346 and is today the landmark of Lueneburg. The present form of the crane dates from 1797; however everything but the Baroque façade was destroyed by a fire in 1959. One of the last loads it brought to the banks of the Ilmenau was a locomotive from England for the Braunschweig-Vieneburg railway.

4 BROEMSE HOUSE | AM BERGE 35

The oldest recorded house in Lueneburg, built in 1446. Its name comes from its builder and owner Dietrich Broemse. Take notice of the richly decorated Gothic entrance.



5 ST. JOHANNIS | AM SANDE

Called the Baptism Church in 1297, St. Johannis is one of the oldest churches in Lower Saxony. This “hall church” with five naves of equal height and an almost quadratic floor plan once had 39 altars. The famous high altar with the paintings of Hinrik Funhoffs and the organ with its splendid Baroque design are well worth seeing. Young Johann Sebastian Bach learned to play the organ and to compose here from his uncle Georg Boehn, who was cantor and composer from 1698 to 1733.

6 THE WATER TOWER | BEI DER RATSMÜHLE

The neo-gothic “Water Tower” was built between 1906 and 1907. From the platform, which can be reached with an elevator, you have a wonderful panoramic view over the city of Lueneburg. The descent through the old water tank is quite an experience.

7 THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | AM SANDE

Across from St. Johannis is one of the most impressive buildings of the square, the present Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Lueneburg/Wolfsburg. The building was built in 1548 as a brewery and served this purpose for over a century. The square “Am Sande” was the market place for Lueneburg and its economic center. The rich merchants of Lueneburg built their homes around the square giving it its present appearance with the distinctive gables.

8 ST. MICHAELIS | JOHANN-SEBASTIAN-BACH-PLATZ

St. Michaelis Church, along with a cloister, was built between 1376 and 1418 within the city boundaries at the foot of the Kalkberg. When the Lueneburg salt deposits located under the church began sinking, the structure of main building was greatly affected. Inside the church a number of the columns are tilted, but this adds to the charm of the church. One of the choir singers in the Cloister School of St. Michaelis from 1701-1702 was Johann Sebastian Bach. The neighborhood around the church is also well worth a visit. In contrast to the imposing structures on the square “Am Sande”, we find here the homes of the ordinary people.



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