



Day Six – bicycle to Lübeck

Highlights: Lübeck - Queen of the Hanseatic

You'll bid farewell to the Baltic today. Ride along the beach and enjoy the waterfront of the Timmendorfer Strand before heading southwest inland to Lübeck. Before entering town, catch a free bike shuttle bus that takes you through the Herrentunnel underneath the Trave River. Lübeck referred to as the Queen of Hanseatic cities. Its extensive Brick Gothic architecture is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. And make sure you enjoy Lübeck's beloved delicacy - one of the best marzipan's in the world made by Niederegger. Distance: 49 km (30 miles).

This evening's hotel:

Hotel KO15
Am Koberg 13 -15
23552 Lübeck

Tel: +49 451 77715

Tour Leader phone numbers:

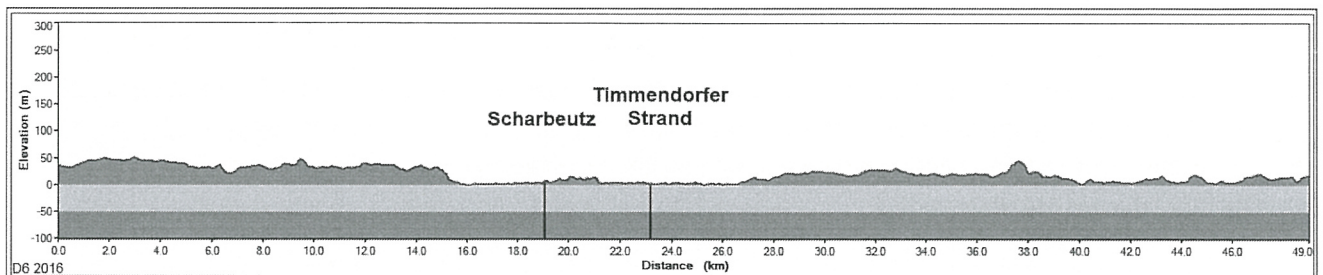
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In an emergency call 112

Today's Ride: You'll ride out to the Baltic coast and enjoy a ride along the coast until Timmendorfer Strand. Before we get into Lübeck you can experience German mobility at its best with a free shuttle that serves the community to take bikes and scooters through an otherwise dangerous tunnel.



Lunch and Dinner: Have lunch along the beach in Scharbeutz or Timmendorfer Strand and have a roll with smoked fish. Dinner tonight will be on your own.

You Might Like to Know: Today we'll be riding into Lübeck also called the "Queen of the Hanse". The Hanse or Hanseatic League was a commercial and defensive confederation of merchant guilds and their market towns. Lübeck's location on the Baltic provided access for trade with Scandinavia and especially with the economically less-developed eastern Baltic. This area was a source of timber, wax, amber, resins, and furs, along with rye and wheat brought down on barges from the hinterland to port markets.

Lübeck achieved domination of trade in the Baltic with striking speed during the 13th century, by building trading posts or *Kontore* (literally: *office*) which stretched from the Baltic to the North Sea and inland during the 15th to 19th centuries. Important cities like Hamburg, Bremen, Cologne, Krakow in Poland, Kaliningrad in Russia, Groning in Holland joined the Hanse and Kontors were opened in Bergen, Norway, Bruges, Belgium and London, England. The level of organization and expansion is



Cycling Copenhagen to Berlin

16th – 29th July, 2016

something we find difficult to believe nowadays since modern transportation and communication were absolutely inexistent.

Much of the drive for this co-operation came from the fragmented nature of territorial governments, which failed to provide security for trade. Over the years, the Hansa itself emerged with formal agreements for confederation and co-operation covering the west and east trade routes. Over the years, they had established their own legal system and furnished their own armies for mutual protection and aid. As an essential part of protecting their investment in the ships and their cargoes, the League trained pilots and erected lighthouses but also waged vigorous campaigns against pirates. Peculiar is that in a period where authoritarian rulers dominated Europe the Hanseatic League was a rather merchant-bourgeois organization where decisions and actions were the consequence of a consensus-based procedure. If an issue arose, the league's members were invited to participate in a central meeting, the *Tagfahrt* (lit. "meeting ride").

The past of the big Hanse Cities, resulted in an independent, self-confident, bourgeois attitude of civic liberty and freedom that still lasts nowadays. For Lübeck in particular, this attitude led to an incident in the Third Reich. The *Senat* of Lübeck did not permit Adolf Hitler to speak in Lübeck during his election campaign. After Hitler's election Lübeck's privilege of 711-year-long independence as a Hansestadt came to an end.

Lübeck is also called the city of **seven spires**, because of its medieval skyline mainly composed of seven gothic-style church towers. It is surrounded by parts of the old city walls with two of originally four city gates left intact. It is the only city in the north of Germany that still has an extensive medieval old city (*Altstadt*), comparable to some of southern Germany. Though considerably hit by bombs in WW2, most of the old city survived from medieval times or was reconstructed. It has become part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.

(Source: wikipedia)

Bicycle safety tip: When riding into or out of towns or cities keep your distance from other cyclists and from parked cars. If possible, ride a full six feet from parked cars. In this way you don't have to watch for opening car doors and you can watch other things going on around you. Drop back from your fellow cyclist 2-3 bike lengths so you have a good view of the road including potholes, broken glass or other debris. You can also see a surprise dog or cat coming onto the road. **DON'T WORRY ABOUT** holding up traffic. Motorists are generally used to cyclists on the road.



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German Lesson of the Day:

Thirsty? Go ahead and order a...

Can I have a beer?: *Ich hätte gerne ein Bier*

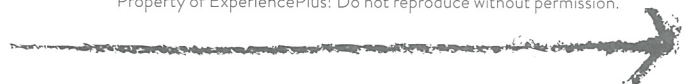
If you are very thirsty, order an *Alsterwasser* (a half-and-half made of Pilsner beer and lemon soda). In Bavaria it's called *Radler* meaning cyclist – supposing it quenches more your thirst than it gets you drunk.

The origin of the name *Alsterwasser* is lost in time but it might be that *Alsterwasser* might just be as refreshing – but you can try it our yourself, the *Alster* is lake in Hamburg (I guess swimming in it today might be healthier than drinking from it).

A common thirst quencher for cyclists is the "*Schorle*," which could be any juice mixed with sparkling water: with apple juice it is "*Apfelschorle*" (considered the most healthy isotonic drink possible in Germany)

Coffee (black/ with milk): *Kaffee (schwarz/ Milchkaffee)*

With lactose-free milk, please. *Mit laktosefreier Milch, bitte.*



Day 6: Eutin to Lübeck

Towns for navigation: Süsel (10 km), Haffkrug (15 km), Scharbeutz (18 km), Timmendorfer Strand (22 km), Warnsdorf (29 km), Bike Shuttle (39 km), Lübeck Center (49 km)

