



EXPERIENCEPLUS!
BICYCLE TOURS SINCE 1972

Cycling Copenhagen to Berlin
16th – 29th July, 2016

Day Seven – bicycle to Hamburg

Highlights: Free and Hanseatic City, "Gateway to the world"

"The gateway to the world" might be a bold claim, but Germany's second-largest city and largest port (despite being located on a river 100 km from the coast) has never been shy. Hamburg has engaged in business with the world ever since it joined the Hanseatic League back in the Middle Ages, and this "harbourpolis" is now the nation's premier media hub and its wealthiest city.
Distance: 70 km (43 miles).

This evening's hotel:

Henri Hotel
Bugenhagenstrasse 21,
20095 Hamburg

Tel: +49 40 554 357-557

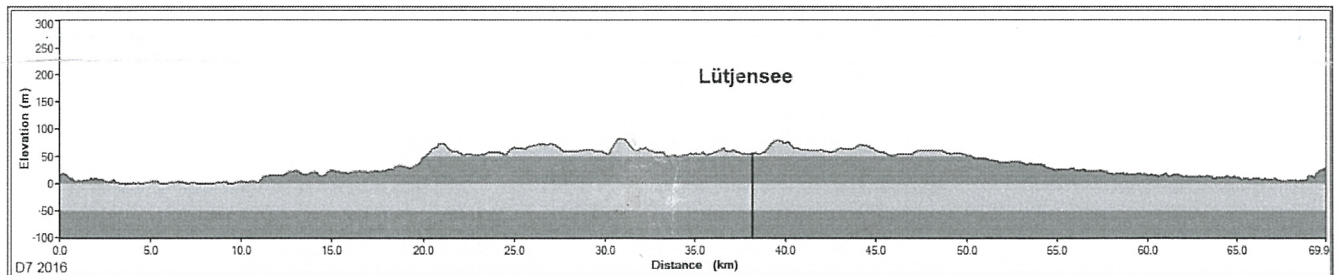
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In an emergency call 112

Today's Ride: Today you'll ride most of the day on small country roads and bike paths until you get to the outskirts of Hamburg and where you'll bike into the second biggest city in Germany and 8th in Europe along secure bike paths (weather permitting through a nice park).



Lunch and Dinner: in Lütjensee you can find a "Gasthof" (Restaurant) a snack place or a bakery and grocery store if you want to get picnic supplies. We'll enjoy a special dinner this evening with riders who are joining the Hamburg to Berlin stage of the ride and riders leaving us in Hamburg.

You Might Like to Know: Klaus Störtebeker was a leader and the best-known representative of a companionship of privateers known as the Victual Brothers ("Vitalienbrüder" in German). The Victual Brothers were originally hired during a war between Denmark and Sweden to fight the Danish and supply the besieged Swedish capital Stockholm with provisions (Latin "victualia"). At the end of the war, the Victual Brothers continued to capture merchant vessels on their own account and named themselves "Likedeelers" (literally "equal sharers").

A large number of myths and legends surround what little facts exist on Klaus Störtebeker's life. The moniker refers to the pirate's supposed ability to empty a one-gallon mug of beer in one gulp.



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After the expulsion of the Victual Brothers from the Baltic island of Gotland they set up a stronghold and headquarters in the town of Visby. During the following years, Störtebeker and some of his fellow captains captured Hanseatic ships, irrespective of their origin.

In 1401, a Hamburgian fleet caught up with Störtebeker's force near Helgoland. According to some stories, Störtebeker's ship had been disabled by a traitor who cast molten lead into the links of the chain, which held the rudder of Störtebeker's ship. Störtebeker and his crew were ultimately overcome and brought to Hamburg where they were tried. Legend has it that Störtebeker offered a chain of gold long enough to enclose the whole town of Hamburg in exchange for his life and freedom. However, Störtebeker and all of his 73 companions were sentenced to death but Störtebeker asked the mayor of Hamburg to release however many of his companions he could walk past after being beheaded. The rather riskless request was granted. After he was beheaded, Störtebeker's body allegedly got up and walked past twelve of Störtebeker's companions before the body was tripped by the executioner. The twelve men were executed along with all of the others. The senate of Hamburg asked the executioner if he was not tired after all this, but he replied he could easily execute the whole of the senate as well. For this, he himself was sentenced to death and executed by the youngest member of the senate.

According to legend when dismantling Störtebeker's ship, the masts contained a core of gold (one of gold, one of silver, and one of copper). This was used to create the tip of St. Catherine's church in Hamburg. His famous drinking cup was stored in the town hall of Hamburg, until it was destroyed in the great fire of 1842. (Source: <http://www.thepirateking.com>)

Bicycle safety tip: Braking: your front brake is your friend - but use it carefully and never alone! In general, use both brakes together for normal stops. As you become more experienced, you will find that applying 2-3 times the pressure to your front brake will stop you faster. Be careful, however, not to overuse your front brake or to use it alone or you will go over the handlebars.

German Lesson of the Day:

Some helpful phrases to order food:

Can I see the [menu/wine list], please? *Kann ich bitte die [Speisekarte/Weinkarte] sehen?*

I would like... *Ich hätte gern...*

What's the difference between X and Y? *Was ist der Unterschied zwischen X und Y?*

Is that gluten-free? *Ist das glutenfrei?*

Do you have vegetarian food? *Haben Sie vegetarisches Essen?*

Day 7 Lübeck to Hamburg

Towns for Navigation: Kronsforde (11 km), Bliestorf (15 km), Kastorf (19 km), Labenz (24 km), Sandesneben (28 km), Schönberg (32 km), Lütjensee (38 km), Braak (49 km), Hamburg (55km), Hamburg Center (70 km).

