





Day Eight –guided visit and rest day or optional ride Highlights: Guided harbor cruise of the Hamburg Port

Enjoy a harbor cruise this morning before an optional ride and some free time to visit some of the local attractions like the impressive Rathaus (city hall) or one of the museums in the newly popular warehouse district. Or perhaps you'd like some shopping in the main streets around the train station, or a stroll along the Alster River and harbor to see the bustle. Distance: Walking tour of Hamburg to the harbor

This evening's hotel:

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In an emergency call 112

<u>Today's Ride:</u> We'll enjoy a private guided cruise of the Hamburg harbor. We'll walk about half an hour to the Sankt Pauli levee where we'll board. In the afternoon, enjoy the museums, shopping, or just go for a stroll through Hamburg. If anyone wants to get on a bike, ride upstream along the Elbe bike path. You'll ride through Hamburg's most exclusive neighborhood, Blankenese.

<u>Lunch and Dinner:</u> Have a snack somewhere around the port (Fischbrötchen would be very appropriate) or walk into one of the many bistros while you walk through Hamburg. As port city it hosts many expat communities and their restaurants. The Portuguese neighborhood is famed for its great Portuguese restaurants. Dinner is on your own tonight.

You Might Like to Know: Hamburg has planned and built, for over a decade, on its new landmark: The Elbe Philharmonic Hall. In 2003, the plan to build a new concert hall on top of an old warehouse building (Kaiserspeicher A) was commissioned and the Hamburg Parliament voted in favor of building the Elbphilarmonie. In 2007, construction began and was scheduled to be finished by 2010 with an estimated cost of €241 million.

Today, 6 years after the initially planned opening, and after having spent at least an extra €500 million, the Elbphilharmonie will still have to wait until 2017 for its opening. It took a visionary project developer, creative, and somewhat mad, architects and a bold town mayor, who was not concerned at all about governing one of the most disastrous public projects. But... the outcome is a building that awes you at the best or makes you shake your head ... it won't leave you indifferent! The Elbphilharmonie, with its impressive glass facade and wave-like rooftop, rises up from a former warehouse building and is located in what was Hamburg's old working harbor for centuries. The Kaiserspeicher, Hamburg's biggest warehouse on the water, was built in 1875. Destroyed in the Second World War and then rebuilt to store cocoa, tobacco, and tea until the 1990s. With the rise of container traffic, the Kaispeicher lost its importance and ultimately stood empty.

The defining feature of the Elbphilharmonie is its 1,000 curved window panels that are tailor-made to reflect the sun's rays. The glass facades in the loggias of the apartments and concert foyers are especially striking: with their boldly convex form they resemble huge tuning forks. The inside will match its outside: it will accommodate two concert halls, a hotel, and residential apartments. Between the old warehouse and the glass structure is the Plaza – at a height of 37 m above ground level, the public viewing area offers visitors a spectacular 360° view of the city and harbor. The Grand Hall has three structural muses: the natural, organic design of the ancient theatre at Delphi; the architecture of sport stadiums, which is effectively designed to accommodate a mass of people in a confined space; and the tent, the simplest man-made structure in human society.

Not only has the pleasure of the eye been taken into consideration, but also the acoustics and sound. The surface of the walls and ceilings in the Grand Hall is composed of approximately 10,000 sheets of gypsum fiber panels. Each panel has been individually molded by high-tech computers to create a unique wall lining. In combination with an expansive reflector in the middle of the vaulted ceiling, they project sound into every corner of the space, guaranteeing an optimal listening experience from each seat. Furthermore, both concert halls are two acoustically autonomous spaces that are completely detached from the rest of the building. Massive steel spring elements perfectly buffer the concrete shell of each respective hall from the outside world. No ships' sirens will ever penetrate these spaces, and not even the sound of a loud trombone ensemble will intrude into the rooms of hotel guests.

The obsession for a perfect sound went so far that the sound guru Yasuhisa Toyota calculated the acoustics of the Grand Hall using complex, computerized 3D models. He then built a 1:10 scale model of the hall. Placing 2,000 small felt dolls and dozens of sensitive microphones in the model, Toyota was able to simulate the sound of the hall and in this way perfect its "tuning", for example, in the slope of the parapets or the structure of the "white skin". The 1:10 acoustic model is on display on the first floor of the Elbphilharmonie Pavilion on the Magellan Terraces. (Sources: elbphilharmonie.de, wikipedia.org)

German Lesson of the Day:

In Hamburg we'll help you a little with some basic shopping German:
Do you sell...? Verkaufen Sie...?
How much is that? Wie viel kostet das?
Do you have it one size smaller/ bigger? Haben Sie das eine Nummer kleiner/ größer?
Where can I find a souvenir shop? Wo finde ich ein Souvenir-Shop?