



**EXPERIENCEPLUS!**  
BICYCLE TOURS SINCE 1972

Cycling Copenhagen to Berlin  
16<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

### Day Nine – bicycle to Lüneburg

#### Highlights: Storybook German brick gothic town Lüneburg, town hall

Take a ferry out of Daily Hamburg and find yourself transported to another world - the "Alte Land" a rural paradise famous for its orchards. As the landscape changes we'll ride through the Lüneburg Heath, a nature reserve, on our way to Lüneburg town whose prosperity for centuries came from its salt. The town sat upon a massive salt dome, which was mined, sold/traded throughout Northern Europe. Distance: 70km (43 miles).

#### This evening's hotel:

**Hotel Altes Kaufhaus**  
Kaufhausstraße 5  
21335 Lüneburg

**Tel: +49 (0) 4131 3088-0**

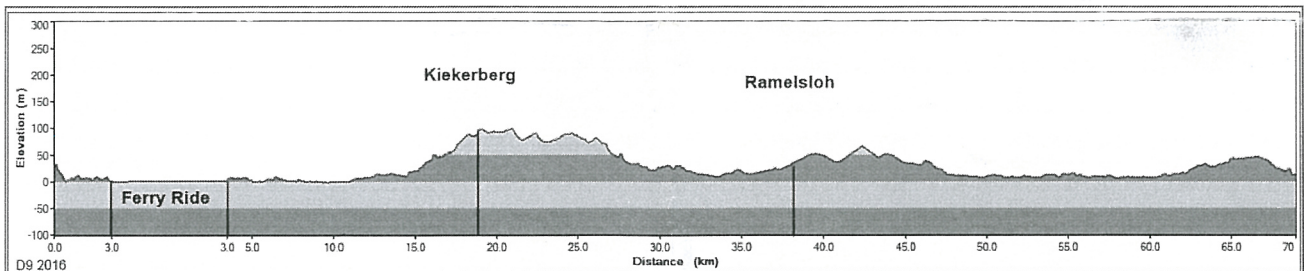
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#### In an emergency call 112

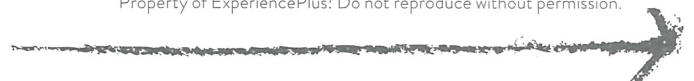
**Today's Ride:** Today you'll start with a short ferry ride that will take you from the bustling streets of Hamburg to the farmland on the other side of the Elbe River. A surprising contrast in such a short time (get off at the 5<sup>th</sup> stop, Finkenwerder). Our route will take you on a flat ride through the "Alte Land", a region famous for its apple orchards, and then through the Lüneburg Heath.



**Lunch and Dinner:** Buy some lunch supplies in Rosengarten or Ramesloh and stop for a picnic in the Lüneburg heath. If you want to have lunch in a restaurant, you'll find something at the open-air museum in Kiekerberg and in Pattensen.

**You Might Like to Know:** The Lüneburg Heath (*Lüneburger Heide*) is a large area of heath and woodland in the northeastern part of the state of Lower Saxony and is named after the town of Lüneburg. Typically, extensive areas of heathland covered most of the North German countryside until about 1800. The heaths were formed after the Neolithic period by overgrazing of the once widespread forests on the poor sandy soils of the geest, as this slightly hilly and sandy terrain is called. The areas of heath are kept clear mainly through grazing, especially by a North German breed of moorland sheep called the Heidschnucke.

As late as the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the barren and almost treeless heathlands were perceived as hostile and threatening environments, as evinced by a travel log of a French diplomat in 1804:



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*"In a line of nearly twenty German miles, we travelled over sandy plains and extensive heaths. At a great distance, geese, ducks and sheep of a very poor appearance, never failed to indicate the vicinity of some wretched hamlet. What habitations! Whole families, of the most wretched appearance, and covered with tattered garments, associate together, eat and sleep with their cattle."*

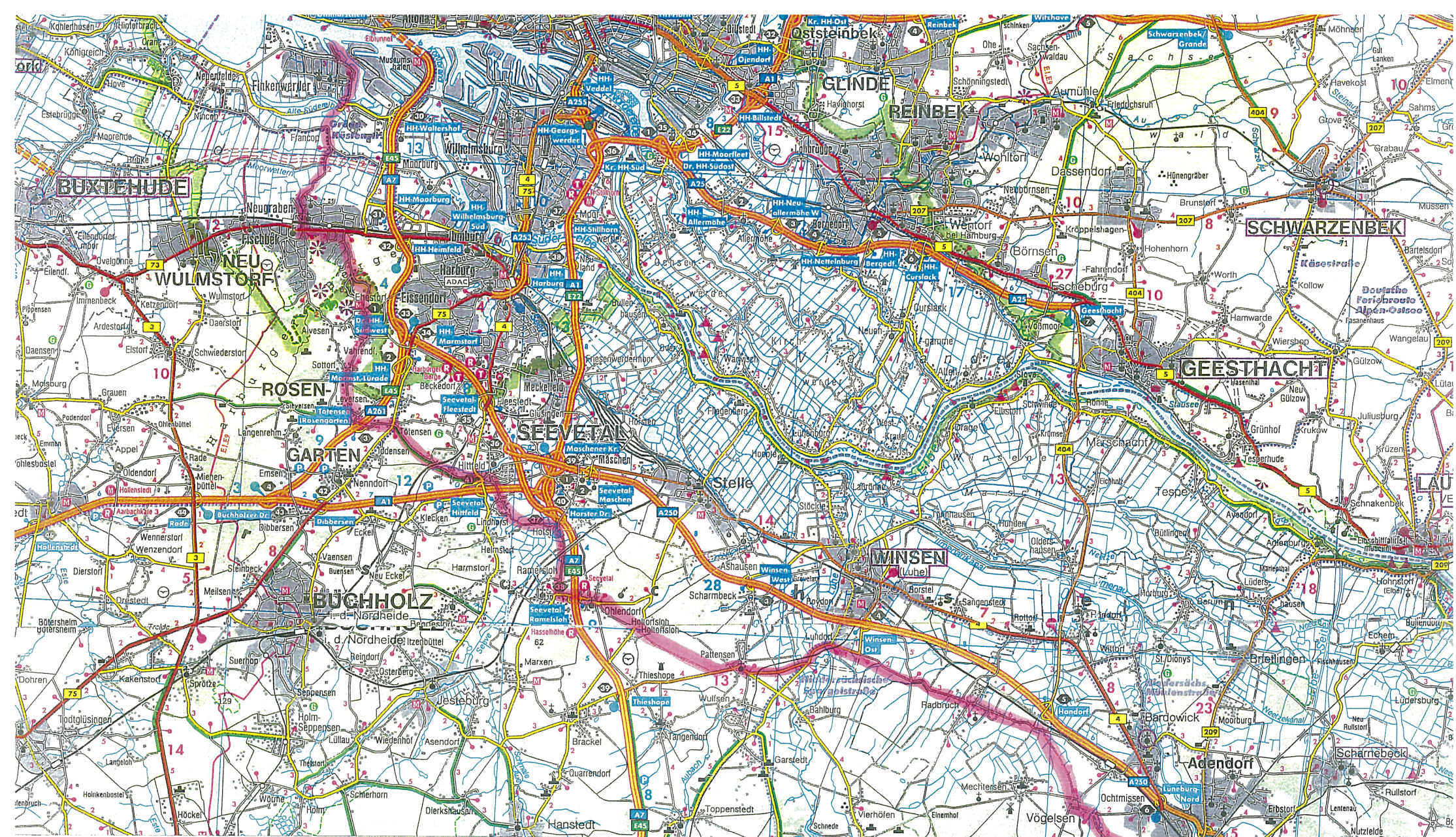
(Michel Ange Mangourit: Travels in Hanover, during the years 1803 and 1804. London 1806.)

But the perception changed and towards the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were the first positive descriptions of the heath emerged, initially inspired by the Romantic Movement. With the Industrial Revolution in Germany, unspoilt nature was even more important for people, providing a welcome contrast with the rapidly burgeoning cities. Because the heathlands of North Germany were being increasingly decimated by cultivation and reforestation, they now appeared to be worth protecting. Numerous writers and painters portrayed the beauty of the heath, particularly when it was in bloom in August and September. The most famous heath poet was the local writer Hermann Löns (1866–1914), who spent some time living in a hunting lodge on the heath. He worked the countryside into his books and promoted the foundation of the first German nature reserve on Lüneburg Heath.

Later his works were a source for Heimatfilme, a film genre that was popular in, and singular to, Germany from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. Heimat is a German word that can be translated as home, homeland, home soil, or fatherland (each having a different emphasis and connotation). The genre originally came to life following the devastation of Germany in World War II, suggesting a whole, romantic world untouched by the hazards of real life (i.e. war damage and subsequent rebuilding). The idea of Heimat is linked to the experience of the loss of more than twelve million Germans, who were displaced from the former eastern territories of the Third Reich and dealing with concerns such as expulsion and (re-integration). They were usually shot in the Alps, the Black Forest, or the Lüneburg Heath and always involved the outdoors. These films were noted for their rural settings, sentimental tone and simplistic morality, and centered on love, friendship, family, and non-urban life. Also, the polarity between old and young, tradition and progress, rural and urban life was articulated. The typical plot structure involved both a "good" and "bad" guy wanting a girl, and the "good" guy ultimately triumphing to win the girl to the happiness of everyone and the children. Nevertheless, the post-war genre was a way to deal with questions of modernization and social change; resolving social and ideological concerns about territory and identity.

(Source: wikipedia.org)

**Bicycle safety tip:** Signaling: be as predictable as you can be with fellow cyclists and other road users. Signal your turns about 100 feet before the turn and hold your signal for about 2 seconds (count, "one thousand one, one thousand two"). When actually in the turn put both hands on the handlebars as control of your bike is critical when turning.



*Cycling Hamburg to Berlin*  
Scale 1:200.000

**Day 9 Hamburg to Lüneburg Part Two**

**Towns for Navigation:** Ferry (3 km), Kiekerberg (19 km), Seevetal (31 km), Ramelsloh (38 km), Pattensen (48 km), Luhdorf (52 km), Radbruch (58 km), Vögelsen (64 km), Lüneburg (70 km)

