

Must See



Bars & Cafes



Nightlife



Festivals & Events



Shopping

BUDGET TRAVELLER'S
GERMAN WANDERLUST

48 HOURS IN

Bremen

Youth HotSpots in Germany

Share the moment.

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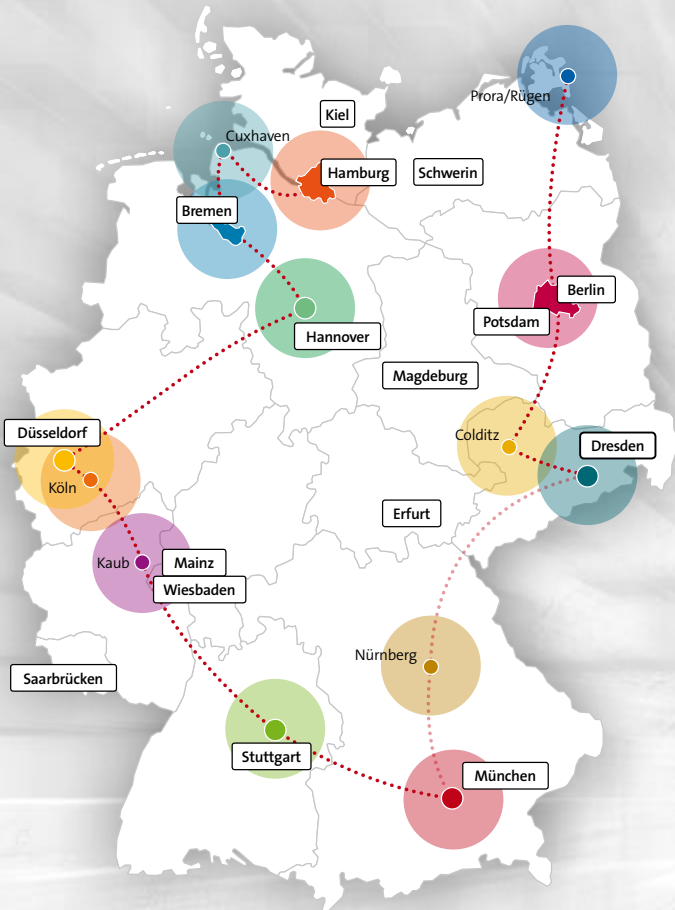


www.germany.travel

Youth HotSpots in Germany share the moment.

BUDGETTRAVELLER'S 48 HOUR GUIDE TO GERMANY is a personal snapshot of some of the coolest youth hotspots www.germany.travel/youth in 12 of Germany's leading cities and towns. The guide comes complete with my itinerary plus the cost associated with each activity so that you can pick and choose activities that are best suited to your interests and budget. Each itinerary was created to allow travellers the freedom to explore each place in a relaxed manner and without blowing your budget. I welcome your feedback – Share your thoughts on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram using the hashtag **#youthhotspotsgermany**.

Get the Youth HotSpots App!
Your top locations plus free-access Wi-Fi
for when you're on the move. For **iOS** and **Android**



BudgetTraveller's biography



Kash Bhattacharya has been travelling on a budget for the last 4 years, blogging about his adventures at BudgetTraveller.org. He has been featured in the New York Times, Guardian, Vanity Fair and National Geographic. In July 2013, he's launching a guide to Luxury Hostels in Europe and also helped develop award-winning campaigns like **#BlogVille** for the Emilia Romagna Tourism Board, **#Blogmanay** for Unique Events and Event Scotland and **FilmTraveller_CoteD'Azur** – a blog about film tourism in Cote D'Azur for the Cote D'Azur tourism board. You can also follow Kash on Twitter and Facebook.



Share the experience
youth-hostels.de



The German Wanderlust is part of the campaign 'Youth HotSpots in Germany – Share the moment.' launched by the GNTB at the 2013 ITB travel fair in Berlin to promote its year of youth tourism. For the project the GNTB has teamed up with the German Youth Hostel Association (DJH) www.youth-hostels.de and transport partner Deutsche Bahn www.bahn.com.

The Youth HotSpots, such as bars, cafés, must-sees and events, featured on the interactive map at www.germany.travel/youth provided orientation points for Kash. Kash stayed overnight in DJH youth hostels and was travelling by train with Deutsche Bahn.



BUDGET TRAVELLER'S GERMAN WANDERLUST
48 HOURS IN **Bremen**

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Total cost of trip 15



Good to know

While my trip has been sponsored, the views and thoughts represented in this article are my own.

By the banks of the beautiful Weser, the Hanseatic city of Bremen is another hidden gem of Germany.

Expect world-class museums, picture postcard neighbourhoods, great variety of local and international cuisine, cool nightlife scene plus a great number of stories and legends.



Cost Price of bed in a six bed-dorm on a bed and breakfast basis starts from just €25.60 or the €60 mark for a double ensuite bedroom.

DAY 1
.....
11 AM

1



Check-in: Jugendherberge Bremen

This is my sunny two bed ensuite dorm room at the Jugendherberge Bremen. I could see the Beck's beer factory from my room and watch the boats sail by on the Weser river plus nice sunshine through my window. Perfect eh?



share the experience
youth-hostels.de



DAY 1
.....
12 PM

2

Cost Just €3

 Bars & Cafés: 'Rollo'

Time for a 'Rollo'

For lunch I headed back to the Hauptbahnhof area checking out the group of budget eateries in this place and eventually settled for the Kismet 'New Generation' Turkish restaurant (Sogestrasse 72).

I wasn't sure what to order and asked for a recommendation. They suggested I try the local Durum Doner that was invented in Bremen! It's called the 'Rollo', like Durum but with cheese! ... It tasted fantastic.

Walk around Bremen's Altstadt

Bremen is 'schon klein' – a compact place which I could cover by foot. This was handy because it was March and freezing outside despite the nice winter sunshine. I headed back to the hostel to pick up a few things and then walked down the beautiful Weserpromenade and the Schlachte.

The Schlachte was Bremen's harbor for over 600 years. The whole promenade back in the day used to be the base for all the harbor-related trades and also a few inns and cellar taverns. However, natural silting processes rendered Bremen increasingly inaccessible thereby making the Schlachte increasingly defunct. Nowadays the Schlachte is the place where locals come for long walks up the promenade, ride their bike or go for a drink and soak in the sun.



DAY 1
.....
1:30 PM

4



Must See: Market Square

Market Square, Bremen

I wind my way to the market square of Bremen, the focal point of the city with a bunch of interesting things to see and do. I bumped into some familiar faces.

'We can find something better than death anywhere'. Remember these four musicians?

A donkey, a dog, a cat and a rooster who came to find freedom in Bremen but instead ...



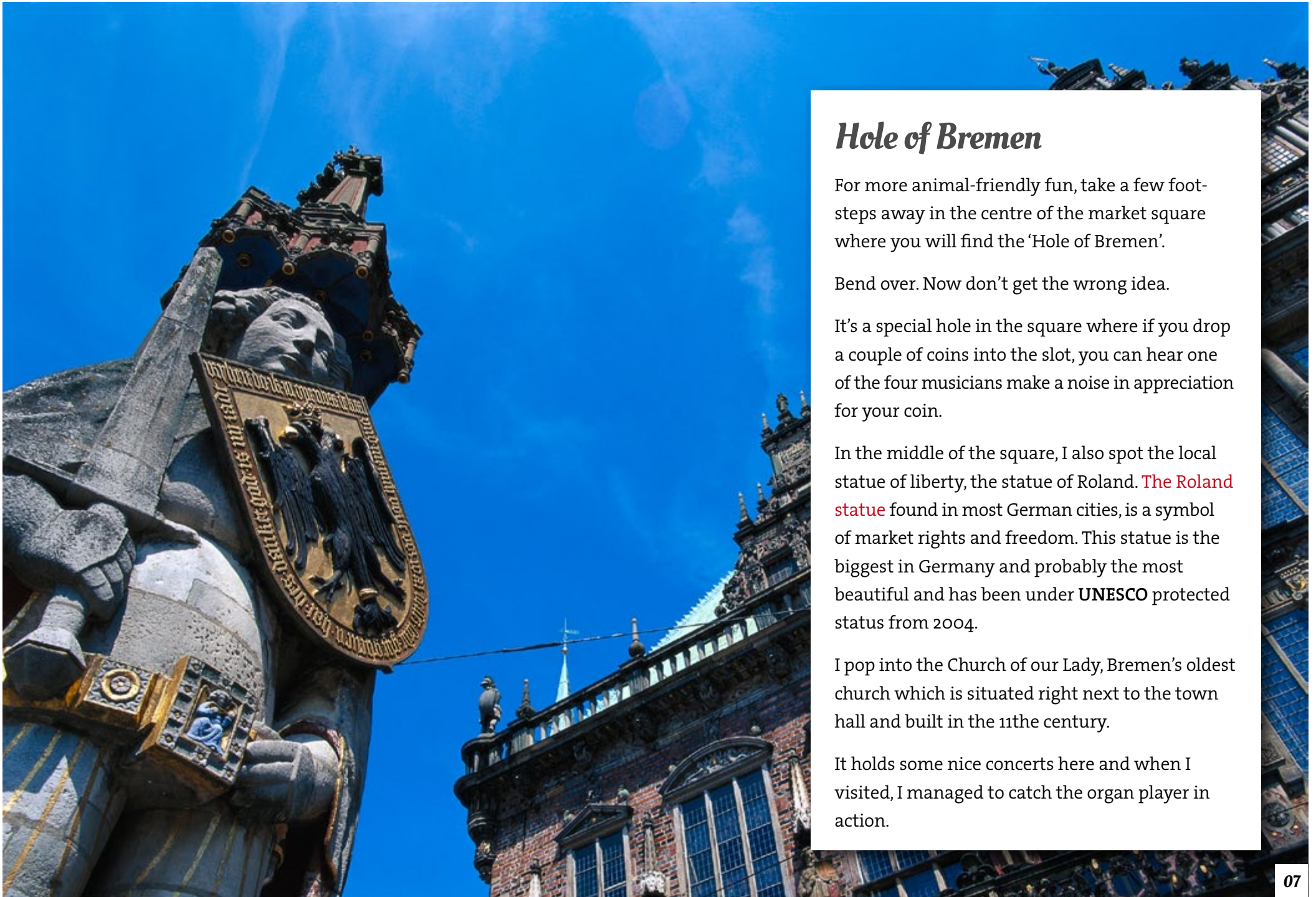
DAY 1
.....
1 PM

3



Must See: Schlachte

Top Tip If you're looking for a nice few bars to go drinking late in the evening, I would recommend **Bolero** and **Café & Bar Celona** for drinks and the Australian bar, **Kangaroo Island** for late night lounging.



Hole of Bremen

For more animal-friendly fun, take a few footsteps away in the centre of the market square where you will find the 'Hole of Bremen'.

Bend over. Now don't get the wrong idea.

It's a special hole in the square where if you drop a couple of coins into the slot, you can hear one of the four musicians make a noise in appreciation for your coin.

In the middle of the square, I also spot the local statue of liberty, the statue of Roland. **The Roland statue** found in most German cities, is a symbol of market rights and freedom. This statue is the biggest in Germany and probably the most beautiful and has been under **UNESCO** protected status from 2004.

I pop into the Church of our Lady, Bremen's oldest church which is situated right next to the town hall and built in the 11th century.

It holds some nice concerts here and when I visited, I managed to catch the organ player in action.

The infamous Spuckstein!

I also managed to find the infamous 'Spuckstein' or spitting stone a few steps away from the town hall. The black stone marks the **location of the beheading of Gesche Gottfried**. Between 1813 and 1828, she murdered 15 people with poisonous gas and arsenic. Nobody knows why she did this, but subsequently she was captured and executed at this location on April 21, 1831. She was the last person to be publicly executed in the city of Bremen. People still come by the stone and spit on it to show their disgust for her actions.

DAY 2
2:30 PM

5



Must See: The Spuckstein

Top Tip

Whilst you are in Böttcherstrasse if you have a sweet tooth, pop into the Bremer Bonbon shop where you can admire the candy. Artisans show visitors how the sweet stuff is made and you can also enjoy some free samples.



Bremer Bonbon shop

DAY 2
3 PM

6

Böttcherstrasse

Remember the Café Hag decaffeinated coffee advert? Hell, that was (still is!) an annoying advert. Things you remember from your childhood ... Well the reason I remembered the advert was when I found myself on Böttcherstrasse in Bremen.

This beautiful street is just off the main square and everywhere I look I am drowning in a mélange of awe-inspiring expressionist buildings with varying architectural styles. The 110 metre lane with a golden relief at the entrance (showing a scene from the Apocalypse with the Archangel Michael fighting a dragon) was conceived by Ludwig Roselius, a Bremen-based coffee-trader who invented decaffeinated coffee and founded ... yep you've guessed it by now, the Hag coffee company.

Roselius entrusted local artist Bernard Hoetger with the artistic supervision over the project. Today the street is home to arts and crafts shops, a cinema, restaurants and also the museum of Paula Moder-sohn-Becker Museum (Entry: € 5, Reduced entry € 3) one of the early Expressionists. The museum features key works from each of her creative periods.



DAY 1
.....
4 PM

7

The Schnoor

The Schnoor is the oldest quarter of Bremen dating back to the 15th century. The word 'Schnoor' means 'string' and refers to tradesmen, crafts and fisherman who lived here making string and rope. Today, the area is cornucopia of all things from craft shops, curios to restaurants and cafes. Perfect for a relaxed, lazy afternoon stroll.

 Bars & Cafés: The Schnoor

Bremer Knipp at the Schüttinger Gasthausbrauerei

To have a very authentic experience of Bremer beer and cuisine avoid the touristy Ratskeller and visit Schüttinger Gasthausbrauerei. You can sample their excellent beer and also the very unhealthy and very tasty Bremer Knipp. Knipp is a local sausage made of unwanted bits of pork & oat groats plus seasoned with salt, pepper and all spice. To top that off it's served also with fried potatoes, bacon plus gherkins! Talk about a heart attack on a plate! So tasty though...

Cost With 0.2 l glass of beer came to **9 euros** which is quite affordable.

Tip From 5 till 8pm they run a happy hour where you get small glasses (100 ml) of beer for **1 euro** and the Maß (1l) for **5€** -Bargain!



DAY 1
.....
5:30 PM

8

 Bars & Cafés:
Schüttinger Gasthausbrauerei

Sluk ut de lamp @ Spitzen Gebelt

I find myself on the suggestion of local, Carolin Hinz, in what is the last remaining medieval townhouse of Bremen – Spitzen Gebel. It's a small wee house with Gothic gables and easy to miss. The 'Haake Beer' sign outside betrays the fact that this place is now a pub. It's a pub with a nice cosy atmosphere, a few merry faced locals and tourists sipping on the excellent local Haake pils. Given that I was still groaning under the weight of the Bremer Knipp, it was suggested I try the most famous drink in town – 'Sluk ut de lamp'.

I had no idea at the time what I was getting into. They pour the drink out of a lamp on the wall. What I hadn't accounted for was how strong and venomous the stuff is. I probably had the face of someone who has been hit by a lorry judging by the raucous laughter of the locals who were there drinking. A funny but ultimately vile drinking experience, nevertheless one that is essential when visiting Bremen. I have to admit, in terms of a digestif was excellent and I had a pretty good nights sleep.

DAY 1
.....
7 PM

9

Cost €2

Sluk ut de Lamp

This recipe originates from a Swedish doctor who lived for more than 100 years and who eventually died falling from a horse. His family guarded the secret of the recipe for many decades and they all lived to be over 100 years old. In the end the secret of the recipe was revealed for the benefit of all and those who mix it and take it regularly as a preventative remain free from illness or, if ill, can be cured by it. Whether for aiding the cure in spring or autumn, keeping body and soul together, fortifying the nerves or for good circulation, 10 to 20 to 30 drops diluted with wine, tea, water or for some such, are to be recommended morning and evening. So taken, this Swedish elixir is an excellent preventative against many illnesses. The elixir also works miracles for the health in other ways, for example in cases of rheumatism, digestive complaints of the gall bladder, dropsy, headaches, hemorrhoids, digestive complaints, aching limbs, blocked arteries and for any other complaints. For all such cases 10 to 20 to 30 drops are to be taken to begin with, increasing as required up to a teaspoonful and diluted in wine, tea, water or some such according to the size of the person and severity of the malaise....

Spitzen Gebel
Inh. Martina Pr
Hinter dem S
28102
Tel. 42102

Another cold sunny day on the Schlachte. I head out of the Altstadt to the neighbourhood of Das Viertel. Once marked for demolition in 60's to build a motorway, thanks to fierce opposition from locals, the project did not go ahead. Today, it is the hippest, coolest neighbourhood of Bremen and still retains the grunge feeling of the 80's.



DAY 2
11 AM

10

Kunsthalle

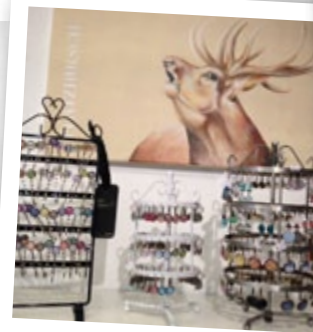
My first port of call in Das Viertel is the outstanding Kunsthalle (Am Wall 207). The museum houses an excellent collection of French and German paintings from the 19th and 20th century, including important works by Claude Monet, Edouard Manet and Paul Cézanne, along with major paintings by Lovis Corinth, Max Liebermann, Max Beckmann and Paula Modersohn-Becker. The museum organizes an excellent programme of temporary exhibitions.

When I visited I was privileged to check out the 'The Line of Life' exhibition. This exhibition was a recreation of the brilliant Hundertwasser's attempt of the 'The line of Hamburg' in 1959 which is regarded as the birth hour of European performance art. Imitating the former attempt, for 50 hours they drew the line across the gallery in Kunsthalle to create a spiral, spectacular environment.



Must See: Hundertwasser

Cost €8, €5 concessions for students with valid ID card



Die Sachenmacher



Shopping:
Das Viertel

DAY 2
1 PM

11

Window shopping in Das Viertel

Das Viertel is packed with cool shops like the uber cool designer store 'Kauf dich glücklich' (shop till happy) and 'Die Sachenmacher' which stocks cool stuff from local Bremen artists like the recycled purse in the picture.

DAY 2
2 PM

12



 Bars & Cafés: *Coffee Corner*

Lunch. Coffee Corner, Ostertorsteinweg

For the past 11 years, Coffee Corner (Ostertorsteinweg 1, 28203 Bremen) this has been the place for bagels and good coffee in Bremen.

Comfy sofas upstairs, downstairs grab a window side stool and get a birds eye view of the action in Das Viertel. They do great soups, salads and awesome bagels. I enjoyed the Chicken Curry bagel. Free wifi is excellent.

Cost € 2.80

DAY 2
5 PM

14



 Bars & Cafés: *Marianne's*

Cost Chocolate tart and cappuchino: € 5



Das Viertel

DAY 2
3 PM

13

Afternoon stroll around Das Viertel

I go for a further wander through this beautiful neighbourhood. I discover some cool street art. I soon find myself at the bank of the Weser river, an area known as the Osterdeich.

Here I discover Kultur-im-Bunker. They organize concerts, book readings, poetry slam and all things cultural in this former World War 2 bunker. How cool is that?

Marianne's

Tucked away off the main drag of Das Viertel, Marianne's (Berliner Strasse 22) is a great place for Kaffee und Kuchen. Expect lots of hipster nerdy cultural types clamouring for the limited table space here. They do an awesome **chocolate tart** (in picture) here and **New York Cheesecakes**. The other great thing is that they have a significant range of vegan, gluten-free and lactose-free cakes and pies.

DAY 2
.....
5 PM

15



Bars & Cafés: Angelino

Early dinner at Angelino

Das Viertel has a plethora of great places to eat out and Angelino's (Vor dem Steintor 11, 28203 Bremen) is a lovely cosy Italian trattoria that serves good Italian food at decent prices. I ate the excellent Spaghetti aglio olio e peperoncino (Spaghetti with garlic, olive oil and chilli flakes) with a glass of refreshing San Pellengrino lemonade.

Cost Spaghetti €6.50, Drink €2

DAY 2
.....
8 PM

16



Bars & Cafés: Ratskeller

Ratskeller

I head back to the Altstadt for a drink at a traditional tavern and one of the oldest wine cellars in Germany – the Ratskeller. Here you can find the oldest wine barrel in Germany, dating from 1653 from **Rüdesheim**.

It's very touristy and the beer is pricey (0.5l of the local Becks for €4.20) but the history of this place and ambience made the short visit worthwhile.

DAY 2
.....
9 PM

17



Goodbye Bremen

One last look at Bremen

At night the market square is all lit-up and quiet, devoid of tourists. Perfect.

Top Tip

Long train trip ahead? Stock up for the perfect picnic lunch.

If you are travelling solo, on a budget, I strongly recommend creating your own picnic lunch/dinner with some classic German food items from a local Aldi or Lidl supermarket. Especially if you've got a long train or bus journey ahead, you can't beat this option. For my train journey from Bremen to **Hannover**, I got some of the local Bremen 'Haake Beck' beer, some tasty Rye Bread, cheese and salami I was carrying with me from breakfast at the hostel, bought some fruit and rounded it off with the best chocolate biscuits in the world – milk chocolate Leibniz biscuits and my favourite Ritter Sport 'Knusperflakes' (Chocolate with cornflakes!).

Then just sit back on the train and enjoy the views!

Cost €7



Bremen – Getting there and away



Train: Bremen enjoys excellent train connection to **Hamburg** (IC, 55 minutes, €19 if booked in advance) & **Berlin** (Requires one change, 3 Hours 10 minutes, from €29 if booked in advance). Check www.bahn.com for fares and journey times.

Air: Bremen has it's own airport and is well served by a clutch of low-cost airlines like Ryanair, Germanwings, Air Europa and Air Berlin.

Thank you to the German National Tourist Board, their partners for the 'Youth Hotspots' campaign – Jugendherberge: The **German Youth Hostel Association** and Deutsche Bahn for sponsoring my 'German Wanderlust' tour.

Also like to thank Carolin Hinz and her colleagues at the **Bremen Tourism Board** for their kind support.

I was touring Germany as part of an effort to highlight and discover the country's emerging 'Youth Hotspots.'

Find out more about these hotspots at www.germany.travel/youth, feel free to add your own and also do download their free youth hotspots app that is now available on the Apple Store & Android Store.

Total cost of trip

2 nights at the Jugendherberge Bremen, with breakfast	€51.20
Bremer Knipp at the Schüttinger Gasthausbrauerei	€9.00
Sluk ut de lamp @Spitzen Gebel	€2.00
Kunsthalle	€8.00
Chicken curry bagel at Coffee Corner	€2.80
Chocolate tart and cappuccino at Marianne's	€5.00
Spaghetti + drink at Angelo's	€8.50
Beer at Ratskeller	€4.20
Picnic on train	€7.00
Total:	€97.70

» **Visit Bremen online**