Information

Leisure activities in Hamburg

A new language, new routines, new neighborhoods. For many people who have moved here from abroad, this initially means one thing above all else: settling in. Really settling in, not just at work with German colleagues, but in everyday life in Hamburg. This is precisely where it becomes clear why leisure and culture are more than just a pleasant way to spend time.

Below, we present a selection of offers for people who live here and want to not only get to know Hamburg but also become part of this city.

In our welcome package and on our website, you will also find helpful tips and information for your first steps in Hamburg that can make it easier for you to settle in - from necessary visits to government offices to information on learning German or finding an apartment.

With this in mind:

Welcome to Hamburg!

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Digital services

Starting out in Hamburg often involves many new impressions and questions. Digital services can help you find your bearings, make contacts and learn about cultural and leisure activities. The following apps and online services will help you discover Hamburg and find your way around.

Sprachbrücke Hamburg

Sprachbrücke Hamburg organises free online discussion groups that offer anyone interested the opportunity to improve their German language skills and get to know the city and its culture. Participants engage in conversation and exchange ideas during virtual excursions to sights in Hamburg and throughout Germany.

Active City App

The Active City App offers easy and direct access to Hamburg's sporting world. Here you can find an overview of the wide range of sports on offer and current sporting events. The app also provides news from the world of sport and motivates you to get active.

‘Natürlich Hamburg’

Hamburg's natural spaces and protected areas can be discovered with the ‘Natürlich Hamburg’ app. Information on hiking trails, special habitats, animals and plants makes it easy to get to know the green side of the city and plan nature experiences.

Kulturpunkte Hamburg

The ‘Kulturpunkte’ app provides a comprehensive overview of cultural institutions and offerings in the city. It contains information on museums, theatres and other cultural venues, as well as details on current events.

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Speaking German

German language skills are an important key to integration in various areas of life.
They make everyday communication easier, provide access to the labour market and enable social participation.

In Hamburg, you have various opportunities to learn German outside the classroom and in conversation with other people:

Conversation groups

You can participate in conversation groups where German is practised in a relaxed atmosphere:

- 'DIALOG in DEUTSCH' (Dialogue in German) by the Bücherhallen (there are also special offers, for example for women or for medical professions)
- 'Sprache im Alltag' (Language in everyday life) by the Sprachbrücke Hamburg

Conversation groups for refugees

- Language guide project for refugees by Hamburger mit Herz
- Language cafés in Eimsbüttel, Hamm and Winterhude for refugees by Hamburger mit Herz

Conversation groups for women

- Language café at FLAKS e.V. - Centre for Women in Altona
- Offer 'Alphabetisierung für Frauen' (Literacy for women) at the Goldbekhaus in Hamburg Winterhude

Language tandem

In addition to conversation groups, a language tandem can also be a good way to practise German in direct exchange. Two people with different native languages support each other in learning each other's language. At the same time, you get to know new people and gain exciting insights into the country and culture of your tandem partner.
You can find tandem partnerships, for example, via the Start with a Friend (SwaF) website, apps, social networks and language schools, or through local initiatives and meetings.

We have compiled further offers for learning German on our website.

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Meetings

Regular meetings and fixed group activities offer many opportunities to meet people with similar interests. Whether it's pub quizzes, cultural activities or shared hobbies, many groups meet regularly and welcome new participants.

These activities are often advertised online or in apps and can be easily found by searching for keywords such as ‘regular meetings’, ‘leisure groups’ or ‘game night’ in Hamburg. Such meetings can help you make new friends and feel more at home in Hamburg, step by step.

Hobbies

Hobbies are a great way to settle into a new city. From sports and clubs to creative activities, shared interests make it easy to start conversations with others and make new friends.

Leisure activities

Hamburg offers numerous opportunities for active and varied leisure activities. You can find an overview of various leisure activities on the City of Hamburg's website. If you are looking specifically for free activities, you can find a list of various leisure activities here.

Sports

Hamburg offers a wide range of activities for sports enthusiasts. From sports clubs to individual offers and events - all the information you need can be found on the ‘Active City’ platform. You can also find a list of all Hamburg sports clubs in the business directory.

Hamburg Adult Education Centre

You can also register for numerous courses and events in various fields (e.g. languages, creativity, society) at the Hamburg Adult Education Centre. Here you can learn new skills and exchange ideas with others.

Repair Cafés

If you are interested in crafts, the Repair Cafés offer you the opportunity to gain practical experience, repair things together and make new contacts.

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Meeting places

Cultural centers, clubs, and non-profit organizations are places where people can come together, exchange ideas, and engage in activities together. They are particularly valuable for immigrants: here they can make new contacts, practice German and discover life in the city step by step. These places also offer space to contribute their own culture, get to know other cultures and feel welcome. Joint activities and events create friendships and a sense of belonging. Hamburg offers many opportunities to experience community and meet new people outside of everyday working life.

Cultural centers in Hamburg

Cultural centers are open places where cultural, social, and creative life come together. In Hamburg, they play an important role in community life in the city's neighborhoods: they provide space for events, courses, exhibitions, and community activities, and create opportunities for exchange and encounters.
You can find an overview of cultural centers in your area here: Overview of cultural centers in Hamburg

Clubs in Hamburg

In Hamburg, clubs are an important part of social life and shape community life. You can find an overview of clubs (e.g., sports or leisure clubs, chess clubs, neighborhood initiatives) in your area here: Overview of clubs in Hamburg

Further options

Start with a Friend (SwaF) Community
The SwaF Community connects people with and without a background of migration or refugee status, creating spaces for people to meet, exchange ideas and offer each other support. In Hamburg, the community regularly organises get-togethers, language exchange meetings and group leisure activities where new connections and friendships can be formed.

Über den Tellerrand
The non-profit association 'Über den Tellerrand' is committed to bringing people in Germany together in conversation. At open meetings - whether dancing, gardening, or cooking - people with and without refugee or migration experience meet and get to know each other.

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Volunteering

There are many opportunities to volunteer in Hamburg. Volunteering can help you meet new people, practise your German and get actively involved.

Volunteer agencies

The platform of the Hamburg volunteer agencies provides an overview of numerous volunteer opportunities in Hamburg. The website helps you search for specific topics, time commitments or locations, making it easier to get started with volunteering.

Animal welfare association

For example, those who want to help animals will find a wide range of volunteer opportunities at the Hamburg animal welfare association.

School sponsorship

Another opportunity to get involved in social work is offered by the association Schülerpaten Hamburg. Here, one-to-one sponsorships are arranged between volunteers (with very good German language skills) and schoolchildren with a migrant background. The volunteers tutor the children and young people and are a point of contact for problems and questions in everyday life.

Mentoring for refugees

In addition, the association *Hamburger mit Herz* offers various projects in the social sector. The mentoring project brings volunteers together with refugees and supports them in settling in Hamburg and establishing contacts.

Refugees helping refugees

The 'Integration auf Augenhöhe' (Integration at eye level) project gives refugees the opportunity to become active volunteers themselves and support other refugees through low-threshold counselling services.

Engagement card

Are you familiar with the Hamburg Engagement Card? It is a thank-you gift for people who are particularly committed to the common good in Hamburg and offers discounts at participating partners. You can find all the information here: Hamburg Engagement Card

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Cultural offerings

Culture makes it easier to settle into a new city: it offers opportunities to meet new people, get to know the city better and feel at home. We give you tips on how to find out about cultural institutions, current events and news in Hamburg.

Overview of cultural offerings in Hamburg

The City of Hamburg website provides an overview of cultural institutions and programmes throughout Hamburg. If you are specifically interested in offerings in your district, you can find information about cultural centres in the various districts here.

In addition, there are numerous international cultural institutes in Hamburg. Their offerings are aimed at immigrants as well as anyone else who is interested.

If you are interested in free, inexpensive or barrier-free cultural offerings in Hamburg, you will find numerous events and initiatives on this website that provide easy access to cultural life.

Current cultural information and events

On the Instagram account of the Authority of Culture and Media, tips, fun facts and highlights from Hamburg's cultural scene are regularly shared.

In addition, the free 'Kulturpunkte' app offers a practical way to find out about sights and current events in Hamburg.