Travelbook 2017

The whole country summarized in a city
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A VERY WARM WELCOME TO THE TOWN BRANDENBURG AN DER HAVEL
INDEX

Welcome  2
Excursions  6
Water experience  10
Bike experience  24
Culture experience  28
Experience in the region  40
Touristinformation  46
Maps  48
The town in the Havelland
A very warm welcome to our “town in the river”!
Brandenburg an der Havel, 60 km west of Berlin, received this sobriquet because the municipal area is made up of about one fifth of water.

The Havel connects the three historical island towns with its numerous side arms. The cathedral island is the oldest settlement and looks back over more than 1000 years of urban history and the first bishopric east of the Elbe was established here as early as 948. Brandenburg an der Havel is also the cradle of the eponymous Mark, founded by the Ascanian Margrave Albrecht the Bear, and consequently the heartland of later Prussia. Altstadt and Neustadt were each founded in the twelfth century, united in 1715, and proudly display their historical treasures to the discerning visitor.

Take a look at the map and you will quickly understand why Brandenburg an der Havel is considered the gateway to Europe’s largest inter-connected inland watersports area. In the west part of the town the Havel spreads out to become a 15 km² lake area, and in the north the Beetzsee chain of lakes presents one of the most beautiful natural regatta courses in the world.

In addition, seven nature conservation areas come together at this point. In this magnificent countryside, which is typical of the Mark, storks, cranes, eagles, herons, kingfishers and beavers are all indigenous. So just visit us here in the former Hanseatic town and you will be able to pursue whatever takes your fancy - water adventures or cycling, walking or hiking, nature or culture. Our town is reached very easily by car – the A2 motorway is only a few kilometres away, or by rail – the regional express runs every 30 minutes. So, see you soon here in Brandenburg an der Havel!
TOWN BRANDENBURG AN DER HAVEL
City hall with Roland
Excursions

A warm welcome from a lofty height! The Neustadt district of Brandenburg an der Havel, surrounded by water, presents itself to both visitors and residents.

What do these famous names have in common with Brandenburg an der Havel: Vicco von Bülow (alias Loriot), Otto von Bismarck, Fritze Bollmann, Albrecht der Bär and Brennabor? The initial letter B, of course! And more importantly: they all point to the Electorate and capital of the eponymous Mark. It doesn't matter whether you are looking for an excursion into the past, into the countryside or a sporting challenge, you have come to the right place.

Terms such as bishopric, baroque organ, basilica, brick churches, brotherhood or buildings of historic importance all evoke times gone-by and enable fascinating journeys into an urban history of over 1,000 years.

On the other hand, boat trips, Beetzsee, bathing and picnics baskets cater for peaceful hours and relaxation and provide the visitor with a varied and interesting stay. The widely varied range of possibilities in the capital is unlimited and inimitable – simply brilliant.
WATER
EXPERIENCE
WORLD
Yellow Wave

Moorage and services

It’s fun being
out on the open Water

There are seven lakes with an amazing 30 km² water surface which are part of Brandenburg an der Havel. And who would not want to play captain?

Go on, fulfil your childhood dreams – you don't need a sailing licence to rent a small and nifty raft-house to sail off over lakes and through canals and enjoy the splendid scenery of the Havel countryside. If you come in your own houseboat, you can connect with the major Elbe and Oder shipping routes via the Havel.

The historical inner city, which is made up of three medieval town centres, can be explored very nicely from the water in a sailboat or a paddle boat. 58 bridges span the river, which connects all three island towns with its side arms, ditches and canals, and which winds its way past more than 400 historical monuments. These include churches, remains of the medieval town wall and four well-preserved gate towers. The round tour is seven kilometres long, so don't miss the opportunity to moor and take a walk, for example at the cathedral.
And it’s "Full speed ahead" for the "Havelfee" and other passenger ships which provide various excursions with refreshments through the unique water landscape. Or take one of the frequent trips on the "Pegasus" or "Sirius", to the mills, through the lakes or on a city tour. If you prefer a steamship, then the "Nordstern" is the ship for you and if you’re lucky, you might be able to have a quick visit to the engine room with its historical steam engine equipment from 1902.

If you’re looking for something more adventurous, you can travel back in history to the year 1000 AD and seek accommodation and daily life in the Slavic village, followed by a charter trip on the wooden ship "Triglav", built on the Slavic model, to complete the feeling of life in the Middle Ages.

"Ferryman, pick me up" is still the easiest way of crossing the water. "Anna" or "Friede" will carry you off to one of the traditional restaurants, such as Buhnenhaus or Malge. Don’t worry – the seemingly bold ladies are ferries in the service of the Nordstern-Reederei. The voyage can begin – Ship ahoy!

Need to stock up on food and daily needs?
You can’t miss the REWE-pier right behind the Luckenberg Bridge.
On the
Dip your oar into the local waters and set out on the trail of the fascinating architect and landscape gardener, the beaver. The Visitor Centre in Krugpark offers a romantic sunset tour but they also have day trips, which stop at the Kanincheninsel (Rabbit Island) or Buhnenwerder in Breitlingsee. But if you are looking for something even closer to nature, why not take the canoe trip offer with a night in a tent and be woken by bird song at dawn?

The individual water traveller, too, can find his or her own Eldorado among the numerous moorings in these protected and peaceful waters.

“Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream …”, as the old children’s song goes. It doesn't make any difference if you’re preferred method of paddling is in a canoe, a kayak or a rowing boat, an outing on the Brandenburg lakes is always a delight and full of surprises.
Houseboat vacation
Why not travel in your holiday home and drop anchor somewhere different every night? The Havel with its many lakes, tributaries and canals is the ideal stretch of water for a houseboat holiday.

“She lives on a houseboat down by the river”... The words of the 1960s song still ring true today. The area around Brandenburg on the Havel, with its wonderful river and lake landscape, is the perfect destination for boating enthusiasts. Those who enjoy waking up among ducks, coots and swans, will drop anchor in a secluded bay.

Others use the many moorings in the city, for example the Salzhofufer, the Jungfernsteig or the marina in Slawendorf. An extensive inner city waterway network makes it possible to discover this interesting city from a home on the water.

Even if you don’t have your own houseboat, your dream can still come true, as there are plenty of opportunities to charter one, for example from the Bootsverleih Seehof, Houseboot Plauer See, BunBo or Pension Havelflöß. You don’t need a boating licence for a raft houseboat. For yachts or houseboats over 15 hp you can obtain a charter permit by taking a short, half-day course at the boat hire company. The licence is valid for the Havel Lakes and the Lower Havel towards Rathenow.
swimming
A popular song with these sentiments became a sort of town anthem – with good reason. It reminded us of the delights of bathing in the Brandenburg lakes.

The well-cared for public lido of Massowburg at Beetzsee is very popular, watched over at a safe distance by the new Bollmann statue. The lido is open from 6 in the morning to 10 in the evening, and boasts lawns for sunbathing, playgrounds and two volleyball pitches. There are places to change in, which ensure a certain amount of privacy, and there is a mini-kiosk for snacks and drinks, as well as a toilet and a parking lot.

As in many other bathing spots around, such as at Grillendamm, at the Malge or at the Wendseeufer, the quality of the water complies with EU directives and is regularly monitored.

“Who needs the South Sea? We love blue water. Acapulco is on Beetztsee. Brandenburg is our world.”
bathing
Once a Germanic and Slavic sacred site, nowadays it is a popular family destination. Children are in their element here and can run wild and free, bathing, climbing, digging to their heart's content. But adults can also have great fun here: the numerous leisure activities range from the recreational pool to a sauna complex, to mini golf, table tennis and volleyball. And don’t forget the open air theatre and the gastronomy, which includes the highest beer garden in Brandenburg. As monks cleared the forested summit in order to plant grapevines in 1173, the hill even counts as the oldest wine-growing area in northern Germany.

The Marienbad municipal swimming pool has been in use since 1969. Now it is more like a water park with its paddling pool, various swimming pools, wide water slide, and the 12-metre high and 80-metre long pipe-slide, not to forget the 50-metre long pool with a convertible sliding roof. Leisure pleasure is guaranteed by a wide variety of attractions such as the countercurrent channel, massage jets, the waterfall and a grotto in the 445 m² warm-water fun pool.

Children love the “Marienberg Treasure”, as the adventure playground in the outside area is called, where they can explore the world at their own pace and demonstrate their athletic talent. You’d like to go even higher? Then here’s your chance: the observation tower. As early as 1908 the Bismarckwarte - a nearly 30-metre tall tower with a look-out platform - crowned the hill. 50 years later it was renamed Friedenswarte and the Bismarck bust was covered by a dove representing peace. In 1974 it was replaced by a modern, 32.5 meter-tall observation tower. There are five glazed and five open platforms offering fantastic views over the Havelland and its far-reaching chain of lakes. If the weather is good, the visitor can see as far as Potsdam, Rathenow and Genthin.

“Don't forget your swimsuit!” – even though we’re going up the hill. At almost 70 metres above sea-level, the Marienberg is the highest point in the town of Brandenburg an der Havel.
NATURAL EXPERIENCE WITH BIKE
A bike trip out and about
in the countryside

Wheels gently whispering with the wind. The air is clear. Birds are singing in the woods. To be at one with nature isn't just a saying around here in Brandenburg an der Havel - you can feel it.

A good example is the 7-lake tour, a circular route around the south-west Havel lake area. 35 kilometres in length, the cycle path is paved and well-signposted, ideal for a daytrip starting and finishing at the Neustädischer Markt. In the town centre the cyclist is on the same route as other cycling tracks, including national routes, and on occasion even has to use the main road and cross railway tracks. First destination: Breitlingsee. Long sections of the track there follow the lakeside between Wilhelmsdorf and Kirchmöser. You'd like to get deeper into the Havelland countryside? Then the Nature Conservation Centre Krugpark with its new "Environment pyramid" is the place for you. Called after the "Neuer Krug", a popular restaurant of the time, this location has been a place to feel at one with nature since 1825.

Nowadays, hungry cyclists are welcomed at the Buhnenhaus and Malge restaurants. And the water is never far away. All along the trail, little hidden bathing spots tempt you to take a dip in the cool waters. The track continues past Mörserschen and Heiligen See, with breath-taking views at every bend in the road. Suddenly there's an old locomotive by the roadside.

Time for a stop at the Kirchmöser Industrial Heritage Trail and its 15 stages. If you're interested, call in at the Plauer See water tower - 65 m high and with a panorama terrace. Don't forget to register your visit in advance. The track crosses Wendsee just before Plaue. Continue on the trail through the Plaue castle gardens - you might enjoy a visit to the Fontane trail at this point. Summer cinema and festivals, such as Fischerjakobi, which celebrates fishing and boating traditions, take place here.

Now cross the Plaue Bridge to reach the opposite Havel bank, follow the track on the north side of Plauer See and continue back into town along the Silo Canal, opened in 1910, always within sight of Quenzsee.
CULTURE AT THE HAVEL
French toast on zabaglione sauce

where art meets food

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Since 1165, when the foundation stone for Brandenburg’s cathedral was laid, a unique historic building complex has developed here.

What happens when a capital is used as the base for a column, or a gravestone as a threshold? Which social processes, what idealistic change takes place when his wife’s beautiful gown is turned into a priest’s cassock or a church choir robe is used as an everyday tablecloth?

From 5 May 2017, a special exhibition in the cathedral museum focuses on the diverse topic of recycling. “ALTLUST - 1000 Jahre Nachnutzung im Dom zu Brandenburg” investigates the reasons why not only building material and pictures, but also knowledge have been re-used.

At our “Where Art Meets Food” themed events, we show you a special selection of exhibits and afterwards serve you a complementing meal – you may even rediscover old favourites.

So has it all just been stolen? Alongside the exhibition, music performances in the cathedral include a series of concerts dedicated to the theme recycling with many so-called parodies, contrafacts, works adapted for another instrument and, in keeping with the recycling theme, the revival of old arrangements. Speaking of church music, the creative approach to Gregorian chants deserves a particular mention.

The summer music season begins on 14 May with the North German Chamber Orchestra and various adaptions of the Luther Chorales. There is also be a series of organ concerts on the famous baroque Wagner organ from 1725, as well as chamber music in the crypt and cloister and much, much more.
In the long line-up of events to celebrate the Reformation in the state of Brandenburg, St. Gotthard’s church in the Old Town, the first of Brandenburg’s towns, is predestined to present the Reformation as the movement, development and struggle for power between specific individuals that it was.

There were many sides to the Reformation in Brandenburg: we can still witness them quite clearly today in St. Gotthard’s parish church. Hopes, wishes, grief, pride, clear political statements, ambition – nowhere are you nearer to the people who searched here every day in the Old Town for new ways to find faith, to live together and to manage the changes taking place in their town, than here in their parish church. We can still recognise the new church which they built for themselves inside the old St Gotthard’s church and which gave the medieval building a whole new interior. They stripped it, built new walls, converted, extended and painted it, bought new and threw the old away.

Together with their many supporters and friends, the congregation of St. Gotthard’s church has in recent decades put a lot of effort into restoring the building’s exterior as well as its richly-preserved interior from the Reformation period, piece by piece. A highlight was the successful return of the two late Gothic wings of the first post-Reformation altar in the state of Brandenburg, which were believed to have been lost. In 2016 it was possible to return this remarkable altar, fully restored, to the parish.

St. Gotthard’s church in the Old Town, the first cathedral in Brandenburg City, is well-known outside the region for its interior fittings and is a jewel from the Reformation period. The detailed knowledge of the church, the town and its residents gained during the extensive restoration and refurbishment during recent decades forms an excellent basis for the special exhibition taking place in 2017. An audio-guide tour of the church will be available for adults and children and a special focus will be on Philipp Melanchthon, who had family and friends in the town and was very attached to St. Gotthard’s church. As a result he had a direct influence on the Reformation events in the town.

14.5. - 31.10.2017
in Brandenburg Old Town and the parish church of St. Gotthard, town walking trail and special exhibition (church: 11.00-17.00 hrs)
Theater an der Havel

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During the summer, the Brandenburg Theatre takes its audiences of all ages into the diverse world of music and drama.

The first performance, „Jacke wie Hose“ (“Man to Man”), is the amateur dramatic society’s first production. The play by the Brandenburg-born author, director and actor Manfred Karge asks questions such as “What gives us our identity? Work? Love? Where does each of us find his or her happiness?” A theatrical investigation into the heart of a society which cannot imagine a life without work, but work without a life for sure.

For those who prefer to leave the sand of the Marches behind them, we recommend the musical “Das Wunder Regenwald entdecken” (discover the wonders of the rainforest) by Petra Grube and Thomas Klemm, in co-operation with the Wredow School of Art and the Krugpark nature conservation centre. This delightful musical gives children and adults a feel for what climate really is, why we all need rainforests, how the water cycle works and what constitutes a proper rainforest breakfast. Lots of papayas and only a touch of lemon! A musical expedition into the damp green world of the rainforest, where the rhythm of life is something quite different.

The successful Brandenburg Youth Theatre also contributes to the summer programme of events. Friedrich Schiller’s “The Robbers”, directed by Christiane Ziehl, is a classic drama with a plot based around wild, youthful rebellion. Together with choreographer Kati Heidebrecht and the musicians of the Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra, enjoy a theatrical evening of dance, song and passionate drama. A musical version of “The Robbers” by Friedrich Schiller!

Concerts and musical performances in the cathedral or events in Slawendorf and the museum of industry, along with the “Brandenburger Klostersommer”, round off the summer programme of cultural events.
Museums an der Havel

Industrial Museum Brandenburg

technical monument

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The huge production hall of the former steelworks and rolling mill is now a museum with an area of 3,400 m² and the visitor can easily visualise how steel was produced here for about 9 decades.

Everyone feels “all fired up” in the huge production hall of the steelworks and rolling mill, which was closed in 1993 and is now the Industrial Museum. Kitted out with a helmet and protective clothing, the visitor can admire the Siemens-Martin Furnace, the last remaining one of its type in western Europe and a technical monument.

Former steel workers explain the workings of huge furnaces, lifting devices and slag ladles. A video film shows the sparkspraying technological development since the first tapping in 1914. The neighbouring electric steel plant has upheld the 100-year old tradition as a steel-producing region since 1981.

The largest automobile manufacturer in Germany, the Brennabor-Werke, was located here in the mid-1920s, as can be seen in another exhibition. The company was founded in 1871 and produced prams at first, then bicycles and finally massproduced automobiles and motorbikes.
Released forest-pug

It is possible to live without a pug, but is it worth it?
Even though he’s sitting on a bench and not in a bath tub, there’s no doubt about it – it’s Mr Müller-Lüdenscheidt. Observant visitors may spot the potatonosed figure next to the Town Hall at the Altstädtischen Market, where his creator, Vicco von Bülow (1923-2011), alias Loriot, received honorary citizenship of his home town in 1993. The figure is a tribute to the dearly loved son of the former Hanseatic town – which could be compared to a bath tub when you consider that one fifth of the municipal area is water. "The duck has to wait outside" was the last comment Loriot wrote in the Guest Book in 2009.

"The Loriot path" is an interesting way for the visitor to explore Brandenburg an der Havel, hot on the trail of the famous cartoonist and comedian, and leads to those places of interest connected with the versatile artist. The circular trail starts in front of the red-brick wall of the former infantry barracks, where the son of Police Lieutenant von Bülow "learnt the upright gait, so to speak", as he himself said. The trail continues on to the Baptistry of St Gotthardt and finally to the cathedral. It was here that he performed his famous "Bundestagsrede" (Bundestag speech) of nonsensical phrases in 1985, on the occasion of the first Loriot exhibition in the GDR. The tower was later renovated with the funding of the Vicco von Bülow Trust, founded after a benefit concert in the Brandenburger Theater. A further memorial to Loriot can be found in the shape of the horned, short-muzzled forest pugs with curly tails, recently "released" in Humboldhain am Salzhofufer.

At the moment there are twenty bronze figures, about 50-centimetres in height, busily going about the business of sitting, standing, sleeping, sniffing and lifting a leg. Loriot once drily remarked, "It is possible to live without a pug, but is it worth it?" Today the visitor can find an explanation of this comment on a wooden terrace next to the Church of Saint Johannis at the Jahrtausendbrücke (Thousand-year Bridge). The forest-pug sketch criticises human intervention in nature and its disastrous results with his inimitable humour, and is one of his most memorable classics.
If you leave the cities of Berlin and Potsdam and head south, just a stone’s throw away you will find a wide variety of landscapes, a region of interesting economic and cultural heritage and much, much more.

Potsdam-Mittelmark is a region of unexpected and fascinating contrasts. On the one hand it has a vibrant, colourful and lively atmosphere, at the same time it is peaceful and gentle, yet nevertheless passionate. For those in search of life’s small adventures, the region between the Havel lakes and Higher Fläming holds plenty to discover.
Lebens(T)raum
Potsdam-Mittelmark

From the Havel Lakes to Higher Fläming
For water-lovers of all ages, the area is perfect for sailing, paddling and swimming. The sportingly ambitious weave their way through an elaborate canal system via the Oder and Elbe rivers on to the Baltic or North Sea. The Havel’s charming little tributaries encourage you to slow down and enjoy the peacefulness of the area. With a bit of patience it is still possible to spot the shimmering colours of kingfishers, dragonflies and many more of nature’s gems.

For cyclists and walkers there are well-developed paths along the river banks with something new and surprising to see around each bend. In the pretty villages and small towns there are plenty of attractions, both historic and modern.

The Havelland is well-known not only for its abundance of waterways, but also for its impressive history. Thanks to famous names from the past such as Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Friedrich August Stüler and Peter Josef Lenné, you will find attractive, well-kept parks, stately homes and village churches. With Theodor Fontane’s walks through the Havel region as your guide you will be on the right track and surprised at how timeless his descriptions of the countryside are.
Lebens(T)raum
Potsdam-Mittelmark

From the Havel Lakes to Higher Fläming

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www.reiseregion-flaeming.de
A brittle beauty
with intriguing hills and valleys

Southern Potsdam-Mittelmark is more compact and characterised by steep dry valleys, crystal clear streams, extensive chains of hills and lots of large glacial boulders.

Its fans like to call Higher Fläming “the smallest low mountain range in Germany”, which raises a lot of admiration, even if, geographically speaking, it is undoubtedly not quite correct.

Here you can relax, breathe in the fresh air, listen undisturbed to the sounds of the countryside and, lost in time, dream the day away. The best way to discover the landscape is at a slow pace on a bicycle or on foot. The historic forts, stone-built churches and windmills along the way hint at the region’s lengthy history and exciting tales from the past. The Zauche (plateaux) and Baruther Urstromtal (glacial valley) together form a gentle transition between the two striking and exciting landscapes of Higher Fläming and the banks of the Havel and its lakes.

In addition the two regions are connected by an unusual and small but fine cultural scene, which, with its many music festivals, rock and blues concerts, small theatre performances, museums and art exhibitions promises a particularly wide variety of cultural events in the summer.

Performances in small village churches, stately homes and parks demonstrate an unusual combination of familiarity and individuality. And there is something else which connects the people in the region – their passion for good food. Alongside a wide variety of fish from the Havel and game from the region’s forests, local restaurants surprise their guests with regional products such as asparagus from Beelitz, seabuckthorn specialities from Petzow, selected wines from the vineyards in Werder and award-winning whisky from Glindow. There is much more to tell about the region, but why not come and discover it for yourself? Welcome to Potsdam-Mittelmark, a region where pleasure never ends!
TOURIST INFO

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The Tourist Information Office in the Neustädtischen Markt is located in the heart of the town of Brandenburg an der Havel.

Do you have any queries about tourist facilities in our town and environment? Then come to us, we are there to help you. Our Tourist Information Office is centrally located at Neustädtischer Markt, it is easy to find, is barrier-free and can be recognized by the red “i” of the seal of quality from the German Tourist Association. We keep the promise implicit in the certified "i"-brand.

Are you looking for accommodation or tickets for events? What about a guided tour of the town, or are you looking for an experience package for the individual or a group? Whatever it is you are looking for, we can help, advise and organise – even congresses and conferences can be tailored to your requirements. Come to our shop to find useful maps for your excursions, for Havelland products and postcards for the loved ones at home.

The “dot on the i” is the convenience of our opening times: Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 8 pm all year round, and in addition from 10 am to 3 pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays from May through September.