



Northern Germany

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Northern Germany

Here are a few photos from three cities in northern Germany that I visited as part of my first extended trip to Europe.

I expected each of them to still be recovering from World War II and the Cold War, and to be adjusting to a reunified Germany, and that proved to be the case.

Leipzig had a rich cultural history, and played an important role in the events leading to the collapse of East Germany in 1989.

Berlin had once been a great party town, but took its lumps at the end of WW II, and then was the major global hotspot throughout the Cold War.

Hamburg had been a major maritime power for centuries, also took its lumps, but probably retained a port mentality.

Because the rate of change and development I found in each of these three cities when I got there was so great, I'm more interested in going back to them again than to any other places I've visited in recent years.

– Bruce McKay

Northern Germany



I was coming by train from Munich in southern Germany after a guided tour, so I visited Leipzig first, then Berlin and Hamburg.

I returned home to Toronto from Amsterdam.



Leipzig

Welcome to Leipzig.
Old City Hall (1556) in foreground.



Leipzig

**Thomaskirche, where J.S. Bach was choirmaster
from 1723 until his death in 1750**



Leipzig

At Thomaskirche



Leipzig

Thomaskirche is one of two famous churches in central Leipzig.



Leipzig

Thomaskirche is famous for its musical traditions. Its Boys Choir was founded in 1212 and is one of the most famous in Germany.



Leipzig

Nikolaikirche served as the home of the peaceful protests in 1989 which expanded and signaled the end for the East German government.



Leipzig

Nikolaikirche is renowned for its acoustics and also has a strong musical tradition.



Leipzig

On my 2005 visit Leipzig was undergoing a massive construction boom.



Leipzig

After German reunification there was much catching up to do – from WW II bombing damage not yet repaired, compounded by decades of Communist neglect.



Leipzig

As one of the most progressive centres in the former East Germany, Leipzig was able to attract new investment.



Leipzig

Time to move on, impressed that Leipzig was well on its way to making a remarkable recovery.



**InterCity
Express**

**Deutsche Bahn's InterCity Express
trains provide excellent service.**



**InterCity
Express**

Modern, efficient, and comfortable.



InterCity
Express

Maximum speed 300 km / hour, 185 miles / hour.
Next stop – Berlin.



Berlin

I arrived in Berlin at Zoo Station,
formerly the "West Berlin" station.



Berlin

The Berlin U-Bahn made getting around the city fast and easy.



Berlin

The Brandenburg Gate has become the identifying symbol of Berlin.



Berlin

The Siegessäule (Victory Column) commemorates three German war victories in the 19th century.



Berlin

Victoria, the Roman goddess of victory,
stands atop the Victory Column.



Berlin

A 3 km section of Strasse des 17.Juni runs through the Tiergarten and links the Victory Column and the Brandenburg Gate.



Berlin

Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church was badly damaged in a bombing raid in 1943. The damaged spire remains.



Berlin

New Kaiser Wilhelm Church buildings were constructed beside the remains of the old church between 1959 and 1963.



Berlin

The courtyard of Humboldt University was the site of one of the significant events leading towards WW II.

DAS WAR EIN VORSPIEL NUR DORT
WO MAN BÜCHER VERBRENNT
VERBRENNT MAN AM ENDE AUCH MENSCHEN
HEINRICH HEINE 1820

IN DER MITTE DIESES PLATZES
VERBRANNTEN AM 10. MAI 1933
NATIONALSOZIALISTISCHE STU-
DENTEN DIE WERKE HUNDERTER
FREIER SCHRIFTSTELLER, PUBLI-
ZISTEN, PHILOSOPHEN UND WIS-
SENSCHAFTLER.

"BIBLIOTHEK"
DENKMAL

VON MICHA ULLMAN

"DIE BÜCHERVERBRENNUNG VOM 10. MAI 1933"
GEBAUT 1994/95

Berlin

Thousands of "un-German" books
were burned here on May 10, 1933.



Berlin

After the war, Checkpoint Charlie guarded the crossing point between East Berlin and the American sector of West Berlin.

YOU ARE ENTERING THE AMERICAN SECTOR
CARRYING WEAPONS OFF DUTY FORBIDDEN
OBEY TRAFFIC RULES

ВЫ ВЕЗЖАЕТЕ В АМЕРИКАНСКИЙ СЕКТОР
НОСИТЬ ОРУЖИЕ ЗАПРЕЩЕНО В НЕСЛУЖЕБНОЕ ВРЕМЯ
ПОВИНУЙТЕСЬ ДОРОЖНЫМ ПРАВИЛАМ

VOUS ENTREZ DANS LE SECTEUR AMÉRICAIN
DEFENSE DE PORTER DES ARMES EN DEHORS DU SERVICE
OBÉISSEZ AUX RÈGLES DE CIRCULATION

SIE BETRETEN DEN AMERIKANISCHEN SEKTOR

US ARMY



Berlin

Copies of the warning sign and guard house
stand where Checkpoint Charlie once stood.



Berlin

The Berlin Wall was erected by East Germany in 1961 to stem the flight of its citizens to the West.



Berlin

Between 100 and 200 people were shot by East German border guards while attempting to cross the wall between 1961 and 1989.



Berlin

Monument at Tempelhof Airport to the 70 airmen who lost their lives in the 1948/49 Berlin Airlift to feed and heat West Berlin when the Communists blocked access.



Berlin

Most of the Berlin Wall was removed when the East German regime collapsed in 1989. The location of the former wall and border is now marked with lines of cobblestones.



Berlin

Berlin became the capital of reunified Germany in 1990 and the Reichstag, Germany's 1894 parliament building, was selected to be the seat of the new parliament.



Berlin

Norman Foster won the architectural contest for the reconstruction of the Reichstag, and added the large glass dome.



Berlin

Work began on the large Holocaust Memorial in central Berlin in 2003.



Berlin

The design of the Holocaust Memorial was intended to produce an uneasy, confusing atmosphere – and it does.



Berlin

There were suggestions that the Memorial should be located at one of the extermination camps.



Berlin

But the Holocaust Memorial was located in the heart of the German capital, within sight of the parliament building, not in a remote location. It opened in 2005.



Berlin

A walk through the Holocaust Memorial is unlike just looking at an historic site, however important.



Berlin

Berlin has many bland, almost faceless buildings – built quickly after the war to provide badly needed shelter.



Berlin

I took a cruise on the Spree River and discovered a lot more about Berlin's architecture over the years.



Berlin

Right away, at Spree-Bogen, I began to see imaginative modern architecture. This complex includes a hotel and government offices.



Berlin

This is the German Chancellery, the office of the country's leader and the Chancellor's staff. Opened in 2001.



Berlin

In 2005 construction cranes were everywhere in Berlin, with imaginative new architecture making up for the ugly boxes thrown up quickly after the war.



Berlin

As the river cruise approached Museum Island, parts of Berlin's architectural past began to emerge, under the shadow of the old East Berlin TV tower.



Berlin

The Bode Museum, one of the five internationally famous museums on Museum Island, opened in 1904 and exhibits sculpture collections and late Antique and Byzantine art.



Berlin

The current Berliner Dom (Cathedral) was opened in 1905, damaged in bombing raids in 1940 and 1944, and reconstructed in stages between 1975 and 1993.



Berlin

The Berliner Dom, seen from back on land. Reconstruction required replacement of the dome. A northern wing was not replaced.



Berlin

The Altes Museum (Old Museum) dates from the 1820s and now houses the Collection of Classical Antiquities, including the Greek collection.



Berlin

The Alte Nationalgalerie (Old National Gallery) dates from the 1870s, and displays Classical, Romantic, Impressionist and early Modernist works.



Berlin

The German Historical Museum is now housed opposite Museum Island in the Zeughaus, which dates from 1695.



Berlin

The older architecture is interesting, but some of the new projects are exciting.



Berlin

This Deutsche Bahn (DB) project is a new central railway station for Berlin, to replace the separate East and West stations from the divided Berlin era.



Berlin

Seeing how this and other current projects turn out will be a good reason to return to this vital and fascinating city in the future.



Hamburg

Hamburg is Germany's 2nd largest city,
urban population 1.8 million.



Hamburg

**Hamburg occupies a strategic location
between the Elbe and Alster Rivers.**



Hamburg

Hamburg was one of the major trading cities in the Hanseatic League.



Hamburg

Hamburg is now one of the most affluent cities in Europe.



Hamburg

Hamburg is a publishing, broadcasting, new media, and industrial hub.



Hamburg

**Gruner + Jahr is Europe's largest publishing company.
What appropriate architecture for Hamburg !**



Hamburg

Cruise boats take visitors to see Hamburg's harbour.



Hamburg

The departure point is on a canal close to the harbour.



Hamburg

First we see part of the city's
extensive canal system.



Hamburg

Hamburg has more bridges than Venice.



Hamburg

In the past these canals brought cargo to high-rise warehouses.



Hamburg

The former warehouses are being converted for office and residential use.



Hamburg

Hamburg's port is Europe's 2nd largest.



Hamburg

Although located upstream on the Elbe ...



Hamburg

... Hamburg can handle large ocean-going vessels.



Hamburg

**Much shipbuilding activity
has moved to Asia.**



Hamburg

Hamburg's dry docks now specialize
in maintenance and repairs.



Hamburg

**The battleship Bismarck was built
at Blohm + Voss dock 17.**



Hamburg

**Alster Lake is a 463-acre
lake in the city's centre ...**



Hamburg

... popular for sailing and
sightseeing cruises.



Hamburg

**Alster Lake is lined with parks,
restaurants, upscale homes ...**



Hamburg

....and upscale hotels,
like the Vier Jahreszeiten.



Hamburg

Lake Alster



Hamburg

Lake Alster.
Hamburg has recovered nicely.

< End >



Northern Germany