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International HANSE Day

A DAY OF CELEBRATION FOR ALL HANSEATIC TOWNS AND CITIES

One important task for all member towns and cities is to maintain, or rediscover, their self-awareness as part of the HANSE. To this end the HANSE has established an International HANSE Day. One day is set aside every year on which each Hanseatic town or city celebrates this festival not only for itself but also, in celebrating, with every other member, too. Exhibitions, city guides and a range of activities relating to the theme of trade aim at recalling the spirit of the Hanseatic League - so that people can not only remember the Hanseatic history of their town or city, but also develop a feeling for what it means to live in a trading city that is, even today, part of a European network.



Tracing the Hanseatic League

OFFERS FOR TOURISTS

Why not follow the traces of the Hanseatic League, spending an unforgettable weekend in a Hanseatic city? Whether it's Visby (Sweden), Danzig (Poland) or the Queen of the Hanseatic League, Lübeck (Germany) - every town or city has its own individual flair and has special attractions on offer for you. Take a trip through Hanseatic history, discover medieval merchants' houses and other sights, and enjoy the special hospitality that Hanseatic towns and cities have to offer.

Weekend offers and booking information can be found at www.hanse.org

DER
HANSEBUND
DER NEUZEIT

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THE NEW HANSE



A League of Cities with a Tradition and a Future

THE HANSE'S TASKS AND AIMS

In the middle of the 13th century merchants trading overseas joined together to form the Hanseatic League in order to pursue their economic interests together. In the course of time 70 major cities and 130 smaller towns joined the League, which covered an area from the Netherlands to Estonia and from Sweden to a line from Cologne to Erfurt and on to Cracow. The Hanseatic League's influence stretched far beyond these boundaries, and it maintained large depots and smaller trading posts from Portugal to Russia and from Scandinavia to Italy. The Hanseatic League had a significant say in business, trade and politics in northern Europe for over 400 years, until it declined in the mid-17th century.

Today the Hanseatic League (or HANSE) is again a living force. It was re-established in the Dutch town of Zwolle in 1980 and consists of an active network of 163 European towns and cities which either once belonged to the historical Hanseatic League or had close trade links with it. This new HANSE has set itself the task of keeping alive the Hanseatic spirit of a common way of life and culture in these towns and cities. By maintaining traditions and a lively exchange between the member towns and cities, the HANSE aims to contribute to the economic, cultural, social and political unity of Europe.

The HANSE Towns and Cities

CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES AND FOR EUROPE

The new HANSE currently has 163 member towns and cities in 15 European countries, making it the largest voluntary association of towns and cities in the world. The members comprise not only the Hanseatic towns and cities themselves, but also some of the former large depots such as Novgorod in north-west Russia, as well as some of the smaller trading posts.



The modern HANSE Day

CELEBRATING TOGETHER AND SHAPING THE FUTURE

In the old days, at the time of the medieval Hanseatic League, the member towns and cities met on a "Hanse Day" in order to agree on joint action. The new HANSE has revived this tradition. Every year a different Hanseatic city plays host, enabling members to exchange ideas and experience, make acquaintances and celebrate.



Pictures from the international Hansa Day 2005 in Tartu (Estonia)

2006	OSNABRÜCK (Germany)	2011	KAUNAS (Lithuania)
	together with celebration of the "650th anniversary of the Hanse Days"	2012	LÜNEBURG (Germany)
2007	LIPPSTADT (Germany)	2013	HERFORD (Germany)
2008	SALZWEDEL (Germany)	2014	LÜBECK (Germany)
2009	NOWGOROD (Russia)	2015	VILJANDI (Estonia)
2010	PÄRNU (Estonia)	2016	BERGEN (Norway)