Welcome to Osnabrück
City of Peace
Osnabrück’s political and cultural life is an embodiment of the maxim: “The task of peace – committed to peace”. After 5 years of negotiations the “Peace of Westphalia” that ended the Thirty Years’ War was proclaimed on the steps of its Town Hall in 1648. For more than 65 years local primary school children have been commemorating this event every year with a hobby horse parade.

Today, people still come together where merchants used to meet in the olden days: The “Markt” (market place) has remained the heart of the city hosting weddings, festivals, wine events and the traditional annual Christmas Market. Its flair is enhanced by the surrounding picturesque and historic buildings, such as the Town Hall, the “Stadtwaage” (city scales), St. Mary’s Church on one side, the colorful bourgeois houses with their stepped gables on the other side. Just a few steps outside the market place Osnabrück’s late Romanesque cathedral (St Peter’s Cathedral) overlooks the city’s old town.

A wonderful mix of historical and modern times

From 1412 to 1669 Osnabrück was a member of the “Hanse”
The Hanseatic League, the most important trading alliance of its time that brought great status and wealth to its member cities. These days, the old trade routes have turned into pleasant streets with attractive shops. The mixture of historic quarters and modern architecture is the hallmark of Osnabrück whose status as a University city (almost 27,000 students) completes its long history of Episcopal power. Osnabrück’s compactness is key to its popularity. Whether for sightseeing, shopping, strolling or studying – a good layout and short distances are a plus for all guests.

A city surrounded by nature
Moreover, Osnabrück (165,000 inhabitants) is very fortunate to be located in the middle of a nature reserve. With 1,220 square kilometres the UNESCO Global Geopark TERRA.vita is wide open for cycling and hiking tours as well as for improving your handicap on one of the many golf courses scattered in the countryside surrounding the city. Embedded between the Teutoburg Forest and the “Wiehengebirge”, the green traces of this nature reserve stretch right into Osnabrück’s inner city.

You can find many green areas in Osnabrück and the region.

Osnabrück is a member of the network Historic Highlights of Germany (www.historicgermany.com) and spans the gap between past and present.
Around the year 780, Charlemagne, king of the Franks, erected a stone church on the banks of the Hase River the nucleus of today’s Osnabrück. The city’s name presumably a combination of the Low German words Ossen (ox) and Brügge (bridge). Being the hub of old trading routes and a bishop’s seat, Osnabrück developed into a thriving centre for commerce in the Middle Ages. In 1157, Emperor Frederick Barbarossa granted the city its fortification privileges. Most of the towers that were part of the medieval fortification can still be seen in the city.

Osnabrück and the Peace of Westphalia

From 1412 to 1669, Osnabrück was both a member of the Hanse (Hanseatic League) and of the Westphalian Federation of Cities. Magnificent town houses and other prestigious buildings bear witness to the power and wealth of the medieval merchants. Osnabrück became important during the negotiations for the Peace of Westphalia that took place here and in nearby Münster between 1643-1648. The Peace of Westphalia, proclaimed in October 1648, finally ended the Thirty Years’ War and changed...
the face of Europe. While the Catholics used Münster as a venue, the Protestants resided in Osnabrück. Following this time Osnabrück was alternately ruled by Catholic and Protestant bishops until 1803.

**Famous natives of Osnabrück**

Osnabrück became widely known amongst literature lovers through the works of one of its own sons, Erich Maria Remarque (1898-1970). The Erich Maria Remarque Peace Centre dedicates an exhibition to his life and literary work. Another of the city’s natives is Felix Nussbaum. The artist was born in Osnabrück in 1904 and died in 1944 in Auschwitz. The renowned architect Daniel Libeskind designed the Felix-Nussbaum-Museum as a special place for Nussbaum’s artistic work. The architecture of the building is intended as “rooms against Oblivion” and captivates visitors by its unusual interior design.

There is a **guided city tour** in English every Monday at 7 p.m. which starts in the town hall. Registration is not required.
Old Town Sightseeing Tour

1 **Town Hall of the Peace of Westphalia** Built in late Gothic style, with the historic “Chamber of Peace”. The Municipal Treasury with the imperial goblet and historic town replica are well worth seeing.

2 **Heger Tor** The Heger Tor was built in 1817 as a memorial to the soldiers from Osnabrück who fought at Waterloo.

3 **Felix-Nussbaum-Haus / Museum of Cultural History** The museum building, which was opened in 1998 and designed by the American architect Daniel Libeskind, houses the largest collection of works by the Jewish painter Felix Nussbaum, who was born in Osnabrück and murdered in Auschwitz in 1944.

4 **Bucksturm** The Bucksturm is the oldest tower of the former town wall and was a prison and torture chamber during certain periods.

5 **Kunsthalle Osnabrück** This Gothic hall church (13th century) was a monastery church until 1803, then a barracks and since 1971 it has been the town art gallery. It is one of the most beautiful exhibition rooms in Lower Saxony.

6 **Herrenteichswall** The Herrenteichswall was an element of the fortification and protected against attacks. In May 1909 the newly arranged entrance to the Herrenteichswall with the Haarmannsbrunnen was inaugurated.

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The **CityCard** is a ticket for all buses within the city, including free admission to six museums in Osnabrück plus a voucher booklet for other interesting cultural activities. [www.osnabrueck.de/english](http://www.osnabrueck.de/english)
Cathedral Treasury and Diocesan Museum
Sculptures, paintings and textiles pertaining to the history of the diocese of Osnabrück from the 11th to the 18th centuries are on display in the Cathedral Vault and Museum of the Diocese in the Romanesque cloister of St. Peter’s Cathedral.

Marktplatz
The Town Hall, Stadtwaage and the St. Mary’s Church on the one, the colourful bourgeois houses with their stepped gables on the other side, border the historic market place.

St. Marien
Gothic Hall church (14th century) with important art objects including the intricately carved main altar (16th century). Visitors can climb to the top of the church tower.

Bürgerbrunnen
Hans-Gerd Ruwe created the well, which was inaugurated in 1985. Referring to the 1200th anniversary of the city in 1980, the well consists of 1200 parts and tells the history of Osnabrück.
Osnabrück is a haven for all gourmets. This is not only because the IKO restaurant and the Friedrichs restaurant ranks among the top 500 in Germany. Another foodie destination in the city is the restaurant “Weinwirtschaft” at “Steigenberger Hotel Remarque”. It offers a range of local and seasonal dishes and always delicious wine types. In contrast, those who like a more rustic setting will enjoy the brewery “Rampendahl” in the old town. The confectioner “Leysieffer” has been the first address for sweet treats for more than 100 years. Speaking of tradition: The restaurant Walhalla is Osnabrück’s oldest inn. Fresh local ingredients are a feature of a typical Osnabrück meal. In spring there is asparagus, in winter there is kale, served with smoked pork chop or white pudding. There is culinary delight of every kind and for every taste in Osnabrück.

Even more quality of a buzz and vitality is brought into the Old Town by the lively coffee bars and with own roasting houses.
Shopping Quarters

- **Heger-Tor-Quarter**: Enjoy the Old Town with exquisite boutiques, small art shops and typical pubs.
- **Redlinger Straße**: The Redlinger Straße is an individual, young-scene district and is particularly known for its number of alternative stores, bars, restaurants and cafés.
- **Große Straße**: The popular main shopping street downtown is the Große Straße where you can find the major large chains and regional dealers.
- **Nikolaiort**: The meeting point in the heart of the city offers many varied pavement cafes or bars to relax in during a shopping trip.
- **Kamp-Promenade**: The open shopping centre offers besides its extraordinary architecture a variety of different shops, an ice cream parlor and a bakery.

- **Herrenteichsstraße**: Starting from the Nikolaiort, this small street houses modern design, individual stores and good catering.
- **Hase-Quarter**: This shopping district with its varied gastronomy is directly located along the river “Hase”.
- **Hasestraße**: This street is popular for its charming mixture of rustic pubs, southern street life and specialist retailers.
- **Lotter Straße**: Art, culture and vitality all jostle in this street. Small, individual shops and different restaurants alternate with green areas.
Christmas market
Simply enchanting and one of the most beautiful of the North is the historic Christmas Market in front of the Town Hall and St Peter’s Cathedral. Atmospheric Christmas lights illuminate the Old Town. From the end of November to December 22th.

May Week Festival
Northern Germany’s unique inner city festival. 10 days of music, comedy and open-air shows. Every year during the 2nd week in May.

Osnabrück Wine Days
In vino veritas – a local wine tasting event for wine buffs next to the Town Hall in the Old Town.

Night of Culture
Experience the cultural diversity of the city – a night of outstanding cultural entertainment. Last Saturday in August.

Morgenland Festival
Since 2005, the Morgenland Festival Osnabrück has devoted itself to the fascinating world of Middle Eastern music: An important venue for musicians and music enthusiasts from East and West. Every year in late summer.

European Media Art Festival (EMAF)
As one of the most important forums for media art, the EMAF offers an up-to-date overview of contemporary themes and aesthetics in the field of media art.

Further information www.osnabrueck.de/english
Absolute musts

- **Springbrötchen**: The bread roll made in Osnabrück is a must in nearly all bakeries. It derives its name (cracker roll) from the cracked, crispy surface created by repeatedly applying a thin layer of butter or oil on its surface.

- **Himmlische by Leysieffer**: The confectionery “Leysieffer” has been the first address for sweet treats for more than 100 years.

- **Hobbyhorse chocolate confectionery**: The finest chocolate confectionery made in Osnabrück: Handcrafted truffles and pralines made from the finest raw materials (with alcohol) and of course without preservatives.

- **Rampendahl**: on three floors of the pub-come-brewery guests can enjoy the traditional home-made Rampendahl beer.

- **Coffee roasters**: Many small coffee roasting houses invite you to take a break in pleasant surroundings and enjoy a taste of freshly roasted coffee beans complemented by small snacks and delicacies.

- **Open air market on Saturdays**: from 7 am – 2 pm in the courtyard of St Peter’s cathedral visitors can fill their shopping baskets with a wealth of fresh produce from local traders and producers from the Osnabrücker Land region.

- **Old Town pubs**: Countless quirky pubs with an abundance of flair invite guests to stay and enjoy the atmosphere of Osnabrück’s well-lit original inner city.
Ideas for a stopover

Osnabrück – at first glance
Just try a little piece of Osnabrück. Includes one overnight stay, the city card that helps you to find your own way through our city. A nice little cappuccino break is also included. From 79 € p.P. in a double room.

Time for best friends
Osnabrück equates to a great time for best friends: City stroll, shopping or just browsing. Includes a small French breakfast, sparkling wine in a fashion boutique, a cocktail in the evening and more. One or two overnight stays. From 139 € p.P. in a double room (one night).

Christmas time in Osnabrück
Our Christmas Market is truly inspiring and regarded as one of the most beautiful Christmas Markets in the North of Germany: Cosy atmosphere, historic setting and magical lighting of the town. Enjoy a hot cup of mulled wine and keep it a souvenir. From 79 € p.P. in a double room.

Booking and further information:
Tourismus und Tagungsservice Osnabrück | Osnabrücker Land
Phone: +49 541 323-4567 or www.osnabrueck.de/english
Osnabrück is surrounded by charming countryside that offers many recreational activities. Whether you enjoy walking, cycling, jogging more than 3500 km of long distance, circular and bike trails stand ready for you. The ridges of the Teutoburg Forest and the Wiehengebirge shape Osnabrück’s surroundings. Most of the region is part of the nature reserve TERRA.vita, member of a European network of nature parks.

The Varus Battle – Museum and Park Kalkriese

The devastating defeat of the Roman legions under Varus in the year 9 AD against the Germanic tribes is legendary. The victory of Arminius was supposed to be the beginning of the end of the long-lasting Roman Empire. Where and how exactly Arminius succeeded has produced a lot of speculation and myths. In 1989, the site near Kalkriese was discovered by archaeologists and the excavation is still continuing. Nowadays, Kalkriese is one of Europe’s most important excavation sites. The Varus Battle Exhibition, redesigned in 2009, allows you to experience history and presents an overview of the current research findings. The 24-hectare park invites you to explore all that it has to offer. Top-class special exhibitions, numerous events – such as Germany’s biggest Roman and Germanic Days – and exciting guided tours make a visit a special event.

www.kalkriese-varusschlacht.de/en
The Initial Building
For about 600 years the Bishops of Osnabrück resided here in the only still existing castle built on a hill in the Osnabrücker Land region. The castle was built in the 11th century under the reign of Bishop Benno II. Until its dissolution in 1802 it also used to host a community from the Benedictine order.

Redesign and Restoration
Under Konrad IV. von Rietberg (Bishop from 1482-1508) Iburg Castle became the permanent residence of the Bishop of Osnabrück. He added an octagonal keep (later called Bennoturm). The palace’s current appearance was shaped by its redesign in Renaissance style in the 16th and 17th centuries by Prince Bishop Franz Wilhelm von Wartenberg (1625-1661) who had the Knights’ Hall turned into a Baroque State Room which has been restored to its former splendour following comprehensive restoration work in the 20th century.
Sophie Charlotte
One of the palace’s most famous inhabitants was Sophie Charlotte, daughter of Ernst August I., Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg and Sophie von der Pfalz, who lived in Iburg Palace from her birth in 1668 to 1673 and who, in 1701 became the first Queen of Prussia after marrying Frederick I of Hohenzollern. Following her early death in 1705 Frederick named a newly-built residence after her, Charlottenburg Palace. Today the palace and the district of Charlottenburg form part of the city of Berlin.

Guided tours for groups in the English language can be individually arranged with Bad Iburg Tourist-Information. Phone: +49 5403 404-66 www.badiburg.de

Further palaces in the Osnabrücker Land region that can only be viewed from the outside:
- Ippenburg Palace
  Schloßstraße 1
  49152 Bad Essen
- Schelenburg moated castle
  Alt-Schledehausenerstraße
  49143 Bissendorf
- Hünnefeld Castle
  + Alte Rentei
  49152 Bad Essen
- Gesmold Palace
  Schloßallee 5
  49326 Melle
- Fürstenau Palace
  Schloßplatz 1
  49584 Fürstenau
Things to take home

“Good Morning Osnabrück” Cup
Porcelain coffee mugs decorated with the silhouette of Osnabrück, dishwasher safe. 8,95 €

Sweet greetings from Osnabrück
Finest Belgian whole milk chocolate with sugar print. 9,95 €

The City Hall Model
Material: liquid synthetic resin/poly-resin 4,95 €

Hobbyhorse riding jigsaw puzzle
Recalling the events of 25 October 1648 when the long-awaited Peace of Westphalia is proclaimed from the stairs of the City Hall in Osnabrück. 14,95 €

Brand new:
The City Hall Edition
From glasses cloths and twin sets of mugs to shoulder bags; all in identical design from 4,95 € to 27,95 €

Tourist Information Osnabrück | Osnabrücker Land
Bierstr. 22-23, 49074 Osnabrück
www.osnabrueck.de/tourismus/service/shop
Hotels

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