



# Hansestadt Uelzen

## → Tour

of the historical  
hanseatic town



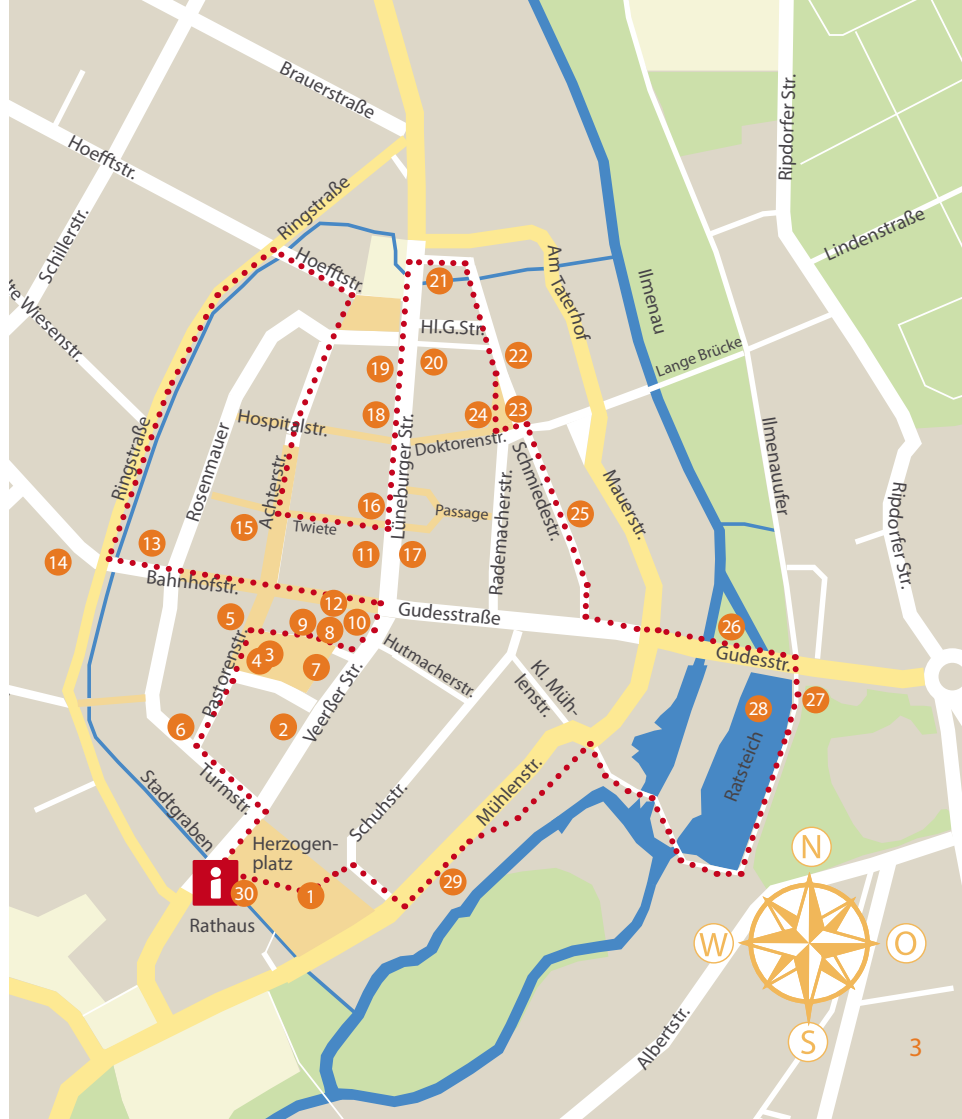
[www.hansestadt-uelzen.de](http://www.hansestadt-uelzen.de) ☀

Hansestadt  
Uelzen



## Tour & attractions

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## A historical tour of Uelzen's past

Welcome to our journey back through Uelzen's past! The mediaeval town dates back to a settlement near a 10th century monastery in the district of Oldenstadt. Following disputes with their landlord, the Bishop of Verden, some of the residents, led by their mayor Bernhard Nigebuhr, up and moved to the west banks of the Ilmenau river around 1250. They founded their own town with plenty of plans in mind. It was granted all due rights in 1270. In 1374, Uelzen became a member of the Hanseatic League and its economy continued to grow up into the 17th century when, in 1646, a disastrous fire decimated large parts of the town.

Above image: *Model of the town on the Herzogenplatz,  
Gold bronze relief of the town of Uelzen before the fire of 1646.*

Today, many charming half-timbered façades testify to the swift and committed rebuilding of the town. In 1826, another fire destroyed parts of the old town to the east. Painful gashes were also inflicted during the Second World War. Today's blend of gothic structures, half-timbered buildings of the modern age as well as recently constructed buildings continue to bear witness to the severity of these events.

### Tours of Uelzen:

- **Historical tour of the town**  
From Easter to October: Saturday from 11 a.m. - approx. 12:30 p.m.
- **Hanseatic tour "Butter bei die Fische" (Butter on the Fish)**
- **"Hundertwasser Train Station Uelzen"**  
Daily, information & registration: Phone: 0581/389 04 89
- **"Chapel tour during the Hanseatic era"**
- **"Join the nightwatchman in Uelzen after hours"**  
[www.nachtwaechter-uelzen.de](http://www.nachtwaechter-uelzen.de)
- **"Path of the Boulders"**



Hansestadt Uelzen

→ **Führungen & Tagesangebote**  
Gehen Sie mit uns auf Entdeckungstour!



[www.hansestadt-uelzen.de](http://www.hansestadt-uelzen.de)

**TIP:** You can find further theme tours in our free "Tours and daily offers" brochure available for free at the Town and Tourist Information Office in Uelzen's town hall, Herzogenplatz 2.

## Tour of the historical Hanseatic town

A remnant of the town's mediaeval wall can be found directly in front of the **town moat** ① beginning at the **Town and Tourist Information Office** **i** in the town hall on the Herzogenplatz. This noticeably wide roadway is due to the fact that Uelzen doesn't have its own market square and the main streets arranged in the shape of a T also served as market streets. The articulated façade of a Gothic brick building, the so-called **Gildehaus** ② from the first half of the 15th century, is located on the left side of the Veerßer Staße. The gable adorned with glazed bricks and vine work shows how many buildings in

Uelzen must have looked from the time before the great fire of 1646.

A few metres further on, the path leads across to the left along the south side of the Gothic **St. Marien Church** ③ with the Ellerndorf Chapel founded in 1350. The Gothic structure, which is impressive for the size of the town, was built in three stages from the 13th and 14th century. St. Marien was sanctified and elevated to the status of parish church in 1292.



In the entrance of the church tower measuring 85.69 m to the tip of the cross, the town's emblem, the **Golden Ship** ④, is kept in a wall recess to the right. Today, there are still many mysteries surrounding its origin, age and original use. It is probably a former reliquary. Exploring the inside of the house of god with its sacral art treasures is a must.

The **Provost's Residence** ⑤ with its brick gable, which was built in the first half of the 15th century and whose glazed bricks glisten in the sun, can be found opposite the main entrance of the church. Intact sections of the **town wall** ⑥, which once extended over 1.3 km, can be seen on the left. On the right, the path passes over what was once the churchyard where the wine market and Christmas market take place once every year. In the summer, the Herzog-Ernst oak offers restorative shade. It was planted in 1897 in memory of the sovereign born in Uelzen, who brought the Reformation to the Principality of Lüneburg.

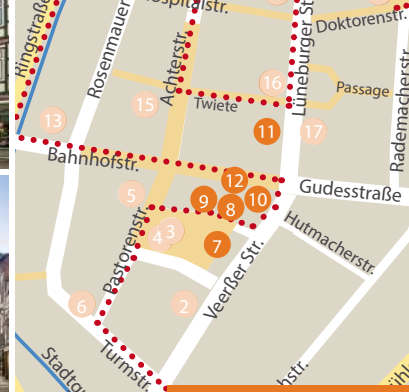


High up under the eave of the St. Marien choir building, a one-of-a-kind **wall frieze made of glazed terra cotta** <sup>7</sup> depicting the Coronation of Mary in the presence of saints can be seen. The **Uhlenköper Monument** <sup>8</sup> created by sculptor Karl-Heinz Goedtke is located behind the choir building of St. Marien. The coin in the hand of the merchant has a brilliant shine from the many visitors who touch it believing – so legend has it – they always have enough money as a result.

Across the way, the gothic brick gable of the **Ratsweinhandlung** <sup>9</sup>, formerly the dance and wedding house, extends skyward. After passing a modern carillon on the jeweller's building, the path continues back towards the Veerßer Straße.

The **old town hall** <sup>10</sup> is adorned on its left side, the south façade, with a bronze relief by the sculptor Georg Münchbach. It is reminiscent of the composer Friedrich Kuhlau, who was born in Uelzen in 1786 and who passed away in 1832 as the Danish court composer. The front of the entrance to the old town hall can be seen from the Veerßer Straße. At its core, it is a gothic brick construction and was remodelled in the style of the late Baroque from 1789 to 1790.

The classicistic portal is reminiscent of the granting of the municipal charter in 1270.



A well preserved row of **half-timbered buildings** <sup>11</sup> from the period of reconstruction after 1646 can be found where the Veerßer Straße extends into the Lüneburger Straße to the right of the old town hall. The walk continues on along the north side of the town hall into the Bahnhofstraße right by the ornate façade of the **Ratsweinhandlung** <sup>12</sup>.

At ground level one can find remnants of the original brickwork of the building, which was erected around 1500 and, like so many others, was destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1646. The magnificent Renaissance façade and the upper level were created during rebuilding the following year; visitors should be sure not to miss the joist inscriptions. The timber framed building to the right of the Ratsweinhandlung was also erected in 1647 and boasts an exceedingly ornate gable as well as two "Utluchten" (*bow windows*), which are typical of the region.

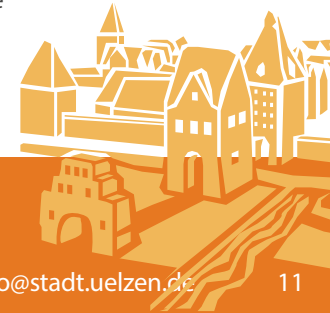


Following the Bahnhofstraße to the west leads to a **timber framed building** 13 from 1852 with a classicist construction on the corner to the Ringstraße, which once was home to Uelzen's first secondary school. The historical **imperial post office** 14 from 1896 can be seen straight ahead.

Now the path veers to the right into the Ringstraße and follows the remnants of the town moat from the mediaeval fortification that has been uncovered since the 18th century; numerous villa structures from the late 19th century can be admired here. The walk then leads to the right across the Hoefftstraße and into the Achterstraße, which was a better neighbourhood in the late middle ages; after the first town fire, however, it was rebuilt mainly with storehouses. The once residential area became an "achtere" (*neglected*), second-class street. Two of the **store-houses** 15 on the right side, which were built in 1647 and 1683, have survived the passage of time.

Across from these buildings, the path then winds to the left and passes through the **Hannemann'sche Twiete** 16 through the yard of a former brewery denoted by the name "Altes Bürgerliches Brauhaus". The brewing craft was once of crucial importance to Uelzen's economy. The passage then leads out onto the Lüneburger Straße.

The **CityHotel Stadt Hamburg Uelzen** 17 is situated directly on the opposite side of the gate. It was erected after the fire of 1826 and designed by Hanover court architect Georg Laves. The King of Hanover stopped here on his way to the hunt in the nearby Göhrde. The journey into Uelzen's past continues on the left side down the Lüneburger Straße towards what was once known as the **Lüneburger Tor** (Fig. on the right).





On the left side of the street right where it merges with the Hospitalstraße, one can find a small, seemingly unremarkable **half-timbered building** (18), which is in fact one of the oldest burgher homes in Uelzen. It was built in 1596 and survived the disastrous urban fires.

The left row of buildings culminates in a brilliantly designed half-timbered building that was erected by a town doctor in 1647 and today goes by the name **Uelzener Hof** (19) after a hotel business that long occupied this spot.

The brick façade of the **Heiligen-Geist Chapel** (20), which was once part of a hospital, is situated on the opposite side of the street. The gothic structure was first mentioned in 1321 and the choir building was added in 1470. The inside of the chapel is home to one of Uelzen's greatest artistic treasures: a vibrant stain glass window that was made for the St. Viti gothic chapel around 1420 and first fitted in the windows of the

Heiligen-Geist chapel in the 19th century. The recessed area along the chapel walls reflects the historical ground level of the town in the 14th century. Unfortunately, the St. Viti chapel to the north of the Lüneburger Tor from around 1420 is no longer accessible.

North of the Heiligen-Geist chapel, the path takes a right turn through historical Uelzen passing through the narrow *Mäuse-twiete* between a building with a façade from the late 19th century and a representative structure from 1846 on the right. On the right side of the passage, one is able to notice a building with a tripartite division behind the more modern façade, the middle section of which represents **Uelzen's oldest half-timbered building** (21) and was built in 1594. A corner post from this time, which is decorated with carvings, is visible on its former front side.



22



23



25



Walking around to the right offers a view of the building's courtyard and a restored fountain from the late Middle Ages that was unearthed during excavation work.

An attractive new building borders the yard along on its west side and adopts the historical dimensions of the mediaeval development. Excavations determined that a pottery was located here during the Renaissance. A **two-storey half-timbered house** 22 from the second half of the 18th century is located on the left side opposite the courtyard. It belonged to a noble family within the town fortification.

The walk now continues straight on towards the **Schnellenmarkt** 23, which was once the only proper square in the old town. Pottery markets were held there from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The **Schnellenbrunnen** 23 created by the sculpture Georg Münchbach (see Fig. 2 from the left) at the centre of the square in 1980 is reminiscent of earthen drinking

vessels that were called *Schnellen*. The *Doktorenstraße* branches off to the right.

A small **half-timbered building** 24 from the 19th century, which warrants attention despite its seemingly unremarkable exterior, is located here on the corner. It is located in the very spot where the tragic town fire of 1826 broke out. The owner of the building was unjustly accused of being responsible for the disaster; an inscription on a beam lamented the plight of the accused.

Straight ahead through the extension of the *Schnellenmarkt*, the walk follows along the **Schmiedestraße** 25 into that is lined with half-timbered buildings erected after 1826 and exude a classicistic air. Some of them boast impressive portals.

The path continues from the *Schmiedestraße* on into the *Gudesstraße*, past an impressive half-timbered building from the time around 1827.





After crossing the Ilmenau, on whose East banks a small **watchman's house** 26 is located, one reaches the **Gertruden chapel** 27 in front of the former Gudes gate on the right side. It was erected in the early 16th century as a foundation before the town gates and served both as a house of god and lodging for travellers, who reached the town after the "closure of the gates". The path now turns back to the Gudesstraße before veering to the left along the **town pond** 28, which was created at the end of the 30 Years War as part of further fortification. At the convergence of the river's course, two monuments remind of the uprising of 17 June 1953 and reunification in 1990 - historic dates for Uelzen, which was once not far from the former border. At the end of the town pond, the walk now turns to the right crossing over the sluice and waterfall into the Mühlensstraße, which is then followed to the left.

A prominent brick building, the **Schaumann'sche Villa** 29, can be found on the left side of the street along the East town wall. It was erected for the mother of the sculptor and writer Ruth Schaumann in 1927. The Mühlensstraße continues on to the Herzogenplatz where a stately farmyard that belonged to the sovereign prince of the principality of Lüneburg once stood. A true-to-original **gold bronze relief of the town** 1 can be found on the left and depicts the town of Uelzen before the disastrous fire of 1646. Uelzen's **new town hall** 30, as a modern administrative centre, marks the end of the tour of the historical hanseatic town.



## The story of the Uhlenköper (owl buyer)

Over a hundred years ago, there lived a rascal by the name of Peter Wulf whose antics are still told today. He is said to have been the reason why the people of Uelzen are sometimes referred to as the Uhlenköper:

One Sunday morning before church, Peter Wulf showed up in Uelzen. He was carrying a large sack over his shoulder, which appeared to be full of live animals fidgeting about inside. He took the sack to the shop of the merchant Böning, walked up to the counter and ordered a pound of tobacco.

"Tell me Peter", the merchant asked curiously, "What's in your bundle" - "Three young Barftgahns (*literally: barefoot walkers*)", he replied in a vague murmur so that one might well have understood Barkhahns (*black grouse*). "I'd like to sell them here in the town. Do you know where I might find a buyer? Maybe I should go see the mayor." "What, for young black

grouse?" asked the merchant, whose mouth was watering at the very thought. "Are they in good shape – how much do you want for them?" - "Indeed, they are in fine condition", Peter replied mischievously, "and if you like, I can leave you this bundle for half a thaler since we're friends." - "Deal", answered the merchant hastily, delighted by the thought of a delicious Sunday roast: "Here's the money. You can pick up the bundle afterwards". "Done! But there's no hurry with the bundle." With that, Peter took his pound of tobacco and went on his way.

The merchant proudly carried the sack into the kitchen. "My dear wife", he said cheerily, "I've brought you a delicious Sunday roast! Three young black grouse bought from a farmer for a good price". He grabbed the bottom ends of the sack and shook the birds out. Three large, handsome owls flew out – and wrought havoc in the kitchen.



Only after a vigorous struggle, was it possible to drive them out.

The merchant cursed Peter Wulf, who was long gone by then. Enraged, he ran to the bailiff to report the elusive mischief-maker for fraud. But he instead gave a hearty laugh and told him he'd be better off keeping the story to himself so as not to become the laughing stock of the whole town. But Böning was stubborn and insisted that the bailiff set a court date.

"Wulf", asked the bailiff, "what foolish mischief have you been up to this time! You can't just go and sell the merchant young owls as black grouse for a small

fortune!" - "What? Birkhahns?" replied Peter Wulf in surprise, "I was only joking when I said Barftgahns. Since when do owls wear shoes and socks? Is it my fault if the merchant can't hear properly?"

Well, what could the bailiff say to that! The owls were gone, the money was long spent and the merchant was the laughing stock. Wherever he went, he was ridiculed. And since this story took place in our town, some still call the people of Uelzen the Uhlenköper (owl buyers).



## Uelzen Hundertwasser Train Station

Join a tour and explore the one-of-a-kind Hundertwasser Train Station in Uelzen. Our enthusiastic tour guides will tell you how the Wilhelmenian structure was transformed into a fairytale palace and how art and function are combined by a love of details.

### Daily tours

Information & registration:

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photos town relief/Hundertwasser Bahnhof:  
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