

The positions **A**, **F** can be found on the map „Hier gehst du auf Entdeckungstour“.



A Prehistoric Square Mile

Within a radius of approximately 10 km around Wildeshausen, there are about 25 Monumental Stone Burials, in the past there was a considerably bigger number of burials.

The stone burials are dating back to the Neolithic Age (appr. 3.500 - 1.800 BC). The people then inhabiting the area had settled down and together started to build those burial places, well known as megalithic graves (Hühnengräber) .

Most impressive you will find the „**Kleinenknefer Steine**“ **A** comprising two monumental stone burials (megalithic beds), being listed as a historic monument since 1934/35.

One stone burial has been put into its original shape and condition. It is 50 m long and 7 m wide and covered with heaped up soil. 85 erratic blocks surround the burial.



The eastward and open megalithic bed is showing a special feature, it is containing three tomb chambers.

South of Wildeshausen, Northwest-Germany's largest megalithic grave field is located, the "**Pestruper Gräberfeld**" **F** .

During the late Bronze Age and the early Iron Age, urns of the dead have been buried in 500 burial mounds on an area of 39 hectares, covered with heather.

Nowadays the grave field is being protected and listed as a historic monument.

Vessels, broken clay pieces and tools, discovered and found during excavations, are being kept and exhibited in the „Museum of Nature and Man“ (Museum für Natur und Mensch) in Oldenburg.



A History of Our Town

For the first time „Wigaldinghaus“ was documented in the „Translatio Alexandri“. Here it is stated, that in 851 Waltbert, grandson of the Saxon duke Widukind, transferred the relics of the holy Alexander from Rome to Wildeshausen in order to do missionary work in Wildeshausen. Thus, Wildeshausen and its religious foundation St. Alexandri became a place of pilgrimage.

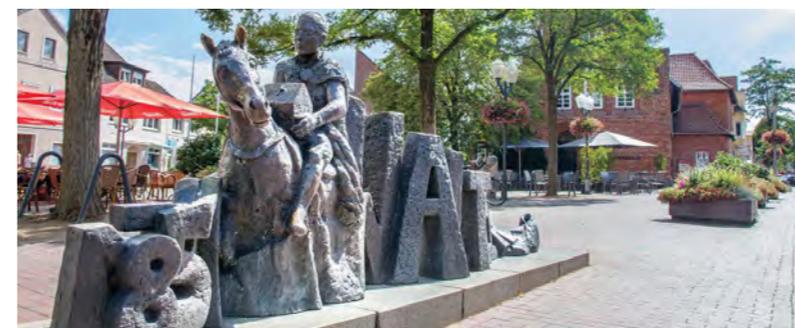
In 1270, Hildebold, the Archbishop of Bremen, granted Wildeshausen the town rights. That made Wildeshausen the oldest town in the Oldenburg Region. Being located at the „Vlamsche Strat“ (Flemish Route), an important trading route from the Netherlands to Scandinavia on one hand, as well as at a crossing of the river Hunte on the other hand, the market and trading place Wildeshausen developed very fast.

In the fateful year of 1529 the then mayor was executed, and the town lost the town rights and had to tear down the city wall. Political turmoil, diseases, fires and wars several times interrupted the further development of this small town of farming citizens.

Since 1960 until 2006 Wildeshausen has been an garrison and since 1977 our town is a state-qualified climatic health resort.

Since 1995 Wildeshausen and the English city of Hertford are united in a lively town twinning with numerous friendly relationships. Since 1980 Wildeshausen is also twinned with the French city of Evron.

In 1988 the District Seat of the District of Oldenburg moved to Wildeshausen. This resulted in a considerable stimulation of trade and industry as well as population development. Nowadays the middle centre Wildeshausen has approximately 20.000 inhabitants.

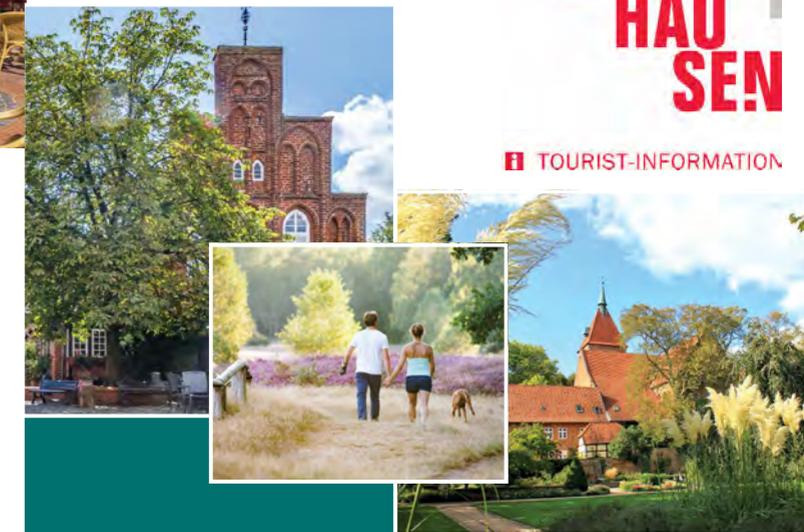


Touristic Attractions



WILDESHAUSEN

TOURIST-INFORMATION



Climatic Health Resort Wildeshausen

A Historical Tour of Our Town

A Prehistoric Square Mile

A History of Our Town

since 1270

The positions 1-11 can be found on the map „Hier gehst du auf Entdeckungstour“.



Historical Tour of Our Town

1 The historical **Town Hall** with its striking high-gothic step gable end is located at the marketplace. It was built during the 13th/14th century, after the Archbishop of Bremen had granted Wildeshausen the town rights in 1270.

The Market Place, located directly at the highly frequented „Vlamsche Strat“ (Flemish Route), already in the Middle Ages developed into a significant trading centre. In 1747, the market well was erected, providing water supply for through passing traders, market users and inhabitants.

2 The new **Administration Building**, the Town House, was built at the Market Place in 1990. At its gable end, a **chime** with 23 bronze bells and a circulation of figures can be viewed, portraying the history of the town. Corresponding to the season, different kinds of melodies sound daily at 10 and 12 o' clock, and at four and six o' clock in the afternoon.

3 The **Alexander's Church** has been built in the 13th century and covers late Romanesque as well as early Gothic Style elements. The Church is the only basilica in the Oldenburg Region. Already in 851, relics of St. Alexander were deposited here in a wooden church to support the missionaries' work in the population.

4 The directly adjoining **Chapter House, called Remter**, is more than a thousand years old. The collegiate masters lived here, accommodated in a monastic like community. Today the Remter is used for community and youth services of the Protestant Parish.

5 The ancient **Magistrate's House** has been constructed in 1730 to serve as the Official Seat of the Senior Civil Servant of the former Department of Wildeshausen. Since 2001, the picturesque, half-timbered house is accommodating a gastronomy business with historical ambiance.

6 The **Town Rampart**, the medieval defensive-construction of Wildeshausen, commences directly at the river Hunte behind the Alexanders's church and leads at a length of 1400 meters westward around the historic town centre to „Kaiserstraße“.

7 In today's **Museum-of-Printery**, the local newspaper, the „Wildeshäuser Zeitung“, has been printed until 1987. Equipment and tools, collected from various epochs of art of printing can be visited all year round, following an arrangement with the local Tourist Information Office.

8 Since 1824, **St.-Peter's Church** is making up the centre of attraction for the catholic citizens of Wildeshausen.

9 The **Spa Gardens** is presenting a striking diversity with the well-kept „Burgwiese“, including a duck-pond, a children's playground, a concert shell for periodical summer-concerts, a fountain and a waterstep-basin.

The Castle Hill is an artificially raised mound. Here, the Castle of Wildeshausen was located. Today, on Castle Hill, there is a memorial reminding of the victims of both World Wars.

10 The inhabitants of the historical part of the town „**Zwischenbrücken**“ (meaning „Between the Bridges“), calling themselves „Pielepoggen“ are keeping their independent tradition in a lively and humorous manner until to date.

11 In today's „**Steam-Corn-Brandy-Distillery-Museum**“, the local family Kolloge has been distilling steam-corn-brandy from 1857 until 1972. Until today, the historical production facility is being kept fully operational and can be visited after individual arrangement with family Kolloge.



How you get to Wildeshausen

Arrival by Train:
Railway Station Wildeshausen („Nordwestbahn“ is providing direct train connections from Bremen or Osnabrück)

Arrival by Car:
Autobahn A1 (Exit „Wildeshausen West“ or „Wildeshausen Nord“)

Arrival by Air:
next airport is Bremen (additional airports: Münster, Hannover, Hamburg)

TOURIST-INFORMATION

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