

## **Travelling around Germany**

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Although I've been quite busy with studying, exams etc., I've found time to do some travelling around Germany. Whoever does Erasmus or studies in Bremen is quite lucky because the semester ticket allows you to travel as far as the Netherlands for free. You can get the train to Hamburg, Hannover, Groeningen, Lübeck – you can explore all of Niedersachsen if you wish! The only thing to watch out for is the kind of train you're taking as your choice can have cost implications! ICE trains go faster and don't stop often so they cost more and aren't included in the semester ticket. The "normal" trains that begin with IR for example are, however. If you go on Erasmus in Hamburg, the only place included in the semester ticket is Hamburg. Once you get to Hamburg from Bremen, you've to pay for public transport but the train ticket to Hamburg is free. Those looking to travel do have other options though. Germany also has these Flix buses that are normally cheaper than taking the train. You can get a Flix bus for a tenner or less from Hamburg to Bremen. I would definitely recommend visiting Hamburg if you're thinking of travelling to Germany – they say Hamburg is bigger and better than Bremen (although I don't agree... except for the bigger part cause that's a fact).

I've seen the tourist attractions in Bremen many times at this stage, but I'm still excited to see them all again when my friends come to visit in March. The Dom, Rathaus, Schlachte (an area in Bremen with lots of restaurants and bars directly at the river Weser) are all great places to visit. It's really nice to sit there at night because of the beautiful lights and there are always ships that you can watch. The Viertel is Temple Bar-mäßig I would say, with lots of cool restaurants, bars, vintage shops, second-hand shops and fast food places. The walls are painted in bright colours and the area comes alive at night – people bring speakers and play music out on the street while drinking beer (because you can drink beer outside in Germany). Heldenbar, Wohnzimmer, Lift, Fehrfeld and many more bars are really vibey and the atmosphere is really cool. Heldenbar has delicious craft beer and cocktails if you don't like beer (although, trust me, German beer is something else!).

Ostertorsteinweg is also an area in Bremen that I would recommend visiting. The small streets around it are very picturesque and there are many second-hand stores around there as well. Schnoor is famous for its cute little houses and this area attracts lots of tourists too, depending on the time of year. The Kunsthalle is the famous art museum in Bremen and it's also free for students. Arabiano has the most

delicious falafel-halloumi Rollo and Tandour has the most famous Rollo of Bremen. Germany also has so many vegan and vegetarian options available, egal where you go.

I would auf jeden Fall recommend visiting each of the places I mentioned above and much more!















