



BREMEN AN DER WESER

- Welcome to Bremen, Germany's smallest city state and a center of maritime trade.
- Stroll across Marktplatz and visit the Brother Grimms' famous *Bremen Town Musicians*.
- Walk the labyrinthine alleys of historic Schnoor Quarter and visit the bank of the Weser river.
- Plan an excursion to the North Sea coast and its outlying islands.
- Ask people you meet about their view of the city, its attractions and the Northern German region.
- Ask your conversation partners how they view the other three German regions: Southern, Eastern and Western Germany.

You can talk to people and visit places highlighted in **red**.

A. Marktplatz. Take a stroll around **Marktplatz**, the location of Bremen’s City Hall and a traditional outdoor food market where vendors sell vegetables, fruit and fish. Ask various people what they associate with Bremen using the keywords from the table. Then head over to Bremen’s riverside (**Osterdeich**) and ask the people you meet there.

- Be sure to type or say **Marktplatz** or **Osterdeich** before you start this chat.
- Ask one question at a time:
 - **Wie ist Bremen?**
 - **Was ist das Wahrzeichen von Bremen?**

Thema	Marktplatz	Osterdeich
Bremen <i>Bremen</i>		
Nationalgericht <i>national dish</i>		
Wahrzeichen <i>city symbol</i>		
Dialekt <i>dialect</i>		
Nordsee <i>North Sea</i>		
Rolandstatue <i>Statue of Roland</i>		

B. Norddeutsches Wetter. The weather in Northern Germany is known for being much different from the weather down South. Ask four people on Marktplatz about different aspects of the weather in Bremen. (Type or say **Wetter** to start. Then ask your questions.)

Regen oder Sonne

das Klima

wieviel Regen

dieses und letztes Jahr

C. Weser. The Weser River flows through the city of Bremen. Ask people about this important waterway. (Type or say **Weser** to start. Then ask your questions.)

Erster Eindruck vom Fluß (*first impression*)?

Was ist das Beste an der Weser?

Wohin fließt die Weser?

Wie ist die Wasserqualität?

D. Mentalität. It is frequently said that Northern Germans are a bit *steif* (stiff) more short-worded than their Southern counterparts. Type or say **Charakter**. Then ask people what they think of this stereotype.

Kontakte machen

offen oder reserviert?

kalt oder warm?

E. Eingewandert. **Frau Hessel** is an expat living in Bremen who now works at a cafe by the Roland statue. In your best German, ask her about:

- where she is from originally
- what she knows about the Roland statue
- why she moved to Bremen
- what she misses most about her native region

F. Bremer Stadtmusikanten. Head back over to market square for a quick lunch and take a closer look at the bronze sculpture of the Bremen Town Musicians (type **die Bremer Stadtmusikanten** to start). Then ask people about the significance of this sculpture for the city and about the Brothers Grimm fairy tale that inspired it.



Wer sind die Bremer Stadtmusikanten?

Warum machen die Bremer Stadtmusikanten Musik?

Warum sind die Bremer Stadtmusikanten bekannt?

Sind die Bremer Stadtmusikanten sehr alt?

G. Bremer Loch: Did you notice the bronze manhole cover on the ground? This is an art installation in commemoration of the 200-year anniversary of the famed Brother Grimm tale. Every time you toss a coin into the slot you will hear a different voice from one of the four animals (type or say **Münze** to start). Which three of the four animals will you hear today?

Münze 1: Ich höre...

Münze: Ich höre...

Münze: Ich höre...

H. Schietwettertee. Wander the labyrinthine alleys that crisscross Bremen's Schnoor Quarter. Take in the window displays of small crafts stores, cafes and artisan's galleries that huddle close to one other. Enter an aromatic tea shop and talk to the owner, **Frau Classen**, inside. Ask her about the tea she sells, about Bremen's history in the tea trade and about Northern Germany's tea ceremony.

Wie viel Tee trinken die Norddeutschen?

Wie oft trinken die Norddeutschen Tee?

Warum trinken die Norddeutschen gern Tee?

Woher kommt der Ostfriesentee?

Was ist im Tee?

Gibt es eine norddeutsche Teezeremonie?

Was ist Schietwettertee?

I. Plattdeutsch. Stop by the Institut für die Niederdeutsche Sprache (*Institute for the Preservation of the Low German Language*) in the Schnoor Quarter (yes, there are clubs for about any interest in Germany). Talk to **Herr Becker** about the Northern German Dialect called Low German (*Plattdeutsch* or *Niederdeutsch*). Ask him about any topic from the list below. Then summarize what you have learned in the box. Herr Becker's enthusiasm for linguistic intricacies knows no bounds...

wo man Plattdeutsch spricht

wie viele Leute Plattdeutsch sprechen

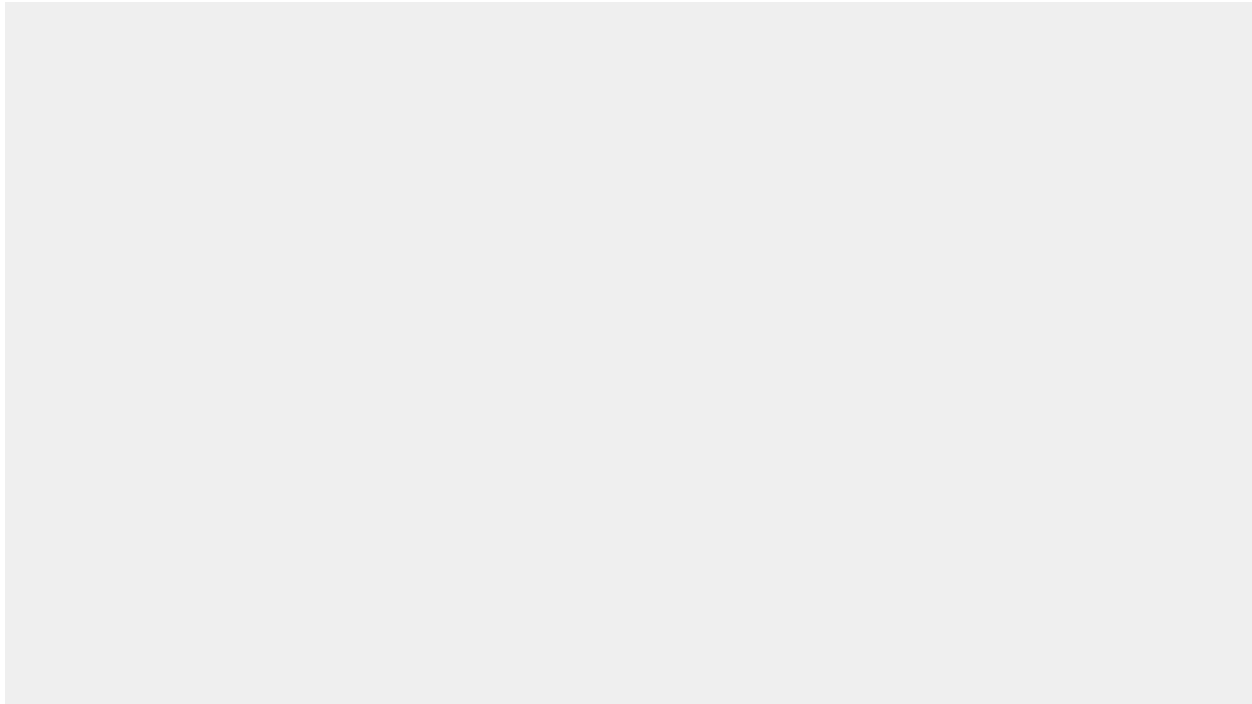
Plattdeutsch und Englisch

Sprachfamilie Platt

junge Leute und Platt

Plattdeutsch lesen

die Zukunft von Plattdeutsch

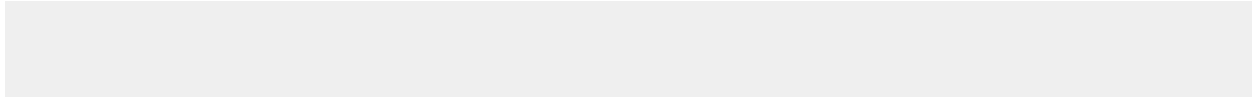


J. Sprüche auf Platt. One of the most popular traditional sayings in Low German is: *Ob Nord, ob Süd, ob Ost, ob West, to Huus is best!* Now ask **Herr Becker** about his three favorite sayings in Low German and what they mean. If you have trouble with pronunciation, type your questions instead. Write down his words of wisdom in modern German and in English.

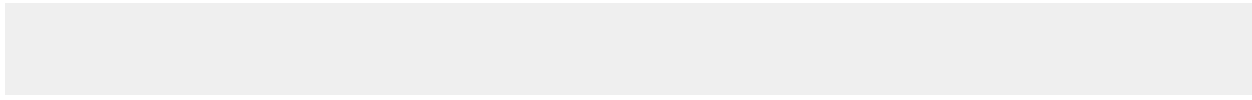
“Wat mutt dat mutt.”



“Doh wat du wüt, de Lüüt snackt doch.”



“Buten un Binnen, wagen un winnen.”



K. Exkursion Nordseeküste. Visit the tourist information (type or say **Touristeninformation** to start) and plan an excursion to the windswept North Sea Coast and its offshore island chain (*Nordseeinseln*). The city of Bremerhaven, Bremen's seaport, is also worth a visit. Translate each question into German first, and then ask away.



I would like to see the North Sea. _____(German)

How do I get to the North Sea Islands? _____(German)

How do I get to Helgoland? _____(German)

Should I visit the North Sea Islands or Helgoland? _____(German)

Which island is the most beautiful? _____(German)

Which of the islands are without cars? _____(German)

The city of Bremerhaven belongs to the city state of Bremen. Ask what sightseeing attractions are there to see.

Can I hike the coastal mudflats in Bremerhaven? _____(German)

Now it's time to hike the North German coastal mudflats! Type or say **Wattwanderung** and describe your personal impression of this typical Northern German pastime. Would you enjoy this kind of freetime activity? Why or why not? You may share your thoughts in German or English.

L. Wir und die Anderen. Ask people what cultural differences they perceive between Bremen in Northern Germany and cities in the other three German regions (Eastern, Western and Southern Germany). Talk to people in the market square, Schnoor quarter and Oster dyke (Type or say each location to start). Note people's answers in the boxes.

Marktplatz

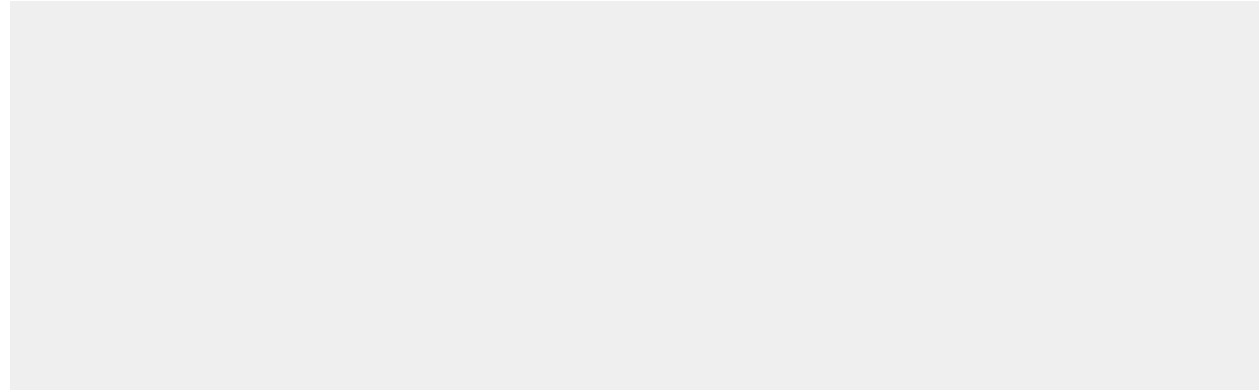
Köln - Berlin - Süddeutschland - München

Schnoorviertel

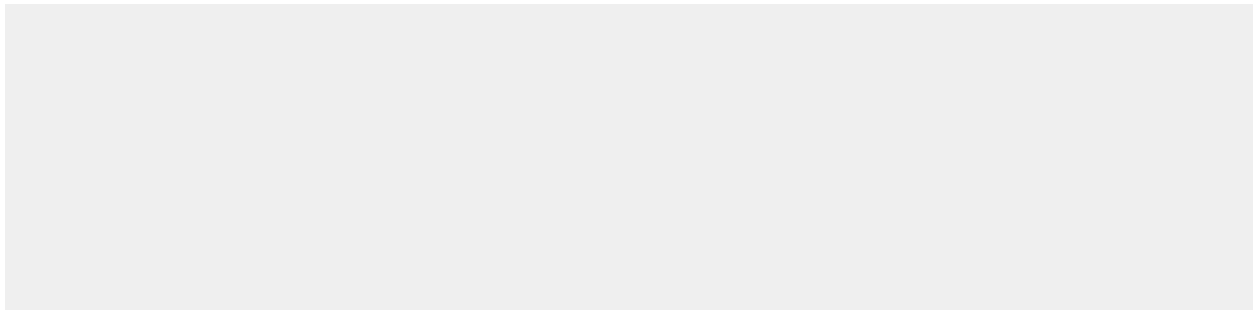
Westdeutschland - Köln - Süddeutschland

Osterdeich

Köln - Berlin - München



M. Minderwertigkeitskomplex. Bremen is the smallest of Germany's three city-states (trailing Hamburg and Berlin) and the smallest German federal state overall. Ask the next best person in the street whether they think the people of Bremen suffer a **Minderwertigkeitskomplex** (*inferiority complex*) because of its diminutive size



N. Bevor du gehst: More cultural explorations. Before you leave: have you done this?

- Did you listen to the **Straßenmusik** am Marktplatz?
- Did you visit Bremerhaven's **U-Boot** museum ship "Wilhelm Bauer," a WWII submarine?

To see all the people who made *German Chatterbox* possible, type "Credits" into the input line.