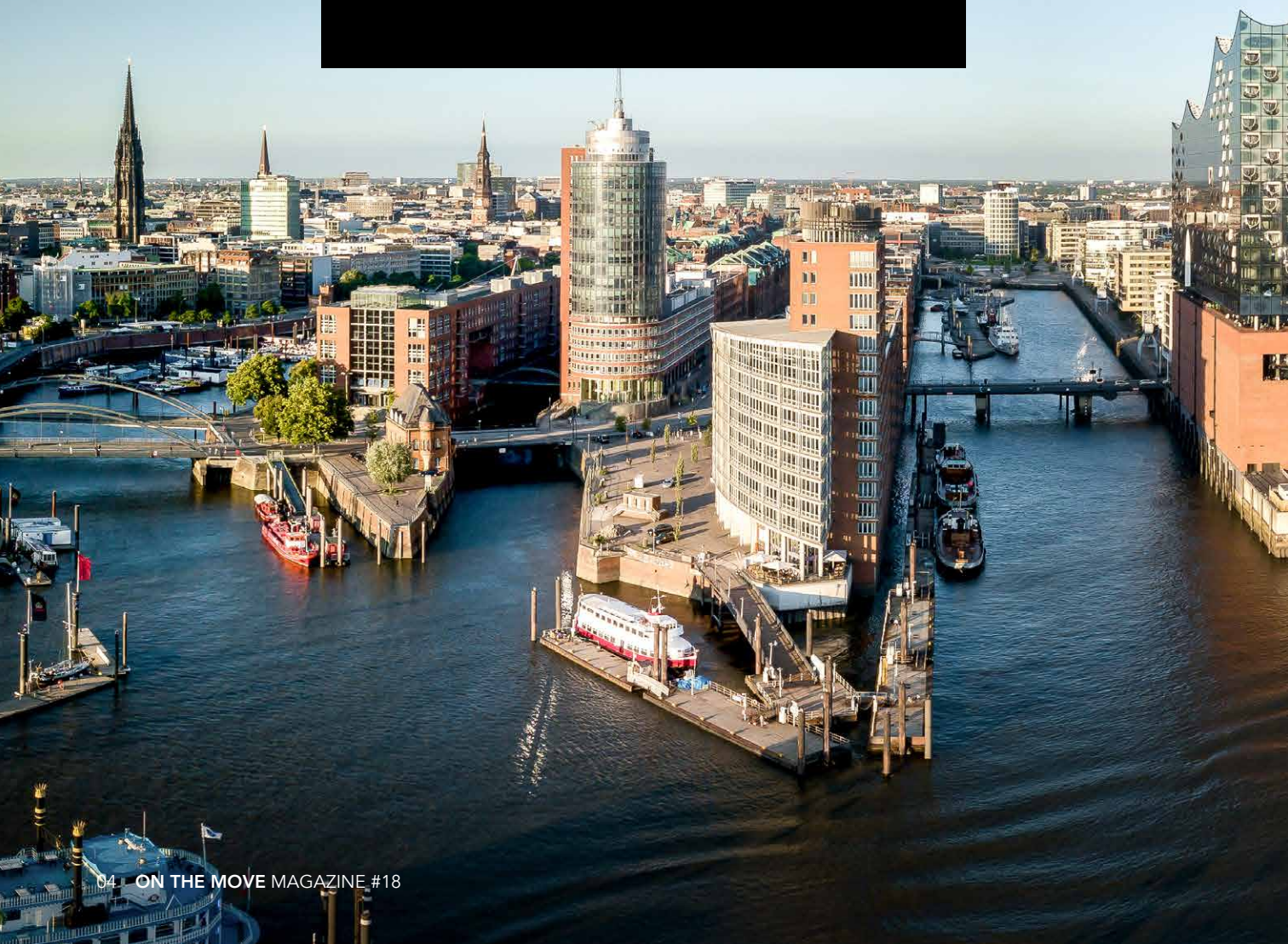


UP AND AWAY IN
**Hamburg's
HafenCity**

TEXT DÖRTE NOHRDEN



The Elbphilharmonie is Hamburg's newest cultural landmark and a dazzling crowd-puller. However, the vibrant district on the Elbe River has a lot more to offer than just the magnificent concert hall it is so famous for. Side by side, the historic Speicherstadt and a vast new residential area have been forming this exciting new city quarter, known as Hafencity (Harbour City), since 2008.

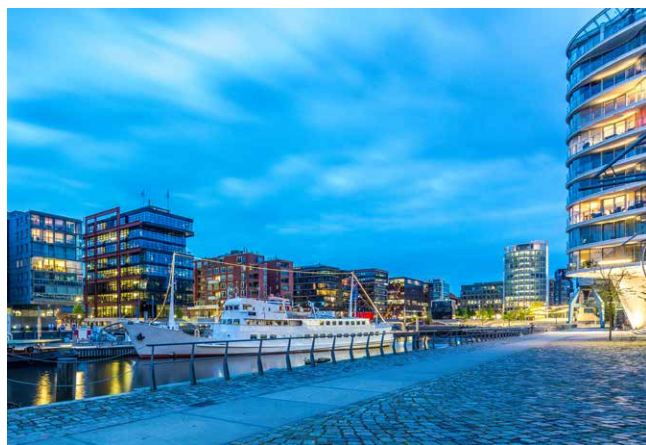
Once upon a time, thousands of sacks of coffee, tea and spices from all over the world were stored here in the Speicherstadt. The old brick warehouses with their neo-Gothic architecture, built between 1885 and 1927, were declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 2015. The buildings once constituted the largest logistics centre in the world. While the Speicherstadt has largely lost its function as a warehouse district today, it is still considered the world's largest trading centre for oriental carpets and rugs, where around 40 Iranian and Afghan traders jostle shoulder to shoulder to sell their colourful and opulent Berber carpets, kilims, and vintage rugs.

Today, as I walk through this historic district, the brick facades glow red in the sunshine, standing bold against a cloudless blue sky. I let my gaze wander up to their pointed gables, where the coils of the rope winches protrude from the walls. A hook dangles in front of a hatch and I shout up to the trader jokingly: "Do you sell flying carpets, too?" He looks down, laughs and promptly returns: "Yes, come back tomorrow. The next shipment will float up to the higher storage levels by winch". Just like sacks full of pepper a hundred years ago. Here, sales are still sealed with a handshake.

One entrance further on I am captivated by the beguiling fragrances of cardamom, cinnamon and curry. I follow the scent and find myself at the spice museum, Spicy's, where the flavours of the world come together. Here you can find hundreds of interesting exhibits covering over five centuries' worth of history and around 50 raw spices and herbs. In this old warehouse, you can smell, touch, taste and learn new things.

The Sandtorkai is where Hafencity faces modernity. At the far end of this street, the modern part of Hafencity, which is ever growing and thriving, begins. Many of the planned housing blocks in this ambitious mega-project have already been finished. In addition to the 7,000 new apartments, numerous service spaces, which will create up to 45,000 jobs, will be realised on 127 hectares. The mixture of residential, international business, educational institutions, and gastronomic and cultural services will shape Hafencity to become Hamburg's most vibrant and promising district.

Want to refresh your taste buds with ice cream at the Magellan- or Marco-Polo-terraces? Or do you prefer ambling through the quarters to admire the unique architecture of this place? No two buildings look the same. Visitors love to stroll along Dalmannkaipromenade leading towards the Elbphilharmonie. The impressive structure, enthroned at the western edge of Hafencity like a giant ship's bow, unites history and modernity. The crystalline building was constructed on the foundations of a famous old warehouse known as Kaispeicher A. Since its opening two years ago, it has become a site for many a guest performance of the world's finest musicians. However, even without a ticket to listen to one of the concerts, taking the longest escalators in Europe up to the building's wonderful plaza is an absolute must. Here you can enjoy a phenomenal panoramic view of the Elbe, the harbour and the city. You might even consider watching the tall sailing ships perform their annual parades for the "Hamburg Harbour Birthday" from 10th to 12th May 2019. Ahoi!



Right as Rain?

ALL-WEATHER TIPS
FOR HAMBURG'S
HAFENCITY

Strolling through Hamburg's HafenCity in the sunshine is pure pleasure. But even in the worst weather Hamburg has to offer, it can still be fun. Scents waft out from coffee roasting houses, and interesting museums and restaurants beckon to passers-by to stay a while. No matter whether you are travelling alone, or with friends or family, the district offers a huge variety of activities. This is the place where the history and future of the Hanseatic city meet — and you are always close to the water, wind and ships.

THE HAFENCITY INFO CENTRE AT THE KESSELHAUS WELL-EQUIPPED FOR YOUR HAMBURG TOUR

Before you set out to HafenCity, the Info Centre is worth a visit. It's located at the Kesselhaus, the old steam power station in the Speicherstadt. Aside from stocking up on tourist info material, visitors can enjoy a coffee and cake, and marvel at the 4 x 8 meter model of the HafenCity project area: take a peek into the future! Also a great offer: every Saturday at 3pm, this is where a two-hour tour of the HafenCity starts (on Sundays it starts at 3pm at the Nachhaltigkeitspavillon, Osakaallee 9).

📍 Am Sandtorkai 30, 20457 Hamburg
www.hafencity.com/en/infocenter/hafencity-infocenter-kesselhaus.html

WASSERSCHLÖSSCHEN TEA TIME

This photo spot is located at the tip of a narrow Fleetinsel (an island enclosed by so-called 'Fleeten', a kind of canal), surrounded by water. This charming 'castle', built 1905–1907, once served as living quarters for the winch guards, who maintained the rope winches. Today, the castle harbours a tea store and gastronomic business. Kitchen chef Dietmar Klattig serves his tea not only in cups, but also on plates. He uses the brew as a base for chutneys and his red fruit jelly, or skilfully works it into ice cream and beverages, all of which you can enjoy on the castle's terrace.

📍 Dienerreihe 4, 20457 Hamburg
www.wasserschloss.de



"WATER CASTLE"

STRANDPERLE SUNSET AT THE BEACH

The steps of the Strandkai are a great place to enjoy the sunset. But since Hamburg's streets are made of water, why not finish your day with a boat ride to the Elbstrand (Elbe beach)? At Strandperle, Hamburg's long-established rustic beach kiosk in Övelgönne, it's shoes off for everyone. Feel the sand under your feet, sip on a bottle of cold beer and watch the sun set downstream. And once the lights of the port cranes start blinking in the night sky, you'll feel like snuggling up in a sleeping bag and spending the night at the beach.

📍 Oevelgönne 60, 20457 Hamburg
www.strandperle-hamburg.de



"BEACH PEARL"

**WANT
MORE TIPS**
on what to do
in Hamburg?
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INTERNATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM CAST OFF!

The old Kaispeicher B was once a grain silo and basement storage. Today, it is home to the International Maritime Museum. Visitors can discover a huge pool of maritime treasures on ten 'decks'. This is all thanks to the museum's founder and passionate collector Peter Tamm (1928–2016), whose son continues his father's legacy with dedication and commitment. The creaking floorboards of the opulent exhibition will make you think you're actually on a ship. Exciting ship exhibits, paintings, sea charts and more are displayed here.

📍 Koreastraße 1, 20457 Hamburg
www.imm-hamburg.de/international/en/exhibition.php

ASTOR CINEMA LOGENPLATZ

This posh cinema is an enrichment not only for residents of HafenCity. People from all over the city make the journey to enjoy such luxury at a fair price. The new Astor cinema, up and running since 30th November 2018, sports three screens equipped with comfortable leather lounge seats, a lot of leg room and a Dolby Atmos Soundsystem. The admission ticket even includes the cloakroom and a welcome drink. A special highlight is that it offers at-seat service, and those who like to enjoy after-movie cocktails can do so in the stylish lounge.

📍 Am Sandtorkai 46, 20457 Hamburg
hamburg.astor-filmlounge.de