

ORANIENBURG IS DIFFERENT

Greetings from the mayor

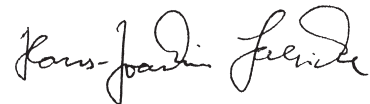
Other princesses are legends.
Ours cultivated the land.
And this is how the changeful
and very special story of our town begins.

When the great elector Friedrich Wilhelm endowed our town which was back then called Bötzw to his wife the Oranier princess Louise Henriette, this was the beginning of the now over 350 years ongoing history of Oranienburg. In the spirit of tolerance that the electoral couple had brought into a country destroyed by war followed good decades for Oranienburg and its hinterland. In all of Brandenburg the couple managed to make “blossoming land” out of wasteland with skill and the help of Dutch settlers.

The town of Oranienburg feels obliged to this heritage, especially since it experienced in its history the disastrous effects of deepest intolerance, when it was appointed to be the location of two concentration camps during the time of National Socialism. While the cosmopolitan atmosphere at the beginning of Brandenburg-Prussia gave room for the prosperity of variety, progress and zest for life National Socialism and the annihilation of democracy brought only death, destruction and fear. We are facing our history. The hopeful rise after the Thirty Years' War as well as the hell of Sachsenhausen are thereby facets of our past. Hence arises our responsibility that challenges us in a very special way – and this too makes Oranienburg different from other towns.

Oranienburg is today an emerging town on the outskirts of the metropolis Berlin. The town is continuously becoming more attractive and a growing number of people become its residents. We are very happy about the fact that more and more people are coming to see our town and to find out what is in it.

A warm welcome to all our visitors!



Yours sincerely,
Hans-Joachim Laesicke
Mayor of the town of Oranienburg



The castle park

ORANIENBURG – DIFFERENT IN MANY WAYS

An inviting neighbourhood.

It is worth getting to know Oranienburg with its many different places of excursions. This includes fun and excitement but also the confrontation with the changeful history of the town.

COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS

Between 1936 and 1945 the Nazi regime detained more than 200,000 people from all over Europe at the Concentration Camp Sachsenhausen. And it was here where the Soviet secret service operated the biggest internment camp of the Soviet occupied zone with 60,000 detainees from 1945 until 1950. Today original testimonials and exhibitions in the museum and memorial inform visitors about the victims.

www.gedenkstaette-sachsenhausen.de

HOLIDAY AT THE „TURM“

In the biggest sports and recreational centre of Berlin / Brandenburg, at the “TURM ErlebnisCity” (Adventure City) not only the indoor water park with waves and slides and the bowling/ninepins centre but also a beach sport hall, a climbing wall and a gym offer everything for your active recreation.

www.erlebniscity.de

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR

Started as a little petting zoo it has meanwhile become one of the most beautiful destinations of Oranienburg: the Animal-, Recreational- and Dinosaur Park Germendorf. Here more than 1,000 local and exotic animals can be observed and some can even be fed and petted. The biggest dinosaur park in the surroundings of Berlin expands on nine hectares.

www.freizeitpark-germendorf.de

EATING HIGH ON THE HOG

The Oberhavel Farmer's Market features best regional agricultural and homemade products and goodies. Nobody leaves without having tried pork on a skewer or other delicacies such as sausage, eggs, cheese and freshly tapped milk from a gigantic cow. Romping in straw, a petting zoo, various children's games and a ride with the legendary egg train make a visit an adventure not only for children but for grown-ups too.

www.oberhavel-bauernmarkt.de

LIKE PARADISE

In Oranienburg-Eden the first “vegetarian fruit-growing colony” of Germany was founded in 1893. Today you can find exhibitions, the Eden Café, a nature trail, a kindergarten, a library as well as the music workshop Eden on the grounds of the cooperative.

www.eden-eg.de



Orangerie



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Others have Sissi or Diana.

**WE HAVE
LOUISE HENRIETTE.**





ORANIENBURG – NOT WHAT YOU EXPECTED

A booming town

Recently Oranienburg has experienced a stronger economic growth than probably most other towns in Brandenburg have. Most visible from the outside is the extensive reconstruction. But the town is also pleased with the constantly increasing number of its residents due to the settlement of young families who appreciate the combination of metropolis and country. Based on the baroque ground-plan the historical town centre is being revived, historic buildings are being rebuilt, older structures are being replaced and gaps are being closed with attractive new buildings.



Statue of the electoral princess Louise Henriette

HISTORIC CENTRE

The old town centre which was destroyed to a large extent during the 2nd World War and thereafter lies in the focus of current town development. In the context of the “Landesgartenschau” (Brandenburg garden festival) 2009 the works on “retrieving” this centre progressed successfully. The town planning measures have – among other projects – already included the new construction of the castle bridge, the new installation of the “third axis” (Neringstraße), the restoration of the Amtshauptmannshaus (captain’s house) and the creation of an attractive Havel promenade.

CENTREPIECE OF THE TOWN

The castle of Oranienburg – the oldest baroque castle in the Mark Brandenburg – is the pulsating heart of the town. It was built in the style of the Dutch Baroque during the reign of the Brandenburg electoral couple Friedrich Wilhelm of Brandenburg and Louise Henriette of Oranien-Nassau in 1652. Louise Henriette was the eponym of the town. Its history and the close relations between Brandenburg and the Netherlands are documented in the two museums inside the castle that are well worth a visit.



View of the orphanage and the St.-Nicolai-Church



Amtshauptmannshaus

A WALK THROUGH THE TOWN

A round tour through Oranienburg should definitely lead you past the orphanage at the end of Breite Straße. The house which the electoral princess sanctified in 1665 after having promised it to the town on the occasion of the birth of the heir apparent Karl Emil is one of the oldest and most important buildings to see in the town. Other places worth visiting are the St.-Nicolai-Church, the old forester’s house in Bernauer Straße and the listed railway station square. You can find a guidance system at all central places of the town which will lead you to the most important sights.

EXCURSION INTO CULTURE

Oranienburg offers culture throughout the whole year. In the Orangerie which was restored according to the guidelines for historical monuments, visitors can enjoy numerous performances.

Concerts, readings, cabaret or children’s theatre do not only take place here but also on smaller stages such as the “Kulturkonsum” (culture consumption), a real insiders’ tip. No matter if you take opera in the castle square, church music in St.-Nicolai, the Dutch “Orange-Fest” (festival) or the many other different events in the castle park – there are a lot of good reasons for a discovery tour through Oranienburg.

www.oranienburg-erleben.de



The oldest baroque castle of the Mark Brandenburg – the castle of Oranienburg

LIFELINE WATER

The Havel, the Oranienburg Canal, the Oder-Havel Canal and the Lake Lehnitz are all waters that surround Oranienburg. But it is the river Havel with its canals and moats that forms the blue lifeline of the town. Cycle paths and hiking trails invite visitors to do some sport or to just stroll around. The new castle harbour and other landing places are idyllic oases in the inner town where tourists can berth in the centre of Oranienburg and then continue their journey as far as the Mecklenburg Lake District. Furthermore there is an ultramodern caravan campsite situated directly at the castle harbour.



“Water tourism” – boats on Lake Lehnitz



The castle harbour