



ATG ALSTER-TOURISTIK GMBH

Touristik- und Charterfahrten mit der weißen Alsterflotte

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Pleasure-ride on the Alster

What do Hamburg citizens appreciate most of their city?

Hamburg has two water fronts! That does not mean there is a northern and southern river side, but there are two rivers, Elbe and Alster, flowing together. Both are diverse as an inland lake and the sea. The Elbe, with its rough and North-sea-like character always evokes wanderlust for oversea travelling. The Alster presents itself rather smooth, romantic and enchanting. Having its source about 25 km north of the city in Schleswig-Holstein, the Alster flows in several windings through the north-east of the city until finally uniting with the Elbe. Centre of the Alster in the city is the Außenalster along with the Binnenalster. At this point the Alster originally has been dammed up until finally in the 17th century the Binnenalster has become separated by a fortification belt around the Außenalster.

Already around 1800, a rowing boat transportation system has been established, which about 100 years later, in consequence of the growth of the city and the technical development, flourished as an important part of

the public transportation. In the year 1911, 11 million passengers having been transported by around 30 steam-boats.

Due to the haste and hurrying in our time, this beautiful way of driving to work could not survive, though the tourist traffic were expanding. The majority of the white fleet ships, lovingly called 'The Alsterdampfer', as a matter of course are no longer steamboats but quite modern ships. Two of them are designed for open-air-rides and one is a solar energy powered catamaran.

Regardless what kind of boat you prefer, all of them offer a beautiful sight of Hamburg. Shipping on the canals, you may get a romantic insight into the yards of the great mansions; the former summer residences of wealthy Hamburg citizens. The fleets in the 'Speicherstadt' (old warehouse complex) do have a striking similarity with the Venetian canals. Still today you can sense the spirit of the harbour-life in former times. The 'Alsterdampfer' provides, Hamburg citizens and tourists likewise, trips to the 'vegetable garden' of Hamburg, located in the Vierlande and Bergedorf. People, who like to spend a romantic evening with their loved one should enjoy the sunset on the Alster, or – even more preferred by tourists- a so called 'Lichterfahrt', where the 'Alsterdampfer' and 'Hummelbahn' are decorated with plenty chains of lights. Who does not only want to relish but also acquire some knowledge, can take advantage of the offer, on specific dates, riding with the 'Alsterdampfer' and a historic subway-wagon to the Museum der Arbeit.

A ride on the Alster can be quite colourful and full of facets. Therefore the 'Alsterdampfer' while representing the diversity of their city, belongs to Hamburg as well as the 'Michel' and the harbour. Even who prefers having both feet standing on firm ground, loves the image of the white fleet in the middle of the town.

Informations regarding ATG Alster-Touristik GmbH you will find in the internet www.alstertouristik.de. Leaflets containing offers, schedules and prices can be received at Hamburg Tourismus GmbH.

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