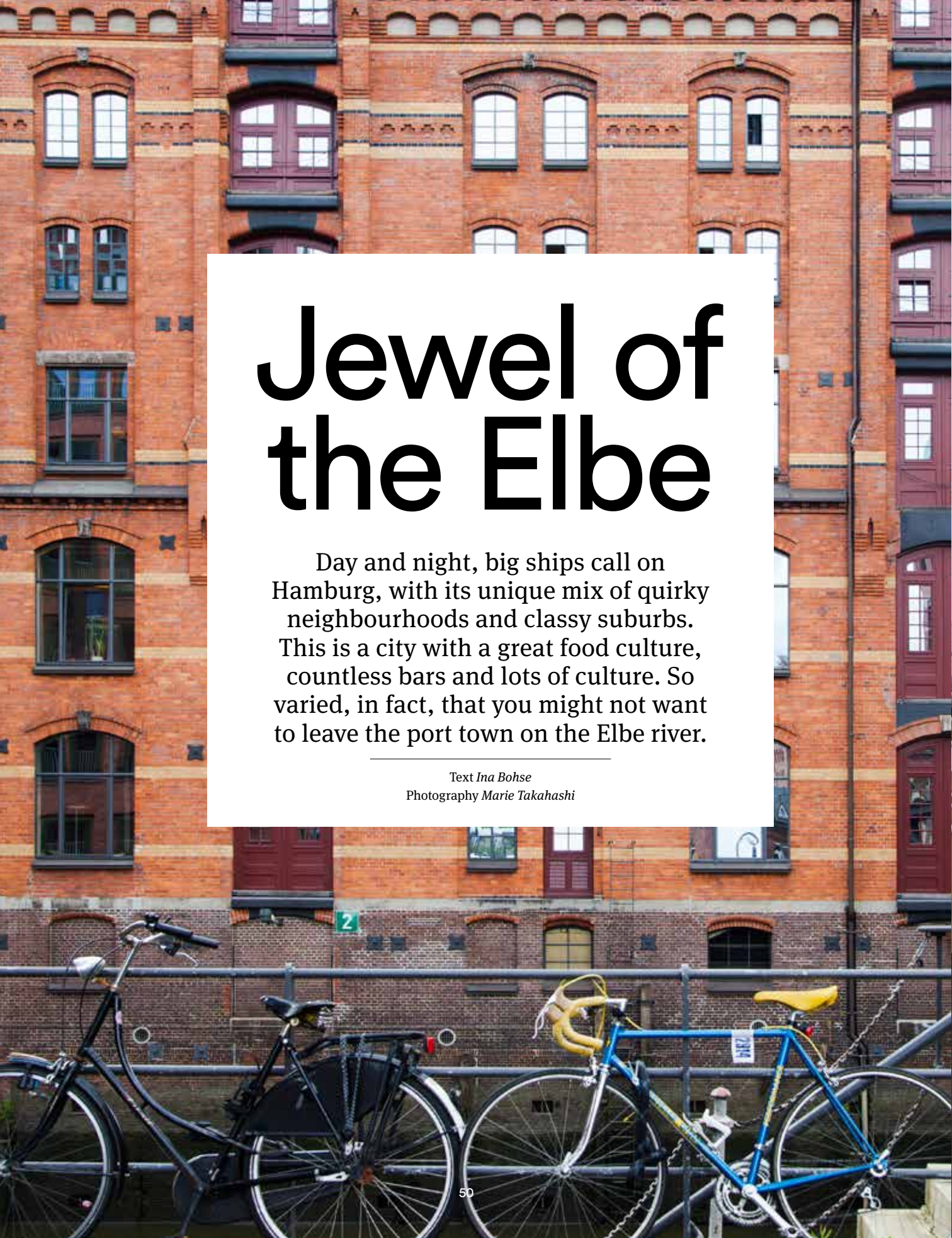


Jewel of the Elbe

Day and night, big ships call on Hamburg, with its unique mix of quirky neighbourhoods and classy suburbs. This is a city with a great food culture, countless bars and lots of culture. So varied, in fact, that you might not want to leave the port town on the Elbe river.

Text *Ina Bohse*
Photography *Marie Takahashi*



Destination Hamburg

Previous pages (from left to right): old warehouse in the HafenCity district; vju café at the Energybunker, a former flak tower. Right (clockwise from top left): view on the Elbe river from the new HafenCity neighbourhood; the 60m-high Schanzenturm, a former water tower turned into a hotel, in Schanzepark; an old HafenCity port warehouse, now used as a place to work and relax.

With some two million inhabitants, Hamburg is the second largest city in Germany. Its varied entertainment, creative scene and natural beauty leave other regional cities nautical miles behind. Water, in the form of the Alster and Elbe rivers, is always close at hand. The city’s port, which occupies nearly one-tenth of the total area of 74.4km² and is the largest in the country, welcomes visitors from afar with its incomparable skyline. But without covering itself with glory, because the people here are extremely level-headed, which we immediately notice when we arrive in Hamburg. Nobody makes a fuss, even when greeting one another. One simply says “Moin” – whether it’s morning, noon or night – to everyone, whether it’s the butcher, the mayor, the hipster cocktail mixer or the well-dressed businessman. After spending just a few days in Hamburg, you’ll realise how soon you adopt this easy-going style, and you’ll notice yourself saying “Moin” wherever you go. Just dive in with us and get acquainted with the vivid city in the north of Germany.

Trendy docks

People tilt their heads and look up: hanging from the ceiling are 12 luminous containers, modelled on original 20-foot shipping containers. Suddenly, the objects begin to glow, and music can be heard. We have arrived at HafenCity underground station. “This is one of our more unusual underground stations,” Jan Schmitt of Waterkant Touren says to his tour party, once the music has stopped. On weekends and public holidays, from 11 a.m. to 18 p.m., you can enjoy an hourly light-and-sound show here, designed specifically for this station along the U4 line. The spectacle is adapted to the season, the time of day and the weather.

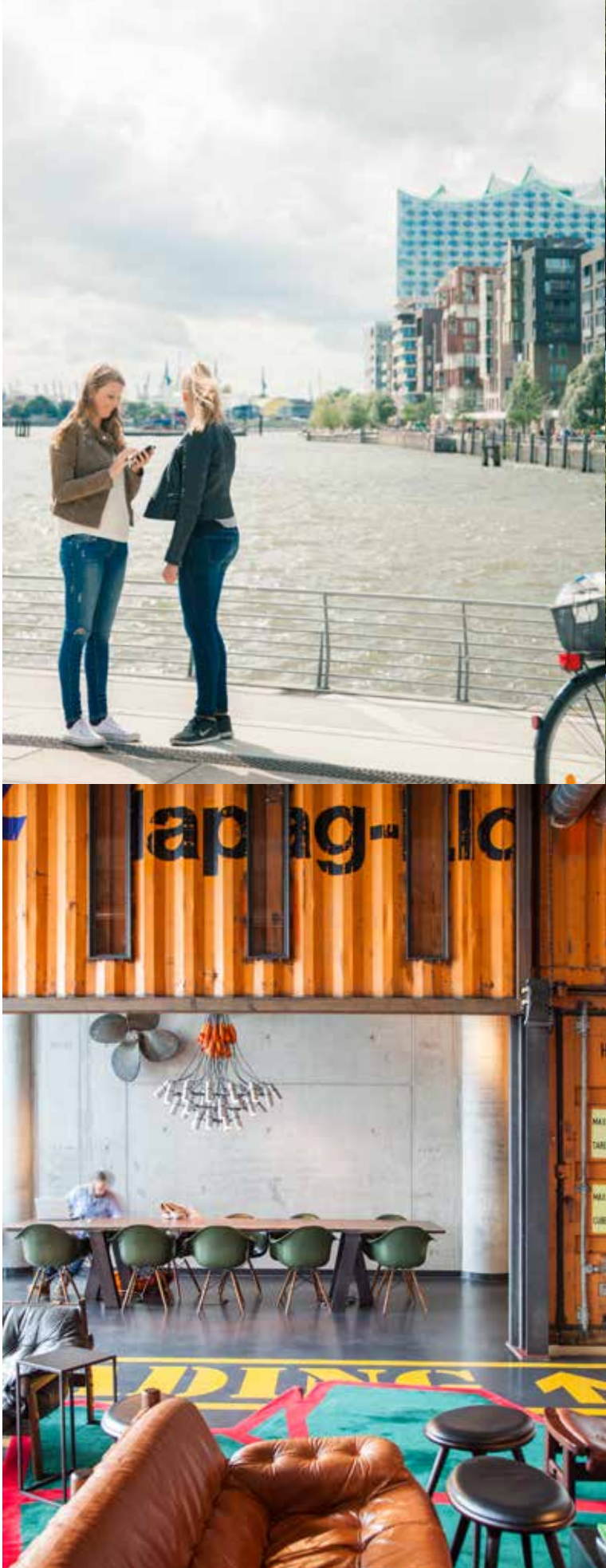
From here, the elevator carries people right to the heart of HafenCity. These former meadowlands used to be home to thousands

of shipbuilders and dockers in the 18th century. Today, this is one of the largest of Hamburg’s 104 districts and a European urban development project, which should be completed by 2025. Just a few metres further along, there is brickwork as far as the eye can see. The Speicherstadt is the world’s largest warehouse complex built on wooden piles. It was opened in 1888, and has been a protected monumental site since 1991. In 2015, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Speicherstadt is crossed by six canals and connected to the old town centre by eight bridges. “Throughout the city, there are no fewer than 2,500 bridges,” says Schmitt. “Venice has only 435.” Schmitt is somewhat of an expert on the town. Together with his childhood friend Steffen Körtje, he offers alternative city tours, and shows more than the usual tourist attractions.

“The sight of history right next to modern architecture is really spectacular. This might not be the city’s trendiest neighbourhood but it definitely shouldn’t be missed,” Schmidt tells us. Hamburg is bustling with creative people and young entrepreneurs, so we encounter the exciting and trendy mix of something old and something new not only here, but all over town and in all varieties.

Creative kitchens

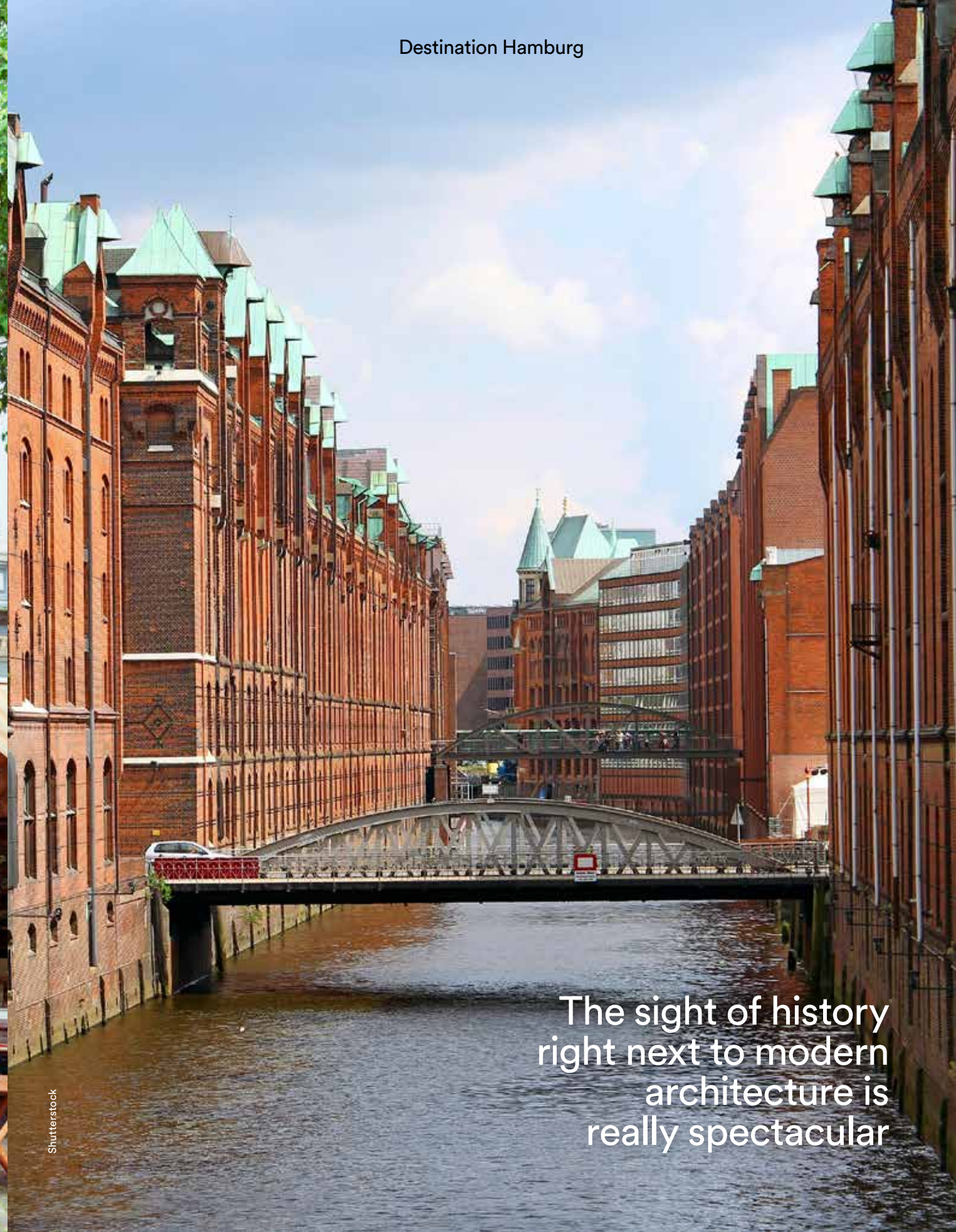
A new, inspiring vibe is, for instance, going around in Hamburg’s food culture. Following London and New York, the food-truck scene is growing incredibly fast, in streets, at events and festivals. “Do good, be cool, eat vegan” is Vincent Vegan’s slogan. The man behind this concept is Christian Kuper, who is a typical hipster, with his scruffy hair and beard. Since the summer of 2014, his food truck has been touring through Hamburg, providing animal-free nutrition. “I want to make vegan food popular without evangelizing,” says Kuper. He can be now be found at festivals, in office areas and markets. Vegan burgers, currywurst with fried sweet potatoes, chocolate brownies... All delicious and completely vegan. >



Nobody makes a fuss in Hamburg, even when greeting one another



Destination Hamburg



The sight of history
right next to modern
architecture is
really spectacular

Nightlife of a wide variety is one of Hamburg's key cultural ingredients



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Destination Hamburg

Previous pages (from left to right): Café Geyer in the St. Pauli neighbourhood; the Speicherstadt warehouse complex.
Right (clockwise from top left): luminous containers at HafenCity underground station; the Deichtorhallen, a centre for contemporary art; 25hours hotel HafenCity.

Not as mobile, but praised throughout town, is the duo Salt & Silver, comprising the friends Johannes Riffelmacher and Thomas Kosikowski, nicknamed Jo & Cozy. Some time ago, they left their jobs and girlfriends, packed up their surfboards and travelled across South America to write a cookbook. In recent months, they have been presenting the most amazing street food recipes at restaurant Kleines Phi in the creative Karolinenviertel area. Every Thursday – and soon every Saturday – they offer trendy Peruvian dishes, such as chopped raw fish marinated in lime juice, mixed with red onions and herbs. A homemade grapefruit soda with sea salt or a Pisco Sour, mixed by Kleines Phi owner Philipp Schulz, helps to quench diners’ thirst. Schulz initially had planned to just open a bar, but with the help of Jo & Cozy, Kleines Phi has now become a pretty famous spot for good drinks and food during the week and especially the weekends.

Enjoy the night
Still enough energy left to explore the city’s nightlife, after a fulfilling meal? Hamburg’s central nightlife area is the bohemian Schanzenviertel. All along the main road, called Schulterblatt, there are several really good bars right next to each other. And for some late-night dancing or music, you should drop by the Reeperbahn, where you’ll find lots of music bars and trendy nightclubs. Party guests shouldn’t miss the Mojo Club, which rises out of the sidewalk to allow in revellers who come to dance to its live DJs and their eclectic mix of jazz, funk, soul, and electronic beats. Nightlife of a wide and exciting diversity is one of Hamburg’s key cultural ingredients.
But there is more culture to explore. That is, after New York and London, Hamburg is the third largest musical metropolis in the world. A production of *The Lion King* at the Theater am Hafen has been running uninterrupted since 2001, in a fantastic harbour setting. Does ‘contemporary performance art’ sound dull? Not in Hamburg! At Kampnagel – a former

Places to eat and drink

Kleines Phi
Trendy interior, trendy neighbourhood, trendy food & drinks, trendy people... Kleines Phi has only been open since June 2015, but has already grown into one of the places to be in Hamburg.
[facebook.com/kleinesphi](https://www.facebook.com/kleinesphi)
Feldstraße 42

Gasthof Möhrchen
A modern take on cooking. Every week, fresh and local produce determines the menu.
[gasthofmoehrchen.de](https://www.gasthofmoehrchen.de)
Spritzenplatz 4

Happenpappen
In a renovated four-room apartment with an open kitchen, exclusive vegan dishes are freshly prepared every day.
[happenpappen.de](https://www.happenpappen.de)
Lappenbergsallee 41

Oberhafenkantine
The ramshackle-looking building is slightly tilted and easy to recognise. When taking a seat on the upper floor, hold on to your coffee to prevent it from sliding off the table.
[oberhafenkantine-hamburg.de](https://www.oberhafenkantine-hamburg.de)
Stockmeyerstraße 39

Klippkroog café & restaurant
Classical cuisine in an urban atmosphere, with creative regional and seasonal cuisine.
[klippkroog.de](https://www.klippkroog.de)
Große Bergstraße 255

Café Johanna
It feels like the 1970s in here, and it wouldn’t seem out of place in Berlin. Hamburg hipsters enjoy delicious organic breakfasts and homemade cakes.
[cafejohanna.de](https://www.cafejohanna.de)
Venusberg 26

Vju
This small café is located on the top floor of the Energiebunker, a former flak tower. From up here, you have the possibly most beautiful 360-degree views of the city.
[vju-hamburg.de](https://www.vju-hamburg.de)
Neuhöfer Straße 7

20up
The elegant bar of the Empire Riverside Hotel offers drinks in a chic atmosphere and a panoramic view of Hamburg from 90m high.
[empire-riverside.de](https://www.empire-riverside.de)
Bernhard-Nocht-Strasse 97

Uebel & Gefährlich
The flagship Hamburg club, situated on the top floor of a bunker, offering everything from international club DJs to high-profile concerts, readings and poetry slams.
[uebelundgefahrllich.com](https://www.uebelundgefahrllich.com)
Feldstraße 66

Places to shop

Wie es Euch gefällt
Fashion designer Nina Wirtz offers a great selection of fashion, accessories and jewellery in her boutique.
[wieeseuchgefällt.blogspot.de](https://www.wieeseuchgefällt.blogspot.de)
Juliusstraße 16

Hanseplatte
A vinyl fan’s dream come true, but there’s also maritime fashion, books and generally nice stuff to be found.
[hanseplatte.de](https://www.hanseplatte.de)
Neuer Kamp 32

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Right (clockwise from top left):
Café Fleetschlösschen in the Speicherstadt area; Ahoi
Strandkiosk at Strandperle city beach; park along the Alster lake.

machine factory in the Winterhude district – crazy, wild and experimental performances often take place. And the Deichtorhallen, one of Germany’s largest centres for contemporary art, unites the House of Photography and an exhibition hall for international art shows under its roof. Furthermore, Hamburg is home to one of the most impressive art collections in Germany; the Kunsthalle in the city centre is dedicated to over 700 years of European art.

Festival fans will also enjoy Hamburg, because there are plenty of music events throughout the year. Such as The Reeperbahn Festival in September, where national and

international newcomers present themselves to enthusiastic audiences in great locations and turn the St. Pauli neighbourhood upside down. If you prefer the sound of saxophones to guitars, however, the Elbjazz Festival is better suited for you. There, in May, you can experience jazz in unusual places, enjoy the flair of the Port of Hamburg and sail by boat from concert to concert.

Market stroll

Markets are often the best location to feel the ‘vibe’ of a city and to mingle with the locals. For a long time, Hamburg did not have many of such cosy open-air spaces to stock up with fresh ingredients. “We wanted to change that,” explain siblings Marie and Max Biermann. They’ve succeeded with Marktzeit, a culinary outdoor getaway, which invites you to linger with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, every Saturday, from June to September. Here, in front of the Rindermarkthalle in the St. Pauli neighbourhood, you can start the weekend with friends while doing your weekend food shopping. During the autumn and winter months, Marktzeit goes indoors, into the Fabrik, an old district factory in the Ottensen area.

Another market that is definitely worth a visit, is the traditional Hamburg Fish Market – also located in the St. Pauli neighbourhood – where actually much more than sea food is too be had. On Sunday mornings, visitors meet here to shop, whereas partygoers stop by for breakfast. In addition to fresh foods such as cheese and fruit, coffee and local treats are served, such as *Franzbrötchen* (typical sweet pastries) and *Fischbrötchen* (fish rolls).

For some extra exploration of the city after having strolled along the markets, it would be a shame not to enjoy the view from the Elbe. You could pay around €20 for a guided port cruise. Alternatively, and more adventurously, you could buy a one-way ticket for HVV ferry 62, sailing down the Elbe, past the docks and container terminals, up to Finkenwerder area. There, you can change to ferry 64 and travel >

Things to do

Strandperle

With your feet in the sand, you’ll view the passing giant containers in a holiday atmosphere, while enjoying a beer and fish roll.

strandperle-hamburg.de
Övelgönne 60

Park Fiction

One of the most extraordinary quiet spots in Hamburg, with artificial palms, a basketball court and tempting views of the fish market and the Elbe.

parkfiction.org
St. Pauli Fischmarkt 19

Sightseeing tours with Waterkant

Alternative sightseeing in a VW Bulli; a new, genuine and unusual look at Hamburg.

waterkant-touren.com

Canoeing on the Alster

A canoe trip on the Alster lake is an absolute highlight. Stop at the legendary Café Canale, ring the bell briefly and ice cream will be served on board.

bootsvermietung-dornheim.de
Kaemmererufer 25

Places to sleep

HENRI Hotel

A hotel which feels as a home in the Kontorhausviertel, the quarter that is celebrated for its unique architecture in the brick-expressionist style.

henri-hotel.com
Bugenhagenstrasse 21

25hours hotel HafenCity

An anchorage in the port of Hamburg, inspired by sailors’ homes, using materials from the port and shipyards.

25hours-hotels.com/hafencity
Überseeallee 5

Superbude

They have two hostels, one in the Schanzenviertel area and the other in the St. Georg quarter. These places are great for housing friends, families and partygoers.

superbude.de
Juliusstraße 1 (Schanzenviertel);
Spaldingstraße 152 (St. Georg)



The city is bustling with young and creative people

Destination Hamburg



Jasmin Evans/Art Associates

directly to the Teufelsbrück stop. From there, it's great to walk to the small neighbourhood Ottensen in the Altona district – continuing alongside the river and with a nice view on the other side of the Elbe, where you can see the Airbus landing site and the port. You'll also pass the old captains' houses and the Harbour Museum in the Oevelgönne area.

Ottensen is by no means Hamburg's largest district, nor the most famous. However, many people would agree that Ottensen is the city's liveliest spot. Who needs a house with a balcony when you have Hamburg's largest balcony – the Altonaer Balkon – on your doorstep? This green viewing platform – 27m above the Elbe – offers breathtaking views of the shipping container port, the imposing Köhlbrandbrücke bridge, the old port terminal, vessel traffic and the hustle and bustle of the Elbe river. During summers, this place is also a desirable place for groups

of people to meet and have BBQs and picnics with friends.

Once you've arrived in Ottensen – which officially belonged to Denmark from 1640 to 1806 – you should not forget to pay a visit to Altona City Hall. Before its conversion, this was Hamburg's first train station. Ottensen is indeed a very lively neighbourhood, with countless small shops and boutiques for you to check out and browse. And with so many authentic cafes and restaurants, such as Adele & Clodwig, Mikkels and Gasthof Möhrchen – to name just a few – no one needs to return to his or her hotel hungry.

Singer, actress and Hamburg icon Heidi Kabel (1914-2010) was right when she sang: *"In Hamburg sagt man Tschüss, das heißt auf Wiedersehen."* ('In Hamburg we say 'Bye', or rather 'See you again'). A return visit is indeed essential as this beautiful city by the Elbe has so much to offer and never gets tiresome. ■

- 1 HafenCity quarter
- 2 Museumshafen (Harbour Museum)
- 3 Rindermarkthalle St. Pauli
- 4 Fabrik market hall
- 5 Altonaer Rathaus (Altona City Hall)
- 6 Kampnagel theatre
- 7 Deichtorhallen art centre
- 8 25hours hotel HafenCity
- 9 Klippkroog café & restaurant
- 10 Uebel & Gefährlich club
- 11 Strandperle city beach
- 12 St. Pauli Piers
- 13 Happenpappen restaurant
- 14 Energiebunker with vju café
- 15 Speicherstadt warehouse complex

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Book on [klm.com](https://www.klm.com)