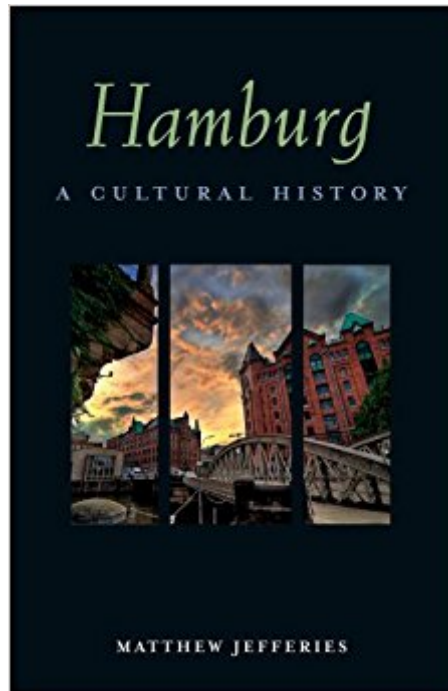


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Hamburg: A Cultural History (Cultural Histories)



Synopsis

A cultural guide to a colorful European destination that has been overlooked for too long, Hamburg has much to offer its 8 million annual visitors. It is a popular misconception that Hamburg is a coastal city. In fact, despite possessing Europe's second-busiest port, this "amphibious city" lies some 65 miles from the North Sea. Its long-standing image as a "city without culture" is also something of a myth. When the poet Heine remarked that in Hamburg "the customs are English," he was referring to its no-nonsense mercantile ethos which dates back to the era of the Hanseatic League. Yet even in Heine's day the "celebrated philistinism" of the city fathers was balanced by a tradition of private philanthropy: Hamburg has long been a city of culture as well as commerce. Although the traumas of twentieth-century German history are never far from the surface, Hamburg has become an attractive city full of color and contrast. With a population of nearly two million it is one of the largest cities in the European Union not to enjoy the status of a national capital. Above all, as Germany's "gateway to the world," it is a cosmopolitan city, whose culture has been shaped by those passing through as much as by those who stayed. Matthew Jefferies explores a city-state boasting the highest per capita GDP in Germany, but where ostentatious displays of wealth are shunned; a place synonymous with fast food and beer, in which fine dining and luxury shopping abound; a city without palaces, castles or cathedrals, yet bursting with monuments and memorials. With nearly eight million visitors each year, Hamburg is fast becoming one of Europe's most popular city-break destinations: it is a city well worth getting to know.

-CITY OF WATER AND FIRE: the Elbe, the Alster, and more bridges (around 2,500) than Venice and Amsterdam combined; a city devastated by the "Great Fire" of 1842 and the Allied "firestorm" of July 1943, but twice rebuilt anew.

-CITY OF BRICK AND NEON: the Speicherstadt "warehouse city"; Fritz Höpfer's expressionist Chilehaus; and Fritz Schumacher's vision of a "liveable metropolis"; St. Pauli, the Reeperbahn and the Beatles.

-THE WORLD CITY: Hamburg's colonial past; embarkation point for millions of European migrants to the New World; and home to the "father of the modern zoo."

Book Information

Series: Cultural Histories

Paperback: 230 pages

Publisher: Interlink Pub Group; 1 edition (June 20, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1566568463

ISBN-13: 978-1566568463

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #304,652 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Travel > Europe > Germany > Hamburg #943 in Books > History > Europe > Germany #3522 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources

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As Germany's gateway to the world, Hamburg is a cosmopolitan city, whose culture has been shaped by those passing through as much as by those who stayed. Matthew Jefferies explores a city-state boasting the highest per capita GDP in Germany, but where ostentatious displays of wealth are shunned; a place synonymous with fast food and beer, in which fine dining and luxury shopping abound; a city without palaces, castles or cathedrals, yet bursting with monuments and memorials. With nearly eight million visitors each year, Hamburg is fast becoming one of Europe's most popular city-break destinations: it is a city well worth getting to know.

Matthew Jefferies is Professor of German History at the University of Manchester. His books include *Imperial Culture in Germany* (2003) and *Contesting the German Empire* (2007). He has taught at the Northern Institute of Technology, Hamburg-Harburg, and been a student and visiting fellow at the University of Hamburg.

Great for an introduction to one of Europe's most beautiful yet forgotten cities.

A must-read for anyone visiting the city or interested in Northern Germany's history

A very insightful and enjoyable guide to the great port city on the Elbe. Definitely recommended for anyone thinking of visiting Hamburg.

great addition to my library

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