



Official Press Release of the
German National Tourist Press Office

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Hamburg Opens Emigration Museum on July 4th!

Hamburg was the starting point for millions of Americans; a special package with a five star hotel promotes a thrilling journey into the past

On the fourth of July, a new emigration museum in Hamburg opens its doors: the BallinStadt museum. In the period from 1850 to 1939 the port of Hamburg was the gateway to a new world and a better life in a far-off country for five million people from all over Europe. Inspired by dreams, hopes and vivid emotions, the emigrants boarded the ships that would take them across the ocean to America, the unknown country where they were hoping to find their fortunes and build new, better lives for themselves.

Albert Ballin, the general manager of the major German shipping company HAPAG, built mass accommodation at the port for the many thousands of people who were arriving in Hamburg every week to wait for the departure of their ships at the turn of the twentieth century. The site of these former "emigrants' halls", which opened in 1901 and were continually expanded until 1907, is the location of Hamburg's Emigrant World. The Hanseatic city of Hamburg is proud to be bringing this place and its stories back to life - stories of people who are the ancestors of more than 42 million Americans living in the US today.

Three of BallinStadt's buildings with living and sleeping quarters have been reconstructed in their original form. Here, all the phases of emigration, from leaving home, crossing the Atlantic to the arrival in New York and the beginning of a new life are presented in an engaging, interactive form. In addition, the genealogy section enables visitors to research the emigration history of their ancestors, based on original passenger lists from 1850 to 1934 and the world's most comprehensive genealogical database, featuring more than 600 million entries. The exhibit will be bilingual, in German as well as English. www.ballinstadt.de

For visitors planning to take this highly emotional trip back to the era of emigration, Hamburg Tourismus GmbH (HHT) offers an exceptional travel package that combines a visit to Hamburg's Emigrant World with superior accommodation.

The attractive offer comprises two nights including breakfast at the exclusive 5-star Park Hyatt hotel in the historic "Levantehaus" (a former merchant's office building) on the famous Mönckebergstrasse shopping boulevard, along with admission to BallinStadt museum, a harbour tour and the Hamburg Card for free travel on public transport. Also included is a special pamper package provided by the hotel which consists of a five-course meal with wines at the hotel's Apples restaurant, free use of the 1,000 m2 Olympus fitness & spa area with pool and exercise classes such as yoga or Pilates, and a welcome gift from the hotel.

The Park Hyatt Hotel with its modern yet historical atmosphere is just the right base for discovering the unique exhibitions at BallinStadt and to enjoy the rich and varied experience of the city of Hamburg. The attractive package "Port of Dreams - Tanker, Tränen, Träume" costs €279.00 per person sharing a double room. Booking facilities are available on tel.: +49 (0)40 3005 1800 or on the internet at www.hamburg-travel.de.

For more information on touristic Hamburg please check www.cometogermany.com and www.hamburg-tourism.de.

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