

Ganderkeseer, state-approved recovery and relaxation area in the Wildeshauser Geest, offers you everything you could wish for during a perfect holiday or a short stay.

Enjoy the beautiful nature!

In an ever-changing scenery and far from all "City smells", surrounded by fascinating forests, Geest (sandy heath-land typical of North Germany), moors and marshes, you can relax to your heart's content, breathe in fresh air and "listen" to the quiet.



A special highlight is the 630 hectare (1 557 acre) Hasbruch Wood with its primeval forest. About 20 km of sign-posted hiking-paths lead you to the wood's greatest treasures, among them the more than 1 000 year old oak trees.

Rare plants, imposing trees and a variety of birds can be found here. Take a deep breath, forget everyday stress and have a rest at one of the small lakes in the forest.



You would like to know more about nature's secrets? Then you should also visit the 96 hectare (237 acre) Stenumer Wood with its educational hiking-paths.

Discover and enjoy the countryside. There are about 20 wonderful sign-posted walking and cycling tours on offer, mainly far away from major roads and suitable for families. Rent a bike? Numerous hotels arrange this service for you. And if you get hungry or thirsty on your way, you can be sure, the next pub or restaurant won't be far away. Why not stop at a so-called Melkhus, a farm which offers all sorts of fresh dairy products, and treat yourself to a special milk-shake or ice-cream?



And while we are just talking about food and drink, let's not forget to mention two regional specialities: From the beginning of May till the end of June you should try the delicious asparagus, for example with ham and potatoes. And in late autumn or winter the curly kale with Pinkel, a sausage typical of North Germany, is a must. You will love it.

Stones and churches tell their story

The huge gravestones in Stenum and Steinkimmen, dating back to the Stone Age, are well worth visiting for their historical value. Discoveries prove that the Ganderkesee area has been settled since this time. Would you like to know more about this fascinating period of mankind? Then the 330 km "Route of the Megalith Culture" from Osnabrück via Meppen and Ganderkesee to Oldenburg is something you definitely should not miss.



Ganderkesee (originally called "Gandrikesarde") was first mentioned in documents in the year 860. According to a legend the town was named after a gander which flew blindfolded in order to determine the position of the church. The church was founded in 1052 by Archbishop Adalbert of Bremen as the first stone-built church between the rivers Weser and Hunte. The Church of St. Cyprian and Cornelius was rebuilt several times during the following centuries. The oldest parts of today's church, the tower and the entrance, date back to the 12th Century. The church is widely



known for its magnificently decorated organ, built in 1699 by the famous organ builder Arp Schnitger with approximately 1 000 pipes. Would you like to listen to them? Visit one of the impressive concerts.

Also worth visiting is the most beautiful village church in the area, the 14th Century pilgrim church of "St. Katharinen" in Schönemoor. It is one of the cultural monuments of Lower Saxony.



You are interested in a more personal view of Ganderkesee's history? Then have a look at Maggie Blanck's homepage. Families whose ancestors emigrated from our town to the United States of America tell their stories here: www.maggielblank.com/JPetermann/Ganderkesee.html.

Tours in and around town



If you don't want to discover the town on your own, then join one of the guided tours. You can choose, for example, from the following offers:

- ✚ A walking-tour through the Hasbruch Wood
- ✚ Mill-stories from the region
- ✚ The different landscapes of Ganderkesee

And you can also book an individual tour. Just let the guides know in advance what you are especially interested in.

There is always something going on

Did you know that Ganderkesee is one of the very few North German carnival strongholds? It all started in 1952 and made the town very popular, attracting up to 50 000 people every year.

Further attractions include the spring-festival, the farmers' market in September and the autumn market with a big



flea market in the town centre as well as the Gantertach in November. And in between a variety of cultural events provide fun and entertainment: comedy-shows, concerts, exhibitions and literary evenings. Take a look at the programme of the KulturHaus Müller or the event calendar ("Veranstaltungskalender") at www.ganderkesee.de. Furthermore, Oldenburg and Bremen with their rich diversity of theatres and museums are both less than half an hour's drive away.



More than just sports



Whether you like to watch an equestrian competition or whether you prefer to be on horseback yourself, Ganderkesee offers you a wide range of opportunities. The popular tournament on Whit weekend attracts many visitors every year. And many kilometers of bridle-paths, riding-grounds and meadows delight both riders and horses.

But it is not only riding that Ganderkesee is famous for, but also for its aviation facilities. Parachuting, gliding, flying or just going up in a hot-air

balloon – you can learn or practice all of these sports here and enjoy a wonderful view of Ganderkesee from above. Maybe you also see the lake in Hohenböken from the sky or the lido with its 60 m long slide, a big hit with children.

How about diving into the 24°C constantly heated water or a visit to our newly opened (February 2012) sauna ("SaunaHuus") with five different sauna types, among them a herbal sauna?

Of course you can also play tennis or skittles, go fishing or skating in Ganderkesee. And the nearest golf-course and climbing-park are only a stone's throw away.



Easy to reach



Ganderkesee is situated on the "Green Coastal Road", one of the longest holiday routes in Europe. With direct motorway links (A28) to Bremen and Oldenburg it is easy to reach. It is also easily accessible by train and plane (the airport in Ganderkesee has a class 2 runway).



If you like to know more about Ganderkesee, accommodation, hiking and cycling routes, cultural attractions and events, please contact us.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

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Have a wonderful time in Ganderkesee!