



# Journal

For the guests and friends of Maritim Hotels

A walk in  
the park

A break from sightseeing

The magic of  
the old town

Journey back in time through  
picturesque alleyways

COVER STORY

Secret stars

A soft spot for meerkats



# Passion meets lust for life

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ESPRESSO

# Dear Readers,

**S**ome people relish the cooler times of year. However, I would bet that far more of us prefer the warm seasons, when the sun is shining, encouraging us to enjoy a wide array of outdoor activities. Our hotels are set up for this, with terraces and beer gardens offering plenty of open-air enjoyment and relaxation, so make the very most of it!



Following a successful anniversary year in 2019, during which we celebrated 50 years of Maritim Hotels with a number of fantastic promotions, our next half-century is off to a flying start. First and foremost, there is great news for our many guests who like to spend their holidays on the paradise island of Mauritius. Our popular 5-star hotel, the Maritim Resort & Spa Mauritius, is currently undergoing extensive extension and refurbishment work. This will ensure that you can indulge in even more luxury on this beautiful island with its wealth of opportunities for relaxation, exploration and sport. You will be amazed!

“Our next half-century is off to a flying start”

This edition of our customer magazine covers all the latest news about Maritim Hotels, so get browsing! It is worth taking a look because the magazine contains a whole host of useful tips and inspiration for planning your next trip or holiday. We hope you enjoy reading it!

**Erik van Kessel**

Chief Operating Officer of Maritim Hotel Company

CHECK IN AND  
ENJOY YOUR  
STAY



WITH LORENZ SNACKS

TREAT WHERE YOU LIKE IT:  
LORENZ SNACKS ARE SERVED AT  
THE BAR OR IN YOUR ROOM.



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A visit to the zoo is a treat for adults and children alike. Nowhere else can you get up close and personal with such a varied array of creatures large and small, observing their behaviour and taking photos. The comical meerkats are happy to oblige. It is always lively in their enclosure. Maritim guests have the chance to fall in love with them at several hotel locations.

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# » guests



## // BRAUNLAGE

The Maritim Berghotel Braunlage played host to some strong men: famous boxers competed in a total of nine matches at the “Marco Huck Fight Night” event. The WBC Asia Continental cruiserweight title was won by boxer **Armenak Hovhannisyán** from Hildesheim (right) against component Viktor Poliakov from Ukraine. Artur Reis, Rusto Kraft and Tommy Punch also took to the ring. There was a great atmosphere in the Saal Maritim, where the 600-strong sell-out crowd cheered the competitors on.

## // COLOGNE

He is a footballing legend. And **Felix Magath** also proved his cycling credentials during the 36th Tour der Hoffnung charity bike ride. At the stopover at the Maritim Hotel Köln (Cologne), Magath was happy to be photographed with F&B Manager André Kreuzmann. The committed sportsman was pedalling for a good cause alongside 250 competitors, including many other famous faces. Over the four-day event, donations topped 2.4 million euros.



Four star chefs lent their culinary support to a gala dinner in aid of children’s relief fund Unicef which was held at the Maritim Hotel Köln (Cologne). One hundred guests enjoyed a lavish 4-course meal and were generous in their thanks, donating more than 20,000 euros over the course of the night to the great delight of (from left) Unicef ambassador **Nina Ruge**, star chef **Dieter Müller**, presenter **Herbert Klein**, TV chef **Björn Freitag**, Germany’s youngest star chef **Julia Komp** and star chef **Hans Stefan Steinheuer**, picture in the Restaurant Bellevue.

## //TIMMENDORFER STRAND

Before setting out on a nationwide tour, the most popular talent from the “Voice of Germany” took advantage of the big stage at the Maritim Seehotel Timmendorfer Strand to perform together for the first time. The public dress rehearsal gave the up-and-coming artists from the TV talent show the opportunity to perfect their performance, as well as giving fans the chance to get closer to the stars. The photo was taken during a break in rehearsals and features (from right) Lucas Rieger, Erwin Kintop, Claudia Emmanuela Santos, Executive Assistant Manager Manja Brandt, General Manager Jochen H. Stop, Mariel Kirschall, Freschta Akbarzada and Fidi Steinbeck.



## //MUNICH

A Prussian in a Bavarian dirndl? That's right! In fact, German politician **Franziska Giffey** was on her way to the Oktoberfest. Front Office Manager Axel Winzenhöler, likewise in traditional attire, welcomed the Minister for Family Affairs to the Maritim Hotel München (Munich).



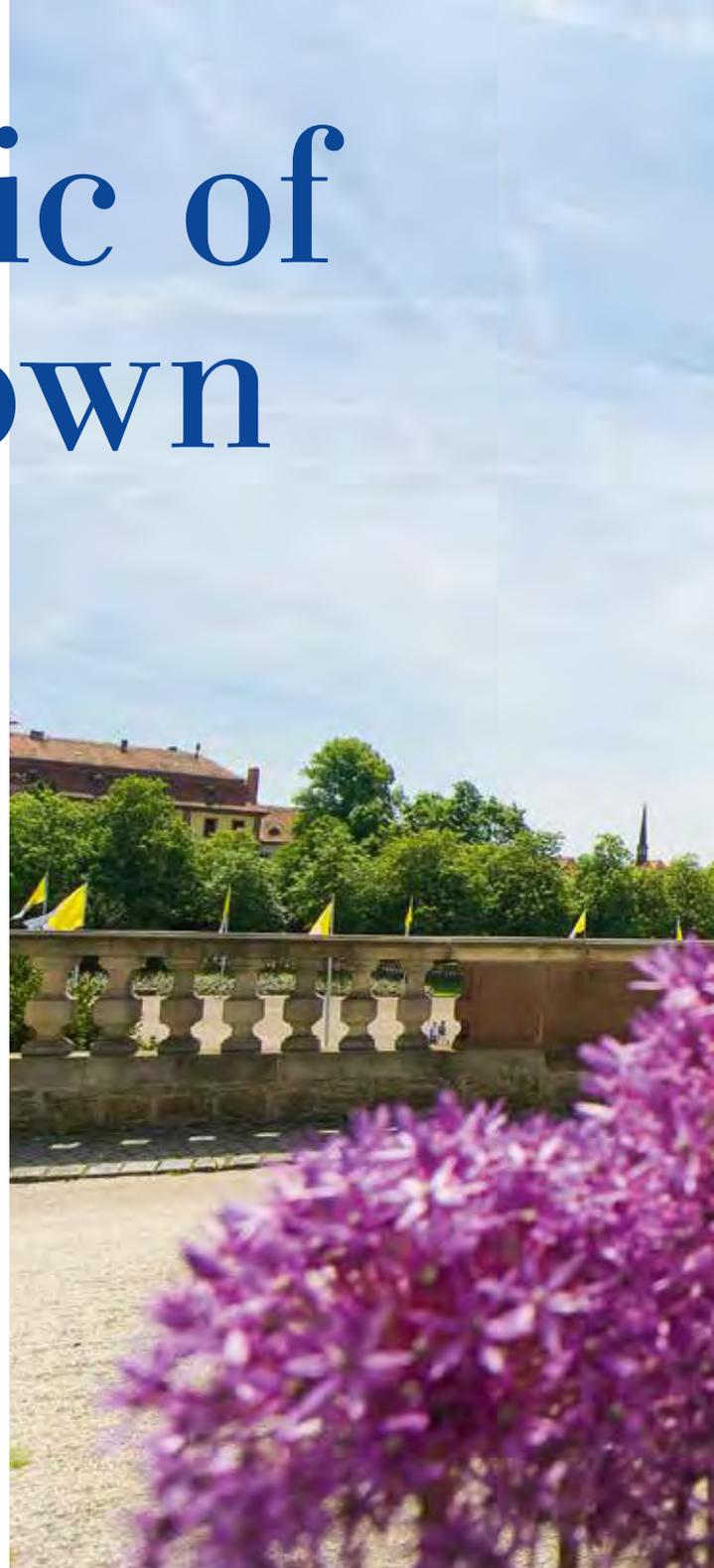
## //BERLIN

The opening bars of his biggest hits are so catchy that (almost) everyone knows them: **Lauv** stormed the worldwide charts with “I like me better”. While touring Europe, the successful US musician stayed at the Maritim Hotel Berlin. General Manager Chris Jung (right) and his team described him as “a really nice guy”! His stage name is from the Latvian for “lion”.

# The magic of the old town

On a city break, the historic centre is often your first port of call. Highly ornate, pastel-coloured façades, crooked half-timber framed buildings, weather-beaten monuments – places oozing with history are simply enchanting. Maritim Hotels, such as the one in Fulda, make an ideal base for your trip. Your journey back in time will start with breakfast in the original historic Apollo hall with its exceptional view of the palace garden.

People stroll through the city centre’s narrow streets, wandering past handsome residences and office buildings. Cafes are the perfect place to stop and relax, while all the little shops tempt you in to browse. It is a leisurely Saturday morning in the centre of Fulda. The smell of fresh bread and cakes fills the air, while the sound of church bells rings out from somewhere nearby. The city tour starts here on Bonifatiusplatz in the middle of the baroque district. “The Boni is the most popular place to meet,” explains guide Nicole Hampel. “St. Boniface, who founded the city in 744, is ubiquitous here in Fulda.” It’s true; the green man at the city’s pedestrian crossings even looks like him. Once you have crossed the street, the city’s landmark cathedral towers overhead. Groups of tourists gather in front of it, listening to accounts of its history. Again and again, the heavy wooden door opens to allow inquisitive tourists see inside the baroque building. Nicole Hamper encourages them to do so, as the cathedral is considered to be one of the most significant baroque churches in Hesse. The city palace, with its picturesque gardens, is located directly opposite. The gothic gardens were created in the 18th century and took their inspiration from the palace gardens found commonly at that time in France, with their impressive terraces, stairways, fountains and extensive lawns.



Surviving the centuries: Fulda Cathedral.

The tour moves on to the former heart of the city. And here we finally encounter the narrow alleys with their fascinating crooked little houses adorned with opulent stucco, red sandstone or timber-framed exteriors. This area is still home to traditional artisans, as well as hidden inner courtyards. Fulda’s old town, which dates back to the Middle Ages, has lived through harsh times. The witch tower, which formed part of the protective city walls, is one of its mediaeval buildings. “At that time, the weavers were based on Canal Street. Theirs was the city’s richest guild and the only one tolerated by the authorities,” explains the guide. A large dwelling with its half-timbered frame and red window frames is preserved to this day. How many children grew up inside its walls, what



Narrow streets, elaborate detail: Bremen.

were their lives like, what were their dreams? “A building such has many a tale to tell,” says Nicole Hampel.

As our tour finishes, her next group is already waiting. The hours have also ticked by at the Maritim Hotel. It is now time for a cappuccino with plenty of froth outside on the terrace. This is part of the palace gardens and provides a fabulous view of the baroque estate. Just time for another quick selfie for friends back home. Fulda’s old town definitely comes highly recommended.

*Miriam Gartlgruber*

Maritim Journal | Spring/Summer 2020



## › *From the Middle Ages to the Baroque Period*

In **Fulda**, tour guides impart a wealth of knowledge about the city's baroque attractions, historic buildings and streets, gardens, museums and art treasures. Tourists can choose from one or two-hour tours with a range of different themes. Tours for families with children bring information about the city to life in a fun and lively manner. Visitors who prefer to discover the baroque city under their own steam can use an audio guide. Meet: Tourist Information, Bonifatiusplatz 1, a 6-minute walk from the Maritim Hotel am Schlossgarten Fulda via the Pauluspromenade. [www.tourismus-fulda.de](http://www.tourismus-fulda.de)



## › *Where the fishermen lived*

**Bremen's** Schnoorviertel district invites visitors to stroll through a former fishing area, which is also the oldest part of the Hanseatic city. The narrow streets are lined with listed half-timbered houses, artisan workshops and restaurants. Its close proximity to the River Weser just adds to the appeal of the "Schnoor". The area's name derives from the low-German word for "line" and points to the craft of the rope-maker, which visitors can find out more about on a tour. Meet: in front of St Johann's Church, Klosterkirchenstrasse 2, a 16-minute journey by tram and a short walk from the Maritim Hotel Bremen. [www.bremen-tourism.de](http://www.bremen-tourism.de)



Built in 1500: the old town hall.

## › *Harking back to the Hanseatic League*

Historic merchants' residences, red-brick Gothic churches, the Holsten Gate and the picturesque backdrop of the old town with its seven towers: There is plenty of history on offer in **Luebeck**, once known as the "queen of the Hanseatic towns". Twisting alleyways wend their way through the old town, the largest UNESCO World Heritage site, which is surrounded by water. The comprehensive "Rundum-Führung" tour is an ideal way to discover the attractions and sights of the city. Meet: Tourist Information at Holstentorplatz 1, a 30-minute drive from the Maritim Strandhotel Travemünde. [www.luebeck-tourism.de](http://www.luebeck-tourism.de)

The streets here are known as passageways.





A former workshop, now a cafe.

### › *A new look for the old town*

**Frankfurt am Main** provides a special type of “old-town” experience. The city’s attractive city centre was completely destroyed during the Second World War, before being reconstructed over a six-year period. This means that the “new Frankfurt old town”, located between the cathedral and the Römer building, is not actually historic at all. However, this does not detract in the slightest from its appeal – quite the opposite, in fact. The elaborate designs of the town houses, the recreated streets and the archaeological garden are real magnets for tourists and guided tours really bring the history to life. Meet: Tourist Information Römer, Römerberg 27, 13 minutes by tram and underground from the Maritim Hotel Frankfurt.

[www.frankfurt-tourismus.de/en](http://www.frankfurt-tourismus.de/en)



New: the House of the Golden Scales.

### › *Wealth built on salt*

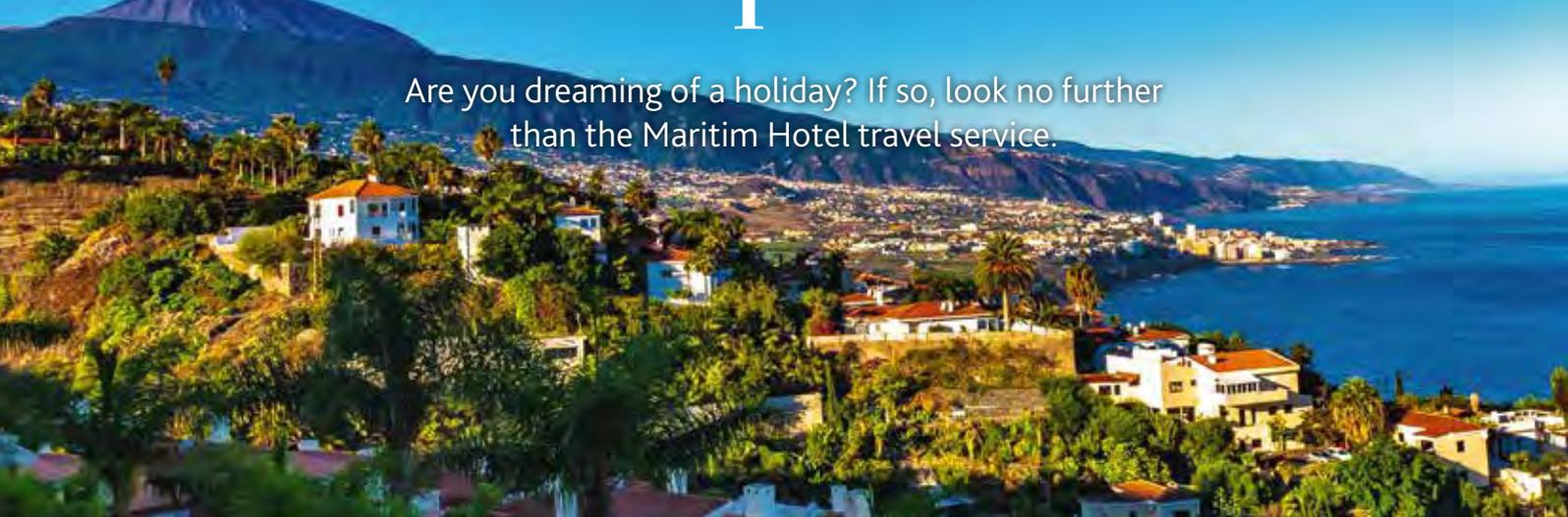
One of the first places in Germany to extract salt, the spa town of **Bad Salzufflen** attained great wealth during the 16th century. Splendid half-timbered, gabled buildings, renaissance-style stone structures and numerous villas and spa houses are testament to this affluence. To preserve the beauty of bygone days, many of the buildings have been restored. These days, many people come to reap the benefits of inhaling saline air in the modern salt works experience. There is a regular programme of guided tours of the old town. Meet: Spa guests’ centre at the thermal baths, Parkstrasse 20, just 1 minute by foot from the Maritim Hotel Bad Salzufflen. [www.stadt-bad-salzufflen.de](http://www.stadt-bad-salzufflen.de)



Breathe deeply at the salt works.

# The travel professionals

Are you dreaming of a holiday? If so, look no further than the Maritim Hotel travel service.



A favourite of Maritim customers: Tenerife in the Canaries.

## Maritim Online

Our latest travel deals are also always online at [www.maritim.com](http://www.maritim.com) and [www.maritim-reisedienst.de](http://www.maritim-reisedienst.de) (German only). Select your preferences from the headings, such as "Experience Germany", "Active and golf" or "Holidays with children".



Expert advice (from left): Sandra Spatz, Anja Jung, Klaus Weber, Annette Eidmann, Kelly-Céline Binczyk, Isabell Rösch and Elke Wiefelspütz (not pictured).

**K**laus Weber bids his customer a friendly good-bye and ends the call. He is pleased. "I have just been able to fulfil another special request," says the travel specialist. "What was it?" his colleagues ask the only man in their team. "The guest wanted his wife to receive a bunch of flowers when they arrive at the hotel, as she will be celebrating her birthday on their arrival date." Klaus Weber can arrange this very easily. And he knows that Maritim Hotel travel service customers appreciate the service they receive. His colleagues nod in agreement.

Although all the spaces are occupied in the open-plan office at the back of the Maritim Hotel Darmstadt, there is a pleasant calmness about the place. The specialist travel agents use headsets and computers to speak with their customers, who they never actually meet "in the flesh".

### An all-in-one service

The office receives calls and e-mails from customers throughout Germany who wish to book a holiday in one of Maritim's foreign hotels. The travel

service sources flights, arranges transfers and ensures that guests enjoy their holiday to the full at the destination of their choice. In addition to foreign trips, an increasing number of Maritim package holidays in Germany are now booked through the travel service.

"We want to provide all-round customer satisfaction," says Product Manager Sandra Spatz, explaining the philosophy of the team, which is based in one small office. The seven travel agents clearly have the Midas touch, because many customers are regular guests who have

entrusted their holiday requirements to the office in Darmstadt over many years. While the focus is naturally on what Maritim Hotels can offer, the agents are also able to deal with other requests that are frequently made of them. “In principle, as a travel centre offering the full range of services, we can make any trip a reality,” says Sandra Spatz. The agency’s work is not limited to booking services and arranging ready-made holiday packages. Instead, the team also puts together trips using a range of different catalogues.

“Musical packages with accommodation at Maritim Hotels are very popular,” reports Sandra Spatz. The same is true of theme parks and cruises.

And because river cruises are doing particularly well, the travel service is now venturing into the field of ship chartering for the first time. The Rhine-Main cruise aboard the “Oscar Wilde”, which sets sail from Cologne on 16th March 2020, returning on 21st March 2020, will be exclusively enjoyed by Maritim guests.

These travel specialist are never short of

innovative ideas and are brave enough to make them a reality. In the medium term, the team intends to further expand their range of holidays to include more long-haul trips and a greater number of warm-water destinations in the Mediterranean. We can’t wait to see how things develop.

*Claudia Ehry*

The service of Maritim Hotel-Reisedienst is only available in German-Speaking countries.





## // HERINGSDORF, USEDOM ISLAND

### The cinema in the historic Kaiserbädtersaal

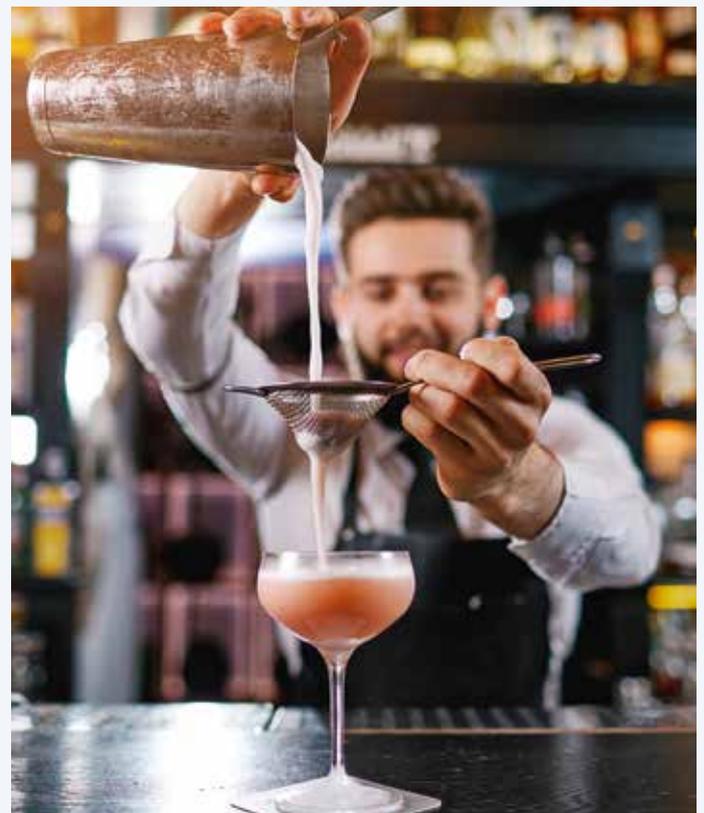
is a treat for cinema fans and guests of the **Maritim Hotel Kaiserhof** in Heringsdorf. The elegant hall, which is managed by Maritim and adjoins the hotel building, has been updated and now boasts state-of-the-art technology. Films are shown every Tuesday throughout the year, offering an outstanding cultural programme of non-mainstream releases. Tickets are available from the hotel reception and at the entrance to the hall. To complement the year-round schedule, the organisers also offer family screenings during July and August, with a **programme of children's films** that changes on a weekly basis. When you buy a ticket you are also supporting **a good cause**, because all profits go to the charitable organisation "Leben ohne Lepra" (Life without Leprosy). 2,500 euros has been donated to date.

## // MARITIM

### On YouTube,

you can take a closer look at the world of Maritim Hotels.

Before guests embark on their holidays, they can watch videos to find out more about their chosen hotel and, when they return, they can take a final nostalgic look back on their time away. The short films showcase the Maritim Hotels in Cologne, Dusseldorf, Ulm and Frankfurt. There are also videos featuring **useful tips** for keen amateur chefs, covering the professional way to carve a turkey, creating delicious dishes with herbs and home-made sushi. There is an amusing video about the things that guests are most likely to leave at our hotels, while school leavers can find out more about **training and career opportunities** in the hotel industry. The videos are accompanied by the new Maritim blog that gives practical insights into a range of different topics, including climate-neutral travel, street food in Munich and planning the perfect wedding. Feel free to browse: [www.maritim.de/de/blog](http://www.maritim.de/de/blog) (Information in German only).





## // BRAUNLAGE

**The perfect rumba, tango or Viennese waltz.** When they stay at the **Maritim Berghotel Braunlage** at Whitsun or during the summer, ballroom fans will get the chance to experience a top-class dancing contest. During the event, hundreds of couples from across Germany will take to the floor in the ornate ballroom, all competing for the sought-after trophy. In the preceding days, they will have undergone intensive training under the watchful eyes of Gerwin and Betty Biedermann, two of Germany's most accomplished dance instructors. Alongside the exciting competitions, there will also be stalls selling clothing, shoes and jewellery, giving guests ample opportunity to enjoy the glitz and glamour of the ballroom-dancing scene. Dates: 30th May until 1st June, and 22nd and 23rd August 2020.

## // GERMANY

**For a comfortable night's sleep,** Maritim chooses box-spring beds. The beds across many of the group's German hotels have now been replaced. This photo shows the **Maritim Hotel am Schlossgarten Fulda** taking delivery of the comfortable new bedroom furniture. In contrast to conventional designs, box-spring beds have a sprung base rather than the usual slatted frame, which gives the impression of two mattresses on top of each other. This large-scale investment, which includes new duvets, pillows and bed linen, is in response to a survey of customers that revealed the importance of a good night's sleep for Maritim's guests.



## // BERLIN

**Sunday brunch with a difference** is the thinking behind the **Maritim Hotel Berlin's** novel concept that launched in the new year. Guests are invited to join the hotel on **a culinary tour of Germany**. Regional specialities from five different German states will be showcased over the course of the year. During March and April, the restaurant will play host to **Baden-Wuerttemberg**. Guests can expect spaetzle and maultaschen to feature among the Swabian delicacies on offer. Guests will then explore the gastronomic delights of the local region in May and June, when typical dishes from the **Berlin and Brandenburg** areas set the tone for the generous buffet. The tour continues in September and October, with weißwurst, ham hock and a range of other **Bavarian specialities** on the menu, before the culinary adventure draws to a close in Germany's most easterly state, **Saxony**, in November and December. Festive Dresden stollen will certainly be on the dessert menu then. During the summer months, there will be a temporary halt to all the travelling, to allow the popular BBQ brunch to resume in Restaurant M and on the hotel's summer terrace in July and August.

# Pushing the boundaries of luxury

Can you improve upon luxury? Yes, you can. As Maritim is demonstrating at present in the Indian Ocean. Substantial investment is being ploughed into the flagship foreign hotel, the Maritim Resort & Spa Mauritius.



Dreams become reality.

**T**he current hotel development project is undoubtedly of little interest to the giant turtles, which are as much a part of the hotel complex as the alabaster-white sands and turquoise sea that surround it. Over the many decades, encased in their enormous shells, they have already seen so much, and they are laid-back creatures by nature. As they slowly crawl, exploring the terrain or retracting their heads to take a nap, they seem mightily unperturbed. It is a different story for the guests who have grown to love the

Maritim Resort & Spa Mauritius on the west of the island and are longing to return. Unfortunately, they will have to wait a few months until their dream hotel is ready to welcome them back, due to the extensive renovation and extension work currently underway at the 5-star establishment at romantic Turtle Bay. “We want our guests to enjoy even more luxury,” is the message from Maritim head office. One consolation is that the hotel will reopen on 1 December 2020 in time for the start of the peak tourist season. Holidays

beginning on or after that date can of course be booked now. Holidaymakers who are determined to visit Mauritius before then can instead opt for Maritim’s second Mauritian hotel, the delightful Maritim Crystals Beach on the east coast.

In the meantime, the building works are well underway at Turtle Bay. An entirely new hotel building, with an ideal layout for families, is now taking shape adjacent to the Citron River. The 60 rooms are a minimum of 55 square metres and are designed to accommodate

A 5-star entrance: the lobby at the Maritim Resort & Spa Mauritius.



Tempting: the dessert buffet at "Château Mon Désir".



two adults and two children in comfort. The family-friendly vibe is enhanced by an infinity pool at the front of the hotel, as well as a kids' club, where the little ones will be in very good hands. Maritim has already successfully completed another investment project on the island. The stunning culinary hub, comprising restaurant, two bars and a meeting room, officially opened at the end of last year. It was built in the ruins of Balaclava, a national monument which was formerly a powder mill built in the 18th century. The "Anno 1743" brasserie, which can accommodate up to 300 diners, now

occupies the space which once produced the gunpowder deployed by the French colonial rulers to defend the beautiful island from attack. Regional specialities are served in a stylish, con-

### "The Distillery" is home to the island's largest rum collection.

temporary atmosphere. (For more elegant occasions, the gourmet restaurant "Château Mon Désir" is an ideal alternative.) The restaurant is also home to "The Distillery"; the bar that boasts the island's largest rum collection. A second

bar, "The Nest", is situated on the roof of the brasserie. You should definitely pay a visit to soak up the idyllic scenery while enjoying a cocktail, long drink or freshly pulled beer. As you survey the ruins and your tropical surroundings, it seems apt to consider the meaning of the word "luxury". One thing is certain: luxury is being redefined by Maritim on Mauritius. And none of us, except perhaps the turtles, can wait to see the result.

*Claudia Ehry*

## The paradise island in the Indian Ocean

### » Mauritius

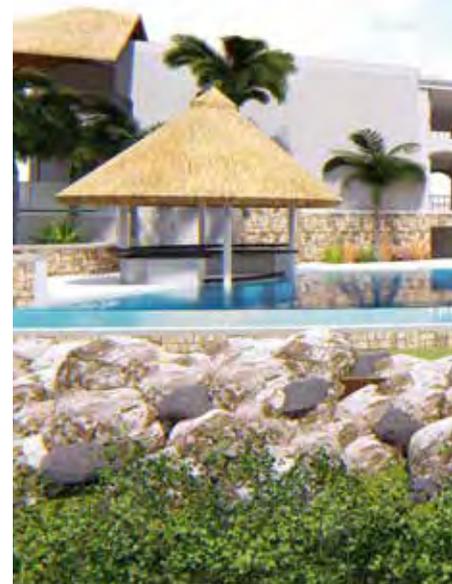
The island nation of Mauritius gained its independence from the UK in 1968. The country consists of several islands situated in the south-west of the Indian Ocean, the principal island of which is Mauritius. With an area of 2,040 square metres, Mauritius is the same size as the German Saarland, but with 1.3 million islanders, it has around a third more inhabitants. The flight from Frankfurt to the capital Port Louis takes 11 hours and 20 minutes and covers 9,168 kilometres. English and French are the two main languages guests will need during their stay.

### » The Maritim Crystals Beach Hotel

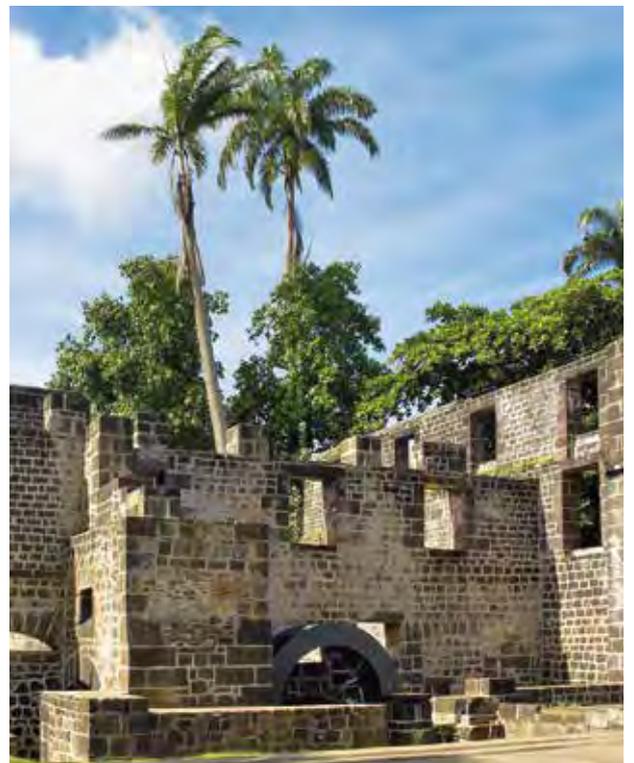
Maritim's second Mauritian hotel is located next to one of the island's most beautiful beaches, the famous white sands of Palmar/Belle Mare. With its glorious surroundings, this hotel is ideal for beach holidays and is particularly suitable for families. Pedalos, canoes and stand-up paddle boards can be borrowed free of charge from the hotel's water sports centre. The kids' club (ages three and over) is open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Key details: 181 rooms and suites across ten buildings, one main restaurant, three à la carte restaurants, two bars, tropical gardens with two heated swimming pools, jacuzzi and a children's pool.



Surrounded by beauty: step straight from your room into a tropical garden.



Contemporary style within historical walls: the brasserie "Anno 1743".



Above: The ruins of Balaclava create a unique backdrop. Left: The new wing features an infinity pool.

# »tips

Summer, sun, adventure – why not experience something extraordinary this year? Maritim Hotels in Germany have some great ideas for you and your family. Take in the view from the rooftops of Munich and Ulm or dare to join the witches in the Harz mountains. Our attractive packages will help you make up your mind.



## // MUNICH

### Where the fancy takes you

A **weekend of discovery!** When you take advantage of the “Mobile Munich” offer, you will receive a cold beer on arrival, two nights’ accommodation including Maritim’s signature breakfast buffet and the CityTourCard, giving you free access to all public transport so that you can explore the city at your leisure. You will also enjoy discounts at many tourist attractions and a wealth of cultural events and restaurants. Take a ride on the **giant “Hi-Sky” wheel** or a **tour above the Olympic Stadium’s canopy roof**. Visit Valentin-Karlstadt-Musäum, Bavaria Filmstadt or the Munich Residence. Do you prefer the theatre or sitting in a cosy Bavarian tavern of an evening? The choice is yours! **Price:** from 192 euros per adult, no single room supplement. The offer is available every weekend throughout 2020. Book online at [www.maritim.de](http://www.maritim.de), phone +49 (0)89 55235-680 or E-mail [reservierung.mun@maritim.de](mailto:reservierung.mun@maritim.de).

## // GERMANY

### New discoveries with a smile on your face

**SmileOn** is the name of a new **exclusive online** Maritim offer. On the Baltic coast, in the Black Forest or in a trendy capital – choose from **32 hotels** in Germany and receive a discount when you book two nights’ accommodation, including Maritim’s signature breakfast buffet, a welcome cocktail and an evening meal on a half-board basis. That’s already a good start! What’s more, you can plan your trip to suit your individual requirements. Prices vary on a daily basis and depending on the selected hotel. Try it out and discover your favourite hotel! For more information: [www.maritim.com/en/smile-on](http://www.maritim.com/en/smile-on).





## // BRAUNLAGE

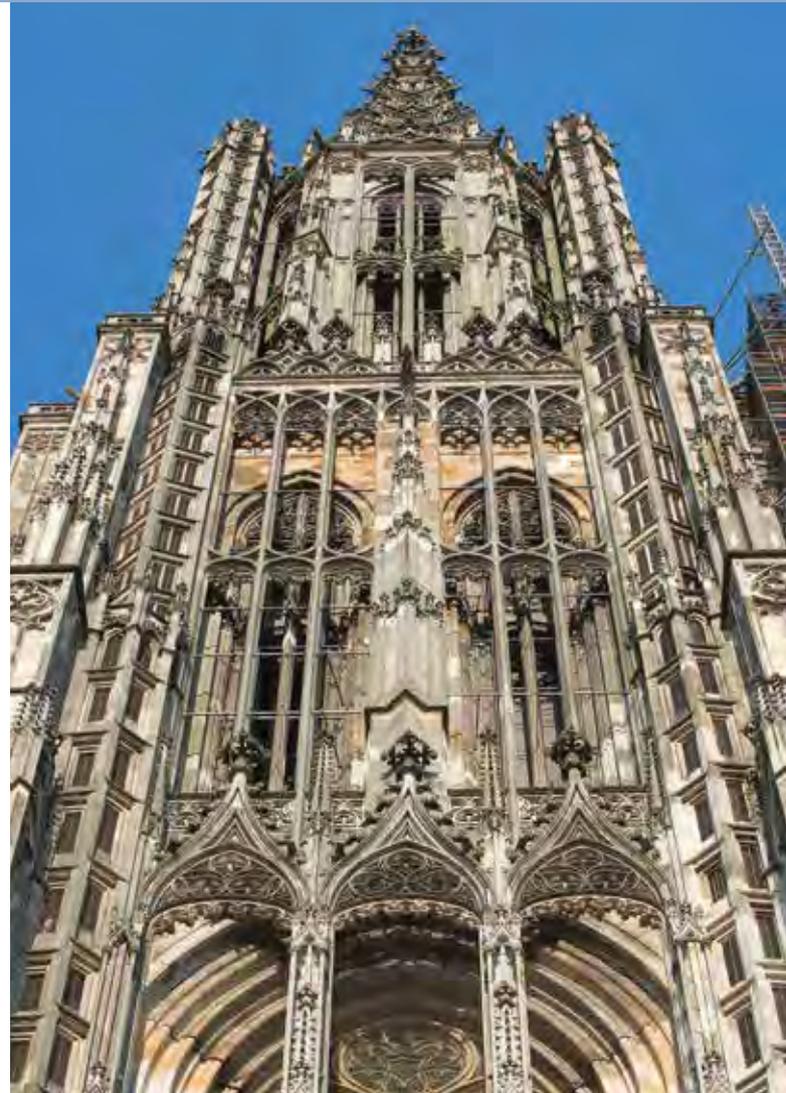
### A grisly spectacle

Things get lively in the Harz mountains on the night of 1st May. **Walpurgis Night** is also celebrated in Braunlage, where witches, devils and ghosts get up to mischief in the spa gardens. Take advantage of the offer from the Maritim Berghotel and get in on the action! It is valid from 28th April until 3rd May 2020 and is for a minimum of two nights. A limited number of rooms is available! **The discount** applies to stays of a minimum of four nights: 84 euros per person per night in a Classic double room. This also includes Maritim's signature breakfast buffet and an evening meal on a half-board basis. A "**Lady Blocksberg**" **welcome cocktail**, entry to the Walpurgis event on 30th April and a herbal liqueur from the Maritim stall are also included. If your children would like to join in the scary fun, the hotel is offering free face-painting. If you want to escape the hubbub and enjoy some me-time, you can enjoy a ten-percent discount on spa treatments at the hotel. Book now: Phone +49 (0)5520 805-351, E-mail [info.brl@maritim.de](mailto:info.brl@maritim.de).

## // ULM

### Family Time

Do your children know about Legoland Germany? It is just a short car ride away from the Maritim Hotel Ulm. In Ulm itself, there is plenty to interest youngsters, including the world's **tallest church tower**, though this one made out of real bricks! Can you make it up the 768 steps to the top? The hotel has a pool, as well as lots of space for playing, snuggling up and relaxing, in either a triple room or in a double with a small children's room. A family of four can book a double room with two queen-size beds or a **double room with a connecting door** (Superior category with surcharge). Every Sunday, there is a family buffet at the Ulmer Gulden restaurant, while the 16th-floor Café Panorama offers a spectacular view of the city. The **Family Time** package includes two nights' accommodation, including Maritim's signature breakfast buffet, a surprise gift for every child under 12, an evening meal and free cable and wifi Internet. **Prices:** from 149 euros per person in a double room, 20 euros per child (aged 7 to 12) or 40 euros per child (aged 13 to 18) (up to a maximum of two children). A second double room adjacent to the parents' room can be provided on request. Family Time can be booked throughout 2020. Phone +49 (0)731 923-1718 or E-mail: [reservierung.ulm@maritim.de](mailto:reservierung.ulm@maritim.de).





# A walk in the park

When you're away on a city break, parks can be a great place to take a breather, relax, recharge your batteries and simply enjoy nature. The combination of paths, grassland and waterways makes them ideal for walking, sport and exercise or an outing with the children. There are delightful green spaces close to many of Maritim's centrally located hotels.

Just breathe: a break from sightseeing.

**T**he park on the banks of the Neckar is a real oasis; full of life, yet wonderfully peaceful and, at 42 hectares, covering a huge area. Where to start? Just follow your nose! The paths are lined with ancient trees, while rare flowers and shrubs grow all around. There are vast lawned areas as far as the eye can see, with animal enclosures beyond and a range of sculptures on the other side. Those seeking peace and quiet will find it on the park's enchanting paths, which also open up a wealth of new perspectives. How you use this break from the daily grind is entirely up to you. Perhaps a leisurely stroll, taking in the silence, or maybe an opportunity to exercise your body as well as your mind.

A father and his children keep stopping to read the information

boards about the different plants and come across something at the edge of the path: colourful wooden figures depicting the life cycle of a butterfly. There is something for everyone at Luisenpark, a fact confirmed by Alexandra Wind from Mannheim's municipal parks' department, who says: "Families with children love the play areas and meeting the flamingos, pelicans and penguins, while older people enjoy the green spaces. Students can sit under the trees with their laptops, and when the weather is hot, businesspeople sometimes reschedule their meetings to a gondoletta boat! With space for nine people, could there be a better place to conduct a brainstorming session than gliding across the water?"

The best way to access the park is via the main Theodor Heuss

Anlage entrance, where an annual pass is not required for entry at weekends. "After the National Garden Exhibition in 1975, it was originally intended that visitors should continue to benefit from free admission to Luisenpark, whose present-day design dates back to that time," explains Alexandra Wind. "However, local people were keen for the high standards established to be maintained and were therefore willing to pay for admission." With exceptional vistas every few metres, the fresh air, the wind in your hair, it is easy to understand why people happily accept the admission charge; spending time in Luisenpark is like being on holiday. The Chinese garden further enhances this impression, whisking visitors away to the Far East with its authentic tea house, pond and stone bridge. The burbling fountain, brightly coloured lanterns and blossoming trees are a treat for the eyes and the ears. Needless to say, there is also tea. In fact, the menu offers more than 30 different varieties. A unique type of relaxation awaits in the sound oasis, which features sounds that mimic nature, specially composed by

the musician Peter Seiler. What will it be? Rolling thunder or chirping crickets? The choice is enormous. The loungers are a particularly comfortable spot from which to enjoy the auditory experience. So, lie back, open your ears and immerse yourself in sound. Noises fill the entire day: the twittering birds, the gabbling flamingos and the babbling mountain stream. It takes a few hours to explore the whole of Luisenpark. However, we could have happily stayed here longer. Time doesn't matter; breathing, enjoying and being at one with yourself are all that count.

*Miriam Gartlgruber*

The city's green lungs: Mannheim's Luisenpark.



# Into the green

## › *Luisenpark, Mannheim*

There is plenty of variety here, both in the park itself and the range of activities to try. Go on a guided nature walk, take part in a workshop in the medicinal herb garden or enjoy a day devoted to learning about flowers, ferns and grasses. During peak season between March and October, entry is 8 euros for adults and 4 euros for children. Address: Theodor Heuss Anlage 2, 25 minutes by foot or 15 minutes with the number 60 bus from the **Maritim Hotel Mannheim**.

## › *Bremen Buergerpark*

Along with the adjacent urban forest, the Buergerpark forms the largest continuous parkland area in the city. As well as enjoying all the nature on offer, you can also delve into the past: in 1866, the park was created as a traditional public garden with the support of the people of Bremen. With its waterways and lakes, sculptures, monuments and historic buildings, it remains one of Germany's most exceptional landscaped gardens today. The park can be explored by foot, bike or rowing boat. Address: Parkallee, directly opposite the **Maritim Hotel Bremen**.

## › *Hoppenlau Park, Stuttgart*

This mysterious place is full of history. Hoppenlau Park opened in 1626 as a cemetery and retained this function for more than 250 years. The historic burial site is now a peaceful park. There is something almost mystical about the weather-beaten gravestones and crosses dotted between the ancient trees, bushes and shrubs. There are also graves from a Jewish cemetery which was incorporated into the municipal cemetery at the time. Address: Rosenbergstrasse 7, directly behind the **Maritim Hotel Stuttgart**.

## › *Tiergarten, Berlin*

The Tiergarten developed over a period of more than 500 years and is now a protected heritage site. Visitors have been able to stroll along its idyllic paths, sit in the shadow of the old trees or enjoy the view of the fountains, bridges and lakes since the mid-18th century. The park's individual areas date back to different periods of history. Among the notable attractions are the baroque campsite, the waterways and lakes designed by landscape gardener Lenné and the rose garden which was planted during the Imperial Era. Address: Strasse des 17. Juni, 6 minutes by foot from the **Maritim Hotel Berlin**, 11 minutes from the **Maritim proArte Hotel Berlin**.

## › *Elbauenpark, Magdeburg*

A place of leisure, relaxation, culture and activity. There are many sides to the Elbauenpark, making it an ideal meeting place for people of all ages. The Jahrtausendturm (Millennium Tower), Germany's tallest wooden tower, is of particular note and a real highlight of the park. Cracauer Anger is also well worth a visit. This former military site now boasts appealing landscaped grounds and colourful themed gardens. Address: Tessenowstrasse 7, 15 minutes by tram from the **Maritim Hotel Magdeburg**.

## › *The Englischer Garten, Munich*

This is Europe's largest urban park and offers a wealth of interesting attractions to see. These include the lovely Chinese Tower, as well as the monopteros, a splendid circular building with columns, and the waterfall near the Eisbach Welle. The park is also a wonderful place to simply walk and relax, with the enchanting views of the surrounding spires and cupolas. Address: The Englischer Garten, a 4-minute journey by underground from the **Maritim Hotel München** (Munich) to the Odeonsplatz.

## › *The Municipal Garden, Gelsenkirchen*

When this garden opened near the old town in 1897, it was the first public green space in the city. To this day, visitors still enjoy strolling along its idyllic paths, taking in the charming surroundings, including herbaceous borders, meadows and lakes. The Zen-style Japanese garden with its sand and stones, and the educational garden which tells the story of flowering plants, are both well worth a visit. Address: Zeppelinallee 51, next to the **Maritim Hotel Gelsenkirchen**.



A lawn is a welcome resting place when you're visiting the capital.



Exploring Bremen Buergerpark by rowing boat.

Fresh air and curious sights in Elbauenpark.



# A feast for the eyes

SushiSho has been named Frankfurt's best Japanese restaurant several times by the popular restaurant guide "Frankfurt geht aus". Surely reason enough to pay a visit.

**I**t's Wednesday lunchtime. The first guests have started taking their seats in the comfortable tan leather armchairs at SushiSho, which is an integral part of the airy lobby of the Maritim Hotel at Frankfurt Exhibition Centre. The tables for four, situated beneath striking palm trees, gradually fill with couples and small groups of diners who are clearly here for a business or working lunch. For single diners, the individual spots at the bar are ideal as they give a perfect view of the busy chefs wielding their sharp knives to slice delicate fillets of fish into thin strips, combining them with other ingredients to make tasty sushi and maki.

The cabinet displays impressive, brightly coloured pieces of tuna, salmon, seabass, mackerel, yellow tail, octopus, eel and other species of fish, ranging from delicate white to vibrant orange. Only the puffer fish is missing. The Japanese love its delicious flavour, but parts of the fish are deadly to humans and specific knowledge is needed to prepare it.

"It is therefore banned in Germany," says sushi chef Kazuhiro Yasunaga, who hails from the huge Japanese metropolis of Fukuoka and came to Germany 30 years ago. He works alongside two other Japanese chefs to produce the far-eastern delicacies.

## Authentic Japanese sushi

"At SushiSho (which means "sushi house"), we offer traditional Japanese sushi," explains General Manager Roland Ohlberger, who orders a classic bento box (from 18.50 euros), the Japanese equivalent of a lunchbox. "The Japanese take it with them to work," he says. In Germany, it is served at the table. The jet-black box is filled, Asian-style, with small red bowls containing all the elements of a meal: sticky Japanese rice, several varieties of raw fish, fried vegetable dumplings, crisp salad and finely chopped fruit for dessert. This culinary composition is like a painting, and your eyes savour the contents of the box before your hand reaches for the chopsticks.

## Open to the latest trends

Notwithstanding its traditional focus, SushiSho is open to the latest food trends in bustling, cosmopolitan Frankfurt. For instance, alongside conventional sushi, maki and other traditional dishes, guests can now sample trendy poké bowls. These combine Japanese flavours with the fruit-infused cuisine of Hawaii.

It would be rude not to give it a try. Of the four options available, we choose the vegan version “Vegi Poké” (15 euros) and it’s a hit! On a bed of pearly-white rice, vibrant green seaweed salad jostles for space in the bowl with orange carrot batons, light-green soya bean, tender brown amaranth, asparagus tips and filled dumplings. This dish is a feast for the eyes and tastes heavenly.

The delicious “Fancy Rolls Maki” (from 9.50 euros), another popular SushiSho choice, are no less impressive. Large, beautifully arranged slices of rice roll, filled with fish, vegetables or other ingredients and rolled in a vibrant yellow soybean leaf, are presented on a dark-grey stone platter and surrounded by salad leaves. There is also aromatic pickled ginger, soy sauce and a blob of wasabi. It makes an ideal starter and is perfect for those with a smaller appetite.

In keeping with the Japanese custom, this outstanding culinary adventure started with a subtly smoky miso soup (2.80 euros) which the chef had enhanced with diced tofu, seaweed and leek. Again in proper style, we ordered a cup of sencha tea (3.50 euros). All that remains is to reveal our scores. And they could not be better! Top marks for presentation, flavour, atmosphere, front of house and kitchen. One thing is certain: there will definitely be a return visit to SushiSho.

*Claudia Ehry*



On trend: a Poké bowl à la SushiSho.

Maritim guests can also enjoy Japanese food at our Maritim Hotel Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf). The sushi bar can be accessed through the hotel lobby.



## » What is...

**Sushi:** raw fish or vegetables served on vinegared rice

**Maki:** rolls of seaweed and rice with various fillings

**Sashimi:** bite-sized pieces of raw fish

**Tempura:** fish, meat, vegetables or mushrooms wrapped in batter and fried

**Gyōza:** dumplings filled with meat or vegetables

**Edamame:** young soybeans

**Wasabi:** green, very hot horseradish

**Sencha:** Japanese green tea

Kazuhiro Yasunaga in the open kitchen.



# » calendar

## Festivals and events

### //DUSSELDORF

16th May

Calligraphy, martial arts or mangas – if you're interested in Japanese culture, then this is the place for you. Around 6,500 Japanese people have made Dusseldorf their home and the city celebrates German-Japanese friendship each year at its annual **Japan Day festival**. [www.japantag-duesseldorf-nrw.de/en/](http://www.japantag-duesseldorf-nrw.de/en/)



### //KIEL

20th to 28th June

The **Kiel Week Regatta** is not just the world's largest sailing event; it is also Northern Europe's biggest summer festival. Each year, more than 3.5 million visitors are attracted by the regatta's outstanding events programme, which includes a windjammer parade, live classical and rock music and open-air theatre and art events. [www.kieler-woche.de/en](http://www.kieler-woche.de/en)

### //WUERZBURG

26th June to 5th July

Romantic surroundings, close-trimmed topiary and the magnificent baroque façade of the Unesco world heritage site beyond – the picturesque backdrop adds to the appeal of the **Hofgarten wine festival** at the Wuerzburg Residence. Under the shade of the imposing trees, you can sample the Staatlicher Hofkeller's fine products. [www.hofkeller.de](http://www.hofkeller.de)

### //STUTT GART

6th to 9th August

The white tents and pagodas of the **Stuttgart Summer Festival** transform the Schlossplatz into a wonderful place to simply kick back and relax. The eclectic musical programme covers a wide range of genres including South American beats, rock, swing, soul, jazz and dixie. [www.stuttgarter-sommerfest.de](http://www.stuttgarter-sommerfest.de)

### //FRANKFURT

23rd to 30th August

The **Museum Embankment Festival** draws millions of visitors to both sides of the River Main. Numerous stages host live music and theatre productions, while a dragon-boat race is held on the river. The museums tempt the public in with their attractive promotions and events. [www.museumsuferfest.de](http://www.museumsuferfest.de)

## Sport

### //BERLIN

12th June to 12th July

If you like having company when you're watching the big match, join the crowds at the **fan zone** at the Brandenburg gate, which will be open once again during football's European Championships. Video screens and wide-screen monitors will line almost two kilometres of the Strasse des 17. Juni in central Berlin, ready to broadcast Germany's matches live. [www.berlin.de/fussball-em-2020](http://www.berlin.de/fussball-em-2020)



### //TRAVEMUENDE

17th to 26th July

**Travemünder Week** brings together international sailing and a maritime-themed festival. Hundreds of thousands of spectators and visitors love the informal atmosphere, the summer beach vibe and the entertaining shows, all of which are free of charge. [www.travemuender-woche.com/home.html](http://www.travemuender-woche.com/home.html)

### //RHEINSBERG

19th/20th September

Swim, run, swim, run ... Two Swedes had a mad-cap idea which turned into ten global races, including the **Ötillö Swimrun 1000 Lakes**. Just like a marathon, the competitors complete a course covering 42 kilometres around Mecklenburg's lakes. The start and finish lines are not far from the Maritim Hafenhotel Rheinsberg. [www.otilloswimrun.com](http://www.otilloswimrun.com)

## Art & culture

### //BERLIN

until 1st June

He painted water lilies, flowering meadows, rocky cliffs – many series of paintings, always at the same location, always in different light. **"Monet. Places"** is therefore a fitting name for the 110-piece exhibition at Museum Barberini, honouring the French impressionist Claude Monet. [www.museum-barberini.com/en/](http://www.museum-barberini.com/en/)



### //MANNHEIM

30th May to 31st January 2021

If you are interested in Ancient Egypt, the Reiss Engelhorn museums will be right up your street. Housed in the former armouries, the exhibition **"Tutankhamun – His Tomb and His Treasures"** offers visitors an illuminating insight into the historic moment of discovery. [www.tut-ausstellung.com/en/](http://www.tut-ausstellung.com/en/)



## Music & theatre

### //BREMEN

15th/16th May

Comedy moments: more than 45 comedians will be taking to one of six stages at the **"Happy" comedy festival** at the Congress Centre. Performers such as Ingo Appelt and Ausbilder Schmidt have made it their mission to get their audiences laughing. [www.happy-festival.de](http://www.happy-festival.de)

### //TIMMENDORFER STRAND

19th to 21st June

The Maritim Seehotel Timmendorfer Strand will once again host the performers from the 30th **JazzBaltica**, with after-show parties in the bar and at the Beach Club. If you would like to get in on the action, exclusive rooms are available from the ticketing hotline on +49 (0)431 237070.

### //FULDA

19th June to 30th August

Once again, Fulda's Schlosstheater is the venue for a world première. This time: **"Robin Hood – The Musical"**. It was written by Dennis Martin and Chris de Burgh, who can trace his family history back to the times of Richard the Lionheart. [www.musicalsommer-fulda.de](http://www.musicalsommer-fulda.de)

### //HERINGSDORF, USEDOM ISLAND

30th July to 2nd August

Heringsdorf's **23rd Kaisertage Festival** invites visitors to step back in time. The huge street party takes you back to the early 20th century, when the three imperial spa resorts came into being. Sumptuous costumes, nostalgic music, a glitzy parade and a historical fair all contribute to the special atmosphere. The highlight is a re-enactment of the imperial couple's arrival. [www.kaisertage.de](http://www.kaisertage.de)

### //MUNICH

23rd July to 15th August

The unique backdrop to the open-air theatre in **Schloss Nymphenburg's** inner courtyard adds to its appeal. Actors will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Shakespeare's famously confusing comedy about two young couples in an enchanted forest. [www.ensemblepersona.de](http://www.ensemblepersona.de)





# Secret stars

A visit to the zoo is a treat for adults and children alike. Nowhere else can you get up close and personal with such a varied array of creatures large and small, observing their behaviour and taking photos. The comical meerkats are happy to oblige. It is always lively in their enclosure. Maritim guests have the chance to fall in love with them at several hotel locations.

*By Anke Breitmaier*

# Meerkats, sunbathing and lots of cuddles

They are cute, very sociable and always on sentry duty – welcome to the world of the meerkat! At Hanover Adventure Zoo, Gustav, Rocky and Pauline wow the visitors, along with the rest of their lively mob.

**A** morning in November. Wispy mist floats across the African section. The temperature is cool, and it's all quiet in the meerkat enclosure. "It is not always like this. In the summer-time, there is always plenty going on by this time of the day," says Uschi Otto.

She is a zookeeper and looks after 13 meerkats at Hanover Adventure Zoo, which sits like an enchanted park in the Eilenriede urban forest. "In the wild, they live in colonies of around 30 animals and dig burrows to live in." In the zoo, they sleep in hay-bedded hutches. Here too, it's all paws to the deck for these foraging animals, all of whom take on different tasks. While some of them dig, others look for food. And yet others stand guard, keeping watch over their surroundings.

In the midst of it all, there is always a Gustav, a Rocky and a Pauline getting up to mischief. Their names have been familiar for a few years now, ever since Ingo Siegner, the Hanover-born author of "The Little Dragon Coconut and the Black Knight", turned three of the zoo's meerkats into the heroes of a series of children's books. "Children call them by those names. But it is difficult to tell the difference between meerkats, as they all look so alike," explains Uschi Otto.

Mausi is the mother of all the Hanoverian meerkats. "You can identify her by her long tail." Her last litter was quite some time ago, says the keeper. Mausi is now quite old and was also recently widowed. "There is only one breeding pair, the



What a heartbreaker: who could resist?

**They might be sweet, but they should be handled with care. With their sharp predator's teeth, they can easily bite through gloves.**

others won't have any offspring." But with more than a dozen animals, the family is already well-established.

## Attention!

The meerkats are alert and constantly on the lookout. Standing on their hind legs and supported by the tip of their tail, they look like little men, scanning the area for enemies such as crows or birds of prey. If a meerkat senses danger, it barks loudly to sound the alarm. "So sweet" is the verdict of a couple of Finnish tourists. They may be sweet, but they should be handled with care. Stroking is ok but the keeper warns against holding them. "With their sharp predator's teeth, they can even break open the shell of a scorpion. This means they can easily bite through gloves, which can lead to nasty injuries."

Meanwhile, the meerkats jump nimbly through the sandy terrain to snuggle up together in a cosy corner under two heat lamps. "They don't like the cold or the rain, and snow is an absolute no-no," says Uschi Otto. That is because these mammals originate in Africa. "That is why they love to sunbathe so much." They also like tussling, digging, playing with hay or cardboard boxes and scurrying around, on the hunt for food. The mob had breakfast at 8 a.m. "They had eighteen 1-day-old chicks and some mice." Meerkats may look as though they wouldn't harm a fly, but they have a keen competitive instinct. "They are very social and stick together when there is danger." But when it comes to food, their concern for each other goes out of the window. "They don't share," laughs

Uschi Otto. To prove the point, a fierce fight breaks out over a helping of mealworms. “That is just a snack. In the evening, they will get more vegetables, fruit sometimes as well.” But not too much, because these carnivores cannot tolerate fructose. “They do not come across much fruit in the veld.”

There have been meerkats at Hanover Zoo for around 20 years. “And they have been enchanting our visitors ever since,” says zoo director Andreas M. Casdorff. According to him, the meerkats also demonstrate why zoos are important. “You can get very close to the animals here; you can hear them and smell them. Each visitor can decide for themselves how much they want to discover.” And there is quite a lot to discover. The comical meerkats with their lively goings-on are a real attraction.



## Hanover Adventure Zoo

The zoo opened in 1865 and was rebuilt in 1996 to incorporate different themed areas carefully designed to recreate the animals’ natural habitats. The 2,170 animals from 178 different species live in an Indian jungle palace, the African river landscape of the Zambesi or in Canada’s Yukon Bay.

**Accommodation:** Maritim Airport Hotel Hannover



Feeding allowed: visiting the zoo makes you hungry.



Stroking welcome: some animals take it in their stride.

# Roll up, roll up!

Meerkats are some of the most popular creatures in German zoos. Little wonder, given their penchant for entertainment. In fact, with meerkats, you get a bit of everything. An overnight stay at a Maritim Hotel is the ideal way to see their shows.

The perfect location for an incredible weekend of animals.

## Cologne Zoo

Wow, aren't they cute?

On the Rhine, the zoo and Karneval are both institutions. Hardly surprising then, that revellers were inspired by the creatures in the cathedral city's "animal central". The "Little Meerkats" were formed in 1981 and have since become the emblem of Cologne's Karneval. As befits their title, the "Meerkats" now sponsor 14 of their namesakes who live in a huge area with over 10,000 other animals belonging to 850 different species. The "Tour d'amour" gets you up-close and personal with the animals' love lives.

**Accommodation:** : Maritim Hotel Köln (Cologne)



### Profile

**Scientific name:** *Suricata suricatta*

**Classification:** Carnivore

**Family:** Mongoose

**Size:** up to 35 cm

**Weight:** up to 950 g

**Life expectancy:** 5-12 years

**Diet:** Insects, rodents, eggs, reptiles, birds, amphibians, invertebrates

**Enemies in the wild:** Hawks, jackals, snakes

**Habitat:** Southern Africa (savannah and semi-desert scrub)



With a view of the Elbe, this is where the humans sleep.

## Dresden Zoo

### Everyone loves Mama Hilde

In 2013, three males and one female moved to Dresden Zoo, including Hilde. The female got together with Horst and the breeding pair produce offspring up to three times a year. The clan has meanwhile grown and now includes 15 meerkats who live in a 230 square metre enclosure around impressive sandstone rocks. There is plenty of space here to dig, play and keep watch. Dresden Zoo was founded in 1861. It is Germany's fourth oldest animal park and is home to around 1,500 animals from 250 different species.

**Accommodation:** Maritim Hotel Dresden



A little pick-me-up? Welcome to the Maritim Restaurant.

## The ZOOM experience

### Breakfast with the meerkats

Apparently, meerkats are shy by nature, but they seem to have overcome this here. In this taster course for future zookeepers, you can get first-hand experience with the animals. This includes entering the enclosure and allowing the ever-hungry meerkats pilfer mealworms. If you want to see even more, then follow the ZOOM adventure on a round-the-world trip without leaving the Ruhr. This is the only zoo in Europe to have been systematically designed to provide as natural a habitat as possible for the 900 animals from over 100 species.

**Accommodation:** Maritim Hotel Gelsenkirchen



Hier steht eine Bildunterschrift



## Wilhelma Stuttgart

### The ultimate in meerkat conservation

There have been meerkats playing at the Wilhelma animal centre for more than 50 years. The nine current inhabitants are as thick as thieves. Together, they guard their young and keep a close watch on the skies above. That's because there are a lot of crows at Wilhelma that are known to prey on young animals. But they are safe here, because the meerkat sentries are impressively effective, attracting half a million visitors each year. The Wilhelma is also the only institution in Germany to combine a zoo and a magnificent botanical garden on one site.

**Accommodation:** Maritim Hotel Stuttgart

Welcome to Stuttgart.



The lap of luxury, not just for the animals.

## Berlin Zoological Garden

### Hitting the house-hunting jackpot

In 2018, it was time for the meerkats to pack their bags, leaving their enclosure in the predator house for a new home with a generous garden area. It is a whole 100 square metres larger than their former abode, which is rather like winning the lottery in Berlin real-estate terms, especially since the mud and clay covered front yard gives the new owners the scope to dig out additional cellar rooms. Just like their 20,000 animal neighbours, these meerkats are right at home in the world's most diverse zoo. And to boot, located in the trendy capital. What more could a meerkat ask for?

**Accommodation:** Maritim Hotel Berlin, Maritim proArte Hotel Berlin





### Did you know that meerkats ...

- ... can close their ears while digging to prevent sand from getting in them?
- ... have dark circles around their eyes to reduce the glare of the sun?
- ... are small predators, related to bears and hyaenas?
- ... can eat a whole rabbit, skin and bones included?
- ... make scorpions edible by stunning the creatures with blows before biting off their poisonous sting.
- ... can run at speeds of up to 32 kilometres an hour?

A weekend in Munich? Your table awaits.



## Hellabrunn Zoo

### Shivering not digging

The winter of 2018/19 was very severe in Munich. It snowed so heavily that the meerkats had to be temporarily rehoused. There was a danger that large volumes of snow would block the burrows where the creatures sought sheltering. It was also possible that they would escape over the snow bridges that formed. The four meerkats therefore spent the winter elsewhere, until the thaw finally came. They could then enjoy all the delights of the Bavarian summer along with the 740 other species of animal at the zoo in the heart of the Isar conservation area.

**Accommodation:** Maritim Hotel München (Munich)





## In balance

### *The best tricks for a beauty boost*

Balance is the secret to radiant skin. If its protective and regenerative processes are out of step, perhaps due to a lack of hydration, then wrinkles may appear, and the complexion become dull. For a quick boost on holiday, I recommend special ampoules formulated for an instant impact. We have the right active ingredients for every skin requirement. If you want to look younger and more beautiful for an evening date, I advise a facial to smooth the skin's contours and enhance its radiance. Follow up with a massage to detoxify the lymphatic system and make the treatment more effective. A daily facial care routine at home will significantly prolong the effect. Deep-down cleansing morning and night is extremely important. I recommend massaging the face briefly with a silicone pad. I also advise a weekly exfoliation followed by a mask to intensively nourish, regenerate and protect the skin.



**Sabrina Büchsenschütz (34)**

Manager of Wellness and Beauty at the  
Maritim Hotel Bad Wildungen

# You look great!

Do you have something special planned for your holiday? There may still be time for a beauty treatment at your Maritim Hotel! Our professionals can often achieve amazing results in no time at all, leaving you to enjoy the compliments.





**T**he team in Travemuende need just 25 minutes to give you a short makeover to leave your skin radiant. Treatments are available for both men and women. Nail treatments are especially popular among the teenage clientele. It goes without saying that high-quality products are used at all times.

Purple eye shadow, shiny lip gloss and pink blusher – the latest trends won't necessarily suit every skin tone. If you would like to know which colours suit you, why not take advantage of a colour consultation at Timmendorfer Strand?

Specific skin-care products can often help combat the signs of long working hours or excessive sunbathing. This is where ampoule treatments can really work wonders. A personal consultation will ensure that you choose the right treatment for your individual needs. Don't forget to book your appointment in good time!



## Treatments with instant results

Many Maritim Hotels have spa complexes offering cosmetic treatments. Here is a selection.

### *Maritim Hotel Bad Wildungen*

» “Fresh and vital” facial: purifying cleanse, exfoliation, intensive treatment with active ingredients and finishing cream. Duration: 25 minutes, Price: 38 euros. For information and appointments, contact maritim spa & beauty care on +49 (0)5621 799-626 or E-mail [spa.wil@maritim.de](mailto:spa.wil@maritim.de)

### *Maritim Seehotel Timmendorfer Strand*

» Facials for men: purifying cleanse, exfoliation, deep cleansing, mask and relaxing massage. The treatment is tailored to the individual's skin type. Duration: 55 minutes, Price: 72 euros. For information and appointments, contact maritim spa & beauty care on +49 (0)4503 605-2477

### *Maritim Strandhotel Travemuende*

» Make-up: Put yourself in expert hands. Our professional make-up artists will choose the right make-up to suit your style and restore your radiance. Short make-over (25 minutes), Price: from 30 euros. Evening make-up (50 minutes), Price: from 50 euros. For information and appointments, contact maritim spa & beauty care on +49 (0)4502 89-2077

### *Maritim Hafenhotel Rheinsberg*

» Beautiful eyes: a specific treatment for the eyes to stimulate microcirculation, restoring incredible radiance to the entire eye area. Duration: 25 minutes, Price: 35 euros. For information and appointments, contact Wellness Lounge on +49 (0)33931 800-870/-872



Further offers can be found at [www.maritim.com](http://www.maritim.com) under the information about each hotel.

# Getting to grips with the lingo

The Maritim Golfpark Ostsee is the ideal destination for novices. Why not enjoy some taster lessons as part of your break at Timmendorfer Strand or Travemuende?



## A new look

The former “Mulligan’s Bistro” at the Maritim Golfpark Ostsee was fully refurbished over the winter season. It reopened with a new name, TeeTime, in spring 2020.

**D**o you play golf? Many people would love to answer in the affirmative. After all, what better way to engage in casual small talk? Pitching, putting, the driving range – knowing the lingo certainly gives you a head start. But talking about your swing, the fabulous golf courses and the benefits of exercising in the open air from first-hand experience will make an even better impression.

Every Saturday afternoon, holidaymakers have the chance to try their hand at golf at the Maritim Golfpark Ostsee in Warnsdorf, close to three Maritim Hotels. The 90-minute taster sessions give participants an insight into the theory and practice from qualified golf instructors Olaf Strunck and Malte Mutke. Is an hour and a half really enough time to

make up your mind? “Definitely,” says Golf School Director, Nina Mutke. “Participants can also get a feel for whether it’s the sport for them. Many of them come away with a new hobby!” Novice golfers do not need any particular talent, “although some people find it helpful if they have experience of playing other ball sports,” Nina Mutke adds. It certainly won’t harm your overall fitness. “After all, you can easily cover ten kilometres playing an 18-hole round. Beginners often hit the ball all over the place and have to walk back and forth.”

At the year-round Maritim Golfpark Ostsee, there is plenty of opportunity to practise and perfect your skills, including the driving range and the indoor golfing facilities, not forgetting the golf school’s broad range of courses (details on the fol-

lowing page). A further advantage lies in the fact that the complex is divided into three 9-hole courses which can be played separately or in combination, allowing golfers to choose based on their ability and the time they have available. The Lake course is ideal for novices.

Holders of the Maritim Golf School’s golfing proficiency permit have knowledge of the fundamental techniques and awareness of the most important rules and are authorised to play golf at the complex. This makes holidays on the Baltic coast even more worthwhile. And you’ll be able to chat about golf to your heart’s content.

*Stephanie van Lier*



## Beginners welcome

### 90 minutes

**The taster lesson** takes place every Saturday throughout the year between 3.30 p.m. and 5 p.m. In the event of poor weather, it will be held in the indoor golfing facilities. The taster costs 19 euros, including club and ball hire, which will be deducted from the price of a subsequent golfing proficiency course.

### 5 days

**The compact golfing proficiency course** "Golf Special" is perfect for those holidaying on the Baltic coast. In 20 intensive hours of training, participants learn the fundamentals of golf, enabling them to get off to the right start with the sport and attain the German Golfing Association's official golfing permit. Dates: Monday 6th to Friday 10th April 2020 and Monday 6th to Friday 10th July 2020, from 10 a.m. until 1.20 p.m. **Prices** start at 269 euros per person (including the hire of clubs and practice balls, the green fee and the test).

### 10 hours

If the above dates are inconvenient or you wish to take a course with partners, friends or family, **individual golfing proficiency courses** can be booked. Based on the number of participants, 10, 14 or 16 trainer hours will be required. **Prices** start at 336 euros per person (including the hire of clubs and practice balls, the green fee and the test).

### 4 Saturdays

New for this season is the **"All in" golfing proficiency course**, including free club hire for the duration of the course and twelve months' playing rights on the Lake course. Dates are available between March and November 2020 from midday until 3.20 p.m. **Price:** 199 euros per person.

#### **Information and booking:**

Maritim golf school,  
Phone +49 (0)4502 777714, or complete the contact form at [www.maritim-golfpark.de](http://www.maritim-golfpark.de)

Golf: a passion for life.

The compact golfing proficiency course is perfect for those holidaying on the Baltic coast.

# An A-Z of terminology

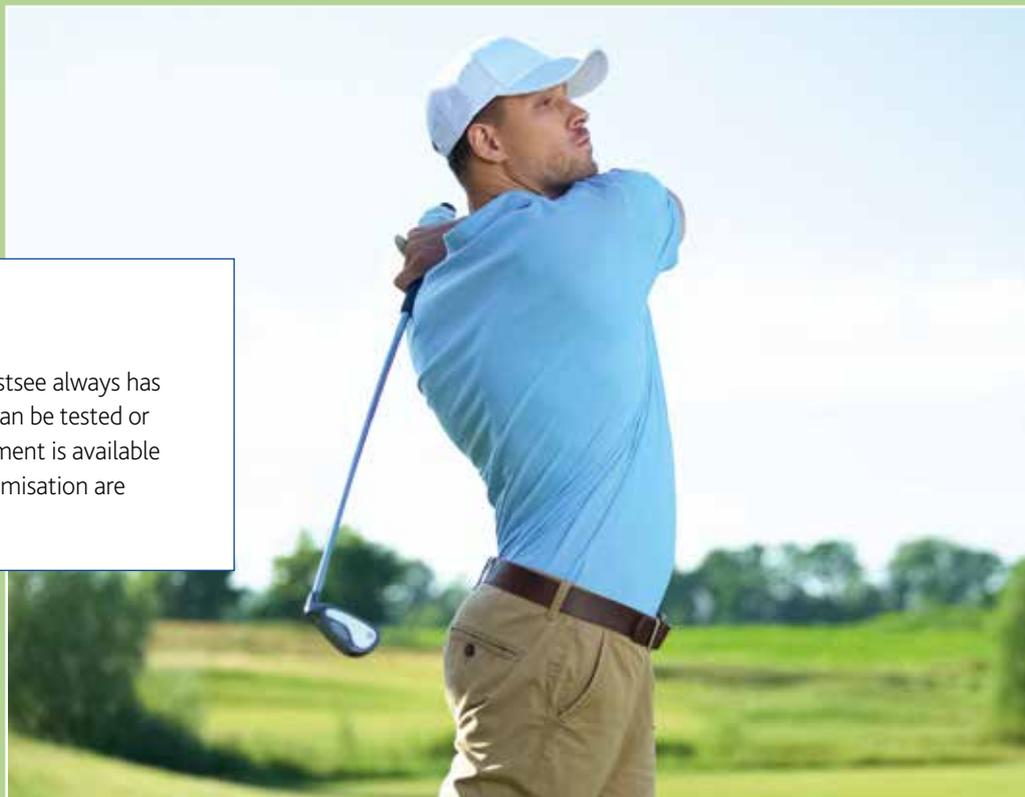
A brief run-down of the most important golfing lingo

- Teeing ground** » a flat area of grass, usually slightly raised, where the round of golf starts
- Bunker** » a depression filled with sand designed to make the game more difficult
- Caddie** » someone who helps the golfer by carrying their clubs and giving advice
- Driving Range** » the practice area (can be used at any time at the Maritim Golfpark once players have participated in the taster lesson)
- Etiquette** » the set of rules governing conduct, player safety and the protection of the course
- Fairway** » the grassy area between the tee box and the green
- Fitting** » the customising of golf clubs to the individual
- Green fee** » the fee paid to play on a golf course, starting at 30 euros for a 9-hole round at the Maritim Golfpark Ostsee\*
- Green** » the area around the hole
- Handicap** » refers to a player's proficiency and ensures a fair outcome if players of various skill levels play against each other
- Obstacle** » a bunker (see above) or water hazard
- Lake Balls** » used balls, fished out of the lake for instance, making them cheaper
- Par** » the abbreviation of Professional Average Result, the number of strokes a professional player should need for a hole
- PGA** » Professional Golfers' Association
- Pitch** » a high short stroke
- Putting** » a stroke in which the ball simply rolls along the ground
- Rabbit** » a humorous way of referring to beginners because their play resembles the zigzagging run of a rabbit
- Rough** » an area with longer grass
- Score** » the number of strokes required for a hole
- Tee** » a wooden or plastic peg from which the ball is struck when teeing off
- 19th hole** » the clubhouse to which golfers retire after an 18-hole round of golf

\*Guests staying at Maritim's Baltic coast hotels and the Golfpark apartments receive 50 percent off the standard green fee

## » Fully equipped

The Pro-Shop at the Maritim Golfpark Ostsee always has the latest golf clubs in stock. Golf clubs can be tested or hired, and the full range of golfing equipment is available to buy. Expert advice and golf-club customisation are both part of the service.



Great shot: a proficient and experienced golfer.

# FOR ALL OF YOU, WHO LOVE THE ORIGINAL.

COCA-COLA, COKE ZERO SUGAR  
AND COKE LIGHT TASTE IN THE  
CLASSIC BOTTLE.



Coca-Cola, Coke and the contour bottle are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company.

VIO and VIO BIO LIMO are registered trademarks.



# Say Vio to life!



# In the box seat for seaside happiness

A Baltic coast break without a wicker beach chair? Unthinkable! The history of a style icon.



I don't need a fairy-tale castle or a horse-drawn carriage. I need a beach chair with a sea view." The caption on postcards conveying holiday greetings from the Heringsdorf promenade to homes across the world encapsulates that longing for peace and quiet craved by so many. Somehow, despite other bathers all around, that little slice of seaside happiness that we see from the wicker beach chair belongs to us, and us alone. Just like the view of the stage from the royal box. As you might expect from Northern Germans, it combines luxury with practicality: the wicker chair offers upholstered comfort when sitting or lounging and the wooden grille over the front means you can even leave your bathing things here at night. And how

else would we manage that quintessential holiday pleasure – reading the broadsheets from cover to cover – without a beach chair? Sun, sand and wind are synonymous with beach holidays, but some people quickly have enough of a good thing. That very problem inspired the inventor of this iconic piece. Elfriede von Maltzahn, a wealthy Berliner, commissioned Wilhelm Bartelmann to design seating that would offer protection on cold, windy days. Despite her rheumatism, on no account did the aristocrat intend to forego the health-giving Baltic Sea breeze or her treasured ocean view. And so in 1882 the basket maker set about the task, producing a one-seater wicker-work chair. Initially mocked as the “upright linen basket”, even



Put your feet up: mellow moments of relaxation.



It is still peaceful: idyllic summers at Timmendorfer Strand.

Bartelmann himself apparently lacked faith in the likely success of his invention, forgetting to file a patent application. Despite this, the craftsman soon began developing a two-seater version, fitting it with the obligatory cloth awning, the characteristic teak footrest and the little table that we have come to expect today. This prototype still serves as the blueprint for all beach chair manufacturers to this day. It was Bartelmann's wife Elisabeth who demonstrated true entrepreneurial flair and foresight, opening the first beach-chair rental business in Warnemünde in 1883.

This is how aristocrats and common folk alike came to lounge in the wicker beach chairs at the Imperial resorts of Ahlbeck,

Heringsdorf and Bansin on the Baltic island of Usedom, known as "Berlin's bathtub", ever since the end of the 19th century. Wealthy people, and artists in particular, sought out and found mellow moments of relaxation and leisure beneath the shade of the woven canopy. Theodor Fontane rhapsodised about the "basket huts" on the beach, Kurt Tucholsky described them in "Saisonbeginn an der Ostsee" (The Start of the Season on the Baltic Sea), and Thomas Mann – a huge admirer of the Baltic scenery – is said to have written part of his tetralogy "Joseph and His Brothers" at a wooden table in a wicker beach chair. "Strangely restorative" was his description of his fascination for the beach chair.

At this point, it is necessary to mention an undeniable truth: Fontane had already sat in a beach chair before Bartelmann even invented THE beach chair. That's because its design was based on previous incarnations. Woven wicker chairs with raised backrests and curving, semi-circular panels had existed since the 16th century; not on the seashore but in the draughty bedrooms of Dutch and German manors and farmhouses, and the even less comfortable castles of England and Ireland. With the emergence of mid-19th century bathing culture at seaside resorts, the protective chairs found their way to the beaches of the Baltic coast. Fontane's original beach chair was on the Frisian island of Norderney.

Despite this, Bartelmann's two-seater prototype became the iconic piece. And remains so to this very day. Indeed, the beaches of the Baltic coast and the North Sea have been swamped with wicker beach chairs ever since the 1920s, although there is a subtle distinction between the two: the North-Sea version is more angular while Baltic beach chairs are more curved. It is hard to say how many of these relaxing seats exist across Germany. But Dirk Mund has the precise figures for the Imperial resorts on the island of Usedom: "There are around 6,000 wicker beach chairs in the three resorts alone, five percent of which are replaced each year," says the General Manager of the basket weaving company in Heringsdorf. The seats have been meticulously produced by hand at Germany's oldest existing wicker beach chair factory since 1925. The basketwork, the heart and soul of the iconic chair, is made from natural materials such as willow, rattan, wicker and reeds, or (predominantly) from synthetic fibres, which are more weather-resistant and easier to work with.



Mine! Now that's what I call a cool day at the beach.

Maritim guests have the opportunity to watch the firm's artisans at work and can book guided tours at the hotel. An individual beach chair takes two days to produce and the manufacturer incorporates customers' wishes into the finished product. For a long time now, these iconic pieces have been popping up far from the beach. "Many customers want to take that feeling of comfort and security back home with them. That's why wicker beach chairs make popular additions to patios and gardens across Germany," explains Mund. All that's missing is the beach ... Perhaps the extremely luxurious furniture makes it up. "Anything is possible: a heated seat, solar lighting, a multi-media system." A champagne chiller and oversized potholes are now practically a given. People even request mini versions for their four-legged friends.

Dirk Mund was recently delighted to fulfil a very special order which harked back to a bygone age. The world's first interactive BikiniArtMuseum in Bad Rappenau near Heilbronn ordered an original Bartelmann beach chair for its opening in January 2020. Employees devoted 120 hours to working on the nostalgic piece – not including the time needed to soak the wickerwork. It goes without saying that a museum of lifestyle, bringing together swimwear, art and history, would not be complete without one of the historic seats.

The latest craze is living-room furniture inspired by the beach chair, featuring comfortable upholstery, raised backrests and felt canopies that can be pulled forwards. However, for true fans, these will never replace the woven wicker chair on the beach, which offers a unique view of its own piece of seaside happiness.

*Astrid Kniep*

» If that is what you are looking for, head to the brilliant-white Baltic coast beaches of Timmendorfer Strand, Travemuende and Heringsdorf, where you will find luxurious Maritim Hotels waiting to welcome you, just a stone's throw from the sea. The Maritim Seehotel Timmendorfer Strand has its own private beach, while beach chairs in Travemuende can be hired from the hotel itself. Diners at the Maritim Hotel Kaiserhof Heringsdorf's "Sommergarten" restaurant overlooking the pier are served in traditional wicker beach chairs. «

## » The wicker beach chair

The standard wicker beach chair is a two-seater and its shape and construction have remained virtually unchanged since around 1910. It is around 160 cm high and 120 cm wide. It weighs 70 to 80 kg and has the following essential components and features:

- » **A stand**, the base usually made of pine, spruce or teak
- » Side panels with wickerwork **handles**
- » **A canopy** with a foldable back panel mounted on the stand with metal loops forming a roof. The basketwork is usually made from plastic strips, less often from wicker, bamboo or rattan. If traditional willow is used, the process becomes very time-consuming and expensive.
- » Waterproof fabric lining and extendable sun awning
- » A foam seating area
- » Extendable upholstered **footrests**
- » A wooden side table
- » **A cord** on the canopy for hanging bathing costumes
- » A wooden grille to keep bathing costumes and beach equipment safe

A bit of peace, then  
back to digging.



# » culture

## Ode to Joy

His 9th Symphony, the European anthem, is as much a part of Germany's culture as the man himself: Ludwig van Beethoven. Now enjoying global renown, the musical genius who paved the way for Romanticism was born on 16th December 1790 and entered the annals of musical history with his powerful yet moving compositions. The 250th anniversary of his birth is being marked throughout the world. 2020 was declared Beethoven Year some time ago and the "Maritim Journal" is recognising this important event by devoting its cultural pages to the great master.

### // BONN



Far-eastern: China's star conductor Tan Dun gives a fresh take on Beethoven.

## Opening night fever for "The Nine Project" and the 9th Symphony with the German National Youth Orchestra

8th August 2020

A first-class experience ideally tailored to Maritim guests. You won't need to leave the hotel to experience one of the highlights of Beethoven Year in the maestro's home city on 8th August. The programme in the Saal Maritim combines a guest appearance by the German National Youth Orchestra performing the 9th Symphony with the world premiere of "The Nine Project", a commissioned piece by the renowned Chinese composer Tan Dun.

**The German National Youth Orchestra** gives talented young musicians aged 14 to 19 the opportunity to study a

Music trips with Maritim comfort – there's no better way to enjoy culture. Let yourself be pampered and enjoy the variety of our extensive itinerary, in Bonn or Dresden, for example.



Huge talent: rising stars appear at the Maritim Hotel.

challenging repertoire and gain international experience under the direction of famous conductors. Honorary conductor Sir Simon Rattle is full of praise for his protégés: "I love this orchestra. With music safe in your hands, I am full of hope for the future."

Born in a village in the Province of Hunan 1957, the composer and conductor **Tan Dun** now lives and works in New York, where he also studied. Through his work as a conductor, he is associated with famous names, such as the London Symphony-Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. His compositions bring together elements of classical and modern music, taking their inspiration from both Asian and European traditions.

Empathic: Sir Simon Rattle conducts the German National Youth Orchestra.



// DRESDEN

## Chamber music at the palace

The Dresden Music Festival is one of Europe's largest and most prestigious classical festivals of the last 40 years. Against the backdrop of this success, major international performers now fill the festival's programmes. Add to this the unique appeal of the former royal seat on the Elbe, imbued with historical and spiritual cultural heritage. There is a wealth of attractive venues, including the Grand Garden Palace. Augustus the Strong built the small baroque castle surrounded by extensive gardens as a Lusthaus in whose lavish rooms the legendary Elector of Saxony hosted lively celebrations with distinguished guests from across Europe. A more reverent silence is likely to prevail when Beethoven's chamber music is performed there.

### Package 21A Music Festival 21st to 23rd May 2020 or 23rd to 25th May 2020

#### Select your performance:

Friday, 22nd May 2020, 4 p.m.

**The Schumann Quartett:** String Quartet No. 7 in F major Op. 59 and No. 14 in C sharp minor Op. 131. Soloists: Erik Schumann and Ken Schumann (violin), Liisa Randalu (viola), Mark Schumann (cello)

Friday, 22nd May 2020, 7.30 p.m.

**Meccorre String Quartet:** String Quartet No. 15 in A minor Op. 132 and No. 1 in F major Op. 18, B major Op. 133 "Grand Fugue". Soloists: Wojciech Koprowski and Aleksandra Bryla (violin), Michal Bryla (viola), Tomasz Daroch (cello)

Sunday, 24th May 2020, 4 p.m.

**Castalian String Quartet:** String Quartet No. 2 in G major Op. 132, No. 6 in B major Op. 18 and No. 8 in E minor Op. 59. Soloists: Sini Simonen and Daniel Roberts (violin), Charlotte Bonneton (viola), Christopher Graves (cello)

Sunday, 24th May 2020, 7.30 p.m.

**Novus String Quartet:** String Quartet No. 5 in A major Op. 18, No. 1 in F minor Op. 95 "Quartetto Serioso" and No. 12 in E flat major Op. 127. Soloists: Jaeyoung Kim and Young-Uk Kim (violin), Kyuhyun Kim (viola), Woongwhee Moon (cello)

#### Booking

Accommodation can be booked at [www.maritim.com](http://www.maritim.com) or by Phone +49 (0) 6151 905-760.



Heroic: the Beethoven monument on the Muensterplatz in Bonn.

### Package 21B Music Festival 22nd to 24th May 2020

#### Select your performance:

Saturday, 23rd May 2020, 4 p.m.

**Calidore String Quartet:** Work No. 4 in C major Op. 18, No. 10 in E flat major Op. 74 "Harp Quartet" and No. 13 in B major Op. 130. Soloists: Jeffrey Myer and Ryan Meehan (violin), Jeremy Berry (viola), Estelle Choi (cello)

Saturday, 23rd May 2020, 7.30 p.m.

**Quatuor van Kuijk:** String Quartet: No. 3 in D major Op. 18, No. 16 in F major Op. 135 and No. 9 in C major Op. 59. Soloists: Nicolas van Kuijk and Sylvain Favre-Bulle (violin), Emmanuel François (viola), François Robin (cello)

# Increasing its appeal

Magdeburg? Until now, lovers of culture have flocked to other large cities. At first glance, it may seem surprising that the city has bid to become European Capital of Culture 2025. And yet some people already consider it an insider tip to win.

Conquering the ancient walls at the Monastery of Our Lady.

Quite frankly, the slogan for the bid sounds almost off-putting. “Out of the void” seems to suggest that Magdeburg is currently an incredibly boring place. In actual fact, the void in question relates to the physical concept of the void or vacuum, because this is where the 17th-century inventor Otto von Guericke carried out his dramatic air pressure experiments. Alongside Otto the Great, von Guericke has had a central role in the city’s tourism campaigns for the past decade. Ottos can be found all over the place, and that includes the “European Capital of Culture” project.

“Magdeburg has experienced an incredible period of development,” says Mayor Lutz Trümper, “but there is still some room for improvement.” And he’s not just referring to the empty sites ripe for development. A spirit of optimism

prevails in Magdeburg, since the upturn in tourism during Luther’s anniversary year in 2017. Hoteliers experienced even higher rates of room occupancy during 2018. Being named “European Capital of Culture” is expected to provide a further boost. However, Magdeburg faces until July competition from four other German cities.

Magdeburg’s tourist attractions are spread far and wide, which might initially deter some people from booking a city break here. It is therefore fortunate that the Maritim Hotel, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary, enjoys a convenient central position near the main railway station. The Grüne Zitadelle (Green Citadel) designed by Hundertwasser, the cathedral with its Ottonianum museum, the old market with its statue of the Magdeburg Horseman and the Monastery of Our Lady are all in easy walking distance. However, it is advisable to use public transport if you wish to visit the Jahrtausendturm (Millennium Tower) in Elbauenpark. Why not go by bike? Guests at the Maritim Hotel Magdeburg have the option of hiring one of the hotel’s bicycles. “This makes it easy for you to explore at your own pace,” says Mario Seeger, the Executive Assistant Manager. For a longer tour, he recommends the Elbe Cycle Route. “Or you could purchase

the Magdeburg Tourist Card here at reception, which gives free use of the buses and trams,” Seeger adds.

What about evening entertainment? A quick glance at Theater Magdeburg’s programme reveals that the city boasts both an opera house and a theatre. However, a range of other institutions also enhance the cultural scene, such as the puppet theatre with its large collection of puppets, as well as several traditional German Kabarets or satirical reviews. Furthermore, the city hosts the high-calibre biennial Telemann-Festtage music event in March. If you visit later in the year, you can take in the works of Magdeburg’s baroque composers as part of the interactive “Hör mal, Telemann!” exhibition at the Gartenhaus.

The DomplatzOpenAir festival, which attracts fans of musicals from across Germany, has an altogether more contemporary feel and always sells out quickly. Who knows, perhaps Magdeburg will soon be attracting even more visitors? In autumn 2020, the European panel of experts will announce the outcome of the city of culture bids.

*Stephanie van Lier*

### “Cultural Magdeburg”

- » Two nights’ accommodation, including Maritim’s signature breakfast buffet
- » Two evening meals on a half-board basis
- » Entry to the cathedral museum
- » A tour of the Grüne Zitadelle

From 190 euros per person in a double room, from 210 euros in a single room

**Maritim Hotel Magdeburg**  
Phone +49 (0) 391 5949-888  
E-Mail [info.mag@maritim.de](mailto:info.mag@maritim.de)

Crowd-puller: the DomplatzOpenAir festival.



## Top tips

### » New: The Ottonianum cathedral museum

Since the end of 2018, the former Reichsbank has been home to the remains of the first wife of Otto the Great, Queen Edgitha (910–946), as well as treasures unearthed during archaeological digs around the cathedral.

### » Old: the Cathedral of Saints Maurice and Catherine

With its impressive towers, the Dom is one of the city’s landmarks and a true Gothic gem, which became evangelical in 1567. Inside, the harmonious architecture and the precious treasures of art and culture are impressive to behold.

### » Modern: the Monastery of Our Lady art museum

A stark contrast: the vaults of the medieval annex are home to contemporary artworks. A total of five floors are devoted to international works from the post-1960 period and special temporary exhibitions. The outside space features a sculpture garden.

### » The Jahrtausendturm (Millennium Tower) in Elbuenpark

The world’s tallest wooden structure was erected in 1999 at the National Garden Exhibition and has been renovated over the course of the intervening years. A Foucault Pendulum is one of the exhibits that features as part of a history of science exhibition. From a distance, the leaning, spiral construction is quite astounding, while inside the 20-metre high cuppola hall takes your breath away.

### » Caustic: the Kabarett Zwickmühle

Traditional satirical revue has been performed here since 1996. Alongside the regular ensemble, the programme also features guest performances by famous artists, as well as a new series of talks with Tonja Pölit, a correspondent for the German TV channel ZDF and the daughter of the venue’s founder.

### » Dates for your diary

“Klangfarben” (Tones) is the slogan for the **25th Magdeburg Telemann-Festtage** held from 13th to 22nd March 2020

**The DomplatzOpenAir festival** with the musical “Rebecca” from 19th June until 12th July 2020

# » events

## // BERLIN

Around 700 guests at the Maritim Hotel Berlin enjoyed a festive extravaganza, when South Korean students performed their “**Christmas Miracle**”. The varied programme featuring opera, dance and songs from the shows was put together by the young people themselves and performed in 39 towns and cities as part of their European tour. Thanks to support from Maritim, admission was free of charge.



The Maritim Hotel Berlin will continue to serve “**Suppe mit Sinn**” (**Soup with sense**) until the end of March. For the fifth winter in a row, the kitchen teams from Restaurant M and Le Bar have been lending their support to the Berlin food bank. For each portion of soup sold, one euro is donated to the charitable organisation’s winter relief operation, which provides food and emergency accommodation, night cafes and shelters to those in need.



## // DRESDEN

At the front of the Maritim Hotel, Dresden’s first **Alpine lodge** was an inviting place to stop for refreshments. Guests were able to enjoy the rustic ambiance, authentic atmosphere and typical Saxon drinks and hearty food at the cosy wooden tables inside. The lodge could also be reserved for company celebrations and parties. The hotel demonstrated its pace-setting credentials by getting on board with the interest in Alpine tradition.

## // MISCELLANEOUS

Maritim Hotels in Ulm, Nuremberg, Munich, Bad Homburg, Bonn, Bad Wildungen and Timmendorfer Strand all took part in Westdeutscher Rundfunk’s nationwide **open day** for businesses and industry. Interested children were able to go on a journey of discovery for the factual German kids’ show “Sachgeschichten Live”. What goes on behind the scenes? What are the secret passageways used by hotel staff? What happens in a large hotel kitchen? We were happy to answer all of these questions. The youngsters were also able to try some things for themselves. For instance, at the Maritim ClubHotel Timmendorfer Strand, they had the chance to prepare a dessert with expert guidance from a chef.

## // STUTTGART

At the Maritim Hotel Stuttgart, pupils supported a good cause on **International Volunteer Day**. The "Mitmachen Ehrensache" campaign in hotels, public institutions, zoos and hospitals saw employees donating a day's pay to charitable organisations. The youngsters got involved by carrying out duties such as making beds and serving breakfasts.



## // TIMMENDORFER STRAND

At the Maritim Seehotel, trainees took charge of operations for three days. At the **special weekend event for parents**, the trainees showed off their learning to date to their parents, relatives and teachers. The 4-course dinner, decorations, an excursion to the Maritim Golfpark Ostsee and the evening entertainment were all organised by the young people themselves.

## // MAGDEBURG

The "**Dancing Highlights by Roberto Albanese**" event has a long tradition at the Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Once again, the former dancing pro can look back on a terrific show. This year's event saw Renata and Valentin Lusin take the floor as special guests. The couple gained renown through the TV show "Let's Dance" and enchanted the audience with a wonderful freestyle.



## // TIRANA

The Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana, Albania's first officially certified 5-star hotel, was **formerly opened** in the presence of numerous guests from the worlds of politics and business. The Maritim Hotel enjoys a central location at the heart of the capital city, surrounded by tourist attractions, museums and shopping facilities. The hotel's casino is due to open its doors to the public in spring this year, extending the range of services offered by the hotel. What's more, Albania is still – for the time being at least – a secret destination for holidaymakers.



# What does it take to become a trainee at Maritim?

Good qualifications are always useful in the application process, but Maritim is just as interested in the personality of prospective trainees. Stefan Kersten sums it up: “We are looking for passionate young people with a burning desire to pursue their profession and who enjoy spending time with others”.

**F**lexibility as well as commitment are the order of the day, says the Head of Training: “You should be able to see that they enjoy their work.” It is good to be able to demonstrate good social skills by being an active member of clubs and associations, for instance. Applicants also need good language skills. Taster days or weeks are offered, so that potential candidates can decide whether the hotel industry is right for them. These may take the form of school work experience but some prospective trainees take the initiative and arrange to go to their closest Maritim Hotel during the school holidays. Either way, this offers students and graduates a perfect insight into the hotel profession.

Maritim provides more than one thousand traineeships in its 32 hotels in Germany, primarily training hotel and restaurant specialists and chefs. Some hotels also offer other professional training in related fields such as administration, HR or sport and fitness. Most of Maritim’s trainees start training at their chosen hotel straight after leaving school and opt for the dual route, which combines practical learning at the hotel with theoretical background at college. Others join Maritim after university with a bachelor’s or master’s degree.

“My trainers gave me all the help and support I needed”

Leah Möhrlein from the Maritim Hotel Würzburg achieved resounding success in the 2019 final examinations for hotel management specialists in Mainfranken, graduating top of her class. She was congratulated by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the hotel management.

# A training partnership

## 3 questions for Stefan Kersten, Head of Staff Development at Maritim Hotels

When it comes to training, Maritim is clearly doing everything right. Trainees from the German hotels frequently enter and win regional and national championships, even being crowned world champion on one occasion. It is therefore no surprise that the business magazine “Capital” ranked Maritim amongst the best training providers in Germany. Champions League!



**Stefan Kersten**

“Our trainees are our future”

» **Maritim Journal:** *Mr Kersten, what is the secret of your success?*

**Stefan Kersten:** “For us, training young people is about accepting our social responsibility and taking it seriously. To cement our reputation as one of the best training providers, we choose expert trainers who also have the “soft” skills we need and enjoy the challenge. The success of our trainees is therefore, in part, a reflection of the success of our committed employees. We are making a deliberate effort to stand out from the rest of the industry in this respect.”

» **Maritim Journal:** *What is particularly important to you?*

**Stefan Kersten:** “We foster a professional relationship with our trainees and treat them as adults. Mutual respect is extremely important for us. Moreover, through our parent weekends, trips, sports events and special trainee projects, we establish a framework allowing people to get to know each other and spend time together outside the direct working environment. Our trainees also have the opportunity to work at one of the many other Maritim Hotels and to gain experience in one of our hotels abroad as part of the Erasmus+ programme.”

» **Maritim Journal:** *What happens at the end of the training period?*

**Stefan Kersten:** “Our trainees are our future. We initiate joint career planning with our trainees during the final year of the training programme, identifying potential career paths and coaching them.”

She was already an ambitious trainee and had prepared thoroughly for the exam, revising everything covered during the previous three years. But she was nonetheless shocked when she was invited to the awards ceremony and informed by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce that she had achieved the highest marks in the hotel management examination. “There were plenty of other hard-working trainees in my class.” And yet she completely outperformed her 60 or so classmates.

Leah Möhrlein (23) is convinced that the excellent training she received from Maritim played a big part in her success. Throughout the training programme, she had the opportunity to ask questions, was enrolled on training courses and received intensive preparation for the examination. All of which made a huge difference. General Manager Andreas Havlik is delighted: “Coming top of the class clearly demonstrates the excellence of Maritim’s training programme.” When Leah left school, the hotel industry was not her first-choice career. She initially worked as a flight attendant, but wanted to gain an officially recognised vocational qualification. The young woman does not regret her decision to leave the airline industry and still loves travelling and working with other people.

During her training programme, she worked across the full range of hotel management roles, from customer service, housekeeping and the reception desk, to the events office. She particularly enjoyed her time in the HR department, which is where she now works.

*Claudia Ehry*



Congratulations: Leah Möhrlein outperformed the rest.



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## // TIMMENDORFER STRAND

### First-class training

This accolade was bestowed on the Maritim Seehotel Timmendorfer Strand by the German Association of Chefs (VKD). The hotel was named a “**certified training provider**” in recognition of its “outstanding commitment to trainee chefs”. The extensive certification process covers such criteria as regulated working hours and holiday periods, overtime regulations, exam preparation and pay. Importance is also attached to high-quality, specialist training and a pleasant working environment. The Seehotel scored highly in all areas. Maritim was also praised for entering and preparing its trainee chefs for professional competitions. Head Chef Lutz Niemann (2nd from right) and General Manager Jochen H. Stop are delighted to have received the award: “We are very proud of this achievement.”

## // MARITIM

### Two top rankings

The **Maritim Hotel Gelsenkirchen** has earned the right to the title “Best Employer in the Hotel and Catering Industry 2019”, awarded by Yourcareer-group, an Internet jobsite operator. The hotel came out on top with an excellent average of 5 stars and outstanding ratings in the work-life balance and corporate culture categories. General Manager Jochen Rönisch (2nd from left) was delighted to accept the award. In addition to a trophy and certificate, the prize included a 1,000 euros voucher to be spent on a team event. Third place was awarded to the **Maritim Hotel Darmstadt**. General Manager Dirk Moser and his team performed impressively, achieving top marks for continuing professional development, career opportunities, location and transport links. They also scored highly for their solutions-focused staff appraisal process.



Supporting the next generation: Maritim chefs at the Baltic Sea.

## imprint

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# A world of hospitality

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