

Very British: in 2014, Hannover will be dominated by the Union Jack

In 2014, Lower Saxony's state exhibition "When the Royals came from Hanover" as well as many other events to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the royal Personal Union, plus the United Kingdom as this year's CeBIT partner country and a British team at the International Fireworks Competition – all of these will add up to a "very British" atmosphere in Hannover next year.

Attention, please: in 2014, things will be "very British" in the state capital of Lower Saxony, when Hannover is the central venue of the state exhibition entitled "The Hanoverians on Britain's Throne. 1714-1834". Visitors can relive the era in which the Royals came from Hanover at four major exhibitions, as well as numerous cultural events and concerts, guided tours and a fireworks display, a specially composed opera, British teatime, a fashion show, equestrian sports events and a British garden party.

2014 state exhibition

The principal exhibition venues in Hannover are Lower Saxony State Museum, the newly built Herrenhausen Palace Museum, Wilhelm Busch – German Museum of Caricature and Critical Graphic Art, and Hannover Museum of History. Between 17 May and 5 October, various exhibitions will take visitors on a fascinating voyage of discovery through the 123 years of history in which the Electorate of Hanover and the Kingdom of Great Britain shared the same monarch. Tourists are also well advised to make a detour to Celle, where the exhibition at the Residence Museum in Celle Palace examines the years when the House of Braunschweig-Lüneburg made its way to London.

The state exhibition features fascinating items such as a royal coach (the No. 1 state carriage), as well as art and caricature. It also provides answers to questions like these: "What do Gulliver's travels have to do with politics?", "How did a German prince suddenly become the ruler of a world empire?" or "What kind of welcome did the 'kings from a migrant background' receive in Great Britain?" Tours with guides dressed in costume, literary tours, teatime in the park, workshops on "Calligraphy", "Gold-plating", "Baking with Jane Austen" and a "Debating Club" all give visitors the chance to immerse themselves in the chequered history and culture of the Personal Union era. "Very British" is also the keynote of various after-work events, poetry slams and films on show at Welfenkino cinema.

Flying the Union Jack: British Year in Hannover

In addition to the highly diverse cultural programme on offer at the exhibition venues, numerous other events will be staged throughout the year in theatres and parks, at the racecourse, in museums and churches in celebration of the "royal jubilee", adding a touch of royal glamour to Hannover. The opera "George", for example, was written and composed specially for the state exhibition. Various (church) concerts and performances, such as "God save King George" by Hannover Boys' Choir, the opera "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by Benjamin

Britten at Hannover State Theatre, "Oliver Twist" dance project and "Brodowy's Summer Salon" (German cabaret) will also fly the flag for all things British.

Herrenhausen Gardens will also celebrate British lifestyle with an "Urban Gardening – London Special" in the English landscaped 'George Garden', and there will be a Hanoverian-British Race Day at "Neue Bult" racecourse in Langenhagen. The Hanover-British Society will also enter into the spirit of the year, symbolised by the horse, the heraldic animal featured in Lower Saxony's coat of arms and central motif of the state exhibition: based on historic sources, it will recreate George's journey to London for his coronation in 1714 in a magnificent horse-drawn carriage escorted by riding and driving clubs.

A modern look at the two countries is provided by events such as the Anglo-German fashion show "Anglomaniacs & Union Jackets", as well as exhibitions of modern art staged by Sprengel Museum Hannover, the Kestner Society and Kunstverein Hannover.

British fireworks – British culture

In addition to all this, various large-scale events will also offer a truly regal programme to commemorate the age in which the Royals came from Hanover: at the International Fireworks Competition on 31 May, the British "1st Galaxy" team will captivate audiences with a display of British pyrotechnics against the splendid backdrop of Herrenhausen Gardens; a supporting programme of cabaret and music will provide British entertainment for the whole family. The atmosphere will likewise be "very British" at the Fête de la Musique in Hannover city centre on 21 June – and even the KunstFestSpiele arts festival in Herrenhausen Gardens and Hannover Choir Festival have all included a reference to the 300th anniversary of Personal Union in their programme, for instance with a new interpretation of an English opera by Henry Purcell.

It is also worth making a detour to the surrounding holiday region and a visit to Marienburg Palace, which will be staging a special exhibition featuring the Hanoverian king's crown, sceptre and bridal tiara. This is the first time since the end of the Kingdom of Hanover that these items will be on show to the public in the former sovereign territory of the House of Guelph.

"Its links with England had a major influence on Hannover. In 2014, the city will celebrate its British roots and the Union Jack will be a prominent feature. We cordially invite guests from Germany and abroad to visit Hannover on the occasion of this British year and get to know the state capital," says Hans Christian Nolte, Managing Director of Hannover Marketing und Tourismus GmbH (HMTG).

HMTG has put together various group offers and package tours inclusive of overnight accommodation to suit anyone who is planning to visit the city for the state exhibition and the events to mark the British year in Hannover. For further details, visit www.visit-hannover.com/en.

Full information about the state exhibition and events throughout Lower Saxony is available at www.royals-aus-hannover.de/en. HMTG will also be presenting the British Year at the International Tourism Fair in Berlin (ITB) and the GTS in London.

Background of the state exhibition: In October 1714, the Elector of Hanover acceded to the British throne in London as King George I. From that day on, the Guelph prince ruled over both kingdoms, as did the four kings who succeeded him. In 2014, in celebration of the 300th anniversary of that Personal Union, Lower Saxony will be commemorating the 123 years in which the Royals came from Hanover with a major exhibition of cultural history entitled "The Hanoverians on Britain's Throne 1714-1837". Although the two countries differed significantly in terms of their constitution and their economic and social circumstances, there was nevertheless strong influence and interaction between them. This had a major impact on social developments in Great Britain and Hanover and the cultures of the two countries, in the fields of art and architecture, music and fashion, science and agriculture. Not only the exhibition in Lower Saxony State Museum in Hannover, but also the newly built Herrenhausen Palace, Wilhelm Busch – German Museum of Caricature and Critical Graphic Art, and the Residence Museum in Celle Palace all invite visitors to relive the eventful age in which Hanover's rulers reigned on the British throne. A varied programme ranging from concerts, British teatime and sports events will make the age in which the Royals came from Hanover come to life.

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