

Press kit

The Emigration Museum

BallinStadt Hamburg

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1. Facts and figures

Address

Das Auswanderermuseum BallinStadt Hamburg
(Emigration Museum BallinStadt Hamburg)
Veddeler Bogen 2 · 20539 Hamburg
Tel: 040-319 79 16-0 · Fax: 040-319 79 16-20
www.ballinstadt.de

Opening hours

April to October

Monday – Sunday / 10 am to 6 pm (5 pm last admittance)

November to March

Monday – Sunday / 10 am to 4.30 pm (3.30 pm last admittance)

Exhibition

- Opened in 2007
- Expanded in 2016
- Three reconstructed living and sleeping pavilions true to the original
- Topics: Migration and Emigration in Hamburg and worldwide
- School programm available
- Children's programm inclusive

Further offers

- Family research area of our partner ancestry is accessible and free of charge
- Restaurant with inner courtyard (150 seats inside and 40 outside)
- 3.1 hectare park
- Free bus parking
- Direct connection to the highway
- Direct connection to the S-Bahn Veddeler (BallinStadt) with the lines S3 and S31
- Launches to the landing stages and Hamburg Harbour (Maritime Circle Line, Bridge 10)
- Various indoor and outdoor event areas

Entrance fees

Adults: 13,00 €

Reduced: 11,50 €

Children (5-12 Jahre): 7,00 €

Groups (min. 10 persons): 11,50 € p.P.

Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children): 29,50 €

Small family ticket (1 adult, 2 children): 23,00 €

Further discounts are possible via campaign vouchers or other providers, e.g. the Hamburg Card.

2. The Museum

The emigration museum BallinStadt Hamburg: From Hamburg to the world

Between 1850 and 1934 more than 5 million people emigrated via Hamburg. Behind this number are countless individual lives and a common desire: the hope for a better future. In the emigration museum BallinStadt Hamburg, emigration gets a face. At a historical location, the exhibition focuses on the stories of the people for whom Hamburg was a symbol of the departure into a new life.

The emigrant halls - "The largest inn in the world"

Designed in 1901 by HAPAG General Director Albert Ballin and extended in 1907, the emigrant halls on the Veddel were considered the "largest inn in the world". The site comprised a total of 30 buildings. In addition to dining and dormitories, there was also a church, a synagogue, a music pavilion and a hospital ward. Up to 5000 people could be accommodated here simultaneously.

When arriving on the Veddel, most of the emigrants had already had an arduous journey over many days. As a rule, people stayed in the emigrant halls for between three and five days. Afterwards, their journey led them via the passenger halls at Großer Grasbrook (now the cruise terminal), 5 km away, to embark on the feeder ships to Cuxhaven and from there to a new home.

Albert Ballin - shipowner, diplomat and namesake

He was a famous shipowner, one of the most important Jewish personalities in the time of the German Empire and is the patron saint of the BallinStadt emigration museum. Highly respected as a gifted businessman and diplomat, and at the same time ridiculed as an "imperial Jew", he always remained an outsider with his unusual and multi-faceted personality. As general director of HAPAG he was responsible for the construction of the emigrant halls. His life has not only left significant traces in Hamburg, but has also influenced events throughout Germany and Europe. The BallinStadt Emigration Museum is committed to this work.

The youngest of 13 siblings, Albert Ballin was born in Hamburg in 1857 and grew up in a Jewish-Danish immigrant family. His father Samuel "Joseph" Ballin founded the emigration agency Morris & Co. in Hamburg in 1852. Already in 1874 Albert Ballin had to go into business at the age of 17. The company brokered ship passages to England and on to North America for those willing to emigrate.

As early as 1882, "Morris & Co" arranged 17% of all emigration to the USA. This success drew HAPAG's attention to Albert Ballin. In 1898 he became General Director of HAPAG and in the years that followed made it the largest shipping line in the world. Around 1891 HAPAG offered its first cruises to fill its ships, first to the Mediterranean and later to the South Seas. However, at Ballin's suggestion, the so-called tweendecks on the overseas passenger ships were also built in order to be able to transport emigrants more cheaply and better. He described the great economic attractiveness of the mass business of emigration with the simple words "without tweendeck passengers I would be bankrupt within a few weeks".

Before the First World War Ballin tried in vain to prevent an arms race through his contacts and to achieve a German-English balance. He felt his life's work destroyed. Two days before the end of the war, on 9 November 1918, Albert Ballin died.

3. The three houses and the exhibition

The exhibition. Three houses - One journey

The BallinStadt emigration museum illuminates a part of the history that has shaped Hamburg as a cosmopolitan city to this day. In the interactive, multimedia exhibition, visitors not only experience history in a new way, but are also confronted with very topical questions: What would move you today to leave your home town and try your luck abroad?

House 1: "Port of Dreams"

Hamburg 120 years ago. Millions of people use the city as a place of departure for a new home. Albert Ballin, General Director of HAPAG, takes the decision to create a refuge for emigrants on the stopover of their journey to the New World. This part of the exhibition focuses on the historical emigrant halls with their international significance for Hamburg and provides an insight into the life and work of their creator Albert Ballin.

House 2: "World in motion"

"People have been wandering since they were alive." In the main part of the exhibition, the individual stages of emigration over four epochs are presented. In 14 themed rooms, visitors experience that migration is a phenomenon that has accompanied humanity for centuries. Focusing on the period from the 16th century to the present day, the exhibition highlights the variety of reasons that have led people at different times to leave their homes and go abroad in search of a better life. In addition to pull and push factors of emigration, visitors experience the conditions of the journey and are confronted with the challenges after arrival. While, for example, the "Room of Advertising" focuses on the economic side of emigration and conveys various measures that motivated people to settle in foreign countries, the "Room of Remembrance" deals with the question of which images, which experiences the emigrants took with them from their respective home countries to a foreign country. Through an alternation of factual and emotional aspects, historical exhibits and naturalistic room installations as well as modernly designed backdrops and digital media stations, a multi-layered impression of how immigration and emigration were part of the lives of millions of people over the centuries is created.

House 3: "Lifelines and special exhibition"

In the third part of the exhibition, the visitor's gaze is directed to various biographies and stories as examples of the great diversity of the history of emigration. The space of "lifelines" focuses on individual emigrants and shows how individual the respective life paths behind the figures on migration are. The changing special exhibitions focus on particular aspects of the history of emigration.

The exhibition concludes in House 3 with the Family Research Centre, which BallinStadt and its partner ancestry.de make available to all visitors free of charge. At the computer workstations, visitors will have access to the world's leading network of genealogical databases. Among other things, the Hamburg passenger lists of ships from 1850 to 1934 are available here, which were digitalised and indexed in years of work in the Hamburg State Archive.

4. Genealogical research

At the ancestry family research centre in BallinStadt, genealogists can follow in the footsteps of their ancestors.

Where do we come from? Who are our ancestors? These are questions that have occupied people for generations. All over the world, millions of hobby genealogists are following in the footsteps of their ancestors. In the USA, genealogy even ranks second among the most popular leisure activities - right after gardening. But in Germany, too, the topic of family research is attracting more and more people. Almost three-quarters of the German population is either "very interested" or at least "interested" in family research, according to a survey by ancestry.com.

Together with ancestry.de, which is part of the worldwide ancestry network, the emigration museum BallinStadt Hamburg has founded the ancestry family research centre. Anyone who wants to find out more about the emigration history of their own family can do free research on computer workstations in ancestry's worldwide leading network of genealogical databases. Among other things, the Hamburg passenger lists of ships from 1850 to 1934 are available there. These lists were digitised and indexed by the Hamburg State Archive over many years. A total of 270,000 images were created, containing approximately five million name entries. Among other things, birthplace, place of residence and profession of the emigrants were registered at that time - a treasure for family research.

Use of the family research centre is independent of a visit to the BallinStadt exhibition. More extensive research can be commissioned in advance. Sponsor of the freely accessible research area is the portal ancestry.de.

Further information is also available at www.ancestry.de

5. Contact & further information

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You can also find current press photos for download at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GzY29XgUidFAbfHQeaAgmSjNdIWYPKxB?usp=sharing>