Tour

Round the West Baltic Sea
HAMBURG • AMMERLAND • HOLSTEIN • SCHLESWIG
SOUTH JUTLAND • FUNEN • SOUTH ZEALAND
FALSTER • LOLLAND • HAMBURG

Dates
7 May to 15 May 2020

Organiser
Peter Hoffmann

TOUR INTRODUCTION

The tour begins and finishes in Hamburg. The first five touring days will be spent following a circular route through north western Germany and southern Denmark. We will visit public and private gardens and arboreta, as well as some nurseries, but there will also be opportunities to see trees in their natural environments. We will return to our base in Hamburg for the final two touring days, visiting the major dendrologic attractions of the town.

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TOUR SCHEDULE

DAY 1  THURSDAY 7 MAY

Arrival in Hamburg, accommodation and dinner.

DAY 2  FRIDAY 8 MAY

Our first tour day will be spent in Ammerland, which is recognised as the German centre for rhododendron raising.

First we will visit Hobbie Rhododendron Park, said to have Germany’s largest collection of rhododendrons. Following a guided tour of the Park, we will then have lunch.

Our next visit, a short distance from Hobbie Rhododendron Park, will be to Böhle nursery, managed by IDS member Mr Ulrich Würth. Here we will see a collection of quite a few unusual and even rare trees and shrubs.

In the afternoon and not far from Böhle nursery, we will have a guided tour and some refreshments at Gristede Rhododendron Park, which belongs to Bruns nursery.

Dinner and accommodation in Bremervörde.

DAY 3  SATURDAY 9 MAY

In the morning we leave Bremervörde, passing Lower Elbe via a small ferry boat, to Holstein.

At Ellerhoop Arboretum we shall have a guided tour to see some interesting trees, but also some quite surprising educational exhibitions about prehistorical times.

We then take a short drive to Hachmann nursery where we will have lunch and a guided tour in the show garden, including the production areas. It is a well-known, specialist rhododendron nursery, although they also stock a good variety of other unusual trees and shrubs.

Dinner and accommodation in Kiel, with an optional short evening walk to Kiel Old Botanical Garden, situated on a slope with a rather dense plantation containing large, old trees.

DAY 4  SUNDAY 10 MAY

In the morning we start the day at Kiel New Botanical Garden (belonging to Christian Albrecht’s University). It is a relative young garden with plants arranged geographically, including a particularly nice Asian section, a pleasant court with tender plants in large pots, and greenhouses with interesting trees and shrubs.

We then head north to Draved Skov, a Danish ‘virgin’ forest which remains largely unaffected by man, and where lime trees are somewhat dominant. Our very omniscient guide will certainly be including a variety of aspects of natural and cultural science in his narrative. The forest tour will start with a picnic lunch.

The day will end in Odense, the largest town on the island of Funen (Denmark’s third largest island), and birthplace of perhaps the most famous of all Danes, the fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen.

Evening dinner and accommodation.

DAY 5  MONDAY 11 MAY

The day will start with a guided tour in the Culture Botanical Garden in Odense, originally established by a keen school teacher, who wanted to teach horticulture to his pupils. Now this aim has been extended to the whole population of the town. There are quite a number of trees and shrubs to enjoy, among these a collection of birch trees.

From the island of Funen, we cross the large suspension bridge to the main Danish island of Zealand. We will enjoy a hosted lunch and a garden tour at Nygaard’s Have, the home of IDS members Ove and Bente Lusti.
IDS Tour information

We will take another bridge to the island of Falster, where a private collector’s garden in Ravnstrup will be our destination for the afternoon.

From Falster through a short tunnel to the island of Lolland, with dinner and accommodation in Maribo.

DAY 6 TUESDAY 12 MAY

Peter Hansen’s Garden on the westernmost part of Lolland, another private collection of trees and shrubs, somewhat exposed to the reasonably harsh conditions, will be our last venue in Denmark.

Lunch on board the ferry boat across the Baltic Sea back to Germany, arriving in the afternoon at the Campus Bergedorf in east Hamburg, a part of the Thünen Institute of Forest Genetics, with arboretum, and greenhouses with impressive tropical trees. We will also get the opportunity to see the xylotech, a collection of wood samples.

We will return to the first hotel we stayed at in Hamburg, basing ourselves here for the remainder of the tour and where we will have our evening dinner.

DAY 7/8 WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY 13/14 MAY

Over the next couple of days we will visit some of the major dendrologic attractions of Hamburg, including:

Planten un Blomen (The Old Botanical Garden), Loki Schmidt Garten (The New Botanical Garden), Ohlsdorf Friedhof (Largest landscape cemetery in the world, with lots of striking and rare trees), and Tannenhöft Arboretum (particularly with coniferous trees, belonging to the Thünen Institute of Forest Genetics). Time permitting, an additional visit will be included.

DAY 9 FRIDAY 15 MAY

The tour will conclude after breakfast.
TOUR SUMMARY

Location
Round the West Baltic Sea: Northwestern Germany and southern Denmark

Dates
7 May to 15 May 2020

Tour organiser
Peter Hoffmann

Availability
Tour restricted to 30 participants

Accessibility
The tour is not suitable for those using wheelchairs. Walking difficulty: 2

Approximate cost
DKK 12900 per person (based on two people sharing).
DKK 3550 single supplement.

What’s included?
Hotel accommodation. During the first five touring days, transportation in a spacious coach with coffee machine and toilet. For the last two touring days in Hamburg we will use local transportation. Entry fees, all meals, some light refreshments, wines at dinners.

What’s not included?
Travel to and from our hotel base in Hamburg, travel insurance, supplementary drinks etc.