

Schleswig Has A Viking Heritage And A Renaissance Outlook

Schleswig is the capital of [Schleswig-Flensburg](#), located at the end of the extensive *Schlei* — a 40-kilometer-long salt-water fjord carved into the mainland from the Baltic Sea. Before it became part of Germany, this was considered to be one of the oldest towns in Denmark.

You must see the baroque Gottorf Castle, once a princely residence in the 17th century and now the headquarters of the National Archaeological Museum and the National Museum for Art and Cultural History. In its back garden, you will find the huge Gottorf Globe, the replica of a world wonder created in 1650.

The impressive St. Petri Cathedral was built upon the grounds of a church built in 1134. Today, it houses the tomb of King Frederick I of Denmark and the masterpiece Bordesholmer Altar, best viewed from a 65-meter platform inside.

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Another sight worth seeing is the Neuwerk Garden, the first baroque garden north of the Alps, originally created in the 17th century. Since 2007, it has been restored to its terraced elegance.

The Town Museum is located within a former aristocratic palace called the *Günderothschen Hof*. Here you can take a journey through time to days gone by or join a world of fantasy at Teddy Bear Museum next door.

Just across the portion of the fjord known as the *Kleine Breite* is the ancient Viking settlement of Hedeby, established in 804, the most important archeological site in the state. It can be visited even today.

Be sure to stop by and see reconstructed Viking houses and the wreck of an ancient ship. There is also the *Haithabu Museum*, featuring rune stones, jewelry, weapons and other artifacts discovered in the area.

One wonderful excursion for you is a visit to the old fishing village of Holm. Its narrow streets, old fishing houses, preserved cemetery and quaint chapel built in 1876 make it the perfect photographic subject. You may still see a few fishermen here, too.