

# Osnabrück / Germany



Our twinning relationship with the City of Peace Osnabrück was established in 1988. In the context of this all-German partnership there was lively interaction between the administrations after the reunification in 1989, with Osnabrück providing extensive support to the city of Greifswald reaching beyond knowledge and competencies. Long-standing contacts, e.g. between the professional fire brigades and night schools of both cities, are signs of a lasting partnership. Osnabrück, together with Lund and Tartu, is an active member of the “Frühkindliche Bildung und Erziehung in der Kinderbetreuung” network (“Early Childhood Education and Development in Childcare”) which was founded in Greifswald in 2008.

## About Osnabrück

The City of Peace Osnabrück is located in the north of the Teutoburg Forest. According to Osnabrück’s citizens it was founded by Charles the Great. Gradually, from the first settlement and medieval episcopal and burgher town, a modern city developed. Today, Osnabrück has many faces: half-timbered houses full of nooks and crannies and proud patrician buildings, massive fortifications and a baroque residential palace, quiet corners alongside squares pulsating with urban life. The historical city centre brings the varied history to life.

“We riders pass through Osnabrück and sing for peace” – this is the chant every year when children ride on hobbyhorses to the Rathaus (City Hall). The concept of peace permeates the city, harking back to the Peace of Westphalia, sealed with a handshake in the Friedenssaal at Osnabrück Rathaus in 1648. 350 years later, as 20 European monarchs and state presidents met together on 24 October 1998, the largest ceremonial event in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany to date took place here.

The city’s many guests are impressed by the Romanesque Cathedral of St. Peter, the Marienkirche (Church of St. Mary), the patrician houses, the Bauhaus-style villas, the futuristic Nikolai centre and the cultural mile with the Felix Nussbaum Haus.