

Lauenburg an der Elbe, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Step off the gangway directly into one of Northern Germany's best-preserved river towns — 150 half-timbered houses, a medieval castle tower, and the Elbe flowing right past your feet.

 Pier (riverside quay)  Typical call: 5–8 hrs  Euro (€) — carry cash  German

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier at Ruferplatz, Lower Town — steps from the old town

Best For: Historic architecture, river heritage, leisurely strolling

Walk to centre: 0–2 min (Lower Town); 10–15 min up to Upper Town

Don't Miss: Elbschiffahrtsmuseum & the panoramic view from the Fürstengarten

 Getting around:  Taxi  €7–€11 ·  Rideshare  Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Elbschiffahrtsmuseum (Elbe Shipping Museum)** — Trace 800 years of Elbe river commerce in this hands-on museum at Elbstraße 59.
- **Schlosssturm & Fürstengarten Panorama** — Climb the sole surviving tower of the medieval Ascanian castle for a bird's-eye view over the Elbe and three German states.
- **Elbstraße Half-Timbered House Walk** — Stroll Lauenburg's Lower Town main street — the largest continuous ensemble of historic Fachwerk houses in Schleswig-Holstein.
- **Paddle Steamer Kaiser Wilhelm (seasonal)** — One of the world's last coal-fired paddle steamers, built in 1900 and still running summer weekend excursions.
- **Elbe-Lübeck Canal Lock Walk** — Walk east along the waterfront to where the historic Elbe-Lübeck Canal meets the Elbe River.

BEST WALKS

- **Lower Town Promenade Walk** 1.5 km · 30–45 min · Easy · Flat — From Ruferplatz, walk the length of Elbstraße east toward the canal lock, admiring half-timbered facades and flood-level markers.
- **Upper Town Castle Climb** 2.5 km loop · 1–1.5 hrs · Moderate · Steep ascent — From Ruferplatz head up the Kuhberg steps to the Upper Town.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry cash (Euro coins). Small cafés and souvenir shops often don't accept cards (the Schlosssturm itself is free to enter). ATMs are available in the Upper Town.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes. Historic cobblestones in the Lower Town are uneven, and the climb to the Upper Town is steep. Sandals or heels are a bad idea.
- Sunday = closed shops. German retail law closes most stores on Sundays. Cafés, restaurants, and museums stay open — but skip Sunday for souvenir shopping.
- Paddle steamer Kaiser Wilhelm runs summer weekend excursions only. Check the schedule at the pier if you're interested — it's a rare living piece of river history.
- Two towns in one. Don't skip the Upper Town — the panoramic view from the Fürstengarten over the Elbe and into three German states is the visual highlight of the visit.

Lauenburg an der Elbe, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany — Port cruiseports.org

Map

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Elbschiffahrtsmuseum | Museum tracing centuries of Elbe river shipping history, housed in Lauenburg's old town. | 2 Lauenburg Altstadt | Cobbled historic quarter of half-timbered pilot- and boatmen's houses climbing the hill above the Elbe. |
| 3 Der Lauenburger Rufer | Bronze statue on Ruferplatz depicting the historic town crier who signaled approaching ships. | 4 Schloss Lauenburg | Former ducal castle overlooking the Elbe, today housing the Elbe shipping museum's tower exhibits. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |