



MEDIA INFORMATION

A tour around St Pauli: following in the trail of the Fab Four

11 Beatles places in Hamburg

“No Hamburg, no Beatles,” says Mark Lewisohn, the renowned Beatles biographer. And indeed the spirit of the Beatles can still be felt in Hamburg today. To follow in the footsteps of the Fab Four and to explore some iconic places in music history, Beatles fans should check out the following eleven places in the St Pauli district:

1. Indra – the club where it all started

This is the place where, in the early 1960s, four young lads from England started conquering the big, wide world of music. The fact that the Beatles’ very first Hamburg performances took place here adds a special flair to this live club and continues to attract people from across the globe. Today, the Indra is still considered to be an excellent medium-sized live club.

📍 **Grosse Freiheit 64 - www.indramusikclub.com**

2. Bambi – the Beatles’ first home in a children’s cinema

The former Bambi cinema on Paul-Roosen-Strasse, a quiet side street away from the hustle and bustle of the Reeperbahn, served as the Beatles’ first accommodation in Hamburg. The cinema was then owned by Bruno Koschmider, who had brought the Beatles, young amateurs at the time, to Hamburg for their first gigs. To save the young men the cost of accommodation, he put them up in two small rooms on the premises of his children’s cinema. Living in the Bambi was certainly anything but luxurious. The dark, windowless rooms were shared between them, with worn-out army bunks to sleep on and only a sink to wash in. 60 years later, the vicinity of Paul-Roosen-Strasse, which runs parallel to the Reeperbahn, has turned into a popular neighbourhood lined with quirky bars and some of the city’s most popular eateries. Today, only a garage gate with a Bambi picture reveals the special history of the premises.

📍 **Paul-Roosen-Strasse 33**

3. Kaiserkeller – where the Liverpool lads met Ringo Starr

At the beginning, The Beatles would spend their nights playing the same repertoire over and over again. Thus, they made some money, worked on their performance – and got to know their drummer Ringo Starr, initially a member of the band Rory Storm & the Hurricanes. Today, the Kaiserkeller still features up-and-coming bands alongside established artists. At the club’s entrance on Grosse Freiheit, a historic poster announcing The Beatles as a support act for Rory Storm & The Hurricanes commemorates the venue’s unique history.

📍 **Grosse Freiheit 36 - www.grossefreiheit36.de**

4. Gretel & Alfons – Paul McCartney’s second living room

Furnished with maritime accessories such as ship models, a compass, and a machine telegraph, the Gretel & Alfons on 29 Grosse Freiheit exemplifies Hamburg’s traditional pub culture. And it still looks the same today as it did when St Pauli was the global music scene’s ultimate hotspot for a couple of years. The Beatles and Jimi Hendrix were frequent guests here, and the Star Club’s young audiences could sustain themselves from snacks and cheap drinks. Paul McCartney actually lived here in 1962, leaving behind a respectable bill. In 1989, after 27 years, he returned to his former “neighbourhood living room” to finally pay his debt – including interest, of course.

📍 **Grosse Freiheit 29**

5. Top Ten Club – 92 nights in a row

On 1 April 1961, The Beatles played their very first gig in the legendary Top Ten Club on the Reeperbahn. Together with Tony Sheridan, they performed live on stage for 92 consecutive nights, playing seven hours per night, and on weekends even eight. After each hour there would be a fifteen-minute break. Today, the building of the former Top Ten Club is home to the Moondoo, a club that is pulling the crowds with international beats and elaborate live shows.

6. Beatles-Platz – arguably the world’s largest vinyl record

The Beatles-Platz is a public square in the heart of St Pauli, located at the crossroads of Reeperbahn and Grosse Freiheit. It is circular, with a diameter of 29 metres and paved black to make it look like a vinyl record. On the square you will find five silhouettes representing The Beatles: John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Stuart Sutcliffe, George Harrison, and a hybrid of drummers Pete Best and Ringo Starr, each of whom played with The Beatles at times during their Hamburg years.

📍 **Reeperbahn 174**

7. Jägerpassage – where the iconic Rock’n’Roll album cover was shot

In 1961, when four talented musicians from Liverpool took their first steps towards an unparalleled global career, an iconic picture was taken in the heart of St Pauli. It depicts John Lennon leisurely leaning against the entrance of a building, while Paul McCartney’s and Stuart Sutcliffe’s blurred silhouettes can be seen walking by. The photo was taken at the Jägerpassage, a courtyard of 22 Wohlwillstrasse. The photographer, Jürgen Vollmer from Hamburg, got to know the lads during their time at the Top Ten Club. Yet the picture didn’t become famous until the 1970s, when John Lennon made it the cover picture for his LP album Rock’n’Roll in 1975. The entrance to the house has barely changed over the years, and the setting is almost the same as it was when John was leisurely leaning against that doorway. All those who would like to take a little detour to this secluded spot, while of course respecting the privacy of local residents, can re-enact the photo against this legendary backdrop.

📍 **Jägerpassage 1**

8. Star Club – a piece of music history

On 13 April 1962, Manfred Weissleder opened his Star Club on Grosse Freiheit. Over the next seven years, he would lure rock greats such as The Beatles, The Bee Gees, Jimi Hendrix, Little Richard, James Brown, Fats Domino, Eric Burton, Lee Curtis and Jerry Lee Lewis to St Pauli. It wasn’t long until the club recorded almost one million visitors per year, and the Star Club went down in music history as one of the world’s leading live venues at the time. When,

On 31 December 1969, the curtains finally fell, Salambo, an erotic nightclub, moved in. Later, the building stood idle for a long time, and was finally demolished in 1987 following a fire. Today, a plaque in the backyard commemorates the glorious days of the Star Club.

📍 **Grosse Freiheit 39**

9. Hotel Pacific – a favourite of countless music greats

On Neuer Pferdemarkt you will find the Hotel Pacific, the former contract hotel of the Star Club. During their last guest appearance at the Star Club from 18 to 31 December 1962, the Beatles stayed here and were most certainly delighted with the luxury this hotel had to offer when compared to their former lodgings, such as the Bambi cinema. Besides The Beatles, the Hotel Pacific would accommodate countless other musicians, and sometimes an entire floor (aka “the Star Club floor”) would be rented out to bands performing at this famous music club. When enjoying a drink at the hotel bar, either as an overnight guest or as a visitor, you will notice how the lobby still exudes the spirit of the 1960s.

📍 **Neuer Pferdemarkt 30-31 - www.hotel-pacific.de**

10. Hard Rock Café

The Hard Rock Cafe Hamburg is centrally located at the docks of the Elbe, in one of the most historic buildings of Hamburg. The 3-storey restaurant serves its guests a classic American cuisine and has a roof terrace, a live music area, a VIP lounge and a Rock Shop. Many original Beatles memorabilia decorate the walls of the Hard Rock Cafe Hamburg. The Rock Shop is also completely in the style of the Beatles.

📍 **Brücke 5, St. Pauli Landungsbrücken - www.hardrockcafe.com/location/hamburg**

11. Panoptikum

Situated on Spielbudenplatz just off the Reeperbahn, the Panoptikum in Hamburg is Germany's oldest and biggest waxworks museum. It was founded in 1879 by the wood carver Friedrich Hermann Faerber and has since been owned by the family. The Panoptikum hosts more than 130 waxworks of historical figures in valuable costumes, as well as international celebrities and local heroes from Hamburg – and of course The Beatles are also on display here.

📍 **Spielbudenplatz 3 - www.panoptikum.de**

Hamburg's legendary St Pauli entertainment district is densely packed with places where The Beatles and many other famous bands and artists wrote music history. All of these places can be leisurely explored individually and on foot. A [suggested route](#) can be found on the website of Hamburg Tourism.

And all those who prefer a guided tour can take part in one of the musical **Beatles tours** with Stefanie Hempel and her ukulele. During her tour around St Pauli, the Hamburg-based Beatles expert will share entertaining stories and anecdotes, while also performing some of the songs The Beatles used to play night after night in the smoky clubs of St Pauli (www.hempels-musictour.de). Other tour operators dedicated to following the trail of the Fab Four include [Stattreisen Hamburg](#) as well as [Hanowski Beatles Tours Hamburg](#).

To learn more about the history of the legendary St Pauli district, it is definitely worth visiting the [St Pauli Museum](#). With a floor space of 160 square metres, a permanent exhibition tells the story of St Pauli from the Middle Ages to the present day, with numerous vivid exhibits from past and present. It goes without saying that The Beatles make up a part of the story, which is presented using many original photographs from the 1960s.