

Kiel.

Business location with
a high quality of life.



Kiel. Sailing.City.
Kiel

Welcome to Kiel.Sailing.City, Germany's northernmost state capital by the sea!

Kiel is known worldwide for sailing. The annual Kiel Week in June brings together a unique mix of competitive sailing, maritime culture and entertainment for 3 million visitors each year.

But the city offers much more: all the advantages of an urban centre combined with an excellent quality of life. Kiel has a strong, diverse and steadily growing economy and outstanding scientific and educational institutions.

Rooted in shipbuilding and naval tradition, Kiel has deep maritime

expertise. Today, it stands equally as a forward-looking innovation hub and the leading industrial and service location in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein.

The city is a gateway to Scandinavia. It is shaped by small and medium-sized enterprises, and characterised by strong knowledge-intensive services and modern manufacturing.

Here neighbourhoods are family-friendly, cultural life is rich, and the Baltic Sea beaches are never far away.



Top sporting location



Beaches and Sea



Kiel Week



Climate and Marine Protection



Largest Passenger Port



Hidden Champions



Innovative Districts



Family and Leisure time

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A strong network of

business, science and public institutions is shaping the future of the city and the region..



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Kiel brings together innovative industries, a growing digital economy, four universities and internationally recognised research institutions – creating a sustainable and attractive environment for business and talent. The city's long-established maritime economy continues to shape life by the sea.

At the same time, Kiel has evolved into a modern hub for production, services and a vibrant creative scene. High quality of life and extensive leisure opportunities define the Kiel Region, while close cooperation across administrative boundaries is at the heart of how Kiel works.

> 250,000

residents and
more than 34,000
students

4

universities and
numerous scientific
institutes

> 34,000

students

> 20

regional vocational
training centres

Science hub

Kiel's four universities and its internationally renowned research institutions make the city one of northern Germany's most innovative scientific locations. Research is made accessible and celebrated through active science communication programs such as KielRegion's Science Summer and European Researchers' Night. Good to know: In 2026, Kiel and KielRegion are partnering with two other European science capitals to pioneer the new EU Science Comes to Town program.

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Innovative start-up scene

Kiel offers space for new ideas: whether emerging from university collaborations or through the innovative drive of local companies, exciting start-ups are taking shape across the city. They grow in an environment that values entrepreneurial thinking and is open to experimentation. A strong startup support ecosystem ensures that ideas can quickly become reality.

Globally connected and welcoming culture

As “gateway to the Baltic Sea region” Kiel has become a strategic innovation hub in Northern Europe. Its global trade links, research collaborations, diversity and cultural exchange create an atmosphere that welcomes people from around the world. Kiel's international mindset and geographical location make the city an ideal destination for globally oriented companies and talent.

> 8,500

companies

36.4 %

employees work in
knowledge-intensive industries

21.6 %

of employees
hold a university degree

Rankings

Regularly among
the top 10 German
cities for urban
dynamism

Digital innovation

Kiel's digital landscape is supported by a strong network of partners who help businesses and talent build new digital skills. Together, they develop innovative formats and foster collaborative learning. **Digital Week Kiel** is northern Germany's major future-focused festival, a place for digital topics, trend scouting and shared knowledge. Participation, exchange and mutual learning are at the heart of the event.



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Health and life sciences

With the University Medical Centre (UKSH), Kiel hosts one of Europe's largest centres for medical care, research and training. Alongside it, established companies in **medical technology and pharmaceuticals** and an active start-up scene are working on tomorrow's healthcare solutions..

Maritime industry

Kiel is internationally recognised for its shipyards and naval shipbuilding and is home to numerous specialised maritime companies. Its port continues to grow, serving cruise ships, ferries and freight, while the city and its surroundings attract tourists with beaches, nature and urban offerings.



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> 3 Mio.

Kiel Week, the world's largest sailing event, with over 3 million visitors

> 1 Mio.

annual overnight stays

Kiel Canal Port

and Baltic Sea it is the busiest artificial waterway in the world

2.7 million passengers in 2025
7.9 million tonnes of cargo handled



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As of February 2026

