

A to Z of leisure facilities

Page 8/9

Sights
Page 14-19

Other places to visit

Page 20-22





## Dear guests,

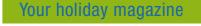
this holiday magazine aims to give you an insight into the beauty, tranquillity and warm hospitality that our town has to offer.

At the same time, it is designed as a brochure in order to provide a valuable reference for all that visitors to our friendly town may need.

Take some time to leaf through and you'll soon see how many different things there are to see and do in Leer.

Welcome! We hope you have a pleasant stay.







## Finding accommodation made easy!

From top-class hotels to holiday apartments, to youth hostels and camp sites, there are plenty of places to lay your head in Leer. You have several options when it comes to finding the right accommodation:

- Request our list of accommodation providers from the Tourist-Information, Ledastr. 10, 26789 Leer **30049 49 1 91 96 96 70**, or
- find accommodation online at www.touristik-leer.de (with direct booking function), or
- simply call the accommodation hotline on **© 0049 49 1 91 96 96 20**, where an advisor will find you the perfect accommodation at no added cost.

touristik@leer.de

Any vacancies!?

# **Contents**

- **5** Welcome to the town of Leer
- **8** A to Z of leisure facilities
- **10** Ecology route (Stadtökologischer LEER-Pfad)
- **12** General map
- **14** Sights
- **20** Other places to visit

 $\mathbf{2}$ 







Water tower

#### Leer - a town nestled in nature

The town of Leer is also known as the "gateway to East Frisia". With around 34,000 inhabitants, it is a mixture of modern medium-sized town - with all of the facilities you'd expect - and warm, friendly and inviting holiday destination.

No visitor's wish is left unfulfilled, with numerous opportunities for leisure, relaxation and adventure.

For example, Leer is the ideal starting point for bike rides. The "German Fen Route (Deutsche Fehnroute)", the "International Dollard Route (Internationale Dollardroute)" and an excellently signposted network of cycle paths provide the optimum conditions for the perfect cycle tour - whether it be relaxed or challenging, contemplative or action-packed.

Boating enthusiasts are also catered for, with moorings in the centre of town, and right beside the pedestrian precinct and old town.

Whether your interests are sporty, artistic, cultural, or perhaps even exotic, you're sure to find what you're looking for with Leer's wide range of leisure, culture and sports op-

# Leer in brief

- 34,000 inhabitants
- Town area 7,030 ha
- In 791 AD, Saint Ludger founded the first chapel in East Frisia, to the east of the river Ems. Oldest historical evidence of the town name "Hleri iuxta ad Fluvi
- In 1823, Leer was granted town
- Today, Leer is the capital of the district of Leer, and headquarters of numerous authorities and firms
- Extensive cultural offering

Wilhelminengang





#### Leer has it all

Leer is a waterside town. The loop harbour in the town centre is both an ideal mooring for recreational boaters and a mid-way or starting point for pleasure cruises and harbour tours.

Leer is East Frisia's shopping town. The attractive pedestrian precinct – with its numerous large and small, modern and cosy shops – invites you to wander to your heart's content. Shopping centres and varied eating and drinking options complete the experience.

East Frisian hospitality really comes to the fore when you indulge in a cup of real East Frisian tea. In the "tea town" of Leer, the tradition of tea drinking isn't just protected – it's part of everyday life!

The town of Leer is located in delightful surroundings, featuring tranquil fen villages, interesting castles, attractive day trip destinations, and much more. If that's not enough, the expansiveness of the East Frisian landscape and the pure air really will make your holiday something quite special.

#### Leer's old town

Take some time to explore Leer's old town, where numerous lovingly restored buildings will take you back in time.

The town hall, erected in 1894, isn't just a feast for the eyes on the outside; inside you will find wonderful ceiling frescoes, mosaic floors, impressive halls, and much more. Tours of the town hall and of the town are offered in high season.

The town's past as a trading and port town can be felt everywhere, and can be seen in the many different details on buildings.

In spite of its historic nature, Leer's old town is still a lively and bustling part of our town. Small shops, tea rooms and restaurants invite you to browse, relax and savour. A starting point for town tours, pleasure cruises and harbour tours – plus lots more – it is one of the hubs of the town. Home to a museum harbour and a fascinating local history museum, it also offers cultural heritage that you can touch and interact with.



# Things to do

# A to Z of leisure facilities

Cycling

Fehnroute),

radweg).

**Excursions** 

**Fishing** 

**7** 0049 49 1 - 91 96 96 40

**7** 0049 49 1 - 91 96 96 50

The town of Leer is directly on the German Fen Route (Deutsche

the International Dollard Route

(Internationale Dollardroute),

as well as the Dortmund-Ems

Canal Route (Dortmund-Ems-

Route (Emsradweg) and the North

Sea Cycle Route (Nordseeküsten-

There are also plenty of nice cycle routes in and around the town its-

elf, such as the "hedgerows route

See page 20 or ask the Tourist

**Information** about current offers.

The Leda (from the barrage) and the Jümme are leased to local angling and fishing clubs. These will

provide you with a visitor's card

Tourist Information about where

On canal boat "Koralle" from the

Rathausbrücke jetty (bridge by the

town hall) from May to September

and upon request. Information

for their waters. Please ask the

you can pick one up.

Harbour tours

**7** 0049 49 1 - 59 82

(Wallheckenroute)"

Kanal-Route), the Ems Cycle



## **Tourist Information**

for the town of Leer

Ledastr. 10, 26789 Leer



**7** 0049 49 1 - 91 96 96 70 0049 49 1 - 91 96 96 69

www.touristik-leer.de



touristik@leer.de

#### Bicycle hire



#### Bosseln (local version of boules)

You can hire balls and accessories from the Tourist Information in Leer for a fee.

#### **Bowling**

- Hotel Ostfriesen Hof, Groninger Str. 109

#### **1** 0049 49 1 - 60 91 0

- Bundeskegelbahn de Pütt, Ulrichstr. 37

**7** 0049 49 1 - 1 35 35

#### **Bus tours**

along the German Fen Route and the International Dollard Route; information and bookings at the **Tourist Information.** 



#### Camping

- Ems-Marina-Bingum, Marinastraße (Bingum)

0049 49 1 - 99 75 15 81

#### Cinema

Kino-Center Leer, Mühlenstr. 88

**7** 0049 49 1 - 99 23 93 25

# info

#### Calendars of events

Calendars of events are available from the Tourist Information and published online at

www.touristik-leer.de

#### Library

Stadtbibliothek Leer, Hermann-Tempel-Haus, Wilhelminengang 2 Opening hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 11am - 6pm Wed and Sat 10am - 1pm

**7** 0049 49 1 - 92 53 20

#### Pleasure cruises

Cruises with MS Hafenmusik or MS Warsteiner Admiral on the Ems, Leda and Jümme from the weighing house by the town hall. Bookings and information: Schifffahrtskontor GERMANIA,

Rathausstraße 4a, at the Tourist Information or on:

**1** 0049 49 1 - 59 82

#### Riding

- Smidt, Zum Voßberg 3 (Bingum)

**7** 0049 49 1 - 6 18 20 (tel. in advance!)

> - Freizeit-Reiterhof Zimmer, Siebenbergen 107 (Logabirum)

**7** 0049 49 1 - 7 30 07 (tel. in advance!)

#### **Theatre**

You can get tickets for performances by regional group Landesbühne Nord from the Tourist **Information** or the town office (Bürgerbüro) in Leer.

**7** 0049 49 1 - 97 82 500

#### **Tours**

Tours of the town and town hall take place in high season. Please see the notices at the town hall. Information at:

www.touristik-leer.de

#### Wagon rides

Freizeit-Reiterhof Zimmer, Siebenbergen 107 (Logabirum)

**7** 0049 49 1- 7 30 07



## Boating

Moorings with disposal and sanitary facilities in the harbour. Ems-Marina in Bingum also offers a comprehensive boat service. A waterways map (cost price: € 2.50) is available from the

**Tourist Information.** Harbour master:

**7** 0049 17 3 - 62 24 781 www.city-marina-leer.de

#### **Paddel und Pedal**

"Mit Paddel und Pedal" Ostfriesland per Kanu und Fahrrad erleben. Auskünfte erteilt:

**7** 0049 49 1 - 91 96 96 30



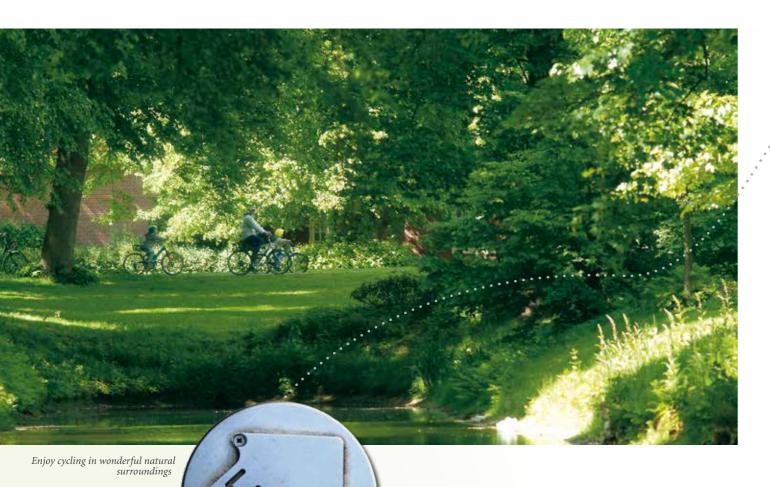








# Admire – understand – recreate Ecology route (Stadtökologischer LEER-Pfad)



Leer's urban ecology path

has attracted interest far beyond the region's borders. What makes it unique in Germany is the extraordinarily broad involvement of dedicated individuals. This is a path that offers a very special opportunity to get to know the town.

You can ...

discover the most picturesque and interesting views

- Historic old town, waterside promenade at the harbour, pedestrian precinct, ...
- Focus: New beginnings, trees in the town, façade and roof planting, environmental protection, urban redevelopment, animals in the town,
- Route guidance: Plate markings in the pavement
- Length: approx. 3.5 km

the Inner Ring

Duration with stops at each of the points of interest: 2 - 4 hours

... circle the whole town on the Outer Ring

- Wonderful parks and landscapes along the rivers Ems and Leda, interesting buildings, historic rarities and feats of engineering, ...
- Various opportunities to see points of interest around the route in more detail upon request
- Focus: Parks and castles, town periphery, hedgerows, riverscapes, ...
- Route guidance: Map in the flyer
- Length: approx. 35 km
- Duration with stops at each of the points of interest: 4 - 8 hours

... take an ecological tour of the harbour on canal boat

"Koralle" - Museum harbour, commercial harbour featuring pioneering development, pleasure harbour, shipbuilding, fluid and bypass system of the town centre by foot on - Landing at the Rathausbrücke (bridge by the town hall) - Length: approx. 5 km - Duration: approx. 1 hour info

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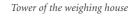
More information on Leer's urban ecology route

online at ➤ www.touristik-leer.de or on 🖀 0049 49 1 - 97 82 251

Your holiday magazine







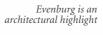


Leer through the ages

14

## A journey through time

is what awaits you in Leer with its historic townscape. Walk through the old town and admire the elaborately renovated houses and façades, town hall with old weighing house and district court. However it's not just at the heart of the town that there's plenty to discover: the castles around the town are also worth a visit.





The town hall (Rathaus) was built between 1889 and 1894 in German-Dutch Renaissance style. The town's landmark, the town hall is Leer's most well-known building.

March - Oct: Town hall tour: Wed 3pm

Town tour: Sun 11am



The weighing house (Waage) was built in 1714 in Dutch-influenced northern German Baroque style. The crowntopped weighing pans above the baskethandle arch entrances to the weighing room provide evidence of the former purpose of the building, which was used for weighing up until 1946. Today the weighing house is home to the local heritage association (Heimatverein). Enthusiasts claim that this house is one of the most stunning Baroque structures in East Frisia.

Visiting options: Viewing from outside only!



The district court (Amtsgericht) was built as a manor for the von Rheden family, and has the same architectural features as the weighing house. The outbuilding (Schatthus) to the side - formerly the magistrate's residence essentially dates back to 1711.

Visiting options: Viewing from outside only! Built around 1650 by Colonel Ehrentrieter von Hofrieth, Evenburg castle (Schloss Evenburg) was rebuilt in 1861-62 in the New Gothic style, damaged in the Second World War, poorly repaired, then purchased and restored by the district in 1975. Evenburg was returned to its original condition through extensive restoration work between 2004 and 2006. Along with the Baroque bastion – which dates from 1765 – and the straight avenue that leads to the castle from the town, Evenburg is a popular

Visiting options: Daily from 10am to 6pm

Public tours are offered on Sundays and

**7** 0049 49 1 - 99 75 60 00 www.schloss-evenburg.de

The former Jewish school (Ehemalige Jüdische Schule) is home to a cultural memorial created by the district of Leer. This is a place of culture and learning with space for exhibitions and cultural events surrounding Jewish life of past

Visiting options: Thurs - Sun 2pm - 6pm, or by arrangement

**7** 0049 49 1 - 99 92 08 32



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Town hall tower in the old town





Haneburgallee



Built around 1570, Haneburg castle was expanded in 1621, 1671, and most recently 1935. Designs from the late Renaissance period are particularly visible on the west wing and the north-west portal.

Visiting options: Viewing from outside only!



Harderwykenburg castle, built around 1480, is one of the oldest preserved castles in East Frisia, and is still under private ownership.

Visiting options: Viewing from outside only!



Baron Philipp von Wedel had Philippsburg castle built in 1730. The castle, which is still under private ownership, can also only be viewed from outside.



Samson house (Haus Samson), which was erected in 1643 and is owned by the Wolff family, provides an interesting insight into ways of life in the 18th and 19th century. One particular gem is the 18th-century door with its Baroque ornamentation and decorative fanlight.

Visiting options: During business hours!



The museum harbour (Museumshafen) is located directly by the weighing house. Numerous historic ships – all of which are still in working order are anchored here, providing visitors with a realistic insight into past eras of shipping.



The local history museum (Heimatmuseum) is based in two old merchant houses on Neue Straße. It focuses on the East Frisian way of life and historic clothing, work by East Frisian painters, shipping, the history of the town of Leer and prehistory on the geest. The collection, which was expanded in the 90s, vividly depicts cultural and economic life in this region.

#### Opening hours:

Tues - Sun 11am - 5pm (closed Sat and Sun from start of Jan to end of March)

**7** 0049 49 1 - 20 19 www.heimatmuseum-leer.de





Prinz Heinrich, a mail, cargo and passenger steam ship constructed in 1909, is a real highlight in Leer's pleasure harbour. When the tradition-steeped vessel is not at sea, it invites you to visit a wonderfully stylish cultural monument to maritime history.

www.prinz-heinrich-1909.de



The company headquarters of Leer's long-standing tea trader Bünting is home to the **tea museum (Teemuseum)** and its tea academy.

Visiting options:

Mon - Sat 10am - 6pm Sun 2pm - 5pm (April - Oct) (Seminars upon request)

**7** 0049 49 1 - 99 22 0 44 www.buenting-teemuseum.de



Based in a 1,200 m2 hall, Leer's miniature museum (Leeraner Miniaturland) provides a unique take on East Frisia. Marvel at the key sights and landscapes – from the East Frisian islands, to Aurich, to Leer – on a scale of 1:87.

Opening hours: Daily from 10am to 5pm

**7** 0049 49 1 - 45 41 130

www.leeraner-miniaturland.de



**Bünting Teemuseum** 

The East Frisia hedgerow environment centre (Wallhecken-Umwelt-Zentrum Ostfriesland) lies right at the heart of the hedgerow-bound landscape of Logabirum in the north-east of Leer, and presents the cultural history of the East Frisian geest and the development of its almost 6,000 kilometres of hedgerows in extensive and fascinating detail.

Visiting options::

Every 1st Sunday of the month from 2pm to 5pm and by arrangement

**7** 0049 49 1 - 45 41 27 5 www.wallhecken.de



The Coldam art centre (Kunstzentrum Coldam) features an exhibition of unique pieces of glass artwork. Visitors can also enjoy exhibitions in the fields of visual arts, music, theatre, dance or literature.

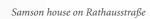
**7** 0049 49 1 - 96 04 84 7



Tea museum

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Tower of the Lutheran church

our holiday magazine



Surrounded by old headstones and tall trees, in summer all you can see of the **Lutheran church (Lutherkirche)** is the top of the bell tower with its gold swan. The south side of the interior depicts Christine Charlotte who, in 1675, approved the building of the church and provided stone from Thedinga monastery for its construction. The ceiling frescoes based on Baroque style were created in 1910.

Visiting options:
By arrangement

**7** 0049 49 1 - 27 50



Die Great Reformed church (Große Reformierte Kirche) was built in 1785-87 in the form of a Greek cross, following the Dutch model. It is a typical, sympathetically restored example of a large "Predigerkirche (preacher's church)"

Visiting options in high season: Mon - Fri 3pm - 5pm Sat 10am - 12 noon or by arrangement

**7** 0049 49 1 - 25 66



A Catholic chapel was erected in 1728. Just under 70 years later, in 1795, **St Michael's Catholic church (Kath. Kirche St. Michael)** was built. The parish takes its name from Archangel Michael. A statue dating back to the 16th century, depicting Saint Michael and the dragon, stands to the right of the sanctuary.

Visiting options: Vestibule always open, or by arrangement

**7** 0049 49 1 - 26 22



The Mennonite church (Mennoniten-kirche) was built in 1825 in the Classical style, following a design by architect Jan Berend Kröger from Weener. Leer's Mennonite community has been in existence since 1540.

Visiting options:
Guided tours offered via
www.touristik-leer.de

Inside Matthäi church (Matthäikirche) in Bingum, a modest brick building dating back to the 13th century with an 18th-century clock tower, you will find an octagonal font from the 15th century and carvings left from the Thirty Years' War.

Visiting options: By arrangement

**7** 0049 49 1 - 39 01



The remains of the oldest stone church in Leer, the **crypt** (**Krypta**), have served as a memorial to the victims of both World Wars since 1955.

Visiting options:

Visits upon request

simon.bender@reformiert.de



Plytenberg hill is 9 m tall and around 64 m in diameter. It is believed that in the 15th century it served as a lookout point for the fortress of Leerort.



Located in a bend of the river Leda to the south of the edge of town, the Leda barrage (Leda-Sperrwerk) forms the cornerstone of a flood protection campaign. The barrage has five openings, each with 14 m clear width, that can be sealed using steel doors.

Visiting options:
By arrangement with the barrage operator



The Pünte ferry – from the Latin "pons ponits" – is one of northern Europe's last remaining hand-pulled vehicle ferries. It is mentioned in official records as far back as 1562.

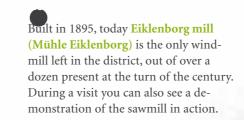
Ferry times May to Sept. Wed - Sun 10am - 5.45pm Closed Mon and Tues



Built between 1901 and 1903, the sea lock (Seeschleuse) was intended to protect the town from storm floods, as well as allowing the harbour to operate irrespective of the tides. It was extensively renovated and expanded in 1974.

Visiting options:
By arrangement only

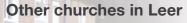
**7** 0049 49 1 - 92 77 0 41



Visiting options:
By arrangement only

**1** 0049 49 1 - 99 23 99 55





There are numerous other interesting churches in and around the town. You will find descriptions and information on if and when you can gain access to them at www.touristik-leer.de



Great Reformed church



See the surrounding area ...

# Other places to visit



# Ems barrage (Emssperrwerk-Gandersum) 20 km

This barrage on the Ems was completed in 2003.

Information and tours:
Touristik GmbH Südliches Ostfriesland

**7** 0049 49 1 - 91 96 96 17

#### Papenburg 2

Papenburg is Germany's oldest and longest fenland colony. The city, characterised by wonderful green spaces, restored fen houses, bascule bridges and kilometres of canals, just begs to be explored. Its sights include Meyer Werft shipyard, the Papenburger Zeitspeicher interactive exhibition and the open-air museum (Von-Velen-Anlage).

Information:

Fremdenverkehrsverein Papenburg e.V.

**1** 0049 49 61 - 83 96 0

www.papenburg-tourismus.de

#### Emden

Emden is the fourth largest seaport in Germany. The art gallery (Kunsthalle), Otto house (Otto-Huus), Johannes a Lasco library (Johannes a Lasco Bibliothek) and bunker museum (Bunkermuseum) are just some of its worthwhile sights.

Information:

Tourist-Information Emden, Postfach 2310, 26703 Emden

0049 49 21 - 97 400 www.emden-touristik.de

#### Borkum

The largest of the East Frisian islands – at 36 km² – offers beaches and sand dunes, a sea water indoor wave pool (Meerwasser-Wellen-Hallenbad), a local history museum (Heimatmuseum), lighthouses, sports and activities. *Information:* 

Tourist-Information Borkum

#### Wiesmoor

32 km

"Community in bloom at the heart of East Frisia". See plant and tree nurseries from a special visitors' vehicle and visit "Blumenreich" (a garden park with indoor flower hall) – featuring East Frisia's only musical fountain – from mid-March to October.

Information:

Luftkurort Wiesmoor Touristik GmbH

₹ 0049 49 44 - 91 98 0 ➤ www.wiesmoor.de

#### Winschoten (NL) 35 km

Located near the German-Dutch border, Winschoten has a rosarium in its city park boasting around 250 varieties of rose, plus a bus museum, the steam pumping station museum and the tower of the Reformed church.

Information: VVV Winschoten

30 km

30 km

**1** 0031 - 59 74 - 30 022

www.oldambt.groningen.nl/de

# Amusement park "Surwolds Wald"

45 km

Summer toboggan run, enchanted forest, mini golf, 32 m viewing tower, forest museum, large playground with dodgems, fitness trail, walks, heated outdoor swimming pool, hotel and restaurant "Waldhotel Surwold".

Information:



#### Krummhörn-Greetsiel

The community of Krummhörn is made up of 19 idyllic "Warfendörfer" – villages built on an artificial mound to protect against water - such as Rysum, which is home to one of the oldest pipe organs in the world still in playable condition (1457), Pewsum with Manningaburg castle, Pilsum, featuring western Europe's only crossing tower (national monument) and the Pilsum lighthouse (Pilsumer Leuchtturm), and the romantic fishing village of Greetsiel with its over 600-year-old harbour. Information:

**77** 0049 49 26 - 91 88 0

www.greetsiel.de

#### **Bad Zwischenahn**

Touristik-GmbH Krummhörn-Greetsiel

State-approved mud spa in the Ammerland district. The lake, Zwischenahner Meer (526 ha), has many water sports on offer. Outdoor museum (Freilichtmuseum), viewing tower, relaxation park (Kurpark, including the Wandelhalle venue), casino.

Information:

Kurverwaltung Bad Zwischenahn

**7** 0049 44 03 - 6 11 59

# info

## You can get more information from the Tourist Information

online at > www.touristik-leer.de or on 0049 49 1 - 91 96 96 70



#### Oldenburg

47 km

63 km

Oldenburg (157,000 inhabitants) is a university city surrounded by green countryside. The charm of this old residence of the counts and dukes of Oldenburg can be felt around every corner in the streets and lanes of the city centre, with its architectural traces of the past 5

Information:

Tourist-Information, Schlossplatz 16, 26122 Oldenburg

**7** 0049 44 1 - 36 16 13 66 www.oldenburg-tourist.de

#### Groningen (NL) 70 km

This Dutch city is known as the metropolis of the north. The fish market, old town - home to a large market - and canals are just some of Groningen's sights. Information:

VVV Groningen

**7** 0031 - 50 31 - 39 741 www.toerisme.groningen.nl

#### Thüle wildlife park (Tierpark Thüle)

70 km

500 animals, large adventure playground, petting zoo, rides, restaurant. Information:

**7** 0049 44 95 - 255

www.tier-undfreizeitparkthuele.de

#### Wilhelmshaven 78 km

The only south-facing beach on the North Sea coast, Germany's largest naval base, aquarium (Aquarium Wilhelmshaven), German naval museum (Deutsches Marinemuseum), submarine, Wadden Sea visitor centre (Wattenmeerhaus), coastal museum (Küstenmuseum am Bontekai), art gallery (Kunsthalle), Oceanis, botanic garden (Botanischer Garten), rosarium, city and harbour tours, sailings to the island of Heligoland, on-board weddings, excellent cultural facilities.

Information:

Tourist-Information, Ebertstr. 110, 26382 Wilhelmshaven

**7** 0049 44 21 - 913 000

www.whv-touristik.de



#### Key addresses at a glance:

Under one roof at the tourism centre (Tourismuszentrale), Ledastraße 10, 26789 Leer:

Tours of the Ems barrage and Evenburg castle **TOURS** 0049 49 1 - 91 96 96 17

#### LEGAL NOTICE

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