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Norderney's *Haus am Meer*: a century of catching the wind

Norderney in January 2026. Grown together. If it weren't for Else and Max Siede, a couple who loved the North Sea, Norderney would be missing some extraordinary hotels today. Because more than 104 years ago, in 1922, when tourism was really taking off, they bought their first property on Halemstraße near the west beach of the island of Norderney, which still houses the holiday apartments belonging to the hotel today. In 1926, they added what is now the 'Wittehuus', which they named 'Haus am Meer' (House by the Sea) at the time. Today, this name is the brand under which a third house is also operated: the 'Rodehuus', which the Siede family acquired in 1937. Today, the three houses form the spearhead of the Brune family of hoteliers and architects and are run by Marc and Jens Brune, the great-grandchildren of the founders, in the fourth generation.

In his younger years, Jens Brune worked at the renowned Hotel *Vier Jahreszeiten* in Hamburg, where he learned the hotel business from the ground up, before moving to distant Japan. Marc Brune, on the other hand, followed in his father's footsteps and studied architecture in Karlsruhe, followed by urban planning and real estate management in New York City. Anyone who wants to understand why the two brothers ended up back in Norderney after their years of training and travelling simply has to hear them talk dreamily about their favourite island. However, it wasn't just their longing for the North Sea that drew them to their parents' business, which had been run by Birgit and Ewald Brune until then. Above all, they recognised the great potential of the beautiful island, which had been labelled as a destination for bowling clubs, rolled up their sleeves and gradually implemented their vision. Their success proved them right. Combining the foundation laid by their parents with Jens Brune's experience in the hotel industry and Marc Brune's architectural expertise, they have continuously expanded the family business in recent years and now run the luxurious Hotel and Restaurant Seesteg, the trendy Hotel Inselloft with its own bakery, spa and design shop, as well as the Milchbar and Marienhöhe restaurants, in addition to the Haus am Meer. All Brune businesses demonstrate a profitable interplay: heart meets mind, creativity meets quality, and wanderlust meets a love of home.

Some guests have been coming for decades, and not without reason. As hosts, the Brunes manage to meet the needs of pleasure-seeking guests with genuine hospitality, understated

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elegance and confident style, far removed from North Sea kitsch. Even the most cosmopolitan guest will be pleasantly surprised here.

The Rodehuus is the lively heart of the *Haus am Meer* and is uniquely located on the dyke. No other house on Norderney is so close to the elements. Many of the 24 apartments and suites offer a direct view of the sea. This is especially true when you sit wrapped in a blanket on the sea terrace or on your own balcony in a beach chair, breathing in the salty air. Inside, everything is light, thanks to the enormous panoramic windows. The wood glows with a honey-like warmth, the furniture is comfortable, the lighting is beautiful and a delight for bookworms. The natural materials of the bed linen and plaids in matt tones are a joy for all haptacists. The Rodehuus also houses the hotel reception for the Wittehuus and the holiday apartments, as well as the pool with a panorama of the North Sea, the Finnish sauna and a steam bath. The living room for all guests is located in the bar and the sea veranda of the Rodehuus. If the sea air has made you hungry, small delicacies are served there at lunchtime. In the afternoon, there is tea with a piece of cake, and at sunset, guests gather for an aperitif to watch the sun go down in the west, just like in the movies.

The Wittehuus, just a few steps away from the Rodehuus, offers another 21 rooms, apartments and suites. Some have a small kitchenette. Most rooms have a balcony and panoramic windows, offering magnificent views of the sea. The rooms with honey-coloured floorboards are elegantly furnished in a variety of sand and stone colours with a great sense of style, without any kitsch or clutter, with sofas for relaxing and luxurious box-spring beds. A beautiful place to stay. If you wish, you can grab a cosy bathrobe and use the spa in the adjacent Rodehuus. When the weather is good, breakfast is served on the sea terrace or on the veranda. During the summer season, the ground floor becomes a coffee house, serving small snacks, cakes and really good coffee from the Marzocco coffee machine.

Not far from the Rode- and Wittehuus is the third building with the holiday apartments. It is only 150 metres to the beach. The house is the perfect home for larger and smaller families or groups of friends who want to cater for themselves and enjoy independence from typical hotel operations. Eight larger and two smaller apartments with balconies or loggias for two to four people are comfortably and modernly furnished. Use of the spa area in the nearby Rodehuus is included in the price.

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Hotel Haus am Meer is located at Damenpfad 35 in 26548 Norderney. The Norddeich-Mole ferry port can be reached from Zurich, Luxembourg and many major German cities by direct train. The nearest airport is Bremen Airport. The ferry runs almost hourly in summer. In the Wittehuus, the Rodehuus and the guest house, a lift takes guests comfortably to their floors. Dog lovers are welcome to bring their pets to all branches of Haus am Meer for an additional fee. Bookings can be made by telephone on 04932-89 30, by email at info@hotel-haus-am-meer.de or online. Further information about the hotel can be found at hotel-haus-am-meer.de.

Brune & Company

Hotel Haus am Meer is owned by two brothers, Marc and Jens Brune. Together, the trained architect and qualified hotelier run Brune & Company, based in Bremen. On the island of Norderney, the Brune family also runs the Relais & Châteaux Hotel Seesteg (www.seesteg-norderney.de), the Hotel Inselloft with 35 rooms, its own bakery, wine & deli and spa (www.inselloft-norderney.de) and the Milchbar Norderney (www.milchbar-norderney.de) and the Marienhöhe (www.marienhoehe-norderney.de). The family business also includes the Hotel and Restaurant Linde (www.landgasthaus.de) in the southern Black Forest.