

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

HAMBURGER DOM

The *Hamburger Dom* is a large funfair held in Hamburg, at *Heiligengeistfeld* fair ground, in Northern Germany. With three fairs (spring, summer and winter) per year it is the biggest and the longest fair throughout Germany. It attracts approximately ten million visitors annually. This *Volksfest* (peoples fair) is a funfair. It is located in the center of Hamburg on the Heiligengeistfeld.

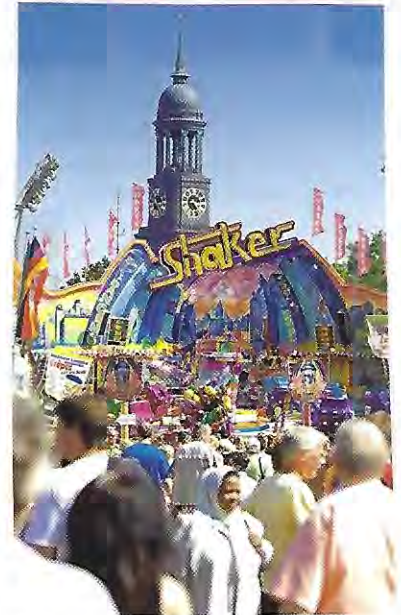
History

A market in or in front of Hamburg's Cathedral (German: *Hamburger Dom*) was first recorded in 1329, at the beginning only in special seasons like Christmas. With the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century the fair was also held at other times. After the demolition of the cathedral (1804–1807), the market was held on the *Gänsemarkt* (geese market) in 1804, but kept the name *Dom*. Since 1892, the funfair was held at *Heiligengeistfeld* (lit. field of the Holy Spirit) and the name was used for all fairs in the area.^[2]

- *Winterdom* or *Dommarkt* (winter fair or cathedral market): 30 days in late autumn
- *Sommerdom* or *Hummelfest* (summer fair or *Hummel* market):^[3] since 1947: 31 days during summer
- *Frühlingsdom* (spring fair): since 1948, 30 days in spring

The city-state of Hamburg holds three folk festivals every year, all of them known as “Doms”: the spring dom, summer dom and winter dom (pronounced dome). The winter dom is a Christmas market fair which is no longer held in the true dom tradition. It got its name from what once were the mediaeval Christmas markets at the St. Mariendom cathedral in the 11th century, where small merchants and traders set up their stands. The cathedral was torn down in 1805/1806 when it proved to be unsalvageable.

The “Dom” has become the most popular and largest folk festival held in northern Germany. For a full month, there is intensive business activity at the Heiligengeistfeld fair grounds, and the nostalgic or super-modern amusements – such as merry-go-rounds, roller coaster and looping rides as well auto-scooters and similar thrills – provide visitors top-notch entertainment.



Hamburger Dom fun fair



Entrance of *Hamburger Dom* at night

It is no longer a “genuine” traditional Christmas market – the Hamburg “Dom”, which got its name from the former medieval Christmas market held at the St.-Marien-Dom, an 11th century cathedral that had to be pulled down in 1806 due to its dilapidated state. Today the Hamburg Dom is held on the fairgrounds of the Heiligengeistfeld from the beginning of November to the beginning of December. This date already indicates that the Dom isn't a Christmas market in the actual sense of the word anymore. On the contrary, today it is a big-city fair with all sorts of typical fairground attractions like merry-go-rounds, roller coasters, Ferris wheels, bumper cars and the like.

However, for several years now Hamburg has had again a real Christmas market held around St. Petri Church in the tradition of the original “Dom” market.