

GERMANY'S PICTURESQUE HALF-TIMBERED TOWNS



In Celle in Lower Saxony, rows of timber frame houses line the streets like pearls on a necklace. There are more than 500, elaborately restored and historically listed. Especially old houses still have a passage to their courtyards, through which Celle's citizen farmers could bring their harvest. The most splendid, decorated with mythical creatures, is the Hoppener House, built in 1532.



Quedlinburg, just north of the Harz Mountains, is Germany's largest half-timbered town, with more than 1,300 timber frame houses. Here rows of these buildings stand closely side by side. They're testimony to civic pride and prosperity in times gone by. The buildings are all individual, in a variety of colors. In 1994 the old town center was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site.