



IZMIR | TÜRKIYE

Population approx. 4.462.000
Partner City since 1995

The partnership between Bremen and Izmir, a significant maritime port in Türkiye, has existed since March 8, 1995.

This contractual commitment to a Turkish city was initiated by the Bremen Senate as an expression of solidarity with Turkish fellow citizens after the xenophobic attacks in Solingen and Mölln in the early 1990s. Since then, active collaboration has developed across various areas. Not only do university and school exchanges take place, but also there is active economic cooperation, delegation visits, and cultural projects. Civil society's high level of commitment further strengthens this partnership.

Additionally, the Bremen economic development agency Bremen-Invest has been maintaining an office in Izmir since 2011.



ODESSA | UKRAINE

Population approx. 1.010.000
Partner City since 2023

Located on the coast of the Black Sea, Odessa is the third-largest city in Ukraine. This port city serves as a major reloading point for maritime goods in the region and is an important economic, scientific, and cultural centre in southern Ukraine.

The most recent partnership resulted from the show of solidarity following the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine in February 2022. Due to the ongoing warfare, the Historic Centre of Odessa has been recognised as a Cultural Heritage by UNESCO through accelerated proceedings and classified as an endangered World Heritage site. Prior to this partnership, there have already been various cultural, economic, church-related, and civil society contacts between Odessa and Bremen.



RIGA | LATVIA

Population approx. 620.000
Partner City since 1985

Riga, Latvia's capital, is the country's most important port location. It is situated on the banks of the Daugava River at the Baltic Sea. Bremen and Riga share historical ties not only as Hanseatic Cities, but also through the founding of Riga in 1201 by Bremen's Bishop Albert von Buxhoevede.

Beyond commercial connections, partnerships exist between church communities, schools, and in the field of art. A vibrant cultural and civil exchange, concert tours as well as athletic and youth encounters further strengthen this partnership.

The town twinning agreement was signed on February 15, 1985 as an important result of the endeavor for international understanding that developed in the 1970s. It was subsequently renewed on April 22, 1992 in celebration of Latvian independence.



WINDHOEK | NAMIBIA

Population approx. 477.000
Partner City since 1990

The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen maintains close ties with the country of Namibia as well as with its capital, Windhoek. In acknowledgement of its colonial history, Bremen advocated for Namibian independence early on. Since the early 1990s, various collaborative efforts and strong ties have developed.

Following Namibia's independence, partnerships between universities, municipal administrations, schools, creative artists, and ports were quickly established.

In addition to these collaborations, projects related to waste management, sustainability, culture, and the arts are currently being implemented.

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**BREMEN
CONNECTS**



BREMEN'S PARTNER CITIES

International Cooperation for
Sustainable Development

Senate Chancellery



**Free
Hanseatic City
of Bremen**



BREMEN'S PARTNER CITIES

City	Partner	Population
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Dalian, China	1985	~ 5.500.000
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Durban, South Africa	2011	~ 3.900.000
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Gdańsk, Poland	1976	~ 480.000
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Haifa, Israel	1978	~ 285.000
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Izmir, Türkiye	1995	~ 4.462.000
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Odessa, Ukraine	2023	~ 1.010.000
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Riga, Latvia	1985	~ 620.000
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Windhoek, Namibia	1990	~ 477.000
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DALIAN | CHINA

Population approx. 5.500.000
Partner City since 1985

Dalian is located in the northeast of China and has one of the largest ports in the country. The former mayor of Dalian saw the "opening to the West" as an opportunity to establish partnerships with cities in Western countries. In this context, the framework agreement between Bremen and Dalian was signed on April 17, 1985.

The Bremen Chamber of Commerce played a significant role in this decision, believing that China could become an important location for investors after the introduction of a market economy.

Since then, joint projects and activities have been realised, especially in the economic and scientific sectors, with a focus on electric mobility, renewable energies, aerospace technology, maritime logistics, and the health economy.



DURBAN | SOUTH AFRICA

Population approx. 3.900.000
Partner City since 2011

Durban, located on the east coast of South Africa along the Indian Ocean, hosts one of the largest ports on the continent. The origins of this town twinning agreement date back to the 1980s. With the end of Apartheid, the Bremen Protestant Church advocated for a democratic shift in South Africa.

Subsequently, collaborations in various areas such as sports, science, culture, environment, economy, and education came to life. Since the formation of this partnership on September 30, 2011, these collaborations have continued to evolve.

At the heart of this city partnership lies the climate partnership with its numerous projects funded over many years by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



GDAŃSK | POLAND

Population approx. 480.000
Partner City since 1976

Gdańsk, situated on the Baltic coast of northern Poland, lies west of the Vistula River estuary. The city's economic focus centres around its port and ship-building industries.

In the 1970s, Gdańsk and Bremen took an important step towards reconciliation and rapprochement between peoples separated by the Iron Curtain. This partner city agreement, the first between a West German and a Polish city after the Second World War, was signed on April 12, 1976.

Over the years, a diverse and extensive cooperative relationship has developed in education, culture, politics, economy, and science. This collaboration is characterised by broad civic engagement, strong solidarity, and an unwavering commitment to a democratic, liberal, and constitutional society.



HAIFA | ISRAEL

Population approx. 285.000
Partner City since 1978

Haifa, the third-largest city in Israel, is located in the north of the country, directly on the Mediterranean Sea.

Parallel to Gdańsk, Haifa and Bremen established their initial contacts in the 1970s with a spirit of reconciliation, resulting in the establishment of the Haifa Cultural Fund Foundation. In acknowledgement of the past, this foundation promotes, among others, young Jewish, Arabic, and Druze artists, fostering coexistence between Jewish and non-Jewish communities. A memorandum of understanding between the two cities was signed in 1978, which was followed by the signing of the framework agreement in 1988.

Driven by this goal, various activities, including citizen travel programs, school exchanges, and collaborations in culture and the arts, have been organised by civil society. Other integral aspects of this partnership include municipal economy, tourism, culture, and environmental protection.

BREMEN'S PARTNER CITIES

Dalian, Durban, Gdańsk, Haifa, Izmir, Odessa, Riga and Windhoek – all have one thing in common: they are partner cities of Bremen. Since the 1970s, Bremen has established partnerships with different cities, initially driven by the intention of reparation and reconciliation. However, over time, these partnerships have evolved to include developmental cooperation, domestic solidarity, and economic considerations as additional foundations for collaboration.

Beyond the exchange of municipal expertise and joint projects at a practical level, it is the active participation and commitment of diverse actors, particularly from civil society, that breathe life into town twinning. City partnerships contribute significantly to international understanding and align with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bremen's most recent partnership with Odessa emerged in a show of solidarity following the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine on February 24, 2022.