

# Globetrotting: Three Buses, Six Events

DECEMBER 2022



Dune Buggies & Hot VWs

dune buggies  
and

# hot VWs

## GERMANY'S RAREST UNITE!





# FOUR DAYS IN

## HO22: HESSISCH OLDENDORF INTERNATIONAL

TWO DAYS AFTER WE WRAPPED THE MASSIVE THREE-WEEK-LONG SO CAL VW WEEK, WE TOOK AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT, FLEW OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, AND LANDED IN EUROPE TO COVER A MONSTER VINTAGE VW



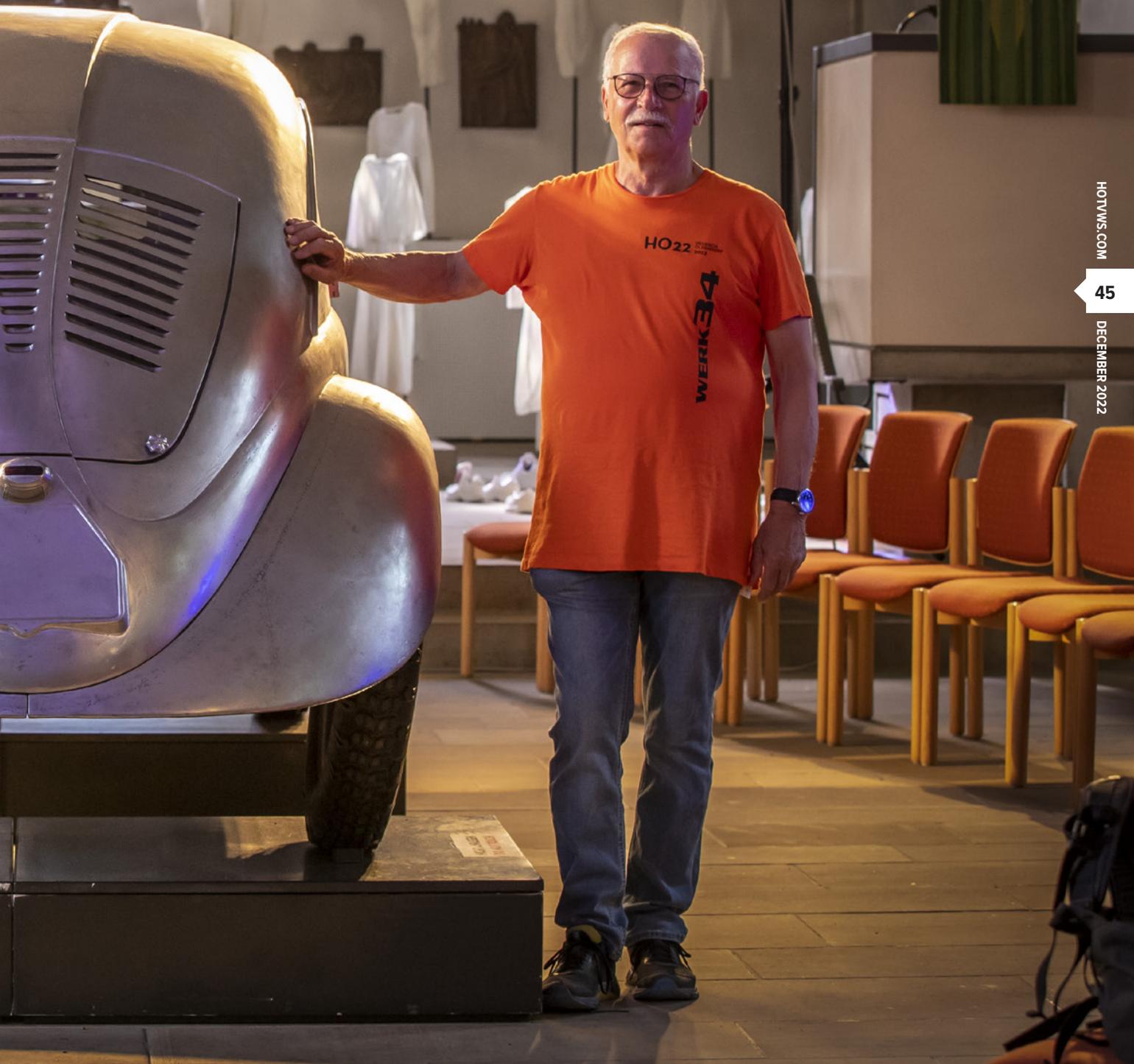
Christian (Left) and Traugott Grundmann with the W30. The Grundmanns and team attracted over 70,000 enthusiasts from more than 40 nations during HO22.

# VW HEAVEN!

## VINTAGE VOLKSWAGEN SHOW

TREFFEN (WHICH MEANS MEETING IN ENGLISH) HELD IN GERMANY.  
ENJOY THE BEST OF THE BEST - FOUR DAYS IN VINTAGE VW PARADISE.

BY SHIN WATANABE





# HO22: HESSISCH OLDENDORF INTERNATIONAL LIFETIME EXPERIENCE



Main street in Hessisch Oldendorf, filled with a thousand vintage Volkswagens. Imagine 200 Split Windows parked together... Incredible.

Hessisch Oldendorf, or simply HO as spoken among VW enthusiasts, isn't solely the name of a small town located in the northwestern area of the Lower Saxony state. Among Volkswagen fans, it refers to the best vintage meeting in the World. The Hessisch Oldendorf International Vintage Volkswagen Show, held every four years, finally returned in 2022 after a one-year postponement due to the pandemic.

During the last 25 years, I have been lucky to attend countless Volkswagen events in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Being involved in one air-cooled VW-related publication or another, folks regularly ask me: "Which VW show should I visit at least once in my lifetime?" My answer is always the same: the HO treffen. I have attended the event starting 2005 and never missed it since. This is the one you should join, no matter if you are into custom, vintage or off-road VWs, or even drag racing.

The first HO treffen was created in 1996 by Traugott Grundmann, a local businessman, hardcore vintage Volkswagen collector and enthusiast. It offered a decent size, gathering local VWs – around 80 cars. However, Traugott and his son Christian's passion for vintage Volkswagens (thanks to their unreal collection) quickly spread around the World, even with limited social network. The second HO treffen turned into a world-famous show, attracting vintage fans from all over the globe. After the Grundmanns and their team hosted the event in 1996, 1998, and 2001, they settled on organizing their meet every four years.

During the happening, the small town of Hessisch Oldendorf becomes a massive vintage VW event venue. The city's main streets are completely blocked off and welcome vintage Volkswagens only. An unreal number of vintage VWs are displayed in the 900-plus-year-old historic town.



A former Audi head engineer redrew the W30 body. The shell was then made using a wood template.



HO22 was probably the first time the One Millionth VW has been displayed outside of the Wolfsburg museum, a big surprise.



Team Volkswagen Classic brought a 1953 Type 143 prototype, a 1965 design study Karmann Ghia concept, and two Type 3 & 34 convertibles.



The 1953 prototype Type 143 interior... Here is something you will never have an opportunity to see other than HO.



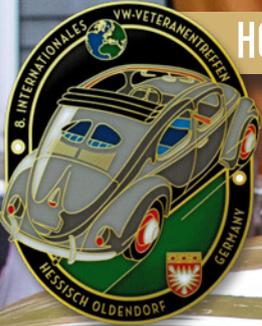
Sunday morning's church service with a W30. Volkswagens are not just the objects of a hobby, but also objects of worship!



Unbelievable... This is the first time the crowd saw a Type 128 (not a 166) Schwimmwagen prototype in action, "cruising" the Weser River.



Volkswagen Commercial Vehicle's Oldtimer team brought a former hot VWs feature car: the Half-Track Fox (with four axles) Split Bus.



# HO22: HESSISCH OLDENDORF INTERNATIONAL LIFETIME EXPERIENCE





1955

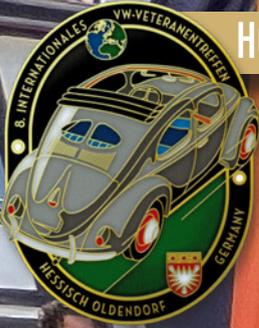
1938

1936

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49

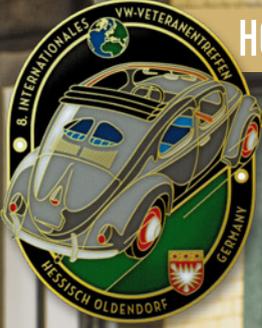
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# HO22: HESSISCH OLDENDORF INTERNATIONAL ONE MILLIONTH VW







# HO22: HESSISCH OLDENDORF INTERNATIONAL LIFETIME EXPERIENCE





You won't see anything like it in any other places but in HO.

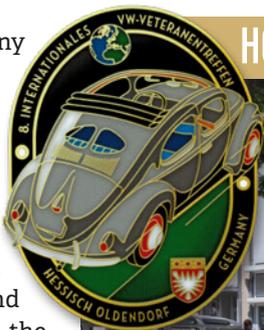
According to the organizers, about 1,000 vintage Volkswagens and 45,000 visitors (but realistically, they had over 70,000) from over 40 countries joined this gigantic vintage VW event in 2022. The city of Hessisch Oldendorf and local stores fully cooperated with the event, and their store windows were decorated with VW-themed displays, providing a unique atmosphere.

## THURSDAY: IT ALREADY STARTED

The HO22 treffen officially kicked off on Friday, but we were glad to arrive on Thursday during the early afternoon. Countless vintage VWs were already checked in HO, and the swap market was filled with many vendors with rare parts and accessories. Also, the campsite was already in full swing. Finally, this year, we had enough time to check out the massive VW campout area a couple of minutes' drive from the city center. Special thanks to my German friend Thorsten Haustein for giving us a tour of the campsite area in his Kübelwagen. The camp area was another gigantic VW event in itself; you could have easily spent days there. Even though the treffen didn't officially start yet, we were already overwhelmed.

## FRIDAY: THE W30

Friday was the first full event day, with plenty to see and experience. Early in the morning, Traugott took us on a private tour of Hessisch Oldendorf's St. Mary's Church, where the W30 prototype car was displayed. Yes, in the Church! The W30 was a prototype of the "People's Car"; 30 units were built in 1936. This particular one was reconstructed using an original chassis, #26, which is the only one that survived. It was discovered after the war in a forest in Austria. History shows that Ferdinand Porsche took various cars in 1944, as he was working on a new factory site in Gmünd, Austria. Chassis #26 was very likely one of these. Twenty-five years ago, Grundmann had the opportunity to acquire #26, and he started the W30 reconstruction a few years ago.



# HO22: HESSISCH OLDENDORF INTERNATIONAL THE CAR SHOW



Hessisch Oldendorf is the place to see many WWII-era KdF-Wagens (pre-1945) and British-controlled-era pre-1949 Beetles.



Jan Christiansen from Aalborg, Denmark drove this 11G model to HO22.



HO22 had 17 Type 82 Kübelwagen entries. Reichspost Kübel is owned by Carsten Messer.



*The oldest known Beetle that rolled off from the Wolfsburg plant: this 1941 Type 60L KdF, body #20 (and probably part of the first batch produced), owned by Ondřej Brom (Czech Republic).*



*Beautiful fully restored Type 2 Ruthmann Steiger Cherry Picker showed up in town.*



*Autostadt displayed their 1936 V3 prototype (reconstructed from original blueprints).*



*1950 Dannenhauer & Stauss was brought by Mark Reynolds of Just Kampers from the UK.*



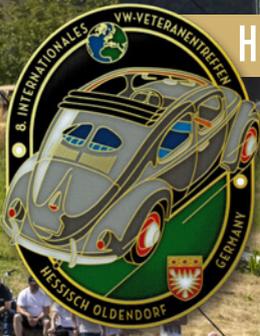
*Best of Show! 1957 Ghia owned by Coimbra Ivo Bernardes and Elisabete Fernandes (Portugal).*



*1952 Belgium Export Standard belongs to Nicolas Carr-Forster.*







HO22: HESSISCH OLDENDORF INTERNATIONAL

# RIVER CROSS & SCHWIMMWAGEN



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58  
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## FRIDAY: SCHWIMMWAGEN RIVER CRUISE

More lifetime experiences followed. The HO organizers invited the press people for a Schwimmwagen river cruise. We thought it would be a 5- to 10-minute ride, but it was a mind-blowing, five miles, almost one-hour-long Weser river cruise with five Schwimmwagens. What an incredible experience; we were impressed by the nearly 80-year-old amphibious vehicle's capability in the water.

## UNREAL NUMBERS AT HO22

Here are some stats about HO22. An unreal number of VWs showed up: 185 Split Window Beetles (including KdFs and excluding cabriolets), 149 Ovals (excluding cabriolets), 21 Hebmüllers, 8 Split-era cabriolets, 22 Oval-era cabriolets, 70 Karmann Ghias (Type 14s and Type 34s), 6 Rometsches (Beeskow and Lawrence), 2 Dannenhauer & Stauss models, 17 Kübelwagens, 25 Schwimmwagens, and 247 Buses (including 62 Barndoors). Keep in mind that these numbers were active registration counts. We saw some non-registered VWs too, so the totals should be much higher. I am sure you better understand the meet's massive size now. You will never see so many early and rare VWs anywhere else around the globe.

*It may look like a diorama, but this is a real scene from HO22 on Saturday. Most participants enjoyed cruising around beautiful HO and used this small ferry to cross the river.*



*Christian Grundmann took his Type 166 Schwimmwagen, and led a river cruise on Friday and Saturday. It was an unforgettable experience to ride in an antique "Schwim" for more than an hour.*

## VW CLASSIC DIVISIONS ALL STARS AND VW MUSEUM

From Friday to Sunday, three VW Classic Divisions and two VW Museums displayed the rarest of the rare Volkswagens and prototypes. In the town square right in front of St. Mary's church, *Auto-stadt* (Volkswagen Group's theme park/museum in Wolfsburg),



*Countless vintage VWs crossed the Weser river. A true flash back to the '60s.*



Four beautiful vehicles from the Karmann plant took over the Weser ferry.



Vanagon boat showed up during the Schwimmwagen river cruise.



A group of Type 166s plus one Type 128 readying for the cruise on Saturday, heading to the entering point of the river.



One of the most exciting moments: 24 Schwimmwagens landing back in the Weser ferry port on Saturday, after the cruise. I would estimate that more than 10,000 folks were there.



The HO22 experience was unforgettable for all generations for sure.



Impressive... All Schwimmers made it back on land without any major breakdown.



Special thanks to Andreas Kloeters for giving us a ride with a 1944 Schwimmwagen.

# HO 22

HESSISCH  
OLDENDORF  
2022



We welcome our friends

We invite you to place you



# 8<sup>th</sup> International Vintage Volkswagen Show



from all over the world.

or personal location pin.



brought four museum pieces: 1936 V3 prototype (replica), 1938 Type 60 (VW38) prototype, 1955 One Millionth VW (a uniquely built golden Beetle) and 1952 Rometsch Beeskow convertible. In addition, *AutoMuseum Volkswagen* displayed a real Herbie car that appeared in the *Herbie Rides Again* movie as part of a special HO Herbie gathering.

Next to the main gate, three Volkswagen group classic divisions had fantastic booths altogether. *VW Classic* brought four Karmann Ghia prototypes and concept (a 1953 prototype, a 1965 Karmann Ghia concept, a Type 3 and a 34 convertible). They even set up genuine Volkswagen Currywurst food stands, which were a huge hit with the crowd. A subsidiary of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicle, *Oldtimer*, displayed a Half-Track Fox and 1953 Polizei radar Barndoor Bus. And Volkswagen Classic Parts (100% subsidiary of VW AG) promoted their parts for classic VWs and birth certificate service. It was great to see Volkswagen fully involved in HO22.

## SATURDAY: THE FAMOUS RIVER CROSSING

Saturday was the busiest day, covering a range of activities. One of my favorites was the cruise and river crossing. HO organizers not only offer a car show but also invite proud VW owners to drive what they love around Hessisch Oldendorf and enjoy the beautiful scenery. On the cruising route, there was a small ferry to cross the Weser River, a most popular activity for many spectators and participants. The ferry accommodated only four cars and traveled the 100-meter-wide (about 328 ft) river. The event promoters rented out a ferry for the whole day, carrying Volkswagens back and forth. These unique sights contribute to the trefen's unique atmosphere.

Then, more than 20 Schwimmwagens cruised down the Weser River and landed on the ferry's dock. The scene of amphibious vehicles "landing" is just unreal. This year, a Type 128 prototype Schwimmwagen joined the iconic river convoy, a once-in-a-lifetime VW experience.



# HO22: HESSISCH OLDENDORF INTERNATIONAL SWAP & PEOPLE



*Rare Vintage Air club founded in Southern California, now a World famous vintage VW club, seen at HO22. Members from more than 10 countries gathered on Saturday.*



*Wawan Dalbo from Indonesia scored some cool vintage signs in the Swap Market.*



*HO Mayor Tarik Oenelcin (black shirt); the Lottermann, Traugott, Niedernhofer families.*

## 4-DAYS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO COVER EVERYTHING

During the four days, you had to use your time wisely for shopping. The swap meet was the place you could find the rarest collection of VW parts in the World. You could spend three days in the swap market alone – it is overwhelming. Of course, prices might be at a premium, but a great score could still be found. Also, note that much of the official merchandising sold out on Friday morning, so you will need to act fast next time.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTY ON SATURDAY

HO promoters hosted a dinner party on Saturday evening under a marquee. We enjoyed authentic German food with fantastic entertainment and exciting presentations. This year, Ladies Trio from Ukraine performed touching songs during this difficult time in their home



*Saturday evening dinner party. VW fans from more than 40 nations celebrated.*

country. VW friends from countless nations prayed for them, their family members, and all people for peace.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

With 70,000 people from over 40 countries, Hessisch Oldendorf became a vintage VW heaven for four days. It translated into an indescribable atmosphere, with vintage Volkswagens blending into the old town.

Do you think the article I wrote



Be careful, you might lose your mind in the Swap Market during HO22. It's overwhelming to see so many vendors. You could spend three days just in the swap meet.



Early morning on HO's main street, countless beautiful VWs rolled into the city center.



You don't often see three super-rare 1940s tin Split Window VW picnic hampers.



We had only an hour to check the HO campground which was another giant event.



Local grocery stores in Hessisch Oldendorf went "full swing" with the Volkswagen theme. They even had a Herforder Pils official Beetle on display.

is too good to be true? It might sound unreal, but if you come to HO, you will experience everything I described. Visiting the event is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and many enthusiasts keep coming back to witness this massive vintage treffen.

The next HO treffen is already scheduled for 2026. The show usually happens during the last weekend of June. So, mark your calendars to be part of the Hessisch Oldendorf extravaganza. [VWWS](#)



Swap market at HO22 was insane... So many rare parts/accessories were available to buy.



Scott Carter of Cool Flo took care of HO's apparel department. Sold out on Friday!













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After 47 years, Darrell Vittone's the Race Shop Volkswagens have been reunited at European Bug-In 9 Chimay, Belgium. Read the latest October 2022 edition hotVWs magazine for detail about...

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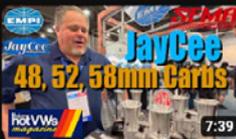
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### Factory Tour

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