

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Travel Magazine

for your holiday between the Baltic Sea &
the Mecklenburg Lake District



Foto: TMW/Beyer

off-to-mv.com

**Mecklenburg
Vorpommern** 
Best of Northern Germany

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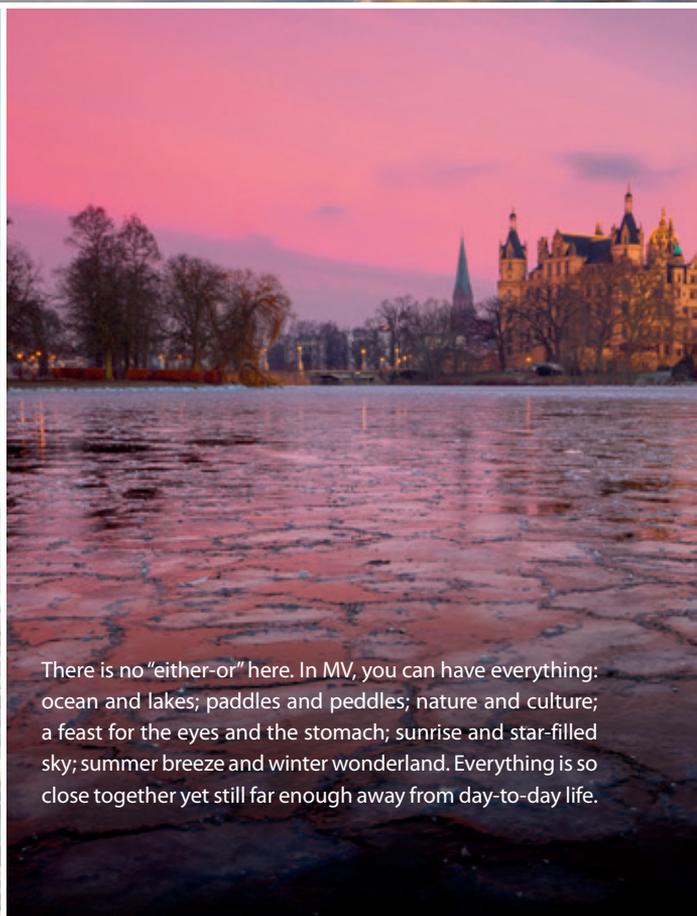


DISCOVER: TRANQUILLITY

Expansiveness and originality – in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (MV), these qualities are at home. The water landscape is not just limited to Germany's longest coastline. Every third lake in Germany is located in the soft, wavy region located inland, across from the Baltic Sea. 26,000 interconnected kilometres of rivers and canals turn this into Central Europe's largest network of waterways. Its incomparable anchor includes the Schmäler Luzin Lake in the Mecklenburg Lake District.



PERSPECTIVE: HOLIDAY



There is no "either-or" here. In MV, you can have everything: ocean and lakes; paddles and peddles; nature and culture; a feast for the eyes and the stomach; sunrise and star-filled sky; summer breeze and winter wonderland. Everything is so close together yet still far enough away from day-to-day life.



Fotos: TMW/Gab's site - TMW/Bath - TMW/Trimm Allrecht - TMW/pechtrude - TMW/Outdoorvisions.com



DESIRE: NATURE

With three national parks, seven nature parks and two biosphere reserves, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (MV) is a veritable green treasure trove. Approximately 30% of the state is under nature conservation. Thereby MV guarantees its guests unique natural landscapes and unforgettable holiday experiences in unspoilt nature. The chalk coast in the Jasmund National Park on the Island of Rügen is a real highlight for nature lovers.

Good to know

• • •

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (MV) is Germany's number one holiday destination. Impressive nature, decorative Baltic Sea resorts, culinary enjoyment at any time of year, miles of endless beaches, comfortable accommodations and high-quality cultural events – during a holiday in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern there is something for everyone to enjoy. We have compiled a few interesting facts.



brilliant white spa architectural villas with their richly ornamental loggias and towers emanate the charm of a bygone era. Today, many of them can be used as holiday homes. Therefore, there is nothing standing in the way of your next *Sommerfrische*, as the upper-class once referred to their holidays.

www.off-to-mv.com/en/architecture

AROUND
2,000
KILOMETRES OF BALTIC SEA COAST

with ocean water, bodden waters and 60 islands, approx. 2,000 lakes in the interior part of the state as well as 18,000 kilometres of streams create a unique blue paradise. And: 97 per cent of the region's bathing water has an excellent quality.

www.off-to-mv.com/en/nature

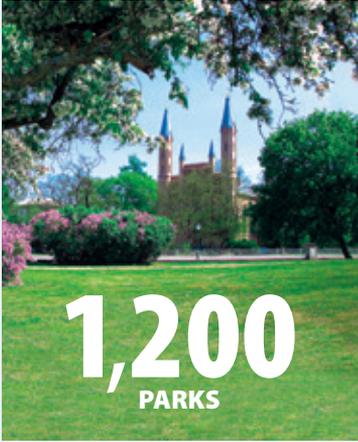
**WITH
A TOTAL
OF 3**

**NATIONAL PARKS, MV HAS
the most national parks in Germany.**

This is where you'll find the country's third-largest national park (Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft 805 km²) as well as its smallest national park (Jasmund, 30 km²).

www.off-to-mv.com/en/nature





display examples of nature and garden art: whether Baroque parks or secluded gardens with lakes, piers, or protruding beech trees. Many parks belong to the region's approx. 2,000 palaces and estates.



EVERY 5th

FISH

caught in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern come from fishermen from the small town of Freest located on the Peenestrom River – the majority of the fish caught are herring, flounder and cod. Guests can take the ferry from the harbour to the small Greifwalder Oie (Greifwald's Isle) or to Peenemünde. Or you can watch the fishermen while they prepare the fish for direct sale at the harbour, or while they cook or fry it at their own snack-stand.

200
LOCAL FARM SHOPS
AND CAFÉS



offer fresh and regional products. Those who purchase their milk, fruits or meats here can take a farm tour and see first-hand under what conditions the goods are produced. In the cosy cafés, guests are still served homemade cakes and pies based on grandmother's recipe.

MORE THAN
120

concerts and events are held at unusual venues each year within the scope of the Festspiele MV. Phantasy shapes enchant audiences on the second weekend in August during the "Small Festival in the Big Park" event held in the gardens of the Baroque Castle Ludwigslust.
www.festspiele-mv.de

OVER
46%



of guests in MV say that "rest and relaxation" is the NUMBER ONE reason for going on holiday. This is understandable, since Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's countryside offers more than enough opportunity to do just that. Searching for this sometimes elusive tranquility has also been pursued by well-known German actors Anneke-Kim Sarnau, Hinnerk Schönemann and Olaf Schubert. The results of their experiences have been combined into 5 short films entitled "Peace and quiet" which offer an amusing look at the experiences.

www.off-to-mv.com/en

1/3

OF THE COUNTRYSIDE IS UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has more protected areas than any other German state.

www.off-to-mv.com/en/nature

Land of **1,000 lakes**

The Mecklenburg Lake District – between Berlin and the Baltic Sea – can be actively explored in very different, enjoyable ways: water tours as well as hiking and biking tours.



1. Water tours in the land of 1,000 lakes

The Mecklenburg Lake District invites you to paddle, sail, dive, swim and enjoy. But which lake is the best for what type of activity? For example, there is often a breeze on Lake Müritz, which means it is perfect for sailors and surfers. Diving is particularly suited in the clear and calm water of the Feldberg Lake District and the Small Lake Plateau is a paradise for paddlers. There, most of the lakes are connected through channels or rivers. For those holiday-goers who do not want to be active themselves, they can participate in a solar boat tour and with a little bit of luck can see white-tailed eagles, kingfishers and otters. Whatever you decide to do while at the lake plateau, in the summertime you must not forget your swimming gear. At almost every lake, there is a pier you can use for diving.

2. Hiking through untamed, real nature

Several national natural environments lie in the area of the Lake District – or are located in the vicinity. These protected regions are home to many rare species of animals, such as the common crane, which can be watched from nearby during the spring and autumn months. The Müritz National Park is a spectacular destination for hikers. The park's old beech wood forests belong to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage. A 175-km long circular trail leads through the National Park. It is the longest trail of its kind in a German national park. The Müritz National Park trail can be explored in nine stages. Just follow the blue M (on the white background) and experience the one-of-a-kind plant and animal life along the way.



Into the blue: Paddlers in the Feldberger Lake District



On tour: Ranger in the Müritz National Park

3. Bike tours – tour of the palaces and castles in the Switzerland of Mecklenburg

In the lovely hilly countryside to the north of the lake district, there are numerous castles, manors and country estates. New owners have moved into some of the wildly romantic buildings, as you will take note of on three different and combinable bike tours. Apart from the “Big Castle Tour” (approx. 40 km) and the “Small Castle Tour” (approx. 12 km), there’s the Circular Castle Trail (approx. 140 km). While on tour you will dive into an idyllic rural world full of colourful meadows, fields, old tree-lined roads, and forests. You can collect frequent flyer miles better somewhere else. Here, you should take your time – and relish a piece of Mecklenburg’s cultural history, which is just now being rediscovered.



Wildly Romantic: In Mecklenburg Switzerland you often cycle along avenues such as these



Even more tips for a great holiday in the Mecklenburg Lake District can be found here:

www.mecklenburgische-seenplatte.de

www.mecklenburgische-schweiz.com

www.visit1000lakes.com



One of the most beautiful heritage houses had been renovated as a lovely hotel, located in the midst of an ancient English landscape park lakeside to the Haussee. The Seeschloss Schorssow consists of two buildings, the castle and the residence, and offers 44 non-smoking rooms. Each room is charming and comes in an individual size. Additionally, every room offers an en suite bathroom with modern facilities.

Seeschloss Schorssow

Enjoy the unspoilt nature

Breakfast will be served in “Café Rose” or the sea terrace with a wonderful lake view. In the afternoon you can enjoy snacks, homemade cakes and lovely cream cakes, coffee and tea. For dinner, our service and kitchen team awaits you in our elegant restaurant, “von Moltke” with fancy seasonal and regional dishes. Don’t hesitate to ask for the accompanying wine. Last but not least, take a break in our SPA. Three different saunas combined with tastefully designed relaxing rooms, an indoor swimming pool, a tea counter and a wonderful view of the lake will spoil your soul and calm your mind. For your final recreation we offer beauty treatments and wellness massages. Just enjoy the moment and let it be.

www.schloss-schorssow.de



A BED WITH AN OCEAN VIEW

Numerous lakes and untamed nature define the Mecklenburg Lake District. A houseboat or raft is the best way to explore the region. You can either choose to sleep in a secluded anchorage bay under a star-filled sky, or in a luxury marina in one of the harbour cities. In Europe's largest networked aquatic sports area, many of the 1,117 lakes are connected through natural rivers and canals. Numerous charter companies rent

boats for 2 to 12 persons. A boating licence is not required; instead, you will receive a thorough introduction prior to beginning your journey. Each amateur captain determines their own individual sailing schedule. Whether for one or two weeks or for the entire summer – there are enough possibilities for taking a trip. And best of all: the excellent water quality in the lakes combines boating with swimming.



THE SONG OF THE FORESTS

The famous chalk coast on Rügen Island shines bright white over the Baltic Sea

The extremely old beech forests in the Jasmund National Park represent one of the last remaining forests of its kind in the world – and they are the workplace of park ranger Karsten Klaene. On guided hiking tours, he shows visitors the special features of this unique landscape on Rügen.

The Baltic Sea waves race to the shore. They roll across the gravel in an unceasing rhythm. We don't see them, but we hear them – in the middle of the beech forest in the Jasmund National Park. We actually expected to hear the rustling of the wind in the leaves, but instead we now reverently listened to the ocean. "Apart from the chalk cliffs, that is definitely a special feature in this national park," says park ranger Karsten Klaene. "Approximately 500 hectares of woods in the national park belong to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site Beech forests and beech virgin forests of the Carpathians and other regions in Europe, the ranger explains as we hike across the "Höhenweg" in the former fishing village of Lohme. With amazement we look at the tall beech trees that surround us. "Many of these trees are over 200 years old," says Mr. Klaene.

Most of the people who have signed up for today's tour are spending their holidays in Lohme. Today, they are able to explore the region from a completely different perspective. Every few metres Mr. Klaene stops and points out a detail of nature to the group, which most of us would have otherwise missed: a special type of moss or a badger's burrow in a mound. His knowledge seemingly knows no boundaries and his relaxed, humorous manner opens our eyes for the fascinating details of this amazing countryside.

Do not disturb – that's the message in the National Park

After completing about half of the route, the beech trees suddenly start to thin out. Even the sounds have started to change: now we again hear the wind rustling through the leaves. Some birds also sing along to nature's wonderful melody. "Old forests are among the world's most endangered places," the ranger tells us. "Unlike many UNESCO World Heritage Sites, where the goal is simply taking steps towards conservation, the principle for protection of the beech forests is: do nothing!"



Park ranger, Karsten Klaene

Green shirt, green vest, grey-green hat with a feather: Mr. Klaene perfectly embodies our image of a park ranger. As a child, he loved walking through the woods. Today, that is his job. Mr. Klaene completed his vocational training as a guardian of nature and landscaper. His goal was always to do his part to keep the woods beautiful.

There is an interactive exhibition in the National Park Centre

We hike through the beech forest for about two hours. On a daily basis, the rangers offer guided tours of the National Park during the summer months. Today's goal: the highest chalk cliff in Rügen, the "Königsstuhl (King's Chair)", which is 118 metres above sea level. With its brilliant white rock, it clearly sets itself apart from the dark green of the surrounding trees and from the deep blue of the Baltic Sea. A fantastic view of the King's Chair is afforded from the Victoria View, the second most famous viewing point along the chalk cliff coast, and Karsten Klaene's favourite place. Victoria View is only a few hundred metres south of the King's Chair. A platform has been built across the edge of the cliff, thereby providing an unhindered and genuine view of the prominent neighbour. The National Park welcomes more than 1 million tourists annually. It's focal point is the National Park Centre KÖNIGSSTUHL with an experience exhibition and multi-vision cinema. During a 15-minute film, the well-known ZDF television reporter Dirk Steffens takes viewers on an image-rich "hike through the old beech forest". The interactive exhibition shows guests the true uniqueness of the different habitats and tells the story of the chalk cliff coastline via the different audio-lead and theme-based tours. The highlight is the unforgettable view of the Baltic Sea from the King's Chair. Blue water as far as the eye can see – purely romantic. Up here, we once again hear the sound of the waves and can see them roll onto the shore. The perfect place to dream and stand for a while.



Additional information:

www.ruegen.de

www.instagram.com/wirsindinsel

www.koenigsstuhl.com



UNESCO World Heritage Forum

Everyone who wants to discover the world natural heritage site on Rügen should visit the recently opened UNESCO World Heritage Forum located near the Wissow Klinken. It is an exhibition and information point as well as a nice place to relax. The lovingly designed graphics and interesting information are intended for both young and old hikers alike and enables them to delve into the secrets of the beech forests.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE REALM OF NATURE

30 EXPERIENCE CENTRES
SHOW HOW NATURE WORKS



Walk in comfort the canopy of an unspoilt beach forest at Naturerbe Zentrum Rügen.



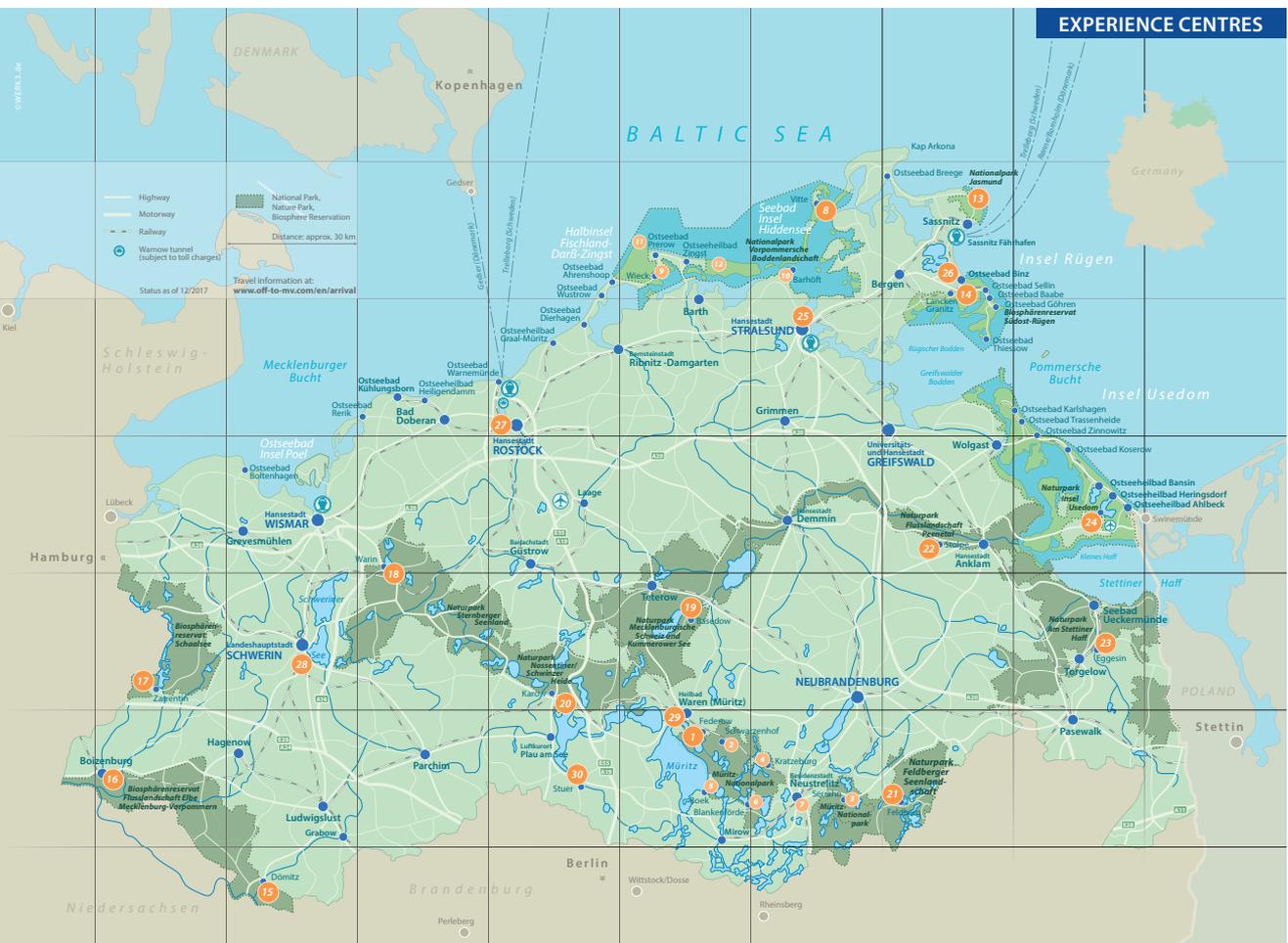
Every year in autumn tens of thousands of cranes rest in the national park at Mecklenburg Lake District.

Snow-white chalk cliffs and blue frogs, wandering dunes and climbing rivers, bellowing stags and trumpeting cranes - this is how **Mecklenburg-Vorpommern** welcomes its guests. Much of what is rare or extinct in other regions of Europe can still be found here. Especially in the case of habitats on and in the water, the idyllic North is one of the absolute forerunners. One-third of the region is under a nature conservation order. Two world heritage sites, three national parks, three

biosphere reserves and seven nature parks preserve **a fabulous world of flora and fauna**. This includes deep green beech forests, mysterious moors and reed-fringed lagoons.

Those who wish to immerse themselves in this realm of nature should best start in one of the **30 unique experience centres**. Interactive exhibitions enabling visitors to see, hear and touch lead through the wild coastal landscape and the last ice age. Nature lovers travel through the "Kingdom of apes" and encounter more than 150 different species. They walk through a bear forest and along a treetop path. Giant aquariums, take you into a universe that is otherwise hidden. Eye-to-eye with many scaly and feathered companions, the experience centres provide **a fascinating insight into the ingenious workshop of nature**, they reveal the tricks and tweaks of evolution and reveal the bigger picture. They guide adventurers to secluded corners and to safe observation points. They disclose information on bats and salt marshes, healing herbs and enamoured frogs. Through them, visitors discover how nature works. **It's worth coming back every season**. When the autumn fog descends, the Baltic Sea freezes and time stands still. When white-tailed eagles fight for prey around an ice hole and storms cause the sea to rage. When springtime flowers flood the forest with colour, the stalks clatter and toads call out. When broom bursts into flowers and seed buckthorn ripens.

Find all the experience centres at
www.off-to-mv.com/en/nature



Overview of experience centres

-  **Müritz National Park**
-  **1 Federow National Park Information**
-  Small white-tailed eagle exhibition, Schwarzenhof
-  Exhibition "In the Realm of the Beech" Serrahn
-  Bat exhibition "Flatterhus", Kratzeburg
-  Exhibition "The Fishers of Boek", Boek
-  Blankenförde National Park Information
-  Neustrelitz National Park Information
-  **National Park of Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft**
-  **8 Hiddensee National Park House Vitte**
-  Darßer Arche, National Park and Guest Centre, Wieck
-  **10 National Park exhibition in the "Haus am Kliff", Barhöft**
-  **11 Natureum Darßer Ort, Prerow**
-  **12 National Park Information "Sundische Wiese", Zingst**
-  **Jasmund National Park**
-  **13 Nationalpark-Zentrum KÖNIGSSTUHL, Sassnitz**
-  **Southeast Rügen Biosphere Reserve**
-  **14 Granitz House - exhibition, Binz**
-  **Biosphere Reserve in the river landscape of Elbe-MV**
-  **15 Exhibitions "Man and the Biosphere" as well as Open "Fundamentally", Dömitz**
-  **16 Open air exhibition "EinFlussReich", Boizenburg/Elbe**
-  **Lake Schaalsee Biosphere Reserve**
-  **17 PAHLHUUS - exhibition, Zarrentin**
-  **Sternberg Lake District Nature Park**
-  **18 Nature Park Centre Sternberger Seenland, Warin**
-  **Mecklenburg Schweiz and Lake Kummerow Nature Park**
-  **19 Small Nature Park exhibition in the "Alter Schafstall" in Basewow**
-  **Nossentiner / Schwinzer Heide Nature Park**
-  **20 Karower Meiler Cultural and Information Centre, Karow**
-  **Feldberg Lake District Nature Park**
-  **21 Nature Park Exhibition in the "Haus des Gastes", Feldberg**
-  **Nature Park of the Peene Valley River Landscape**
-  **22 Stolpe Visitor Information centre**
-  **Am Stettiner Haff Nature Park**
-  **23 Visitor Information Centre Am Stettiner Haff, Eggesin**
-  **Nature Park of the Island of Usedom**
-  **24 Visitor Information Centre in "Bahlsenhaus", Stadt Usedom**
-  **25 OZEANEUM Stralsund**
-  **26 Naturerbe Zentrum Rügen, Baltic resort of Binz/Prora**
-  **27 Rostock Zoological Garden with DARWINEUM**
-  **28 Schwerin Zoological Garden**
-  **29 Müritzeum - The Nature Discovery Centre in Waren (Müritz)**
-  **30 BÄRENWALD Müritz, Stuer**

LIGHTHOUSE **in the woods,** **DEER NEAR** the ocean



Lighthouse at Darßer Ort in the in the Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park

Fischland-Darß-Zingst: These names are mouth-watering music to the ears of those who have experienced the region's beauty and charm. People that know the area also know that this is where your eyes gaze across the endless Baltic Sea, with the tranquillity of the Bodden (bay) behind you. Sometimes the two bodies of water are so close that they almost touch. They know that the pristine and fine sandy beaches stretch for miles on end. They know that the common cranes come here to roost every season. They know that the region boasts an art and photography scene that has fans around the world. And, finally, they know the limitless fun of enjoying a holiday specifically aligned to their wishes. Whether swimming or surfing, sailing or kiting, biking or hiking, birdwatching or fishing, photographing or painting the picturesque countryside – everyone will find their holiday luck on this small strip of heavenly land.

Nature is king

Nature is king and the crowning jewel is the Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park. With the exception of the bath and recreational locations, the entire peninsula is practically a conservation area. With such rarities as “windwatts” (mudflats exposed by the force of the wind on water), sandspits and spits (deposition bars). With the famous Weststrand and trees that are bizarrely turned facing away from the wind, as if they are “escaping”. Or with the Darßer Ort, which continues to grow unstopably due to deposited sand – about 300 years ago the lighthouse was located next to the water; now about two kilometres of forest lie between it and the shoreline. It's also a paradise for ornithologists – in the national park there are a total of 130 bird species. And twice a year, the enthusiasm turns into a mass phenomenon – when 60,000 common cranes arrive for resting and feeding. When this happens, thousands of fans descend upon the area in order to get the best pictures. Autumn also has one more fantastic surprise in store: bellowing stags in the dunes and with an ocean view – you won't find this anywhere else.

THE FISCHLAND-DARSS-ZINGST PENINSULA
IS A HOLIDAY PARADISE PAR EXCELLENCE.
WITH A UNIQUE SYMBIOSIS
BETWEEN NATURE AND CULTURE.



Inspiration for both artists and photographers

It's no wonder then that this idyllic location always drew creative spirits. The first ones arrived in 1889 and fell in love so intensely that they stayed forever. In order to paint all the wonderful things that fascinated them so much: the expansiveness of the countryside. The moods of the ocean. The drama of the clouds. The magic of the light. Dunes and cliffs. Farmer's cottages and barns. Fishermen and sailboats. The meadows along the Bodden and the woods along the Darß. The artistic colony of Ahrenshoop, which was founded in 1892 became a place of yearning, pilgrimage and refuge. Today, more than 126 years later, it has become one of the peninsula's biggest cultural treasures and its art museum has become a shining star across Europe.

Nature as a model and backdrop is also the measure of all things for photographers from all over the world, who regularly visit Zingst. There, within an incredible time frame of only five years, the "Max Hüntens Haus" has advanced to assume a leading position in the world of photography. Max Hüntens Haus is a unique media centre featuring an XXL print studio, rental of photo equipment and consulting. It is also a school of photography annually offering 150 workshops. It is a hot-

spot for photography shows and multimedia performances held by renowned photographers. And it is an organiser of celebrated photography competitions and large-scale events, such as the annual autumn of photography. The absolute highlight: the annual environmental photography festival »horizonte zingst«, which takes place at the end of May and whose first-class portfolio includes spectacular exhibitions, photography workshops, multi-vision shows, events as well as encounters with famous photographers.

Many things which once inspired the artists can be discovered step by step during the course of theme-based tours: One can stroll along the artistic path in Ahrenshoop and visit the well-loved painter motifs. Along the postcard path in Wieck and on the "Kulturstraat" in Born, you can compare historic images of the town with the present day. On the OLYMPUS FotoKunstPfad in Zingst, you can use real artwork as an impulse for imaginative self-presentation and in Prerow you can follow along the "Darßer Haustürenpfad" (front door path). The theme of this path is the colourful and ornamental wooden front doors, which over 200 years ago already symbolised the status of wealthy sailors.



Highlights in the foreshore area

However, the treasure trove of Fischland-Darß-Zingst has even more in store. For example, in the foreshore area, the Recknitz stream meanders picturesquely through the romantic wilderness of ancient peat bogs. A creek that reveals the unspoiled nature in striking solitude and tranquillity. And a paddle territory that can hardly be imagined any better: with meadows and pockets of reeds. With globeflowers and orchids. With dragonflies and moor frogs. With otters and newts. Fischland-Darß-Zingst is also well-known as the "Golden North". Particularly in Ribnitz-Damgarten, the gate to the peninsula, you can experience this in amazing quantity and quality. This is where you will find the atmospheric brick monastery of the "German Museum of Amber" and Europe's most beautiful amber exhibition featuring 1,600 selected exhibits. And in the showcase factory of East Germany's largest manufacturer of jewellery, amber also plays a prominent role across three levels of the impressive building.



www.fischland-darss-zingst.de

Museum of Art Ahrenshoop

Hours: Nov - Mar: Tue - Sun, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Apr - Oct: daily, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission: 8 €
www.kunstmuseum-ahrenshoop.de

Max Hüntens Haus Zingst

Hours: daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission: free
www.erlebnisswelt-fotografie-zingst.de

01 Oversized sunglasses on the beach of Zingst 02 Station of the Wieck Postcard Path 03 Famous Darßer Weststrand with its characteristic trees
04 Photographers at the beach during the environmental photography festival »horizonte zingst«

Family domicile with a view and historic significance



has a wide selection of homes – for practically every preference, and for every budget. On Rügen in the town of Altefähr, Novasol also offers semi-detached holiday homes that feature natural light; the homes' blue and white colour combination defines this ocean-front location.

For anyone who would like to rent a holiday home near Usedom's 40-km long beach, near the Stettin lagoon, or on the "Achterwasser" (a lagoon forming a bay on the Peenestrom River), Novasol will help you find the most suitable place. The company also offers homes on the Island of Poel or in the Mecklenburg Lake District. Particularly stylish are accommodations such as the holiday home Poggelow Castle. The listed estate was constructed in an English Tudor style in 1848 along the northern edge of the area known as Mecklenburg Switzerland and is available for groups of up to 20 guests.

Additional information:
www.novasol.com

At what is quite possibly Rügen's most beautiful beach, one of the leading brokers of holiday homes, Novasol, offers its guests about 100 modern flats, lofts and maisonette-style suites. The rooms range in size from 30 to 120 m². They all have an ocean view; some are handicapped accessible. Between the holiday homes and the beach you'll find an exclusive park and garden landscapes featuring an exterior pool, barbecue

and open-air lounges. Families are not only able to swim and enjoy themselves to their heart's content, but they can also cook, play and cuddle together. These extraordinary holiday homes, in which you will quickly find friends, were built on the property formerly known as the "Prora" – a Nazi-planned Strength Through Joy (Kraft durch Freude or KdF) project. Throughout Mecklenburg - Vorpommern, Novasol



»ROSTOCK IS GERMANY'S SURFER CAPITAL«

It doesn't always have to be exotic surfing destinations on the other side of the world. Beside classic wave surfers, stand-up paddlers, kitesurfers and boogie boarders also love Warnemünde.

Daniel and Tobias Weiß have found their home in the Hanseatic City of Rostock. The city combines everything that they have long been looking for: the ocean and the waves, which break reliably every two hours.

It has always been there, the thirst for adventure that drove Daniel and Tobias Weiß to conquer the oceans. Or even just the small quarry pond. The two brothers learned how to wind-surf on the small quarry pond in their former hometown and thereafter spent every waking minute travelling to places that offer diverse scenery and more action. They found both of these things in the Hanseatic city located on the shores of the Baltic Sea, where they both live today. "Rostock is Germany's surfing capital," explains Daniel. He should know, since the native Bavarian now runs his own surfing school, "Beachhouse": wave riding, kite surfing, stand up paddling, wind surfing – all of that is a lot more fun at "Germany's most beautiful beach."

Taking the surfboard on the city train

According to Daniel, Rostock offers the best surfing conditions, since the spots are all quickly reached. Grab your surfboard and hop onto the city train – in about 25 minutes you can be surfing in the Baltic Sea at Warnemünde. However, today Daniel makes the trip with another vehicle: The catamaran is

docked at the city harbour and is used by Tobias to offer day trips on the Baltic Sea. "That the coastal waters reach deep into the city is quite special," describes Captain Tobias while releasing the boat's moorings. Under full sail, the catamaran christened "Tonia" makes its way towards Warnemünde. Tobias and Daniel enjoy the view of the skyline with the imposing silhouette of St. Mary's Church.

Trend sport "surfing the ferry waves"

When the lighthouse of Warnemünde comes into view on the portside, the crew gets ready. Now everything has to happen very quickly! It will only take a few more minutes and then the ferry from Denmark will enter the Warnow River as it passes between the beacons. The ship's 30,000 hp engine is guaranteed to make waves.

So get onto your boards! No sooner have the brothers brought their boards into position at the coastal sandbar, the ferry disappears behind the western breakwater. What comes a few minutes later are waves that can reach a height of 1.5 metres. The surfing spectacle that doesn't just entice locals but also fans of exotic waves from all over the world, and occurs every two hours. Riding the waves on a fixed schedule – truly unique in Germany, as so many things are in Rostock.



More adventure tips:

www.rostock.de

More about water sports in MV:

www.off-to-mv.com/en/boating

TIPS FOR RELAXING AND EVENTFUL DAYS AT THE BALTIC SEA



Sleeping in an overseas shipping container

Dock Inn Hostel Warnemünde: Germany's first hostel made of upcycled, detached shipping containers is the first choice for many active holiday-makers. The hostel is located across from the dockyard and passenger dock. Even the beach is right around the corner. The stylishly and maritimately designed hostel is a meeting place for young and youthful active holiday-makers and fans of good design, families and backpackers. You can choose from double rooms, spacious suites and multi-bed rooms. You will also find a boulder hall, cinema container, harbour sauna and restaurant, vinyl bar with record players, gaming container with table football and a galley for cooking together.

www.dock-inn.de



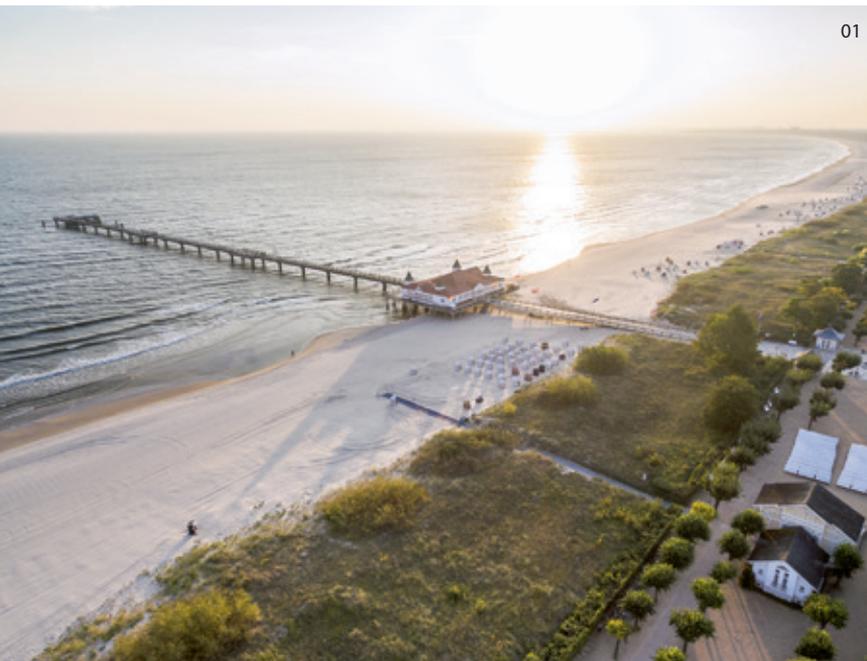
Sea more here

Hotel Neptun: the legendary five-star hotel is located directly on the long, wide sandy beach in the seaside resort of Warnemünde. All rooms have a balcony along with an amazing view of the Baltic Sea. Just like the restaurants and the spa and wellness area. The Neptun Spa also has been given the highest quality label and hosts the first certified original thalassotherapy centre in Germany. In the saltwater swimming pool, guests can bathe in the Baltic Sea water at all times of the year. Sixty-four metres above sea level, both the café and Sky Bar offer guests an unforgettable panoramic view. On days with good weather, the roof opens and you can dance underneath a star-filled sky. The Neptun is also well-known for its famous guests.

www.hotel-neptun.de

FASHIONABLE SPLENDOUR

of the Imperial Era



01

THE BALTIC SEA ISLAND OF USEDOM IS POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE “BATHTUB OF BERLIN” AND IS A WELL-LIKED DESTINATION FOR SPA AND WELLNESS TREATMENTS. AND NOWHERE ELSE IS THE SPA RESORT ARCHITECTURE MORE SPLENDID AND ELEGANT THAN IT IS HERE.

The air is bristling with action. The full canine power, barely kept in check by the team prior to the start of the race, immediately springs into action once the order has been given. As if they have been shot out of a cannon, the six huskies are finally able to do what they love doing the most: to run. Fast. Run fast across a great distance. At an average speed of 25 km/h – preferably on snow, but if necessary also across the Baltic Sea sand, because sled dogs are fickle. For two years now, “Baltic Lights” – Germany’s northernmost sled dog

race – has been thrilling thousands of guests on the Baltic Sea island of Usedom, which is situated in the far eastern corner of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Well-loved as “Berlin’s bathtub” and wellness Eldorado, the island features numerous excellent natural prerequisites: a 42-km stretch of fine powdery sand and an unbeatable 2,000 hours of sunshine per year – the most anywhere in Germany. It has a mild, stimulating climate that whips the body’s defence mechanisms back into shape. The purest sea air – its salt and particulate

matter invigorate the lungs. The sled dogs have to cover a distance of approx. six kilometres. Close to the water and through the deep sand. From Germany’s longest pier in Heringsdorf to Germany’s oldest pier in Ahlbeck and back – but the sled dog teams have little time to enjoy the iconic and beautiful piers. The event’s fans have it much better – they can enjoy the race and the surrounding area at their own pace and on their own schedule. And, in doing so, can take a trip back in time.

02



03



their pompous villas along the Baltic Sea coast and when his majesty, the German Kaiser, often stopped by for a brief visit.

In the construction of their luxurious summer residences, the gentlemen let their preferences run wild and used elements representing the Renaissance and Baroque, Classical, Gründerzeit (years of rapid industrial expansion) and Art Nouveau periods. The result was an incredible mixture of style and periods, a cornucopia containing diverse design elements of which towers and loggias, with their delicate engravings or intricate metal work, are the flashiest. The most frivolous town was Heringsdorf – in this town alone there are three dozen particularly spectacular spa resort architectural jewels to behold.

The elitist has also attracted illustrious guests. Guests in the befitting villas and hotels included Theodor Fontane, Johann Strauß, Engelbert Humperdinck, Leo Tolstoj, Maxim Gorki, Kurt Tucholsky as well as Heinrich and Thomas Mann; the US painter Lyonel Feininger even stayed for several months in the villa owned by banker Benoit Oppenheim – a brilliant white plastered building that pays homage to an antique architectural style. This building also became his absolute favourite motive.

From the pomp and circumstance of the Imperial Era and the bustle of the seaside resorts, it's only a short distance to the striking tranquillity in pristine nature. The "Achterwasser" is a lake-like "Boddenlandschaft" (brackish water) on the other side of the beaches nestled between the island and the nearby mainland. It is the ideal terrain for yachtsmen and surfers, hikers and bikers; the area is also very popular for tours with

Piers and pompous mansions

Usedom is well-known for its famous spa resort architecture. In particular, so called Kaiserbäder (the so-called emperor's spa towns) of Ahlbeck, Heringsdorf and Bansin, but also Zinnowitz in the north are proud of their panoramic piers that stretch far into the Baltic Sea. In addition, the towns are also proud of the large number of the finest and most beautifully polished villas from an imperial period that occurred over 100 years ago, when aristocrats and financial tycoons built

- 01 The pier in Ahlbeck
- 02 Huskies at "Baltic Lights" event
- 03 Historic Bergstraße in Bansin

Fotos: Marcel Pieper - ExperiArts/Entertainment/Stefan Stuh - TMW/Krauss



excursion boats and charter boats. And for all the romantic types, there is hardly a better location than the nature preservation area Loddiner Höft – the sunsets on the water landscape are simply breathtaking.

The healing power of the waves

Among tourists, Usedom is also a popular destination for enjoying wellness and health-related activities. Usedom offers the highest number of qualified spa and wellness offers per area in Germany. Completely new: Europe's first certified treatment and healing forest in Heringsdorf. It's an "organic pharmacy located by the ocean" in which the healing powers of the coastal forest are consciously used. It's been said that one day spent in the forest strengthens the immune system, lowers blood pressure, regulates the pulse and reduces stress-inducing hormones. At different stations in the forest, guests can strengthen their muscles as well as train their concentration and their balance – a truly unique project.



The quiet "Achterwasser" of Usedom with its shallow bodden waters.

Usedom's internationally most recognised location is situated at the northern tip of the island: Peenemünde. Once a small fisherman's village, the town rose to prominence due to the construction of an army testing facility ("Heeresversuchsanstalt") during the Second World War. New types of weapons were developed and tested in Peenemünde between 1939 and 1945. Under the direction of Wernher von Braun, Peenemünde was the location of the first rocket launch into space – one of the most spectacular, albeit

most dangerous, developments of the 20th century. The "Wunderwaffe" (referred to by the German military as a 'silver bullet') was known as the V2 rocket and was used in the 1944/1945 bombings of London, Antwerp and Liège. All of this has been well-documented in the power plant of the former rocket manufacturing facility – the largest technical monument located in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Further information:

www.visitusedom.com

www.kaiserbaeder-auf-usedom.de

Event highlights

March Baltic Lights – Sled Dog Race

April Organic wellness days at the ocean

May Grand Schlemm – culinary voyage along the beach

May-September Pictures in the sea – open-air photography shows at the beach

May International festival of craftwork

June/July Kite surfing masters

July Usedom BeachCup – world's largest beach volleyball tournament

September Usedom Cross Country

September/October Usedom Music Festival





TRAVEL CHARME

Hotels & Resorts

**TURNING INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS
AND THE HIGHEST QUALITY DEMANDS
INTO ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
HOTEL GROUPS**

Award-winning hospitality in the most literal sense: the name Travel Charme Hotels & Resorts represents a unique collection of currently 11 individual holiday resort hotels in the four- and five-star category. The hotels are located in the most beautiful locations in Germany and Austria. Seven of the 11 hotels and resorts in the group are located along the Mecklenburg Baltic Sea Coast – in Kühlungsborn, on the Peninsula Fischland-Darss-Zingst as well as on the islands of Rügen and Usedom.

Today, Travel Charme Hotels & Resorts are the epitome for quality, individual atmosphere and the highest level of service; paired with excellent dining as well as a comprehensive wellness and a wide range of activities.

Holiday experiences made by Travel Charme

At Travel Charme, guests will find offers well-suited for all generations and for all tastes – whether a family holiday, a romantic getaway for two, or even a personal break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The focus is on rest and relaxation, recuperation in harmony with nature, a wide range of delicacies as well as very heartfelt and genuine hospitality.

Wellness means creating new energy, sustainably improving body and soul and maintaining a balanced diet that increases the overall feeling of well-being: you can experience this in the PURIA Spa World at Travel Charme Hotels & Resorts. Spaciously designed water worlds, saunas and steam baths, adventure showers, relaxation areas,

and beauty suites in which you can fully focus on your own relaxation and beauty. This is based on a comprehensive concept with applications and offers catered to your well-being.

The recipe for the culinary side of your holiday consists of seasonal delicacies sourced from regional suppliers. The concept “GreenGusto®”, which is implemented, for example, in the town of Heringsdorf on Usedom, values healthy enjoyment with a good conscience. With the utmost diligence and care, the company creates a network of regional products and suppliers that ensure transparency and short transport routes. Be a guest at Travel Charme and enjoy warm hospitality and first-class quality.

www.travelcharme.com



Residence city of Schwerin a royal charm

It goes without saying that if you want to discover Schwerin, you will need plenty of time to do so. Even if the routes through the historic downtown are all easily walkable, it is highly recommended that guests spend a night in the city. Savouring an outstanding breakfast is the best foundation for enjoying the perfect holiday, regardless of whether you have breakfast in your hotel or in one of Schwerin's numerous iconic cafés or restaurants. After breakfast, take a relaxing stroll to the Schwerin Palace: with its many towers, turrets, gables and alcoves, it is also known as the "Neuschwanstein of the north". The magnificent building is constructed in the style of the renaissance revival and houses a garden, a museum and an orangery. Schwerin Palace is also used to host large-scale

events. Guided tours such as the "Cellar to the tower tour" explain everything in great detail. Therefore, it is no surprise that the fairy-tale like estate has been designated to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The beautiful palace was built on an island in the city centre. From here, you can quickly and easily reach most parts of the city. You will walk past the state-run museum and theatre as you pass through the old town and continue to the marketplace and Schwerin Cathedral – those visitors who climb the 220 steps in the tower will be rewarded with an amazing view across the city as well as the surrounding area. Just a few short steps away, the Pfaffenteich (a lake located within the city limits) is home to beautiful villas nestled along its banks.



It is also a great place to enjoy a quick break. The summer terrace is a very popular location for friends and family to meet, and the ferry going by the name of „Petermännchen“ connects the four piers with what is most likely the world’s shortest boat cruise.

Waves roar and the wind ruffles the hair: it’s great fun to sail aboard a steam ship of the white fleet. The boats glide effortlessly across the many pristine lakes located around Schwerin. Alternatively, you can also book an unforgettable holiday in a floating home. Throughout Schwerin, buildings were constructed close to the water. Local lore says that none of the city’s inhabitants live more than 200 metres away from a body of water. Another relaxing way to discover the city is by taking



The 118-metre high cathedral of Schwerin in the historic part of the city

the double-decker open-top bus, which stops at all the sites. This hop-on, hop-off tour means you can get off at any desired location and simply continue on with the next bus.

If you still have time in the afternoon, enjoy a visit to the most beautiful rural zoo in the region as well as to the high-rope gardens, or visit the orchards and old farmhouses in the open-air museum in Mueß. At sunset, you can walk across the newly designed boardwalk at Ziegelsee (Ziegel Lake), and later on perhaps enjoy a nightcap in a cosy bar such as “Freischütz” or “Angler II”, or even end your stay with a cultural event in the “Speicher” or “Werk3”. Your holiday cannot possibly be any more relaxing than this.



www.schwerin.info/en

The crown of Rügen

**WITH ITS EXTRAVAGANT
MIDDLE TOWER, GRANITZ CASTLE
OFFERS THE BEST VIEWS ACROSS
THE BALTIC SEA ISLAND.**

This is the highest point – at least in Granitz on Rügen. Those who climb to the top of the Tempelberg and its almost 1,000 hectares of woodland find themselves about 106 metres above sea level – quite impressive for a Baltic Sea island. The striking Granitz Castle sits like a throne on the hill. In the middle of the nature conservation area that bears the same name, and surrounded by pristine beech groves, the prince's castle crowns the gentle mountain ridge between the well-loved Baltic Sea resort towns of Binz and Sellin and, in some ways, the entire Baltic Sea island.

The landmark building with its pastel-coloured facade, which can be seen from far away, is pretty much exactly 170 years old. Wilhelm Malte I, Prince of Putbus, commissioned the building of the hunting palace in the mid-19th century. At the time, the surrounding area of Granitz was teeming with wildlife. He was inspired by his friend, the Prussian crown prince and later King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. The Prussian crown prince sketched a romantically inspired castle in the forest that featured an audacious centre tower, thereby creating the basis for the royal construction in its modern-day form.

The imposing castle tower is 38 metres high, reaching an altitude of 144 metres above sea level. Today, just like back in Malte's days, visitors can relish a fantastic panoramic view across the treetops as well as of the entire Baltic Sea and Bodden landscape of the south-eastern area of Rügen. Before enjoying this exclusive view, you will have to overcome the legendary and dizzying ascent via the self-supporting spiral staircase constructed of 154 cast iron steps. The steps have been breached by blossoms and tendrils. The artistic welding work provides the staircase with an eye-catching and unique lightness, magically casting delicate shadows onto the rustic wall of the tower – a fascinating experience and the castle's main attraction.

Aside from spectacular view, the Granitz Castle offers lots more. The sound of horns and hunting calls echo through the building's rooms. The comprehensive exhibition extensively deals with the pleasures of hunting. The reception hall with its impressive collection of trophies, transports us back to the days of Prince Malte, when his select guests would set off on their hunting tours. Some of them captured their impressions in journals and diaries.



02

- 01 Granitz Castle on Rügen Island
- 02 Hunting trophies of the Prince at Putbus
- 03 View of the cast-iron staircase in the central tower

These are also on display in the exhibition. Newspaper articles and cards provide information about hunting achievements, and invitation cards document the meticulous planning of the host. Before and after the hunt, the men would come together in the knight's hall, which is now, once again, the castle's most glamorous room.

There are no public roads leading to the castle. Guests who would like to visit one of the most beautiful castles of Germany, can do so by following the many hiking trails that wind through the beech forest. They can also take a bicycle to the palace or select one of the other comfortable means of transportation: horse-drawn carriages, the "Jagdschloss Express" or the "Rasenden Roland", Rügen's own nostalgic narrow gauge railway, which also makes a stop in Granitz on its many daily routes to the Baltic Sea resort towns.



Additional information:
www.jagdschloss-granitz.de

Moonlight hike

Between April and October, there is a well-loved moonlight hike. It leads from the "Haus des Gastes" in the Baltic Sea town of Binz to the castle; the hiking group is offered a "trip back in time" in the hunting palace and can also ascend the tower.

Festival at the palace

At the end of July, the annual castle festival takes place – a Middle Age spectacle featuring handicrafts, minstrels and jugglery.



03

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and dark pants, is sitting in a field of tall green grass. She is playing a red cello. In the background, there is a blue lake, a line of dunes, and a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

THE ENTIRE REGION **BECOMES A STAGE**

**"FESTSPIELE MV" IS THE MOST
EXCEPTIONAL MUSICAL EVENT
IN THE NORTH-EAST OF GERMANY,
AND ONE OF THE LARGEST
FESTIVALS OF ITS KIND IN EUROPE**



Castle Ulrichshusen in the sunlight

If you are looking for something special, then you will be rewarded at the Festspiele MV. Re-experience the intensity of classical music concerts held in a breathtaking environment – that is the festival’s trademark. Every year, the very best musicians from all over the world perform classical music concerts in the region’s most beautiful locations. The festival year kicks off with the New Year’s concerts and continues with the 10-day springtime festival on the island of Rügen. From the middle of June to the middle of September, the summer festival season reaches its apex before the year winds down with the Advent concerts in the late autumn/early winter.

Annually, about 200 unforgettable concert evenings take place in historic estates, barns, factory buildings, churches or other outdoor locations in Mecklenburg Vorpommern’s incomparable Lake District, seascape and coastal landscape: for example, in the romantic moated castle Ulrichshusen where the heart of the festival has been beating ever since Yehudi Menuhin inaugurated the striking barn venue with a concert. Or on the Redefin rural stud farm, where world-famous stars have held concerts in front of 3,000 guests in a riding arena, whose outstanding acoustics have already thrilled the likes of Lorin Maazel, Gustavo Dudamel and the world-famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Global stars of classical music

At more than 80 venues, about 100,000 classical music fans experience newcomers and stars of the classical music scene: for example, in 2018, soloists such as piano virtuoso Hélène Grimaud and Daniil Trifonov, or star violinists Julia Fischer and Janine Jansen were honoured to perform. Internationally renowned musicians such as the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Dresden, the NDR Elbphilharmonic Orchestra or the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, a London-based

chamber orchestra, specialised in baroque music and Viennese classical music. But even Charly Hübner, Katja Riemann, Max Raabe and Nils Landgren will enchant the festival visitors this summer.

In particular focus: the prize winners “in residence”. A title with which the festival honours exceptional artists each year. The selected high-calibre performer sets his own accents, creates programmes, invites his choice of musicians and of course performs extensively. This traditional line was launched in 2006 with the violinist and permanent guest of the festival Daniel Hope, and was carried forth by such artists as the cellist Daniel Müller-Schott, trumpeter Gábor Boldoczki, the clarinetist Matthias Schorn and the drummer Alexej Gerassimez. In 2018, the focus will be on US-born Kit Armstrong – the young pianist and organ magician will enchant his guests in the course of 24 summer concerts. Thereby, he will lend the festival his very own flavour and for the first time as a conductor, too. Dr. Markus Fein, the festival director, places a special emphasis on an exceptional listening experience and personal encounters. For this purpose, he established series such as “360° ...”, in which one instrument or one orchestral formation is illuminated from all angles. During the “country event”, guests can familiarise themselves with the young musicians and the venues. The “unheard-of places” format invites guests on a discovery tour of the architecture and music, where self-composed programmes are played in atypical venues such as a newspaper printing factory and an iron foundry. And finally, not to be lost in the exuberant plethora of events, the small festival in the big park invites guests to enjoy a rousing party held on 25 stages in front of the beautiful backdrop of the baroque castle in Ludwigslust.

www.festspiele-mv.de

Under the spell of moonlight-illuminated ruins

VORPOMMERN IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF GERMAN ROMANTICISM. AND ITS BIGGEST STARS ARE ALSO FITTINGLY HONOURED THERE

Ruins awash in moonlight, sailboats in the dawn, and the chalk cliffs on Rügen Island – everyone has seen these unforgettable images.

They were painted by artists who found their Eldorado in Vorpommern at the beginning of the 19th century and were truly captivated by the light and the landscape. Their most important representatives: Philipp Otto Runge, Friedrich August von Klinkowström and Caspar David Friedrich.

The Romanticism superstar Friedrich practically reinvented landscape painting, one of several interesting facts that are learned in the Caspar David Friedrich Centre is his birthplace of Greifswald. Here, experts demonstrate how the artist composed his ideal landscapes – as an expression of creation and the grace of God. At the same time, the centre is also the launching point of an illustrative journey. It leads to 15 towns and motives that were especially significant to Friedrich: to the Cathedral, to the Market Square or into the “Pomeranian State Museum” (Pommersches Landesmuseum) that features an extensive collection of his paintings. For fishing boats and sailboats, for sky and ocean, for water and clouds, and for

the magic of light, the nearby Bodden was an inexhaustible source of inspiration. However, Friedrich's favourite motive was the monastery ruin

Eldena. A brick arch, which he sometimes set by the ocean, at times in an oak forest, or even on a mountain ridge. And even today, his favourite motive has not lost any of its fascinating charm. Whether in the moonlight or in the snow. Whether by twilight or in the fog – the flair of the red brick walls remains unchanged. However, nobody will ever be able to draw it as imposingly and magnificently as the master artist.

From Greifswald we return to the nearby Wolgast, former residence of Friedrich's friend, Philipp Otto Runge. Both men were connected through their love of art, the countryside and the landscape. But, in contrast to Friedrich, the majority of Runge's pictures focussed on people. And not only that: Runge is known as the most diverse artist of the 19th century. In German art history, he was the first to create a three-dimensional colour sphere concept and was an intellectual pioneer of the art nouveau and Bauhaus architectural styles. All of that and so much more is presented in Runge's place (Rungehaus) of birth in Wolgast.





The Renaissance era palace Ludwigsburg, with its splendid view of the towers of Greifswald, was the residence of the third member of the group – Friedrich August von Klinkowström, who was also a key pioneering figure of the art movement and a good friend of both Friedrich and Runge. Von Klinkowström’s focus was on Christian motives and he was responsible for the design of the palace with artwork and tapestries, ceilings, beams and walls. His life’s work is also documented at the palace.

- 01 *The ruins of the Eldena Monastery*
- 02 *Romantic museum harbour in Greifswald*
- 03 *Birthplace of Philipp Otto Runge in Wolgast*

Greifswald, Ludwigsburg and Wolgast consequently also belong to the “Northern German Romanticism Route” (Route der Norddeutschen Romantik), which includes both life and motive stops of the three artists and the poet Karl Gottlieb Lappe. The topic-related biking route is 54 km long and leads to the original locations featuring cultural treasures. The route also leads to wildly romantic natural locations such as the beaches of Vierow and Ludwigsburg. Even today, you can still easily relate as to why the artists were so enthused.



www.romantik.vorpommern.de
www.greifswald.info
www.stadt-wolgast.de

Museums

Greifswald: Caspar David Friedrich Centre

Hours: June - Oct: Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Nov - May: Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
www.caspar-david-friedrich-gesellschaft.de

Greifswald: Pomeranian State Museum

Hours: May - Oct: Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Nov - Apr: Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
www.pommersches-landesmuseum.de

Wolgast: Rungehaus

Hours: Apr - Oct:
 Tuesday through Friday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Saturday and Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
www.museum.wolgast.de

Event tip: historical city festival

On the last weekend in August, Greifswald celebrates to honour the most famous of its residents – a day with Caspar David Friedrich in Greifswald.



Tip for your accommodations

Postel – Hotel & Hostel located in the former post office building of Wolgast with individual themed rooms for individualists, families and backpackers and in-house saunas.; rates begin at double room from 48 €

www.post-aus-wolgast.de

Holiday between the beach & brick Gothic buildings

ACTOR DOMINIC BOEER'S FOUR FAVOURITE PLACES ALONG THE GERMAN RIVIERA.

I am originally from North Rhine-Westphalia and my adopted home is Berlin. But for the last few years I have felt very much at home in **Wismar**. When I think of the city, the old town is the first thing that comes to mind. It has also been named a UNESCO world heritage site. When I think of Wismar I also think of the bricks, which simultaneously radiate cosiness and historical significance. And there is the music of the street musicians, which is heard everywhere here.

When my son comes to visit me, we often go to the old harbour. Here we watch the traditional boats with their brown and white sails and the yachts or cruise ships that are taller than the



houses. They make a stop-off in Wismar before they continue on their way towards Denmark or Sweden. In the evening, we wave goodbye to the ocean liners and, as they embark, we both imagine what kind of adventures the vessels will encounter on their journey.

As CHIEF POLICE INSPECTOR LARS PÖHLMANN in the GERMAN CRIME SERIES "SOKO", DOMINIC BOEER chases the bad guys through the streets of Wismar in action-packed scenes. When he's not in front of the camera, he especially enjoys experiencing tranquillity along the GERMAN RIVIERA – and a sense of home. Here, the actor divulges his FOUR FAVOURITE PLACES.

*The famous Grand Hotel Heiligendamm
in Germany's oldest seaside resort*





*Boer enjoys fresh fish
in the Old Harbour of Wismar*

pure oak. Or the high altar – the oldest and still existing wing-altar of Christian art history. It is this exciting blend of century-old traditions, unencumbered bathing pleasure, and the many stories of Mecklenburg's Baltic Sea coast that make this region so very special to me. Enjoy discovering it! *Dominic Boer*



Additional information:

www.german-riviera.com

www.ostseeferien.de

In **Kühlungsborn** I encounter a Mediterranean feeling, a wonderfully relaxing hustle and bustle – a colourful and vibrating activity. In Mecklenburg's largest seaside resort, the Baltic Sea presents itself from a completely different perspective. The four kilometre long boardwalk always has a lot to offer with numerous festivals, shops, award-winning restaurants and bars. I am especially drawn to this location when my busy schedule has caused me to neglect my life a bit.

**The birthplace of bathing culture:
Bad Doberan & Heiligendamm**

To me, the Grand Hotel **Heiligendamm** is one of Germany's most beautiful hotels. For those looking to experience something special, spending a night in this hotel is mandatory. Well rested, guests can visit Germany's oldest seaside resort with its classic buildings situated along the boardwalk. Or visit one of the traditional events such as the historic annual first swim, in which residents dressed in historical bathing suits

run off into the Baltic Sea, a homage to Dr. Gottlieb Vogel, who back in 1793 taught Duke Friedrich Franz the first of Mecklenburg-Schwerin the health-related aspects of bathing in the Baltic Sea. Tourists in the cathedral in **Bad Doberan** will experience a special source of brick Gothic architecture. The cathedral was constructed in the 13th century by Cistercians, who used more than five million bricks. Fun fact: the Cistercians were initially ashamed of using the simple bricks and wanted to camouflage them as a dimensioning stone – which at the time were used by the French in the construction of large cathedrals – by chiselling grooves into the brick's surface. This thought, traces of which can still be seen on the stones today, was fortunately quickly rejected.

Since there were neither acts of pillaging nor destruction during the Reformation, today the cathedral contains the most opulent Middle Age furnishings of all Cistercian churches in Europe. There is no other church that still holds such opulent furniture. This includes the Levite pews or the credenza cabinet – both whittled from



The Doberan Cathedral - a pearl of the brick Gothic style,
embedded in an English landscape park



Mecklenburg - Vorpommern

Land of Health

WITH ITS UNIQUE COMBINATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
THE NORTH-EASTERN STATE OFFERS
IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR IMPROVING YOUR HEALTH.



From Thalasso treatments along the coastal sections to healing chalk treatments on Rügen, from moor mud packs in Bad Doberan to the thermal salt-water in Waren (Müritz). Not to forget healing forests, soothing salty sea water, and fresh air to breathe in deeply. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is the perfect place to get active and offers many opportunities to find inner balance.

In the North East of Germany, you'll find numerous fascinating destinations for rest and recovery. There are more than 60 spa and rehabilitation clinics in the most beautiful areas of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, as well as various health and eco-hotels. At these facilities you can also find qualified specialists for a wide range of indications, modern equipment, and innovative therapeutic approaches.

Two centuries of experience

More than 200 years ago, Heiligendamm was the first seaside health resort established in Germany. There are now 62 state-recognised health resorts and spas in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Spa guests and rehabilitation patients in the state also benefit from the scientific expertise of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The universities of Rostock and Greifswald, Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences, and Stralsund University of Applied Sciences train highly qualified experts in the field of health and conduct research at the highest level.

All aspects of health-related travel

The health services in the state are as countless as sand on the beach. There are special treatment methods and natural healing methods offered especially for diseases of the res-



Fascial training is one of the new trends in sport and rehabilitation.

HANDICAPPED-ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY



Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has adjusted itself to meet the needs of people with physical handicaps. The region also offers a comfortable holiday for seniors or families with small children and/or infants in hotels or holiday homes with handicapped-accessible rooms. Handicapped-accessible beach access enables the use of beach or swimming wheelchairs. The Rostock heathland offers comfortable paths for handbikers. The nature discovery trail "Spurenweg" (environmental traces)" is suitable for blind or sight-impaired hikers. Numerous events at the Festspiele MV are handicapped accessible and provide, thanks to a sign language interpreter and an FM system, pure enjoyment for hearing-impaired guests.

Additional information about your handicapped-accessible holiday can be found at www.off-to-mv.com/en/holidays-for-everybody

piratory tract, the skin, the musculoskeletal system, or the cardiovascular system, combined with the natural remedies of the region. People who suffer from chronic pain, stress, or burnout, as well as from neurological and oncological diseases, will also find health and rehab clinics worth visiting. If you have to undergo dialysis or similar regular treatments, you can take advantage of a range of individually tailored services in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern that let you enjoy hassle-free time-out while receiving optimal care.

Services for health and well-being, acute or chronic illnesses and ailments, or optimising your appearance – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern offers you all this, 365 days a year.

For more information, visit:

www.gesundes-mv.de/en

A holiday in the countryside

From hayloft to manor house: between the Baltic Sea and the Lake District, there is something for everyone. Farms with animal-friendly hosts, holiday homes with an ocean view as well as historical country estates that offer individual freedoms for experiencing an eventful holiday. Guests can gaze off into the distance or submerge themselves in tranquillity – as they wish.



Freshly smoked fish can be enjoyed in the harbours of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.



Between the Baltic Sea and Lake District, horse lovers will find happiness while discovering the 6,200 kilometres of horse-riding trails.



Holiday at a turtle's pace. In MV, all roads allow you to quickly escape and bring you directly into the heart of nature.

Habours with tradition

Along the coast of Vorpommern, charming fishing villages and traditional harbours such as Freest, Greifswald-Wiek, Lassan or Mönkebude line up. Whether fresh flounder or local hake - in many fishing villages of Vorpommern you can buy the "catch of the day" directly at the harbour and see traditional craftsmanship.

TIP In the fishing village of Freest you will find the most active fishermen of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Around 30 fishermen have their home port here - come in the morning to buy freshly caught fish directly from the fisherman on the boat.

Horse-riding

Where horses' hooves scrape and stall doors rattle, family-operated horse ranches enjoy taking time out for you. You can learn how to ride a horse while visiting Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, enjoy the wonderful nature on horseback, improve your riding style, or take a cosy charabanc trip.

TIP Gestütsweg: running between the Redefin country estate and the Brandenburg country estate of Neustadt, this diverse trail crosses 170 kilometres of Mecklenburg Vorpommern's most breathtaking landscape.

Hiking

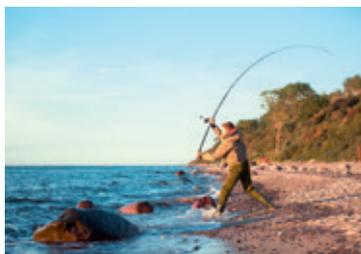
Three European long-distance hiking trails and a network of trails stretching across 5,000 km will lead you from one lake to the other, across rolling green hills and through lush green forests directly to the shores of the ocean. It's only difficult to move to a higher altitude – unless you climb to the top of a lighthouse or the steeple of a church.

TIP "Fallada's Fridolin Hike" this certified quality trail leads you along 10 km through the Feldberg Lake District. Long ago, the German author Hans Fallada and his children were simply enchanted by the region's crystal clear lakes and pristine forests.

www.off-to-mv.com/en/hiking



DESIRABLE PLACES TO "SEA" BETWEEN THE BALTIC SEA AND THE LAKE DISTRICT



The beaches of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern invite guests to enjoy shoreline fishing.



The regional products should be a staple of every kitchen.



Holiday on the farm:
A paradise for big and small alike.

Fishing

With its lakes, rivers and the coastline, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern offers pure fishing pleasure. Wherever you go you'll find fishing-friendly accommodations, boat rentals, experienced guides and cutter rides. And the best thing: with the tourist fishing permit, even beginners can go fishing.

TIP Salmon trolling off the Rügen coast: the Baltic Sea around Rügen belongs to one of the best salmon trolling areas in Europe. Beginning in the middle of December, fishermen start trolling – a process through which the exquisite fish are caught from the boat by drawing the baited fishing lines through the water.

www.off-to-mv.com/en/fishing-holiday

Farm shops and cafés

Seasonal, regional and organic – about 200 farm shops and cafés are well worth a visit. Freshly picked apples, fish from the smoker, meat from grazing cattle, and cheese made from farm-fresh milk. The farm cafés invite guests to take a break while enjoying homemade cakes or delicious tarts. Whether tried-and-tested tradition or newly interpreted, connoisseurs will find the perfect food wherever they go.

TIP In the heart of Mecklenburg, in the small town of Vietschow, there is a sheep barn that has its own cheese dairy. The homemade products can be purchased in the farm shop.

Holiday on the farm

Whether spending time at a child-friendly farm or horse ranch, in the aromatic hay, in a covered wagon or in a privately owned accommodation – breathe in fresh countryside air, be on a first-name basis with sheep, cows and chickens, assist farmers when it's time to feed the animals, drive a real tractor, ride a pony or just have a great time playing in the hay – this is where kids can still be kids.

TIP In the open-air museum at Klockenhagen, families will experience and learn more about the olden days. With Farmer Sven's help, children can feed the farm animals or pet the small bunnies and lambs.

www.off-to-mv.com/en/country

Arriving

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE PLANS WHILE YOU'RE STILL AT HOME? OUR BROCHURES AND LINKS TO ALL HOLIDAY-RELATED TOPICS ARE GUARANTEED TO GET YOU INTO A HOLIDAY MOOD!

GETTING HERE:

... **BY CAR** The well-paved motorways A19 and A20, as well as the roads that pass through the breathtaking countryside, lead you directly into the heart of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

... **BY TRAIN** From any location in Germany as well as from neighbouring countries you have access to direct and quick connections to MV using long-distance trains – for example, departing from Zurich, Vienna and Frankfurt am Main.

... **BY AEROPLANE** The most beautiful German Baltic Sea resort towns are practically a stone's throw away. There is a regional airport in Heringsdorf on Usedom, and European and national flights land at Rostock-Laage airport. Intercontinental flights are available to Hamburg and Berlin. From there, you can take the car or board the train to take you into the holiday region of MV.

... **BY BUS** From most of Germany's major cities, you can take the bus to the Baltic Sea and the Mecklenburg Lake District. Fares are low. Buses depart regularly.

... **BY BOAT** Hop on board and arrive by waterway in MV. Be your own captain or use one of the ferry connections from and to Scandinavia and the Baltic region.

... **BY FERRY** From Gedser in Denmark or Trelleborg in Sweden you may reach Rostock or Mukran (Island of Rügen) with the ferries from Stena Line and Scandlines.

Current connections and timetables are available at:
www.off-to-mv.com/en/arrival

DISCOVER MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN ONLINE

Between the Baltic Sea and the Lake District, you can expect to find a country full of natural and cultural treasures. Your direct line and lots of useful tips are available under www.off-to-mv.com or directly here:

The best holiday tips for active cyclists, hikers and water sports enthusiasts:
www.off-to-mv.com/en/activities

All you need to know about Germany's most loved family holiday destination:
www.off-to-mv.com/en/family

For your enjoyment – highlights from art, culture and culinary specialties:
www.off-to-mv.com/en/culture

Festivals and sporting events for young explorers:
www.off-to-mv.com/en/fun

The holiday destination's calendar of events:
www.off-to-mv.com/en/events



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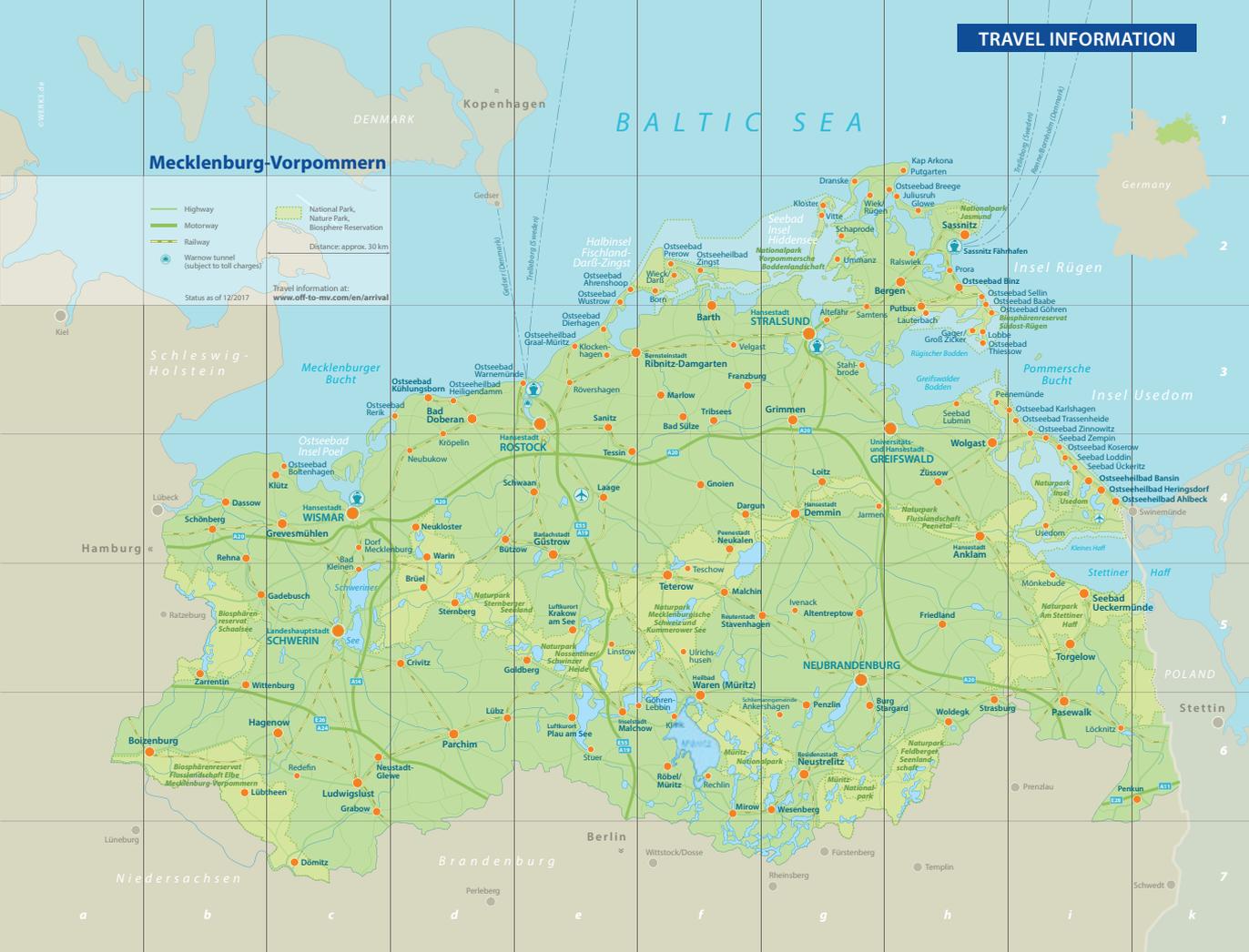
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IMPRINT

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STAY IN TOUCH

Do you have any questions about your holiday in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern? We would be happy to help you:

Tourismusverband Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
 info@auf-nach-mv.de
 fon: +49 381 40 30 - 500





Expedition into nature

CAMPING HOLIDAY
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

For those who pitch their tents in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, there is an excellent chance that they will wake up only a few metres from a Baltic Sea beach or next to an enchanting lakeside. The chances of being serenaded by the sounds of nature are certain. Once you step outside, you are immediately surrounded by idyllic nature, can take a walk through a pristine forest, or go for an invigorating morning swim in refreshing waters. After enjoying a wonderful breakfast outdoors, each day offers a new discovery tour in the area.

The services offered by the campsites range from family-run nature area to holiday resort with a petting zoo, WiFi and wellness offers that also include the availability of numerous modern parking spaces for motorhomes and RVs. While the children are joyfully running about the area, climbing trees

and collecting sticks for the evening bonfire, the adults can enjoy the tranquillity of nature, the rustling of the leaves, and the sound of the waves.

Many of the 190 camping spots also offer – aside from spacious parking for motorhomes and caravans as well as ample space for tents – comfortable bungalows and mobile homes, creative leisure time activities such as crafting courses, animation programmes, indoor playgrounds, surfing schools and courses, high-rope gardens, stand-up paddling, and lots more. So it is really no surprise at all that Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is one of the most beloved tourist destinations in Germany.

www.camping-caravan-mv.de

Golf courses in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern:

- 1 Golf Club Hohen Wieschendorf
- 2 Ostsee Golf Resort Wittenbeck
- 3 Golfanlage Warnemünde
- 4 Golfclub Tessin
- 5 WINSTONgolf Vorbeck
- 6 Van der Valk Golfclub Serrahn
- 7 Golfclub Mecklenburg-Strelitz
- 8 Golfclub Fleesensee
- 9 Golfclub Schloss Teschow
- 10 Golfclub „Zum Fischland“
- 11 Hanseatischer Golfclub in Greifswald
- 12 Golf & Country Club Schloss Krugsdorf
- 13 Golfpark Strelasund
- 14 Golfclub Rügen
- 15 Golfanlage Schloss Ranzow Rügen
- 16 Baltic Hills Golf Usedom Korswandt
- 17 Golfclub Balmer See Insel Usedom



COME PLAY!
www.golfverband-mv.de





Good for you.



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