



## Usedom in Facts and Figures

- Unique on the island of Usedom: 42 kilometres of non-stop sandy beach, up to 70 metres wide.
- Located in the North-East of Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania Usedom is Germany's second largest island (445 square kilometres).
- Usedom is a bi-national island: 373 square kilometres belong to Germany and 72 square kilometres are part of neighbouring Poland.
- Usedom has a total population of 76,500 inhabitants. In 2017 more than one million guests visited the island and stayed overnight. In total there were 5.3 million overnight stays in the commercial accommodations of the island alone (with a minimum of 10 beds; source: Statistical Office of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania). The commercial bed capacity is as high as 43,727.
- Sunny Island Usedom: In 2016 the sun was shining for 2,065 hours in Trassenheide on the island of Usedom (reading 31.12.2016; source: Meteo-Group). With more than 2,000 hours of sunshine per year the island is one of the sunniest areas in all of Germany.
- The three historic Imperial Spas Ahlbeck • Heringsdorf • Bansin form a unique completely preserved ensemble of Resort Architecture.
- The longest transnational sea front promenade of Europe is 12.5 kilometres long and connects the Three Imperial Spas Ahlbeck • Heringsdorf • Bansin with the Polish Świnoujście (German: Swinemünde).
- In five of Usedom's seaside resorts piers reach out into the Baltic Sea. While Heringsdorf has Germany's longest pier (508 metres), the pier in Ahlbeck is Germany's oldest (erected in 1898).
- There are two historic windmills on the island of Usedom: the smock mill in Benz, which became a subject for the German-American artist Lyonel Feininger between 1908 and 1912, and the post mill at Pudagla, which was built in the early 17th century.
- 59,000 hectare of land on the island of Usedom and the neighbouring mainland belong to the "Island of Usedom Nature Park". It is the home of more than 280 species of birds; unique in Germany is the population of white-tailed sea eagles, 27 breeding pairs live on the island of Usedom.

### Ihr Ansprechpartner

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## Presseinformation



- More than 200 kilometres of cycle tracks and over 400 kilometres of hiking paths crisscross the “Island of Usedom Nature Park”.
- Usedom is regarded as a paradise of aquatic sports – sailing, windsurfing, jet-skiing, kiting, canoeing, stand-up paddling can be practised on the river Peene, on the Achterwasser Lagoon and on the Baltic Sea. There are 38 marinas with more than 2,100 berthing places on the island and the neighbouring mainland.
- Two 18-hole golf courses, one 9-hole practice area in Balm and the first 19-hole golf course in Korswandt make Usedom an ideal destination for golfers.
- There are two public thermal baths, both offer sea water pools: the OstseeTherme (Baltic Sea Thermal Bath) in Ahlbeck and the Bernsteintherme (Amber Thermal Bath) in Zinnowitz.
- Guests find a large cultural variety on the island of Usedom – the best-known event of the island is the Usedomer Musikfestival (Usedom Music Festival). Every year during three weeks in September and October more than 40 concerts take place.

### **Did You Know ...?**

#### **... that in Ahlbeck you can take a walk on Germany’s oldest pier?**

Since 1898 in Ahlbeck it is possible to walk above the water straight into the Baltic Sea. This is how old the “grand old lady” and landmark of the stylish seaside resort is. The wooden restaurant-building with its four little towers was built in the 1930s and is a famous example of the Resort Architecture style. The German humorist Vicco von Bülow, better known as Loriot, enjoyed the endless view over the Baltic Sea from the pier so much, that he used it as backdrop for his comedy “Pappa ante Portas”. In the 1990s the 280 metres long pier was restored and supplemented by a modern jetty.

#### **... that Usedom has Germany’s largest playground to offer?**

Usedom’s white fine-grained sandy beach is 42 kilometres long and up to 70 metres wide. It stretches out without interruption from the north-western tip of the island to the very south-east end. It connects ten German seaside resorts with the Polish town Świnoujście (Swinemünde). No matter whether guests wish to go hiking, to cavort in seawater, practice yoga on the beach, bask in the sun or amble along the piers, Usedom’s beach offers recreation for all tastes.

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**... that the sea front promenade connecting the Three Imperial Spas with Świnoujście (Swinemünde) is the longest of Europe?**

Even Brighton and Scheveningen cannot keep up, because 12.5 kilometres simply is a European record. Since the border opened in August 2011 the sea front promenade not only connects the Three Imperial Spas Ahlbeck, Heringsdorf and Bansin, it now leads to the Polish sea side resort Świnoujście. Glamorous villas built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Resort Architecture style line the promenade and invite the visitor to saunter. Members of the aristocracy and well-to-do middle class came to visit Usedom as well as artists and intellectuals as for example Lyonel Feiniger, Maxim Gorki and the brothers Heinrich and Thomas Mann. The stainless steel monument in form of a clamp, erected right on the Polish-German border, symbolizes the two united nations. By now it is a favorite photo motive.

**... that on Usedom roofed wicker beach chairs are still made by hand in the world's oldest Strandkorb Manufaktur?**

Some peculiar examples of craftsmanship are made by the wickerwork factory (founded in 1925): beach chairs with in-built fridges, TVs, hi-fi systems, reading lights or seat heaters. Aside from beach chairs the manufacturer also builds sales counters for kiosk owners and even appropriate beach furniture for our four-legged companions. The most famous beach chair "Made in Heringsdorf" of course was the one specifically manufactured for the G8 summit held in Heiligendamm in 2007. Since 2014 the largest ever produced roofed wicker beach chair stands right next to the pier in Heringsdorf on the island of Usedom. It is 6 metres wide, 4 metres high and 3 metres deep. This giant's beach chair is a popular gathering point, not only because it has its own free of charge WiFi.

**... that the island of Usedom has an exceptionally high number of spa-hotels?**

All these hotels offer divine treatments: on offer are for example chocolate-massages, seabuckthorn baths or treatments with algae-mousse and applications of "Heringsdorfer Jodsole", sea water with high iodine. One of the highlights for spa-aficionados are the Usedomer Wellness-Tage (Usedom Wellness-Days). During one weekend in spring 2019 spa-hotels offer a wide range of treatments to spoil their guests. These treatments focus on the benefit from local products, the healthy seaside climate and the coastal forests. Nordic Walking at the beach and the search for the Usedomer Wellness-Schatz (the Usedom Wellness Treasure) are part of the special activities.

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*Sonneninsel Usedom*

## Presseinformation



### **... that Europe's first Cure and Healing Forest is in Heringsdorf?**

It clears the head, invigorates and refreshes: Heringsdorf's coastal forest is Europe's 1st cure and healing forest. Since November 2016 its restorative powers are consciously exploited on an area of 462 acres.

The soothing yet stimulating climate, the unique combination of sea and forest air make our coastal forest into a unique natural pharmacy embedded in the local landscape. It helps with diseases of the respiratory tract and the skin, with psychosomatic diseases such as burnout, insomnia or depression, with exhaustive states and helps strengthen the cardiovascular system. The healing effects of this outdoor health studio are supported by integrated resting places and trails. Visitors are invited to participate in various physical and meditative exercises that promote holistic well-being. The cure- and healing forest is accessible to everyone to promote health and personal well-being.

### **... that Usedom offers many treatments free of charge and in the open air?**

The natural synergy of water, woods and the mild bracing climate, which combines fresh sea air and aerosols produced by surf, are characteristic of Usedom. A long walk at the beach, a refreshing outdoor program with Nordic Walking, thalasso-therapy or Qi Gong provides visitors with fresh energy to fight their winter blues.

### **... that the Usedom-Beachcup in Karlshagen is the largest beach volleyball tournament in the world?**

Since 2000 more than 1,000 beach volleyball players come every year to the seaside resort of Karlshagen. Twice – in 2007 and 2008 – the Usedom Beachcup was even listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

### **... that nowhere in Germany the population of white-tailed sea eagles is as high as on the island of Usedom?**

27 breeding pairs have settled on the island. They can be watched mainly at the Usedom hinterland or Achterland and the Achterwasser Lagoon.

**Usedom Tourismus GmbH (UTG) is the official Marketing Company of the island of Usedom. As a comprehensive service provider for the tourist industry of Usedom, the regional authorities and their institutions dealing with tourism, the UTG realizes the destination marketing for the island of Usedom at home and abroad. It runs the destination portal, a booking center and is contact for supra-regional public relations activities of the island of Usedom.**

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