



## Usedom – Craftsmanship and Tradition

On the island of Usedom craftsmanship cannot only be found in the museum, it is a living part of the island's life too. Traditional crafts are practiced in many areas, the knowledge being handed down from one generation to the next. This is one of the reasons why Usedom is so attractive to artists and artisans. They are inspired by Usedom's traditional crafts, by their originality and authenticity. By creating their art they contribute to today's cultural life on the island.

One characteristic craft of northern Germany can also be found on the island of Usedom. Tucked away in the rural countryside with its small and secluded villages you come across typical thatched cottages. **Reed thatching** is one of the oldest crafts in Pomerania and is still part of daily life. In the Lieper Winkel for example, one of the peninsulas in the Achterwasser Lagoon, fishermen's and farmers' cottages are still typically thatched with reed. Today many houses are built with a traditional thatched roof again, as it was common hundreds of years ago. Reed insulates excellently against heat and cold and lasts for 30 to 50 years. By the way, while a newly thatched roof is golden yellow, after some months it gets its typical weathered grey-brown colour.

It was mainly fishermen's houses which used to be thatched. But the number of active fishermen is decreasing every year. The continuously reduced fishing quota and the hard physical work are the main reasons why this traditional Usedom trade slowly disappears. Along the coast of the Baltic Sea **inshore fishing** has become rare. Wooden fishing boats setting off every morning and being pulled on the beach by a tractor in the evening can only be found in Ahlbeck, Heringsdorf and Koserow.

As fishing becomes rare, traditional **boatbuilding** is in danger too. Wooden boats used to be a familiar sight on the beaches of Usedom. Enrico Nagel is committed to the old craft of boatbuilding. His family owns the marina in Zecherin and he himself is the Usedom specialist for constructing, converting and refitting wooden yachts, vessels and boats of all kinds. The high quality of his work has been honoured by the many national and international awards.

Those who wish to build their own boat themselves can attend a workshop of boatbuilding by master Ursula Latus in Peenemünde.

The **sail maker** Burghard Streuben runs his business in the Marina of the village Kröslin. Apart from sail making he also covers other areas of maritime craftsmanship. No matter whether he makes sails for fancy yachts or for sporting boats, he exclusively uses high-quality materials.

Ihr Ansprechpartner

Karina Schulz  
Presse- & Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

Usedom Tourismus GmbH  
Hauptstraße 42  
17459 Seebad Koserow

Tel: +49 (0) 38375 244 140  
Fax: +49 (0) 38375 244 145

[karina.schulz@usedom.de](mailto:karina.schulz@usedom.de)  
[www.usedom.de](http://www.usedom.de)



**Handmade Fishermen's Carpets from Freest** are a traditional product of the island of Usedom. In the 1920s fishermen of the area needed a secondary occupation during wintertime and closed fishing seasons to earn a living. Today decorative wall hangings with their maritime motives and ornaments are valuable and sought after souvenirs. The colour scheme relates to the characteristic colours of the shore and the sea. Classical motives are stylized waves, seagulls, swans, cormorants, anchors, sea hollies and of course fish. Those who wish to find out more about carpet weaving should visit the exhibition of carpets at the local museum of Freest. The little fishing village where it all began, has a wide range of fishermen's carpets on display. Agricultural and fishing utensils, carvings and other historical objects are also part of the exhibition.  
[www.fischerteppiche.de](http://www.fischerteppiche.de)

In the past yarning and weaving were customary at most farms and fishermen's houses on the island of Usedom. Today these old traditional crafts are being revived. Annelene Lühmann-Jesewski teaches how to weave your own "Usedom Rainbow Carpet" in her shop "De Spinndönz" in Usedom-town.

The Resort Architecture of Usedom is unique. Nowhere else do mansions and villas of this style exist in such a unity as in the Three Imperial Spas. Their ornaments and features as well as the maritime environment inspire **goldsmith** Rebecca Grob. Her unique pieces of jewellery reflect this special influence. The young craftswoman also is an avid analogue photographer. All her creations can be looked at in her studio in Heringsdorf.  
[www.goldschmiedegalerie-usedom.de](http://www.goldschmiedegalerie-usedom.de)

The **ceramicist** Daniel Graf calls his workshop "Tonwerk Keramik" (Clay Works). In his creations for the garden and living room he combines old craftsmanship with modern design. The enthusiastic artisan takes his inspirations for his work directly from Usedom's nature. Often he combines ceramic with steel and old wood. Apart from Daniel Graf there are further ceramicists in Bannemin, Mellenthin and Morgenitz.

The ceramic workshop of Susi Erler in Mellenthin is also worth mentioning. She makes traditional Pomeranian utilitarian pottery, which was very popular and widespread in 19th century households. Susi Erler has revived these traditional and nearly forgotten patterns, which are mainly light in colour and decorated with blue ornaments.  
[www.pommersche-keramik.de](http://www.pommersche-keramik.de)

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*Sonneninsel Usedom*

## Presseinformation



Even though it is not a traditional craft, **chainsaw carving** is nowadays very popular on Usedom. One of the well-known chainsaw carvers on the island is Torsten Lauth. He does not only present his art, he also offers demonstrations and weekend courses to those, who wish to learn how to handle the chainsaw in an artful manner. His works are to be found in many places on the island. Visitors come across them in the Wisent Enclosure of Prätenow, in the Botanical Garden of Usedom, at the Centre of Information of the "Naturpark Insel Usedom", and in front of the Klaus-Bahlsen-Haus in Usedom-town. His carvings can also be found on the garden banks and tables he crafted for the Hotel Haffblick in Kamminke.

[www.lauth-usedom-carving.de](http://www.lauth-usedom-carving.de)

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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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