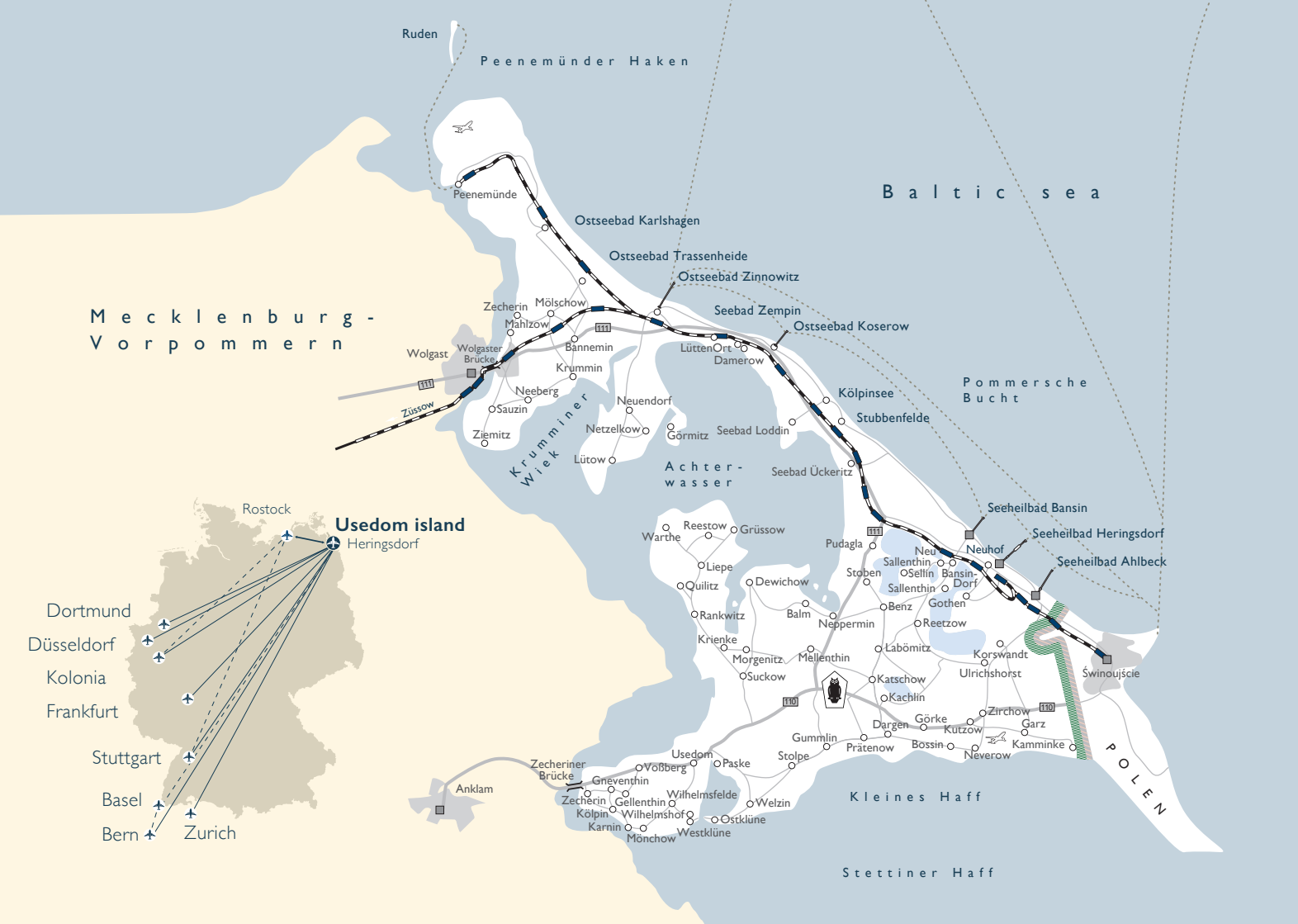


The sunny island of *Usedom.*



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Facts

Germany's **second largest island** (354 km² German, 91 km² Polish) | More than **1.2 million overnight visitors** per year | **42 km** of uninterrupted, exceedingly **fine, white, sandy beaches** | According to a long term statistic the **sun shines** on average **1,906 hours** annually, more than any other place in Germany | **Five historic piers** stretch out into the Baltic, amongst them **Germany's longest** in Heringsdorf. And the **oldest pier** in Ahlbeck | 15 certified wellness hotels form **Europe's highest density of wellness hotels** | There is a unique comprehensive collection of **historic bath architecture** along **Europe's longest beach promenade** with 8.5 km along the three imperial summer residences called "3 Kaiserbäder" | The windmill in Benz was theme for the painter **Lyonel Feininger** during his stay at Usedom Island from 1908 to 1912 | Numerous **red brick churches** are found in the countryside | The entire island is **a Nature Park** with Germany's largest population of **white-tailed eagles** | 180 km of **cycle tracks** and 400 km of **hiking trails** | **Water sports** everywhere: Baltic, Achterwasser, the Peene and the lakes are an El Dorado for sailors, windsurfers, kitesurfers and canoe enthusiasts | Around **20 harbours and marinas** | **golf courses:** 2 18-hole, 71 par courses, 9-hole practice course | Two public **thermal bath** offer refuge for raining days

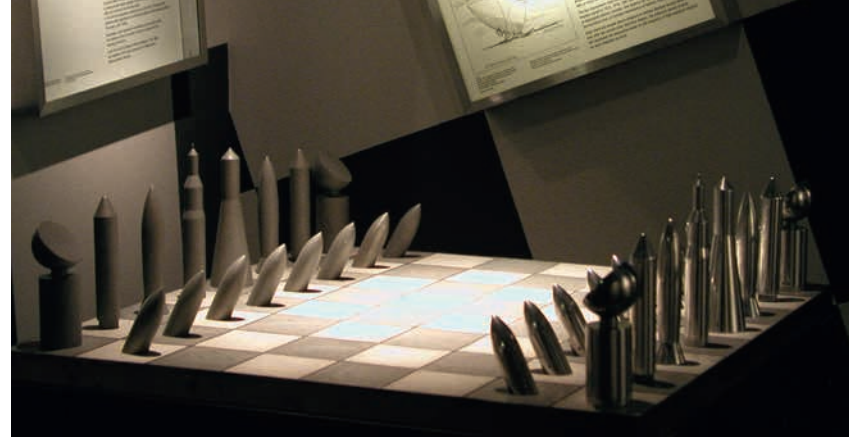


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The "Ku'dam" to the front, the Baltic to the back...

... was a joking remark once made by Kurt Tucholsky about "Berlin's Bathtub". The island was already popular by the end of the 19th century. A destination for the citizens of the capital city. Anyone who thought highly of themselves travelled to Usedom to spend summer holidays there. What the Berliners enjoyed the most about the Baltic was the fresh sea air, of course covered from the sun, because pale skin was fashion. For many of them it was almost a must to own a villa at Usedom. This is how the famous historic bath architecture arose. Have you ever strolled through Berlin's Grunewald quarter? If so, you will have already admired the villas from the Wilhelminian Period, real mirror images of the impressive summer residences of famous Berliners in Ahlbeck, Heringsdorf and Bansin. Therefore you won't be surprised to hear that the Three Imperial summer residences called "3 Kaiserbäder" are also lovingly known as a suburb of Berlin.



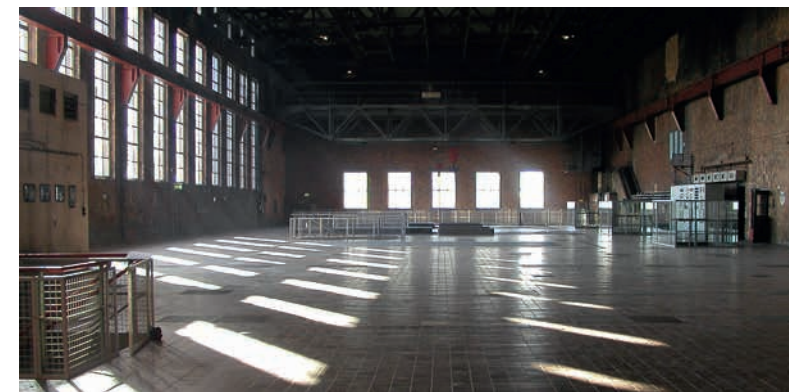


Peenemünde – the myth Between 1937 and 1945, the world's most modern technology centre had its home here. In 1942 one of the most spectacular, but at the same time most dangerous technological breakthrough of the 20th Century was made in Peenemünde: a large rocket reached space for the first time in history. Its “father” was Wernher von Braun, technological director of the German Army’s research institute. His rocket entered the history books, known as the “V 2”. However spectacular the launch may have been, the rocket had always only had one meaning: the transport of a one-tonne warhead in WWII.

Peenemünde today: A place with many faces The power plant is one of the few buildings of the former German Army’s research institute that remained intact in Peenemünde. It was opened in 1942 to cover the huge energy requirements for the research and production sites. It was used until 1990. The Historical Technical Information Centre Peenemünde was opened in the power station in spring 2001. A permanent exhibition documents the development of the rockets, the history of the research institute and its production sites. The consequences of the use of Peenemünde’s “wonder weapons” are documented in two exhibitions including comprehensive source material. Themes are “The end of the parable” and “The rocket legacy of Peenemünde”.

Peenemünde- cradle of space travel or dark chapter of german history?

300,000 visitors trace the footsteps of Peenemünde's history every year. Yet the former power plant is more than just a living piece of history and documentation. Each year the Usedom Music Festival attracts hundreds of music lovers inside the historic walls of the power station. Seminars and workshops discuss technology, ecology, politics and ethics of the present. In this way the bricks of the past melt with contemporary cultural life to form a unique synthesis.



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Germany's largest playground

©Christina Hoba | ©Jens König, ©Andreas Heyn, ©Andreas Dumke



Legendary 42 km and up to 70 meters wide is Germany's largest playground. Every day the beach on Usedom island attracts shell seekers, beach researchers to play, have fun, experience the seaside. But not only the kids can find everything the heart desires. Parents and grandparents enjoy the competition for the largest sandcastle and remember their summer holidays. So Usedom island in the Baltic Sea is standing for a perfect family holiday destination. The long sandy beach invites to long walks along the beaches, to swim, to enjoy Nordic walking and water sports such as kite surfing.





Usedom — 59,000 hectar natur park beautiful in all seasons.

The nature park Usedom island, a paradise for nature lovers. The facets of the island are as diverse as the flora and fauna, which covers the island: pure nature with its lakes and forests and the biggest population of sea eagles in Germany. It is a vacation place for active people. They can observe more than 280 species of birds. Especially in spring and autumn the island is covered of tens of thousands Nordic geese, ducks and woodcock birds who follow the coastline and the glacial valley of the river Oder on their journey into wintering grounds.

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© Andreas Dümke



Usedom is not only a dream destination in the summer months. The island becomes a real winter fairytale when it glows in the cool light of the sun's rays and the aroma of baked apples hangs in the air. What about a mulled wine at the beach or a ride on a horse drawn carriage along the promenade.



An island to feel good.



Can you imagine anything more relaxing than being spoiled from head to toe for a day with a chocolate massage, a milk bath, Thalasso on the beach or a bath in Heringsdorf's iodine brine? The island's wellness hotels are waiting to welcome you. Yet you will find not only wellness in the spa's. Usedom's best wellness offer comes for free. Take a deep breath – the mixture of sun, wind and salty waves create so called aerosole – minerals that enhance your health and wellbeing. For joggers the island offers empty beaches beautiful in the early morning sun. People who love Nordic walking, Pilates and Qi Gong are welcome help to gain new energy, relax and just enjoy Usedom island.

The gourmet island – Usedom surprisingly different.

Grand Schlemm – each year in May the event for gourmets is waiting for you with various gourmet stations along the beach. Let yourself being spoiled by culinary delights created by the islands famous cooks. Already 150 years ago the Pomeranians created excellent menu's drawn from the cookbooks from Swedish, Polish and German cuisine. Delicious recipes combine the traditions from the 19th century with innovative ideas of today and form the so called "New Pomeranian Cuisine". Enjoy baltic white fish, smoked fish pralines, mustard fruits and dripping with prunes served with a small bouquet of herbs.



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The most beautiful place.

“7 paint the Sea“ Do you not know that feeling? Sometimes you just want to hold on to a moment forever, a very special moment you only experience once. For hundreds of years artists have been attracted to Usedom by its frothing waters, endless beaches, fishing boats and rustic harbours. Every spring “7 Painters beside the Sea” (7 malen am Meer) meet in the warm atmosphere of the three imperial summer residences called “3 Kaiserbäder“ to paint the beauty of the island for eternity. Behind their easels and their sketch books, these painters are the silent observers of the island world. Perhaps they feel like the half-German, half-American artist Lyonel Feininger: “Pomerania and the Baltic – they were important for my entire work and today I still think back ...”.

The Fashion-Mecca of the Baltic Usedom is trendsetter for new baltic fashion. Models display creations from famous designers on the world’s longest catwalk. Various fashion designers from the Baltic region compete with boundless creativity and craftsmanship for the coveted prize. The baltic fashion award will be bestowed to the best of them awarding creativity, material and presentation.

Usedom Music Festival Every year in autumn, the island of Usedom, becomes the island for music lovers. For more than 20 years, the famous Usedom Music Festival draws people from many countries to the island. Great symphonies, small chamber concertos, sonatas and choirs created by renowned composer lure in the churches, concert halls, studios and Roman period buildings on the island of Usedom.



©Hans Werner Richter Haus Bansin | ©Geert Maciejewski



Usedom – The perfect place to stay.

Imperial villas Holiday as it was in the imperial era – that's possible in the lovingly restored historic bath architecture villas in the Baltic's seaside resorts. The freshly renovated buildings tell of the baroque, classicistic, French or Italian tastes of their former owners and surround guests of today with the unique atmosphere of the imperial decades.

High-class apartments High-class, luxurious and somehow homely... Families, in particular, spend unforgettable days in the island's apartments – in whatever corner of the island you might be: a self-catering holiday is possible all over the island.

Wellness hotels Wakey wakey, rise and shine! Get out of your cosy bed and enjoy an relaxing aromatic massage, an Cleopatra bath with milk or stretch your muscles to aqua fitness. Let yourself go and block out the routine – that's best done in one of the wellness hotels that are spread across the island.



Thatched houses The thatched houses are found in the region "Achterland". The islands small fishing villages promise pure romance. It is here that white-tailed eagles circle over wooden fishing cutters that float calmly in the waters, whilst the sun goes down behind the breath-taking backdrop of Usedom's untouched nature.

Exclusive accommodation with a once in a lifetime factor You are right next to the sea in the holiday apartments on Germany's longest pier in Heringsdorf. Let yourself be teased out of your bed by the day's first glimpses of sunlight. The swimming holiday homes give you the feeling of weightlessness in the heart of nature on the sunny island. Sailing like our ancestors an experience to be found at the ship called "Weiße Düne". The schooner, which was built in 1909, offers 20 places to sleep. Another fairytale holiday is guaranteed if you stay in the lighthouse in Kamin. Here you can let your thoughts roam in the tower's own Jacuzzi and during breakfast in bed with a view over the Stettiner Haff. If you would have it rather more stately the Castle Mellenthin is waiting for you.

Star-holiday in a hotel You can reach for the stars on Usedom! First-class quality is essential for the hotel business on Usedom. You will experience your holidays on Usedom at the highest level no matter how many stars your hotel has. Whatever you choose, your star-holiday on Usedom will remain an unforgettable holiday experience, because service and a feel-good atmosphere are inclusive.



Arrival by car, train or airplane ...

The Baltic motorway A20 guarantees easy access to Usedom island. Two bridges in Wolgast and near Anklam guard the island and connect it to the mainland. By train the island is reached in a more traditional manner. The island's own train Usedomer Bäderbahn connects seaside resorts covering the island like a chain and will get you to your destination. Sportsmen and hobby sailors can moor their boats in one of the more than 20 marinas. You can get to Polish Świnoujście and then on to the sunny island from Sweden (Ystad) with ships from ferry operator, Polferries.

Heringsdorf Airport – an airport with a long tradition. What began as Swinemünde's provincial airport in 1919 is today a modern regional airport with short distances. Equipped with a runway that measures 2,305 metres in length, a modern navigation system and a newly built terminal from 1995, Heringsdorf Airport fulfills every requirement for being the starting point of a relaxing holiday on Germany's sunniest island. Once you have landed you can walk to the arrivals area, where your luggage will be with you shortly and where your host will be waiting for you.

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Did you know . . .

1,906 hours of sunshine more than anywhere else in Germany according to a long term statistic? ... you can walk out over the water on Germany's oldest pier in Ahlbeck? ... Germany's longest pier in Heringsdorf also turns into the world's longest catwalk in the summer? ... Europe longest beach promenade between the three imperial summer residences called "3 Kaiserbäder" Ahlbeck, Heringsdorf and Bansin measures 8.5 km? ... the sunny island of Usedom has the greatest density of certified wellness hotels in Europe with 15 certified hotels? ... the white-tailed eagle population is greater on the island of Usedom than anywhere else in Germany?

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