

Fischland

Darß Zingst















Nationalpark Vorpommersche



The workshop of nature:

The Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park

The Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park is the biggest national park in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and with its 786 km² the third largest of its kind in Germany. It occupies 60% of the peninsulas land surface, and consists to a great extent of woods. The biggest cohesive tract of forest is the "Darßwald" with an area of 5,000 hectare.

Here one can not only observe how the woods evolve naturally, but also witness how the wind and waves constantly form the land. While the Baltic Sea carries away the sand on the west coast of the peninsula, it gets deposited on the northern promontory at Darßer Ort and forms new land there.

Another kind of spectacle is presented by the animals living in and visiting the national park. Only here one can spot red deer wandering the dunes in broad daylight and find their hoof prints on the beach. Rather exciting times to observe them in their natural habitat are the autumn months when it is their rutting season. Many of them will gather at Darßer Ort to tout for the attention of the females. But the national park is not only famous for its deer population. It also houses one of the most important resting spots for cranes in Europe. Around 60,000 of them gather here each autumn to prepare for their journey south.

Fischland-Darß-Zingst:

Where unique landscape meets unique traditions

Above all, the Fischland-Darß-Zingst region captivates with its diverse coastline, which does not only include endless, sandy beaches, but also steep cliffs and the untouched, rough Weststrand. The latter is located in the Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park, which is the largest national park in the Baltic Sea area and entices visitors with its pristine nature. But there is more to the peninsula than that. The people living in the Fischland-Darß-Zingst region cherish the old customs, traditions and the unique craftsmanship of the area. Thanks to several local associations they are preserved and made to come alive for locals and visitors alike. Therefore, one can watch riders try to knock off a wooden barrel hanging high in the air at the so called Tonnenabschlagen, or go sailing on

one of the traditional sailboats, the Zeesboote. in the little harbors of, for example, Dierhagen, Ahrenshoop and Zingst. Real eye catchers are the colorful doors that adorn many of the houses in the area called Darß. The "Darßer Türen" are still handmade in one family-run joinery in Prerow and are reminders of the peninsulas maritime past. Furthermore, there is the old "Salzstraße" on which salt was transported from one saline on the mainland to the coast. It still connects the Recknitztal region with the peninsula and, thereby, passes through the city Ribnitz-Damgarten, which has the byname Amber City. The golden-brown stone also played an important role in the peninsulas past and still can be found along the coastline after

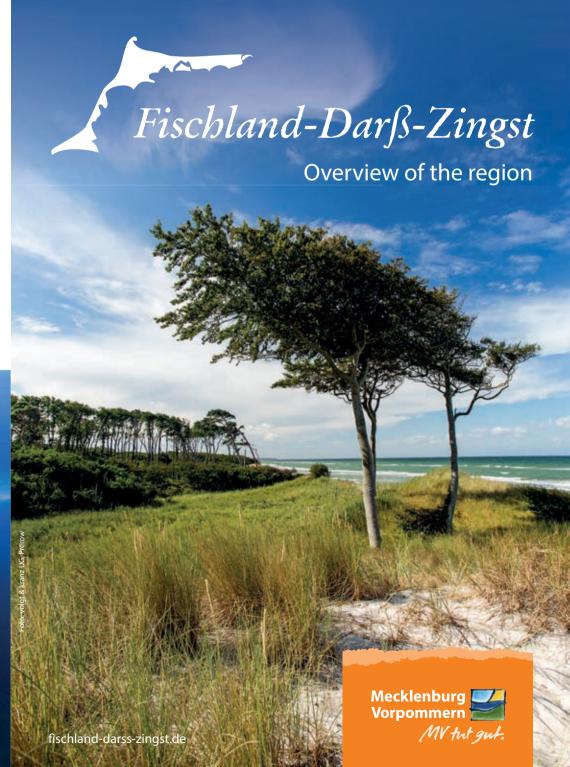


Germany's most beautiful peninsula



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Fischland

The area called Fischland is the southernmost of the former islands Fischland, Darß and Zingst. It is the narrow bridge that connects the peninsula to the mainland. It starts north of the Recknitzer Stadtwiesen and the Rostocker Heide. At its narrowest part it is only 500 meters wide, which means the Baltic Sea and the Bodden are always in close vicinity to each other. On its five kilometers of land the Fischland hosts the Baltic Sea spas Dierhagen, Wustrow and Ahrenshoop, which is also popular for its artists' colony.

Sights

- sandy beaches, small harbors, living traditions
- Museum of Art and other galleries in Ahrenshoop
- Rhododendron Park in Graal-Müritz picturesque churches





Darß

Between the areas Fischland and Zingst you find the Darß, which is to a great extent under conservation and, therefore, comes up with untouched flora and fauna. But there is more to the Darß than just the Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park with its impressive lighthouse at Darßer Ort, the famous Weststrand (which is one of the most beautiful beaches in Europe) and the free-living red deer one can observe wandering the area in bright daylight. There is also the evidence connected to the area's rich maritime past and its spa history one can marvel at.

Sights

- lighthouse at Darßer Ort
- Weststrand (untouched beach, a must see)
- unspoiled and beautiful nature
- traditional doors "Darßer Türen"





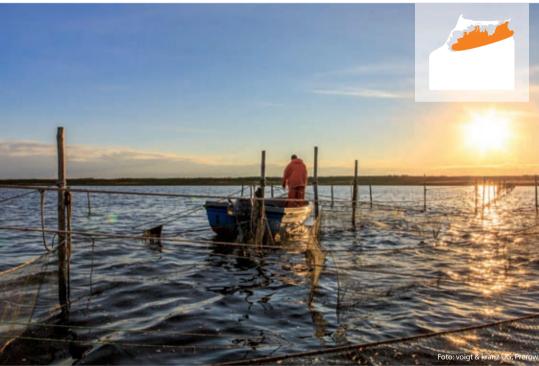
Zingst

The Zingst is the most eastern part of land of the peninsula Fischland-Darß-Zingst. It is around 20 kilometers long and between two and four kilometers broad. Wide parts of the former island belong to the Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park. Among other things it inhabits one of the largest resting spots of cranes in Europe. Around 60,000 of the impressive birds gather here each autumn. The Zingst also is home to the identically named Baltic Sea spa town Zingst, which entices with its endless beaches and its diverse cultural program.



- place of photography with outdoor and indoor exhibitions
- Leica Gallery, Max Hünten Haus
- annual environmental photography festival
- »horizonte zingst«
- photography workshops and photographic excursions







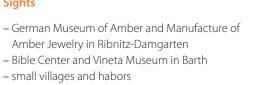


Boddenküste

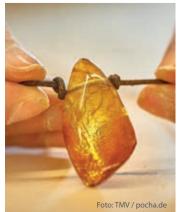
Along the coast of the Bodden one finds several charming villages and towns. Two of them are the so called "gates to the peninsula": the Amber City Ribnitz-Damgarten to the west and Barth with its lovingly restored town houses to the east. One will also find that the varied nature of the foreshore is very appealing for long bike rides, hiking tours and prolonged rides on horseback. Beyond that, the Bodden is also the ideal territory for water sportsmen.

Sights

- Amber Jewelry in Ribnitz-Damgarten







Vogelparkregion Recknitztal

South of the cities Barth and Ribnitz-Damgarten begins the Recknitztal region. This is where the river Recknitz winds through marshlands, blooming marshy meadows and colorful fields of rape, poppies and cornflowers. The best way to experience nature is to hike or bike on the Recknitztalcircular-track or to canoe on the river itself. Along the way one finds lovely towns with redbrick and manor houses that are worth seeing as well.

Sights

- Vogelpark Marlow (zoo)
- regional producers
- castles and manor houses





NordvorpommerscheWaldlandschaft and Trebeltal

East of the river Recknitz and west of the city Stralsund extends the Nordvorpommersche Waldlandschaft. Thanks to its vast stretches of timber it is the ideal habitat for the critically endangered European lesser spotted eagle. Due to this fact the region also got the byname "Schreiadlerland". If one wants to leave civilization behind for a few hours to feel closer to nature, he will find refuge here as well.

- river Trebel and a lot of nature
- churches in Tribsees and Franzburg









Fischland

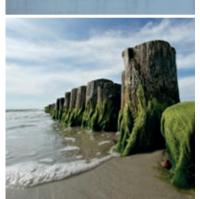
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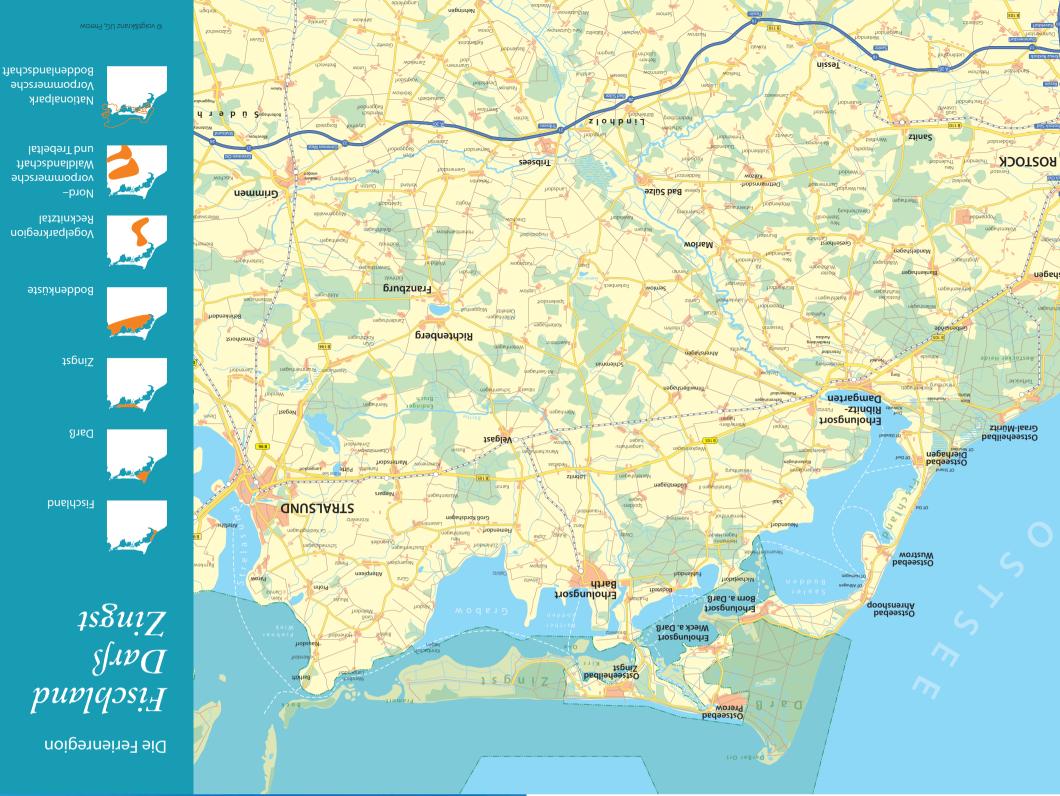




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