

[1]

Holy places**Logo of theme trail****Theme trail**

Rügen's "holy places"- search out the spirit of the past along this special trail and explore the oft legendary scenery of the island.

[2]

Holy places

In scarce another region of Germany do the graves and fortifications of prehistory and the Slavic period so shape the scene as on Rügen.

[Nadelitz (5), megalithic tomb with long barrow, photo..]

Passing by selected ancient ritual and settlement sites, the trail conveys an impression of the early history of the island. Inspect Rügen's holy places and sites in the centre of the island west of the Great Jasmund Bodden and let yourself be moved too in Rügen's north and south by a countryside wide swathes of which remain holy today.

[3]

The legend of a place***Holy places on Rügen***

Ideas about ghosts and mythical creatures haunting the land are generally dismissed as superstition today. But belief in a world of spirits dominated life in the prehistoric and Slavic periods.

Holy places are culturally resonant places which attain an existence within us. Their monuments are frequently striking features of the landscape, accompanying you on your hike.

In the past, people moved through the landscape along ritual paths. Embark on your own journey to the sites of mythical events. Let yourself be moved by a landscape still scattered with holy places.

[4]

Prehistoric burial culture

As early as the Stone Age, the dead were being honoured and dignified during their burial, in which the widest variety of grave goods, such as ceramic vessels or tools, were laid with them in the grave. This ritual continued into the Bronze Age, and even today the dead are honoured at burial with flowers and grave decoration.

Find out more on your hike to Rügen's holy places about the construction, meaning and identifying features of the megalithic graves, flat graves and tumuli that mark the landscape of the island.

[5]

Prehistoric and Slavic fortifications

The inclusion of the natural environment in the building of Slavic fortifications is still reflected in the scenery of Rügen today and can be seen impressively in aerial photographs of the fortifications.

But many Slavic sites and other holy places on the island fell victim in later ages to the need for stone to build churches and roads and were destroyed. On your journey to the historic sites, you'll find out about the history of the monuments that still survive.

Location/route:

from the north of Rügen west of the Great Jasmund Bodden into the island's centre through to the south

Length:

XX km

[6]

FACTS in brief:

Isle of Rügen

Location:

- largest German island in the Southern Baltic region.
- high in the north of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Size:

- approx. 926 km² surface area

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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IMPRINT

Publisher:

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Industriestrasse 10
18528 Bergen auf Rügen

Texts:

Büro Blau & animare projektmanagement

Map:

Top Plan

Layout & graphics:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Printing:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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