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Press Briefing

THE ISLAND OF RÜGEN: FACTS AND FIGURES THINGS YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GERMANY'S LARGEST ISLAND

Rügen is Germany's largest island. It is situated in the federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and part of the district of Vorpommern-Rügen. No town or village on the island is more than 7 kilometres away from the coast. The first settlers arrived on the island during the Stone Age, around 10,000 years ago. Later, under Slavic rule, Rügen gained in importance as a trading hub and a cult site. The roots of Rügen's tourism can be found in Sagard, where pastor Willich opened the first bathing and recreation facility in 1795. In 1817/18, the Goor region near the village of Lauterbach became the location of a public bath, built by order of Wilhelm Malte I, Prince of Putbus. Gradually, fishing and farming villages at the Baltic Sea coast developed into bathing and health resorts.

Located in the Jasmund National Park, Germany's smallest national park, the chalk cliffs are among the most impressive landmarks of the island. In 2011, the "Old Beech Forest" was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Other unique nature reserves include the Western Pomerania Lagoon Area National Park and the Southeast Rügen Biosphere Reserve including the Mönchgut peninsula and the island of Vilm.

Around 2,000 hours of sunshine per year make Rügen and Hiddensee two of the sunniest regions of Germany. In 2016, approximately 1.395 million arrivals and 6.464 million overnight stays were recorded here.

Some figures:

Total area without associated islands: 926 square kilometres

Total area including associated islands: 976 square kilometres

Length (North to South): 51.4 kilometres

Width (West to East): 42.8 kilometres

Highest point: Piekberg (Stubnitz): 161 metres

Sandy beaches: 56 kilometres Natural beaches: 27 kilometres

Bodden beaches: 2.8 kilometres Cliff coast: approx. 85 kilometres

Transport infrastructure/transport network:

Roads: 1,995 kilometres

Rail lines: 80 kilometres (plus 24.2 kilometres steam-powered narrow-gauge railway)

Hiking and bike paths: approx. 800 kilometres

Bus lines: approx. 40 lines, stops include almost all places on the island

Ports: 53, among them 22 marinas and 31 equipped with moorings for visitors

Airfield: Güttn

Nature reserves:

Jasmund National Park (chalk coast): 31 square kilometres

Southeast Rügen Biosphere Reserve: 228 square kilometres

Western Pomerania Lagoon Area National Park (wetland area of international importance: 805 square kilometres)

Rügen includes:

- the islands: Hiddensee and Fährinsel, Ummanz, and the uninhabited islands of Liebitz, Heuwiese, Öhe, Liebes, Urkevitz, Beuchel, and Tollow.

- the Vilm island: International Academy for Nature Conservation (branch of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation)
- the peninsulas: Wittow, Bug, Jasmund, Mönchgut; Zudar, Drigge, Glewitzer Ort

There are four towns on the island of Rügen:

Garz (the oldest town)

Putbus (the former residence of the Prince)

Bergen (the biggest town and former district capital)

Sassnitz (the youngest town of the island, also a port town)

Total population of Rügen: approx. 63,000

Island of Hiddensee (seaside resort) Length: 16.8 kilometres. Width: between 250 metres and 3.7 kilometres. Population: approx. 1,200

"Rügen. Wir sind Insel." (roughly translated as: "Rügen. More than an island.") Since 2001, this has been the slogan used by the Rügen Tourist Centre (Tourismuszentrale Rügen – Gesellschaft für Marketing und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit mbH, TZR) to promote the island of Rügen around the world. Rügen is more than just the biggest German island. It is a place that has all the qualities of an emotionally unique holiday destination.

Tourism is a location factor, a job engine, and a flagship at the same time. The TZR functions as a networker and promoter for the island and acts as an intermediary for important positions in tourism development. In cooperation with key actors involved on a local, regional, state and federal level, the TZR works to support an ever-growing industry.

The TZR offers international and domestic travellers high-quality communication services by means of wide-reaching brochures and digital platforms. At the same time, these activities create a cooperative platform for players from the spheres of tourism, politics, business, creative arts and trade as well as for the inhabitants of Rügen. In cooperation with its national and international partners, the TZR also aims at informing the public about the region and at maximizing synergies beyond national and European borders. The TZR promotes Rügen in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the public. The *Tourismuszentrale Rügen Gesellschaft für Marketing und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit mbH* (TZR) is a 100 per cent municipal corporation of Rügen's municipalities Binz, Sellin, Göhren, Baabe, Sassnitz and Putbus.

For more information visit www.ruegen.de, www.wirsindinsel.de