



We've learned it from
the **water** ...

Hikes through

Brandenburg an der Havel

Cottbus

Eberswalde

Kleiststadt Frankfurt (Oder)

Jüterbog

Luckenwalde

Fontanestadt Neuruppin



Horizonte

Kulturland Brandenburg 2007 | Fokus Wasser

STÄDTEKRANZ
BERLIN-BRANDENBURG

Das Wandern ist des Müllers Lust,
Das Wandern!
Das muss ein schlechter Müller sein,
Dem niemals fiel das Wandern ein,
Das Wandern.

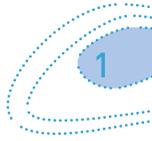
Vom Wasser haben wir's gelernt,
Vom Wasser!
Das hat nicht Rast bei Tag und Nacht,
Ist stets auf Wanderschaft bedacht,
Das Wasser.

O Wandern, Wandern, meine Lust,
O Wandern!
Herr Meister und Frau Meisterin,
Laßt mich in Frieden weiterzieh'n
Und wandern.

Taken from the song cycle "The beautiful miller-girl" for
a singing voice and a piano by Franz Schubert (1823).
Text: Wilhelm Müller (1821)

Content

- 2 Preface
- 4 Everything flows – Brandenburg an der Havel
- 10 Cottbus – the green town on the Spree
- 16 Millers, peasants, kings –
they all built the Finow Canal
An Eberswalde sluices tour
- 22 Frankfurt is really located
on the Oder by now
- 28 Jüterbog – sand-island
above the Nuthe lowland
- 34 A river returns – through Luckenwalde
alongside the Nuthe
- 40 Monk, witch, and sea baron – everything
plays around the water in Neuruppin
- 46 Service
- 48 Impressum



We've learned it from the water ...



This line from “the beautiful miller-girl” written by Wilhelm Müller became world-famous thanks to Franz Schubert’s musical version. In this song-cycle they say: “It does not stop at day or night, it is always eager to hike”. In these words there swings a lot of creative

unrest, which drives us people. At the same time, these words describe the joy that hiking, maybe also “city-hiking”, creates.

“You cannot go twice into the same river” said the Greek philosopher Heraklit some 2500 years ago. This sentence illustrates the water as an example of world’s constant change. And water is the condition for the development of life on our planet that is what the scientists agree on.

Brandenburg is well-equipped with the wet element. Europe’s greatest coherent system of lakes and rivers is covering the states of Berlin, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg: It consists of thousands of lakes, many of them are connected with each other through rivers and canals. So the Kulturland Brandenburg e.V. made a good decision to focus on the topic of water in 2007.

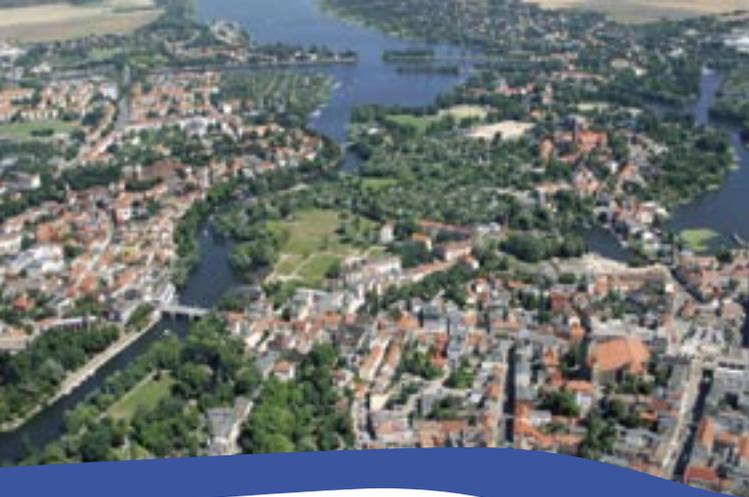
The “Städtekrantz Berlin-Brandenburg” has also dedicated its traditional city-hiking to water. Luckenwalde is successfully working on making the little creek Nuthe part of its townscape. The thousand-year-old Jüterbog impresses with its six water towers. And with its hand pump in front of the time-honoured city hall it raised a monument for the indispensable water supply. By rearranging the old harbour into a beautiful promenade the city Frankfurt has moved closer to the Oder. Thanks to the “city hikes” a city-planning concept became a tourist topic. The river

Spree which flows through Cottbus does not only nourish the beautiful Branitz gardens of Prince Pückler, the shores are also a treasured place of living. Today’s Brandenburg arose from three cities through which the braided Havel streamed. Eberswalde has one of the oldest artificial waterways in Germany and the Fontanestadt Neuruppin – lying Brandenburg’s longest lake – is concluding the walks with its sagas, legends and myths about the lakes.

Water was, is and will be indispensable for human civilisation. Therefore we should handle it with care.

Jens-Peter Golde

Mayor of the Fontanestadt Neuruppin
and Chairman of the “Städtekrantz Berlin-Brandenburg”



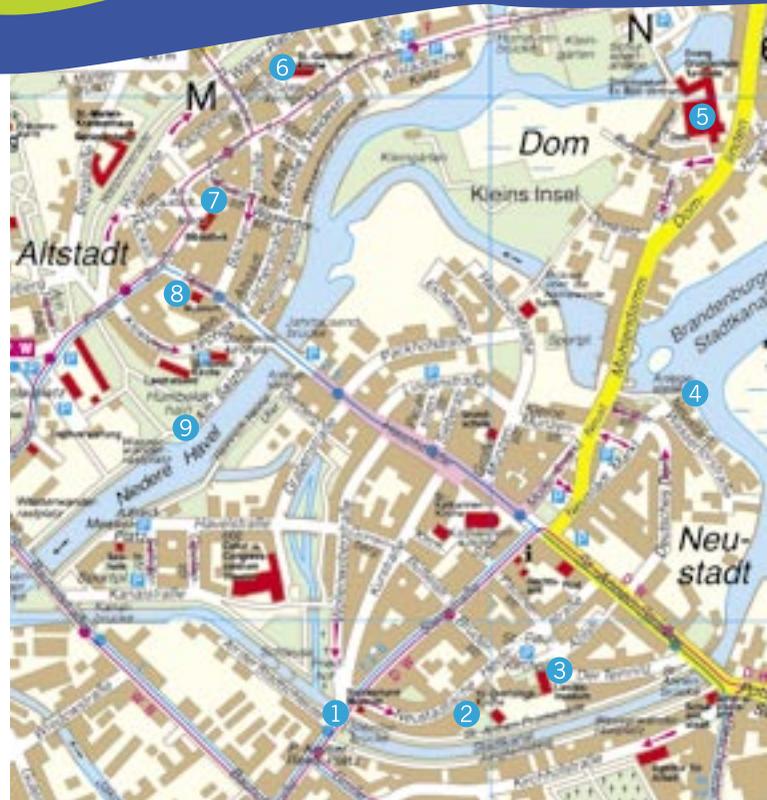
Everything flows

Brandenburg an der Havel

Brandenburg an der Havel – “a town in flux”. This labelling can be explained by a water coverage of 20% within the town boundaries. But the braided blue band is only one attribute which distinguishes the hometown of 75.000 inhabitants. By now, Brandenburg is 1050 years old and known as the “cradle of the march”.

The city is the gate to Europe’s greatest connected water sports system. From the bird’s eye view you see the town separated in three parts which are embedded in lakes and canals: Dominsel (Cathedral Island), Altstadt (Old Town) and Neustadt (New Town). Here, water is everywhere. In the west, the Havel broadens to a lake district of 15 square kilometres which consists of five lakes: Breitlingsee, Mörserschen, Quenzsee and Wendsee. North of the city centre, the Beetzsee stretches far into the Havelland. And east of the city, the upper Havel creates an almost untouched floodplain with anabranches and islands.

Clean water, fresh air and a diverse landscape close to nature are offering the best opportunities for great recreation.



Steintorturm (Stone Gate Tower) on the old city canal

We start our hike in Neustadt at the Steintorturm ①. The tower is over 32 m tall and one of four preserved town gate towers. It is the oldest museum place in town. The tower was built in 1430 for defence purposes. Already in 1887, a museum for municipal history moved in. Now, it houses a permanent exhibition about the history of Brandenburg's shipping called "Along the Havel – ships, skippers, tradition". Many charts, paintings, ship models, equipment, special tools and clothes of the Havel skippers show an impressive picture of people's life with the water. On four floors, there are many charts that explain the role and function of the Havel shipping and how the river affected everyday life of the Brandenburg people. Of course, you can also learn about the history of sluices and bridges. Especially the bridges were essential for the growing together of the three once independent towns that Brandenburg an der Havel consists of. From the platform at the Steintorturm you have a great view over the historic centre.

Along the city canal

Further we go on the remodelled St.-Annen-Promenade. Here the canal is your constant companion. You see the Church of the Holy Trinity ② which was built from 1849-1851 in the round arch style. This building has a great ecclesiastic and historic significance because it is the oldest Catholic Church that was built here after the Reformation. The former Dominican monastery St. Pauli ③ is also of great historic significance. Erected in 1286 it



Steintorturm



Cathedral

7

burned down in 1945. In the ruin you can find the Archaeological State Museum of Brandenburg. It will open in December 2007. This gem of medieval architecture is also a fascinating place for theatre, concerts, and other cultural events. A visit to those two buildings is truly recommended.

We go on through the St.-Annen-Staße to the also remodelled Neustädtischer Markt (New Town Market) on the Dominsel. On the way there you will reach the pier of the "Neustädtische Wassertorstraße" (New Town Watergate Street) ④. You can rent canoes here. Right in the middle of town a landscape of broad water, swamp, and meadow opens up. That is pure nature. Nowhere else the connection of town and nature is as striking as at the Neustädtische Wassertorstraße.

Dominsel: Mühlentorturm, Dom St. Peter und Paul, St. Petri

The Mühlentorturm (Mill Gate Tower) is another octagonal tower and was built in 1411. Here you are leaving Neustadt and enter the Dominsel via Mühlendamm. On your way you are passing a boat trail to cross the Mühlendamm. St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral ⑤ is the birth place of all Lord's houses in Berlin and Brandenburg. On this island the oldest place of settling in town the first diocese of the march was established in 948. The old brick-lined building of 1165 is completely preserved beginning from the cross-coat up to the Knights' Academy of the Brandenburg nobility. The integrated museum does not only appeal to



Pier "Neustädtische
Wassertorstraße"

historians. Here you can see the Brandenburg Evangeliary and other precious handwritings and prints.

We are leaving the island over the Domstregbrücke and follow the Grillendamm towards St. Gotthard's Church. The Grillendamm is a heaped up connection between Altstadt and Dominsel. You will find a place to swim here. There aren't many towns where you can refresh right in the centre. Between 1840 and 1910 bald cypresses were planted on the Grillendamm. North of the Alps this type of avenue is very rare.

Altstadt: Altstädtischer Markt, city hall, Roland, Salzhofufer

After crossing another bridge you enter the Old Town which is partly surrounded by the Havel and the little Beetzsee. St. Gotthard's Church ⑥ was already mentioned in 1147 and is one of the most traditional churches in the march. Across the Altstädtischer Markt (Old Town Market) you pass the Roland ⑦ and reach the Jahrtausendbrücke (Millennium Bridge). The old city hall is the representative seat of the mayor, whilst the patron Roland is guarding the official functions. The sandstone Roland, created in 1474, has changed his location several times. He has been standing in front of the city hall since 1946. The oldest Brandenburger wears a knight's armour and in his bent right arm he holds his sword. With his left hand he clasps a dagger in his belt. This figure is one of the most important medieval statues. Each Whitsun the market place turns into a "Medieval Spectaculum" – the Roland Feast.

On your way to the Millennium Bridge and the Salzhofufer you will pass the Museum in the Frey house ⑧. It presents a transverse section through town's history – starting with prehistory and finishing with the end of the GDR.



Roland

The Salzhofufer ⑨ that means salt yard shore combines pulsating life on land and on water. The Millennium Bridge connects the Old and the New Town.

The shore is a popular anchorage ground for leisure time captains and people drooling for sun. You can lie in nice chairs or you can sit on the terrace of the Fontane Klub and enjoy the beautiful view. If you feel like getting active, you may rent canoes in all different sizes here. From a boat you can see the city with completely different eyes. Havel, trenches, canals offer many kilometres of inner-city tours: Seagulls squalling and bell-ringing: where are water and land that close? The passenger ship "Pegasus" starts its tours here and "Havelfee" takes off from the opposite shore. On your way along the shore there is another little treasure to explore: the Slavic village.

On the other side you can see the "Bauchschmerzenbrücke" (Bellyache Bridge). This bridge has two connections to the wet element. A funny poem by Karl Lauck explains why the bridge is bended: *Once the bridge was even, then someone tried to acidise mustard with wine in a nearby mustard mill. Some of that poured into the water and the bridge bended – because of belly ache.*

You see in Brandenburg an der Havel (nearly) everything twists around the water.



Slavic village



Tip

For information concerning round trips on the Havel and its lakes we recommend the following addresses:

> www.nordstern-reederei.de

> www.fgs-havelfee.de



Cottbus – the green town on the Spree ...

... is closely linked with its river. The derivation of the term “Cottbus” hints at the watercourse which has been flowing here for centuries. One interpretation of the name states that it evolved out of the Slavic “Ko-prze-wos” which means as much as “to-go-over”. South of the many arms of the Spreewald it was a good opportunity to cross the river at a shallow spot. That was approximately the place where today the Sandow Bridge stands. Historians suggest that this location contributed to the settling which is called Cottbus today. So you can call the river one of the “founding fathers” of Cottbus. When 850 years ago an urban society developed it were mainly all the mills, later the textile industry, and then the turbines of the powerhouse which profited from the streaming water. Today the 100.000 Cottbus people, the visitors, and guests use the Spree mainly for recreation and leisure time purposes.





So we start our hike – which we also recommend as a bike trip – at the shore of the Spree in front of a mill: the Markgrafenmühle (Margrave Mill) ①. Margrave Frederick II of Brandenburg yielded the mill which was named after him to Otto von Sliwen and his wife in 1452 with the following words: *“We, Frederick, loan, on the appeal of our land reeve in Lausitz and 1st abider Otto von Sliwen and his married wife Elisabeth, as personal property our mill, called margrawen mill, a quarter mile from our town Cottbus located, for both their lifetime ...”*

Thus, the mill of the margrave a quarter mile outside Cottbus (1 mile were 7.532 metres at that time) got a new proprietor. We know that around 1786 the processing stagnated and in 1798 the miller opened a tavern. He served amazing 230 tons (!) of beer a year to his guests. In 1891 a fire destroyed the mill. The church was rebuilt in 1906. According to the style of the time it became a big country inn for hikers. It's no wonder that the Margrave Mill is still one of the most popular beer restaurants in Cottbus.

To the left and the right of the Spree there are biking trails which follow the untouched natural course of the river towards Cottbus' centre (Spreeradwanderweg). If you want to use the biking trail east of the Spree, you must cross the Hermann-Löns-Bridge ②. Since its opening in 1995 it connects the south-west quarters of Cottbus with the Branitz park landscape.

Branitz park landscape

There are three parks to the right of the trail. In the zoo ③ which opened in 1954 there are 1.100 animals. Besides the exotic ones like gibbons, suricates, and elephants the employees are very eager in breeding water(!)fowls. The zoo uses the nearby Spree to create a magnificent landscape. After the zoo you reach the Spreeauenpark (Spree Floodplain Park), which is located on the core of the German Federal Garden Show (BUGA) of 1995 ④. With its rosery, a rhododendron grove, a rare tertiary wood and an artificial lake it is always a nice place to stop by. The lake gets fresh water supply from an old Spree arm. If you want to enter the park you have to pay a little mite for the maintenance. Before the BUGA was prepared the area was sealed and paved and driving schools practiced here.

The third one is Branitz Park ⑤. You can also reach it by bike. Branitz Park is one of the most beautiful ones in Europe. It was created by the gifted landscape designer, globetrotter, and man of letters Hermann Prince of Pückler-Muskau (1785–1871). Pückler had a unique feeling for composing landscape parks. His design elements were big lawns, groups of trees, water, ways and buildings.



Branitz Park

Water was a necessary element in all means: as a glittering lake where trees, bushes, and buildings are mirroring or as a rippling creek or as a fountain. Pückler knew how to create supplemental appeals for the eye.

When Pückler had to sell castle and park in Muskau for financial reasons, he moved to castle Branitz, an old family heritage that he had not taken much care of before. Before Pückler came, the park was an even sandy area. The Spree was flowing around it in a big bow. Immediately, he started working to create a park. In 1847 he wrote to his wife Lucie about his works: *“What happens with the park after our death is a minor matter. Nothing is eternal, but eternally creating is godly.”*

Since the ground water level is quite high due to the nearby Spree, little lakes emerged when holes were dug. An artificial inflow contributed to a harmonic water landscape. In the greatest lake Pückler built a tumulus ⑥, a burial site that combined cairns of the Bronze Age with the gravesites of the pharaohs. Pückler ordered to be buried there. The “Foundation Park and Castle Pückler” is conserving the heritage of the significant garden artist.



The Spree Biking Trail through the City

The Stadium of Friendship ⑦ home of the Bundesliga soccer club Energie Cottbus is located right next to the Spree. Shortly beyond the planetarium you can see residential areas which were built with the concept of “water, nature and living”. The way leads to the Carl-Blechen-Park.



Fans of Energie Cottbus



Living at the water

It reminds of the famous realistic painter. Carl Blechen was born in Cottbus in 1798.

On the banks of the Spree coveted residential areas are located. New houses were built on the Mühleninsel (Mill Island). Once there was a water mill at the foot of a former castle. It burned down six times, at last in 1882. Then the Cottbus people built the first power station (1902/03) which was, of course, driven by water.

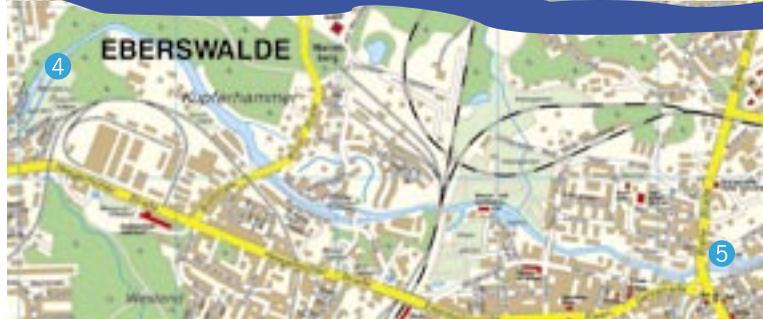
The directory at the Spree Biking Trail helps to orientate. You can make trips to downtown where shops, galleries, and museums cheer up the heart.

From flour to beer

Across the Sanzeberg Bridge ⑧ you reach the western Spree bank. To the left you can see the Käthe-Kollwitz-Park with an 88 m high hill. Shortly afterwards you will get to the Spreewehrmühle (Spree Weir Mill) ⑨. Already in 1864 the miller opened a tavern here. Visiting it was a very popular thing to do on Sundays. That is still the case. The Pfahlbaumühle (Pile Mill) was only built in 1801 at the great Spree weir. It used to grind groat, millet and cereals. With its underneath water wheel and its location right at the river this mill counts as the only conserved water mill in the East of Germany.

Tip

Riding the park railroad is very exciting. It has six stations and on its way through the park landscape the train touches the Elias Park, the Spreeauen-park, the zoo and the Branitz Park. One station is opposite to the fair in Cottbus.



Millers, peasants, kings – they all built the Finow Canal

An Eberswalde sluices tour

The town of Eberswalde extends many kilometres along the Finow Canal. Because of its early industrialisation Eberswalde is also called the Brandenburg Wuppertal.

The Finow Canal derived its name from the river Finow which supplies the canal with water. The canal has an interesting history since it highlights a big part of German industrial history.

The development and usage of the canal was a matter for the highest authorities like electors and kings. Countless peasants, workers, raftsmen, soldiers, millers, lock keepers, skippers put their labour, their intelligence and often also their health into this waterway.

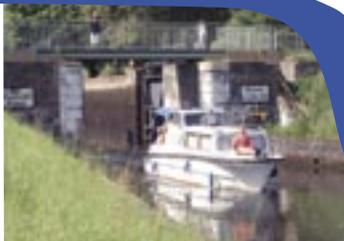


Our hike along the Finow Canal starts at the Messingwerksiedlung (brass factory colony) ①. The Eberswalde city fathers are about to remake this colony as shining as the name of the treasured metal suggests. Between 1721 and 1725 an early industrial shop floor developed here. When crown prince Frederick became King of Prussia in 1740 one of his first decisions was to build a navigable connection between Oder and Havel as well as between Havel and Elbe. Minister von Görne had submitted this idea. It was indispensable for the development of the capital region.

A commission preparing the project discovered a document dated 1662 in which they read that there had already been a canal between Oder and Havel once – the Finow Canal.

On our hike towards the Eberswalde city centre we want to tell you the history of the canal. Elector Joachim II who governed from 1535–1571 ordered to compile first plans for a Finow Canal. In 1603 his grandson commanded to build this “interconnecting ditch”. The constructions of the canal started in 1605. The labour was so hard that lots of workers deserted. Many of them were caught and forced to work on. In the villages and towns the margrave ordered every fifth man – especially carpenters and trench diggers – to work on the canal.

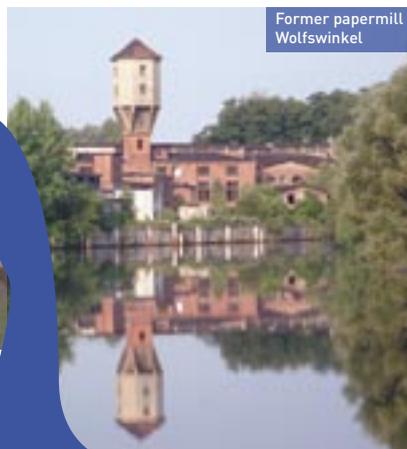
At the second station, the Heegermühle sluice ②, you can observe one problem concerning the canal. The difference in elevation between Oder and Havel is more than 30 metres. If the rivers were to be connected no water should outflow. Gates had to retain water to guarantee an adequate depth so that ships didn't



aground. In a second step the ships had to be moved a couple of metres downwards. The principles of sluices were known at the time, but an elevation of three or four metres per lock was an almost irresolvable problem. Even the experienced Dutch water builders did not have enough operating experience for that task.

Under elector Sigismund the works were done so far that the first ship crossed the canal in 1609. About 1620 there were already 11 sluices. Finally there was a navigable connection between the Baltic harbour Stettin and the Prussian Berlin. Construction materials, wood, and other goods did not have to be transported over bumpy roads any more. The electoral water board could also take tariffs and sluicing tolls now. But that didn't last very long. During the Thirty Year's War (1618–1648) the canal silted up more and more. The water flowed unhamperedly towards the Oder and mud and slush filled the canal. The water level of the Havel sank as well until it was barely navigable. Villages and towns were pillaged by different marauding troops. In many places less than a tenth of the former population survived.

Our walk leads us to the lock at the Wolfwinkel ③. When in 1740 the eager Frederick II (the Great) took over Prussia's state affairs, waterway building received a new impulse. After his decision to build the Finow Canal, he pushed the project forward. A royal commission took



Former papermill
Wolfwinkel

its seat in Neustadt – Eberswalde to observe the progress in work. For building the second Finow Canal the older course was used and supposed to get straightened. At Niederfinow they built three kilometres completely anew. Parts of the old sluices could be integrated into the new ones. At the Wolf-

swinkel lock they could even use the complete ground. Frederick II even commanded soldiers from prince Heinrich, Münchow and Bredow to be deployed to the construction site in order to move on. In 1746 the second Finow Canal was completed. Frederick underlined the importance of this waterway and its sluices by personally signing the "INSTRUCTION for the sluice masters at Finow Canal" in 1747.

Now convoys of ships moved through the canal day by day. Wood rafters also used the artificial waterway. During the travel they were living on their logs. At night they put up tents. For preparing a warm meal they lit up an open fire on the raft. Work was dangerous, the floating baggage became longer and longer. Some rafts had to be untied before passing a lock.

Barges and rafts were hauled through the canal. That means that men or animals pulled them. The paths along the banks were built for that purpose. When the wind was good, a sail supported the journey.

The next station of our hike is the family garden ⁴ on former metalwork's ground. It was built for the Brandenburg garden festival 2002. The visitors can rent pedal boats and travel underneath the old industrial facilities. All the factories to the left and the right are the cradle of the Brandenburg-Prussian industry. This canal has an immense importance for the industrial development. Metal processing could be done on a larger scale thanks to the water-powered mills (Iron hammer, Copper hammer, Wire hammer). Besides, there were corn mills and cutting mills for the lumber industry. The big incline of the canal guaranteed a powerful movement of the mill-wheels. The water-powered movement was dissipated into mechanic work. The mills on the Finow had a great significance until 1928 (i. e. Wehrmühle).



City sluice

From 1888 to 1890 12.950 loaded ships were travelling the Finow Canal upwards as well as 4.270 rafts. In this time 2.9 million tons of goods were transported. Two thirds of the goods were headed for Berlin, mostly stones, bricks, clay, sand, gravel, wood from Russia, agricultural goods, and coal.

At the city sluice in Eberswalde's centre ⁵ we finish our excursion into the history of the Finow Canal. When they started to build the great waterway Berlin-Stettin in 1906, the coming retirement of the Finow Canal could be anticipated. On June 17th 1914, the Oder-Havel-Waterway started to operate. Nonetheless, there were still many sluices that hindered a quick transport. But there was a solution: after seven years of construction the boat lift Niederfinow opened its service. It made the old sluices dispensable. Within 5 minutes a ship can transcend 36 metres. About 20.000 ships pass this canal each year.

The Finow Canal still has the air of being one of the oldest artificial waterways in Germany. It's keeping the past alive.



Centre of Eberswalde



Family garden



Family garden

Tip

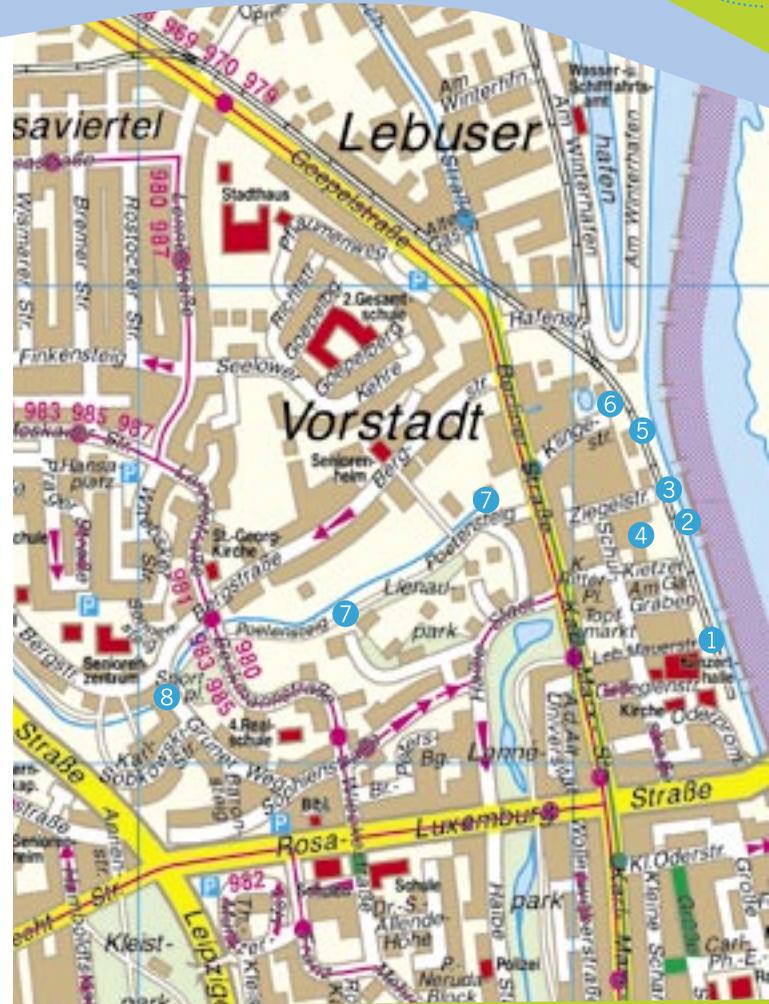
- > www.finowkanal.info
- > www.floesserverein-finowfurt.de



Frankfurt is really located on the Oder by now

The Hanseatic city Frankfurt (Oder) has evolved into a significant place of commerce thanks to its location on the Oder. The town harbour with its cranes, rails, magazines, and stocks had dominated the western bank of the Oder for a long time. After World War II the Oder became a boarder. Furthermore it had lost its significance for transportation. The technical facilities to load and unload cargo were not needed any more. Thus already in the 60s and 70s of the 20th century a shore promenade was developed between Holzmarkt (wood market) and Stadtbrücke (Town Bridge). The 750th anniversary was the occasion for the city fathers to expand the boulevard from the concert hall to the Guben suburb. By opening an European Garden on the island Ziegenwerder the river bank became even more attractive.

North of the Oder bridge, behind the concert hall, there were still old docks. They stretched all the way to an arm of the Oder called Winter Harbour.





Our hike starts at the concert hall “Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach” ①. Franciscan monks erected the former church from 1270 to 1525. The Gothic church has been a Mekka for concert lovers since 1967.

Workshop of ideas concerning the Oder promenade

The composition of the northern promenade was combined with a public ideas competition. In the ideas and planning workshop “Northern Oder promenade” Frankfurt citizens – particularly adolescents – met with city planners to discuss the designing of the Oder bank. When you hike there you can be part of something new in progress which is not quite done yet.

The planners had to consider that after the great flood of 1997, new flood control measures ② had been built. The retaining wall with its height of 24,22 metres height above sea level secures the northern housing areas. It challenges the designers a lot.

Furthermore, the access to the Oder was to be improved. Former harbour buildings like the harbour master’s house and several storages had to be integrated. The view far over the surrounding landscape was to be kept. About 40 adolescent and adult Frankfurters (among them two 80-year old citizens) used the opportunity to contribute to the planning process.

The creative people were spending two days discussing about the breached areas surrounding the locomotive shelter and the other empty buildings. Especially the adolescents showed great commitment. They were willing to take a constructive part in developing this town area. They have confidentially communicated their interests as mature Frankfurt citizens without ignoring other people’s interests i.e. children and older people. Four models were worked out. All of them regarded the interests of the local residents by integrating noise control measures across from the residential area Klingestraße.

A number of good ideas was formulated and presented graphically. They played an important role in the new design of that area. The focus of the approaches was laid on the categories “sports and recreation”. The main wishes were the following: a lot of greenery, a beach volleyball field and a site for camp fires at the Oder bank.

This collection of ideas and the four models served as a good fundament for the further planning. After discussions with the responsible officials and after they had thoroughly scrutinised all plans, the arrangement could start.



Workshop of ideas

Along the flood control wall you can still see tracks, a front-end loader, and a crane which document the history of that bank ③. The city villas in the draft ④ show that everyday life will move into the area of the Schul- and



Shore promenade with the harbour master's house



Ziegelstraße. The old harbour master's house would probably be a good place for a café or a restaurant. Around the old magazines the metal flood control wall was filled with earth. Thus it serves its function but looks a bit better at the same time. Table tennis, beach volleyball, a place for romantic evenings around a fire ⑤ – here you can really recreate.

Behind that you can see the winter harbour and the Polish Oder grassland. The Oder-Neiße-biking trail that goes along here leads further north through a magnificent landscape conservation area all the way to Lebus.

The Klinge jingles again

We are leaving the northern Oder region now and go to an already finished area which follows the Klinge. The Klinge is a small creek which is nourished from sources west of Frankfurt (Oder). In the Klingestraße it opens out into the Oder. When there was high water even the Klinge used to flood the nearby areas. That's why a pumping station ⑥ was built many decades ago. It helps the Klinge to discharge into the Oder. Now a new facility has taken over this task and regulates the river fully automatically. Nonetheless, the old pumps are still able to operate but they serve solely as a technical monument. The Klinge has anciently been banned to tubes. It crosses the Berliner Straße where it pops up again. Between gardens and parks the Klinge dabbles down the Poetensteig ⑦. From this point you have an interesting view over the Oder city. The concrete frame of the creek has vanished and now the

flowing water delights the visitors with its natural charm. Viewing on the St. Georg Church we follow the Bergstraße which goes parallel to the Klinge. Here the Klinge is still embedded in concrete. Along the Grüner Weg you reach the Karl-Sobkowski-Straße. If you turn right in front of a sculpture of a mother with her kid you can see a little valley where the Klinge disappears into a big tube underneath a house ⑧.

The whole residential area which is a former colony of the Reichsbahn directorate East will get a new environment within the next years. The proprietors have already expressed their will to cooperate. The northern Oder promenade demonstrates that Frankfurt's city planners are able to do a very good job.



Tip

You can return to Frankfurt's (Oder) town centre through the Lenné park. It was established in 1836 under the auspices of Peter Joseph Lenné. The park exemplifies the relation between water and landscape.



Kloster Zinna

Jüterbog – sand-island above the Nuthe lowland

The contemporary witness Thietmar of Merseburg reported in 1007 that he *“would not recommend the intelligent ones to follow the enemy afoot”* *“with such a little band”* at a place called *“Jutriboc”*. Archbishop Tagino returned with his Christian troops. These lines show that Jüterbog already existed at that time and that it also bore the same name. The little Nuthe has dabbled throughout the 1000-year-old history. The creek has its origin at Dennewitz / Niederergörsdorf. Many melioration ditches from the Nuthe-Nieplitz-lowlands nourish the Nuthe. For millennia water and swamp have affected people’s life. Old settlements have developed here long before the thousand-year-old notice of the chronicler Thietmar of Merseburg. Near Bochwo archaeologists discovered an old ring ditch ensemble on air photographs. It consists of wooden picks and has weird cross-like entries. In Goseck near Weißenfels archaeologists discovered a similar construction. It was then rebuilt as mankind’s oldest sun observatory. The Jüterbog unit was built 4700 B.C. Archaeologists interpret it as a cult site.



Jüterbog II



Jüterbog

Even the name dabbles

The Germanic tribes called the settlement from which Jüterbog developed "Udabak" – Otterbach – which in Latin becomes Jutriboc.

The German name for the colony means otter creek. At the woods near Zinna otters still live in the Nuthe.

There are other derivations of that name: there is i.e. the story of a billy goat (Bock) which entered the town together with a woman called Jutta. So people invented the name "Juttabock". But historians rebutted this legend.

In Jüterbog everything is different: Old Town is actually New Town

Our hike starts at the palace garden ¹. The so called Swamp Castle used to stand here. That is a Slavic castle on a broad dam that leads through swampy lowlands. The core of the old Jüterbog evolved here. You can still easily see the dam-like elevations around the former castle. About 1170 settlers from west of the Elbe erected St. Marien ², also called Liebfrauenkirche or Dam church. It's Jüterbog's oldest church and it used to be the main church of the state of Jüterbog.

After receiving its town charter in 1174 citizens built the new Jüterbog on more elevated ground, on strayed strands. There it was dry. They built the new town with city walls and gates. The settlement around the Swamp Castle, which was later remodeled into a palace, stayed outside the walls.

With its city gates, narrow alleys, the old city hall and remainders of the city wall the newer town seems like a romantic Old Town to us. One could say that the swampy ground was the main reason to build today's Jüterbog.

Palace garden



Water protected Jüterbog from invaders

At Dammtor (Dam Gate) ³ which is the most important and representative one you can see the role that water played for defence. In the north two water ditches surrounded Jüterbog.

In the south the so called Mühlenteich (mill pond) surrounded the town. Both watercourses meet at Dammtor. There was an outer and an inner wall with an outer and an inner gate. These gates were connected with walls. Thus the security loving Jüterbog people had something like a kennel. In the middle there was a third wall where a third gate house stood. Two bridges overstretched the ditches. During the Thirty Year's War the defence facilities were seriously damaged. But when a new excise was introduced (1687) the walls got a new function – tariffs had to be paid on all goods that entered Jüterbog. Prussia abolished this excise in 1819. But it was only in 1840 when Jüterbog's city fathers decided not to lock up the gates at night any more.

The ditches were filled and the dams were straightened. So today we can only see some parts of the city wall, the towers, and the gates.



View through the Dammtor

Marketplace

Hand pumps instead of wells

In 1841 the first public water pump started to operate in Jüterbog. Two years of argument preceded this event. The older wells were supposed to be substituted by pumps. But many inhabitants could not afford that. The hand pump on the market place ⁴ symbolizes the achieved progress. Brandenburg's second-oldest city hall (1507) also stands here.

Caserns and water towers

Jüterbog became garrison town in 1860. Barracks and drill grounds for the artillery were built. Jüterbog II evolved at the rail tracks to Berlin. That's a soldiers' settlement between the old Jüterbog and the drill grounds. A central water supply system with pump stations and water towers was built. The military washing establishment that was built from 1890–1896 tells about these works. Now it is the domicile of the water and sewage association of Teltow-Fläming (Parkstraße). It was not until 1913/14 that private villas were attached to the public canalisation.

The three water towers in Jüterbog II illustrate the great significance of the military. It needed lots of water to extinguish the fires that were caused by the artillery's shooting practices. Jüterbog has six water towers. That's an enormous number for a town of that size. The tall towers surmount all houses and dominate the townscape just like church spires. If you come by car from Herzberg to Jüterbog (via B 101) you will see three towers: the double-spires of Nikolai Church and the water tower on the Fuchsberge (fox hills) ⑤. With its 42,62 metres it's the tallest water tower in the district of Teltow-Fläming. The Jüterbog company Haase had built it from 1913 to 1916. It resembles a medieval defence tower. Another amazing water tower ⑥ was built in 1893. It has a square ground plan and belongs to the artillery school.



Monastery Zinna

The Nuthe as border river

Since 1635 the Nuthe had been the border between Saxony and Prussia. On August 29 1756 the troops of Frederick the Great crossed the Nuthe and marched into Jüterbog. That was the start of the Seven Year's War. When the war ended with the Peace of Hubertusburg in 1763, nothing changed in Jüterbog. The Nuthe stayed a border river. Frederick used the good location of the border town Zinna ⑦ to establish a symmetric colony of 150 houses in typical Prussian order. A mini-town for linen-weavers evolved. One might call it a very early example of a social housing programme. Zinna was supposed to challenge the Saxon Jüterbog. But the people living here knew how to profit from the border situation. Trading and smuggling were blossoming. The Nuthe wasn't a real hurdle. With its history and distillery (Zinnaer Klosterbruder) the monastery is a popular tourist attraction nowadays.

Tip

The nature park Nuthe-Niepitz (named after the two rivers) starts right behind Jüterbog. It's an oasis for nature lovers.

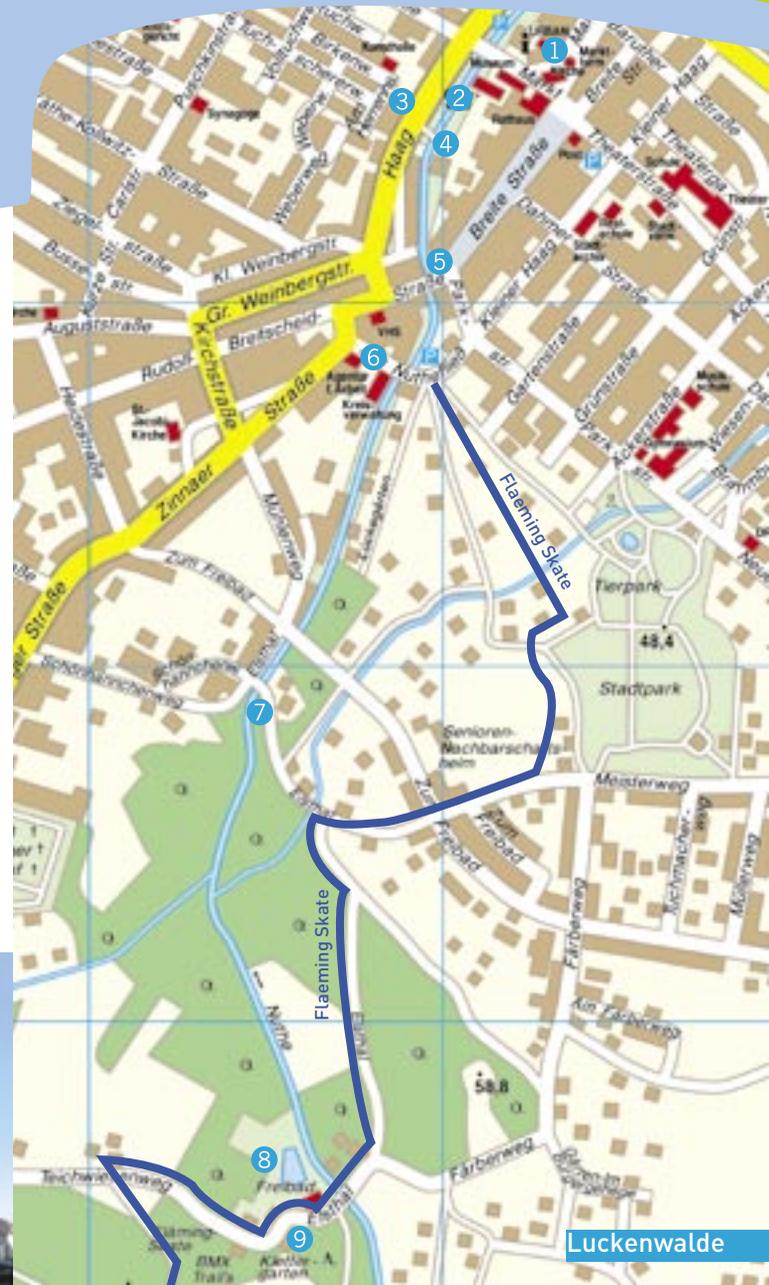
> www.naturpark-nuthe-nieplitz.de



A river returns – through Luckenwalde alongside the Nuthe

Our hike starts at the market place ①. The city hall that was built in 1883/84 stands here. Not far away there is a grand tower. Unfortunately, a fire destroyed the city hall with all documents in 1647. Therefore we have no explanation why the bell tower and the St. Johanni Church are that distant from each other. Theodor Fontane, the literary chronicler of the march, explains the distance like this: *“The Jüterbog people ... wanted to steal the tower. But when the night watchman came they got frightened and dropped it. Ever since, the tower stands aloof.”*

In fact, the tower has already rung since 1484 for St. Johannis church. If you want to know more about the city, its inhabitants and the stories, you should visit the nearby museum of local history and the tourist information.



The Nuthe park

If you consider Luckenwalde's development you might think that Fontane already predicted the changes after 1990 – even though he died in 1898: *“Instead of the time-honoured Luckenwalde beer came ‘Bavarian beer brewed in Falkenthal’ ; gas came, the factories grew and the Nuthe became more and more blue.”*

It's Luckenwalde's proclaimed ambition to make the Nuthe a vital part of the town with its 22.000 citizens. The Nuthe park ② opened in 2005 is an attractive proof for that. The Luckenwalde people even made some “genesis” here because they changed the course of the Nuthe. They created a little pond, an island, and a beach volleyball field. Luscious green plants are seaming the banks. Once the Nuthe marked the city boundaries. It was offering some protection since Luckenwalde did not have a city wall. From the Nuthe park you can open up local history.



It's designated for “markers” of a prospective history trail that will inform about personalities and formative events in the city's history. From here you can see the Vierseithof, the arts hall and the depot.

Vierseithof – arts hall – depot

Vierseithof (Four-Side-Court) ③. It's a weird name for a four-stars hotel. Frederick II, called Old Fritz (1712 – 1786), did something very modern here: business development. From 1780 to 1785 he ordered to build the “great factory”: a manufactory for armourers. Old Fritz had heard that due to a big fire in Gera 200 armourers became home-

less. So Frederick offered them good conditions for settling in Luckenwalde. The arts hall is one of the historical buildings that belong to the ensemble. It shows changing exhibits of modern arts. Another historical building was reconstructed in 2006: the depot ④. Originally it was the Fährndrich brewery's horse stable. About 1900 a house with a steam boiler was added to the building. It is an official architectural monument with nice clinker and interesting windows. Unfortunately, we turn away from the Nuthe now. Because of the industrialisation in the 19th and 20th century it is largely not accessible any more.

In the Breite Straße you will find a great house with a sun dial ⑤ which was built in 1906 as a residential and commercial house. It seems not to fit in Luckenwalde's small town architecture. But it shows that the economy prospered here in the end of the 19th century. Theodor Fontane also realised that: *“The old (bell) tower that once had dominated the townscape had to bring himself to share its old privilege with newcomers, until it almost disappeared in a forest of factory smoke stacks.”* The factories vanished and as the factory halls disappeared, the Nuthe emerged again.



The county administration

Our next station is a complex of buildings that stands on old industrial grounds: the administration of the district of Teltow-Fläming ⑥. Glass, steel, clinker, wood, green roofs – modern architecture. It's a staging that includes

the flowing water of the Nuthe. The factory building that used to stand here before had hidden the Nuthe. By uncovering the creek and arranging the shore, a place for nature and recreation has developed.

FLAEMING-SKATE®

Right at the county administration and at the end of the pedestrian zone – in the centre of town – the FLAEMING-SKATE® starts: It's a nicely paved 190-kilometres (!) long bond through the Fläming. Skaters, bikers, wheelchair users as well as pedestrians are using it. The skating trail in Luckenwalde gives a foretaste of all the leisure time and vacation activities that are possible in this district.

There is a parking house directly at the FLAEMING-SKATE® so you can jump right from your car into your rollerblades.

Elsthal

The skating trail leads through an allotment area past the zoo and the city park. To look at the Nuthe again you have to unstrap your rollerblades. You take the dirt road called Elsthal and reach the Elsthal villa which is also called Fährndrich villa. It stands nearby a thousand-year-old linden tree ⑦. The Elsthal with its parks used to be just as important for the Luckenwalders as the Tiergarten is for the Berliners today. Nowadays, rank growth covers the Elsthal. Where the Nuthe is dammed at a weir, Zinna monks are supposed to have built a mill in 1250. A clothier family called Prätorius built the great villa. The family was friends with Theodor Fontane. All the untouched arms of the Nuthe are creating the Luckenwalde Spreewald here. They also inspired ro-

mantic stories which tell about "Schönhannchen": An orphan girl sat under a linden tree with her spinning wheel and yarned – until one day a knight came and took her as his wife.

We return to the skating trail which leads to the open air bath. In 1925 craftsmen built the 50m-bassin and a diving platform. The bassin was nourished by the Nuthe. The "successor" ⑧ is located on the other side of the Nuthe. Thanks to its idyllic location it is a very popular place to be during summer.

Close to it there is a big area where BMX artists can show their skills. Also, there is Brandenburg's largest high wire garden ⑨.

The obstacle course 12 metres above the ground offers a great view towards Zinna monastery, Jüterbog, the villages Niedergörsdorf and Dennewitz where the Nuthe has its source. And you can only agree with Theodor Fontane's résumé: "... the old feud between the neighbouring cities has come to an end" and we can add that Luckenwalde and Jüterbog have much in common: the Fläming's great nature, the nature park and especially the Nuthe, this little river that connects both cities with each other.



The thousand-year-old linden tree

High wire garden

Tip

- > www.flaeming-hochseilgarten.de
- > www.flaeming-skate.de



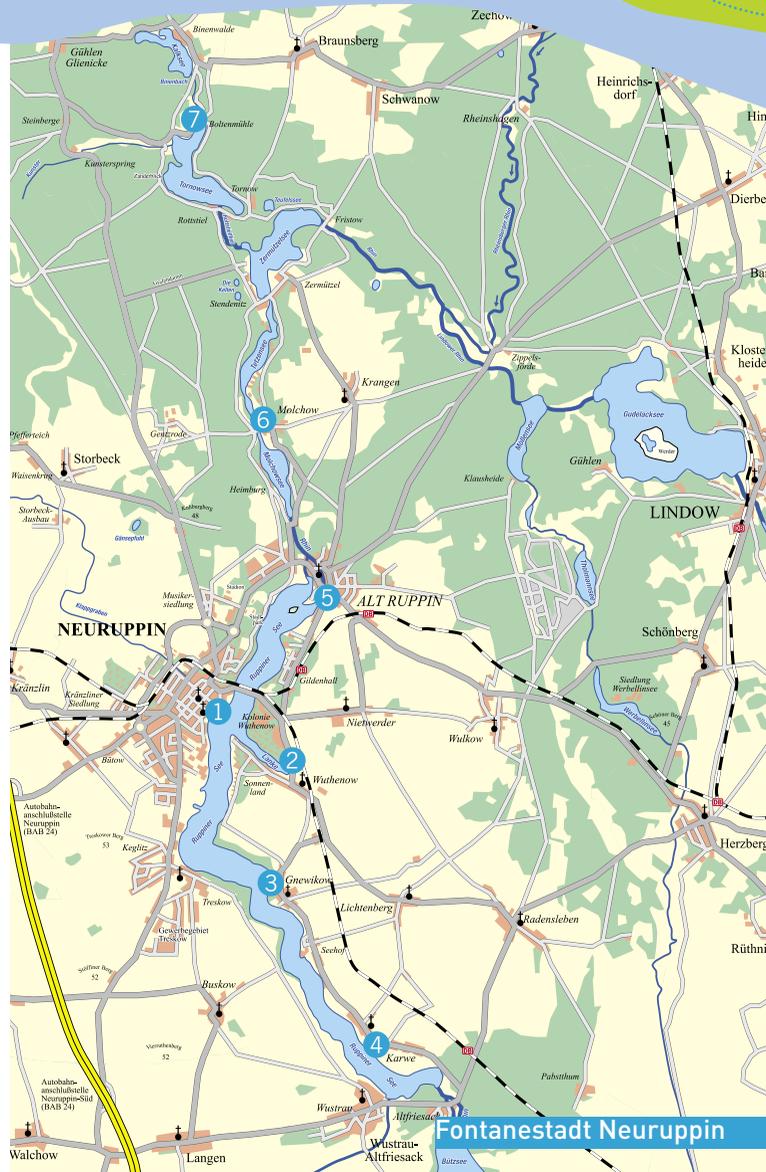


Monk, witch, and sea baron – everything plays around the water in Neuruppin

Just like many other towns Neuruppin has developed at a waterbody – the Ruppiner See (G. See = Engl. lake). With its 14 kilometres it is Brandenburg's longest lake. It belongs to the Ruppiner lake chain. Many of Neuruppin's 13 quarters are located at the different lake shores. In between there are forests, hills, fields, and meadows. A paradise for vacation and leisure time.

Some quarters can be “reconnoitred” from a deck of one of the Neuruppin passenger ships. Or you can make your own individual boat trip. You find a boat rental and the passenger ships at the lake promenade (at the end of the Fischbänkenstraße). The passenger ships offer different tours – one of them goes to Boltenmühle.

From the waterside you have a beautiful view on the lake promenade ① with its monastery church St. Trinitatis. At this place, close to the Ruppiner See, monk Wichmann of Arnstein (1185–1270) decided to build the first Dominican monastery in the march of Brandenburg. The two towers of Neuruppin's most famous landmark



were not added before 1907. Wichman was director of the endowment “Our dear women” in Magdeburg. In 1221 he was even elected as Bishop of Brandenburg but he did not receive the pope’s approval. After residing in France for some time he joined the Dominicans and moved to the Ruppiner See in 1246. Neuruppin’s citizens admire him and they can tell some odd stories. One of the most popular tale is about how he traversed the lake afoot.



On the other side of the lake, across from the monastery, there is a village called Wuthenow ②. A member of the community had seriously fallen ill there. Brother Martin had to row Pater Wichmann across the lake almost every day. Pater Wichmann used that time for contemplation. He was standing in the boat absorbed in thought. At the night when Pater Wichmann could only ring the death knell for the poor Wuthenower there was thick fog on the lake. On the way back the monk was standing pensively in his boat.

At this early hour the fisherman Heiko and his servant Hermann were also on the water. They wanted to check the eel laces at the eastern shore. Suddenly, Hermann dropped the oars and pointed at the lake but he could not speak one word. His master asked angrily “Hermann, what’s up with you?” “There, look, it’s Pater Wichmann!” Now the fisherman saw it, too. In the fog there was the black figure of the pater moving towards the shore. But no boat could be seen and nothing could be heard. “Gee, Hermann, if we tell that, nobody in Ruppiner is going to believe us.” They rowed back to the monastery – there was no boat the Pater could have used to cross the lake. Hermann could not know that Brother Martin had taken off

again. At noon the whole city knew it: Pater Wichmann had traversed the lake on dry feet. The admiration for the Pater was immense.



Gnewikow

After leaving the Lanke and shipping southwards you can see the quarter Gnewikow ③ to your left. Theodor Fontane writes: *“Gnewikow ... promences out of the reed and the forests. With its spire and its farmhouses it is the lake’s special adornment. For centuries it belonged to the family of Woldeck, now it passed to other hands. The last man of Woldeck ... was a bon vivant and a passionate tourist. His eccentricities made him a folksy figure in the region. He was simply called ‘sea baron’. He shared the hiking and the adventures with the old ‘sea kings’.”*

The sea kings – those were the Vikings and the Normans which plundered Europe’s coasts. And such a hot-shot is supposed to have lived here...

Today Gnewikow is a village for the youth. The yellow houses offer about 500 comfortable beds and many leisure time activities for young people and those who still feel young.

Behind Gnewikow you can see the spire in Karwe ④. Here in Wustrau the lake serves as a stage for a popular and well-attended spectacle that takes place each year in August.

It is 1875. The son of the old Zieten from Wustrau and the son of the old Knesebeck from Karwe are both doing their military service. *“By coincidence they took their vacation at the same time ... the young men were quite good friends ... It was August, the lake was just as blue as the sky and the reed*



that mirrored in the lake arose to a big green wall.” Both officers “agreed ... that because of a lack of a real fight Karwe and Wustrau were supposed to organize a sea battle on the lake. The Knesebecks were supposed to come from Karwe and attack the Zietens fiercely and push them back all the way to Wustrau, then the Zietens were supposed to regather and repel the Knesebecks into their reed.”

With the active support of young men from both villages the legendary unbloody battle started with fireworks, rockets, pin wheels, torches, ambushes, war hue and some unvoluntary splashin into the lake.

We recommend to visit the church with its cemetery. You will find the graves of the Knesebecks there. Wustrau has also an interesting museum about Brandenburg-Prussia’s history.

Alt Ruppin 5 is located at the northern end of the Ruppiner See where the lake proceeds as the little creek Rhin. Since 1921 a carneval on the water has taken place each year on the first weekend of August. The boats and the crews typify spectacular topics such as hell, Reeperbahn as well as current local events. At the shore plots there are also nice colourful hefty parties. We move on and pass Molchow 6. To the left there is a modern marina and to the right there is the round village Molchow with its wooden belfry.

We pass through the Tetzensee, Zermützelsee and the Rottstiefließ. At the end of the Tornowsee there is the Boltenmühle 7. The hotel and the restaurant used to be a cutting mill. Built in 1718 it used to cut logs and to grind cereals. The mill wheel is still driven by the wild and romantic Binenbach. There is a story about this mill in the heart of the Ruppiner Switzerland:

At midnight the companion saw a ghost. This ghost offered to show the companion a place where a treasure was hidden. The companion dismissed that offer but he told the miller what he had experienced. The miller wanted to go together to the treasure with the companion if the ghost should appear again. As the ghost showed up anew the companion told him about the miller’s wish. The ghost agreed. Miller and companion dug up the treasure and split it up equally. The miller’s wife disliked that. She beat the companion to death and hastily buried him in the forest. Shortly afterwards she died. As her coffin was carried past the Boltenmühle the dead woman was looking out of her window and she laughed clangorously. In the coffin there was only a broom. Coffin and broom were buried. From now on the mill was haunted. Finally, the miller succeeded in banning his wife into a bottle. Then he buried the bottle in one of the cloughs.

It’s only a stone-throw from Boltenmühle to Binenwalde. Here the legend of the beautiful Sabine awaits you. Go along the Binenbach and look out for Sabine’s monument in Binenbach. Have fun!

Tip

The metamorphosis of a water tower:
> www.kletterzentrum-neuruppin.de

The sewage fields were built in 1910 for waste water treatment. They are a lovely biotope now and enclose a modern sewage treatment plant. If you register in advance you can visit it.

> www.swn.de



“Sea battle” in Wustrau

Italic quotations: Theodor Fontane, Wanderungen durch die Mark Brandenburg, Die Grafschaft Ruppin

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