

Bad Doberan County

Culture and Tourism

Cistercian heritage

Tourist highlight is the Cistercian monastery Doberan founded in 1176 with its late Gothic brickstone basilica and the rich medieval interior. Large functional buildings and the completely preserved cloister wall reflect its time of prosperity.

The heritage of the Cistercian include also the chapel in Althof, the carp ponds in Parkentin and the churches in Steffenshagen and Retschow.

Manor estates

64 beautiful manor estates with buildings from the late 18th century as well as from the 19th and 20th century are listed in the heritage chronicle of Bad Doberan county. In many cases these estates originate from older estates or fortresses.

After their careful renovation, these houses – like the manor Gerdshagen – turned into centres of cultural life in the countryside.

Seaside resort architecture

The „Bäderarchitektur“ (typical German seaside resort architecture) of the 19th century shaped the seaside resorts Heiligendamm, Kühlungsborn and Graal-Müritz and is also reflected in many lovely new pieces of architecture.

An example of the north German classicism at its best is the Kurhaus Heiligendamm (health spa), built by C. Th. Severin from 1814 to 1817.

Prehistoric sites

Bad Doberan County disposes of more than 5,000 identified archaeological sites. 440 of them are visible above ground and include large stone barrows (also known as megalithic barrows or giant's graves), parts of them date 5,500 years back and belong to the oldest archaeological sites in the federal state.

Beautiful landscape

A network of cycle and hiking tracks and the narrow-gauge railway „Molli“ give plenty opportunities to discover the beauty of the Mecklenburg countryside reflected in expanded fields, lovely villages and towns alongside a diversified Baltic coast with beech-covered cliff coasts and white sandy beaches.



Country and People



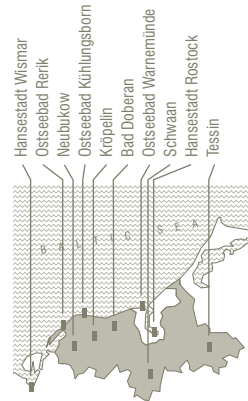
The county is situated in the core region of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, in direct vicinity to the Hanseatic City of Rostock. Excellent advantages of location make it to one of the most attractive regions in northern Germany. Companies and citizens profit from a well-developed infrastructure, low trade income taxes and stable economic structures.

Regarding the start-up dynamics, the county area belongs to the top regions in Germany, mainly because of the attractive subsidy policy and the available human resource potential, coming, for instance, from Rostock University and from the Universities of Applied Sciences in Wismar and Stralsund. Contrary to the general trend in East Germany, the population is continuously increasing. Modern living quarters and excellent recreation facilities at lakes and forests, an attractive landscape for tourism, the more than 40 km long Baltic coast and diverse cultural offers contribute to the positive soft location factors. The well-developed education and training system and the extended network of daycare facilities for children provide families a long-term professional and private perspective in the region.

The infrastructure includes following characteristics:

- Motorways A20 (Lübeck-Rostock-Stettin) and A19 (Rostock-Berlin)
- National highways B 103 (Rostock-Berlin), B 105 (Lübeck-Rostock-Stralsund) and B 110 (Rostock-Neubrandenburg)
- Railway lines from Wismar and Schwerin to Rostock
- Airport Rostock-Laage at A19 (about 35 km from Bad Doberan town)
- Sea Port Rostock with links to Scandinavia and the Baltic countries
- Well-developed bicycle track net for tourism and leisure (e.g. partial track of distant cycle track Berlin-Copenhagen, Baltic Sea cycle track and Rostock/Baltic Sea - Mecklenburg Lake District)

A total of 119,112 people live in an area of 1,362 km².



Bad Doberan County

Area: 1,362 km²
Inhabitants: 119,912
Density: 88 Inh./km²

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Area: 23,180 km²
Inhabitants: 1,707,266
Density: 74 Inh./km²

Source: Statistical Yearbook Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, 2006





Business Structure

The economic development of the county is characterized by the high-level centre Rostock, the location at the Baltic Sea and the utilization of the spatial integration. The INSM Regional Ranking 2006 identified following strengths of Bad Doberan County:

- _ Low labour costs
- _ Very good start-up statistics (balance of business registration and deregistration)
- _ High municipal investment rate
- _ Lean administrative structure



Business registration / deregistration

The balance of business registration and deregistration shows a long-term positive trend. As a result of modified and new labour-market policy (HARTZ IV social benefits, start-up benefits for one-person companies and federal-state support of start-ups), the start-up movement has considerably increased in many sectors, e.g. trade, hotel & restaurant industry and service since 2004.

Companies in Bad Doberan County

As per 31.12.2005, the county has registered a total of 4,351 companies in their official statistics. The most important and biggest companies include:

- _ Kempinski Grand Hotel Heiligendamm (hotel trade),
- _ YARA GmbH & Co.KG (chemical trade),
- _ SIV.AG (software provider for the energy and water supply management industry).



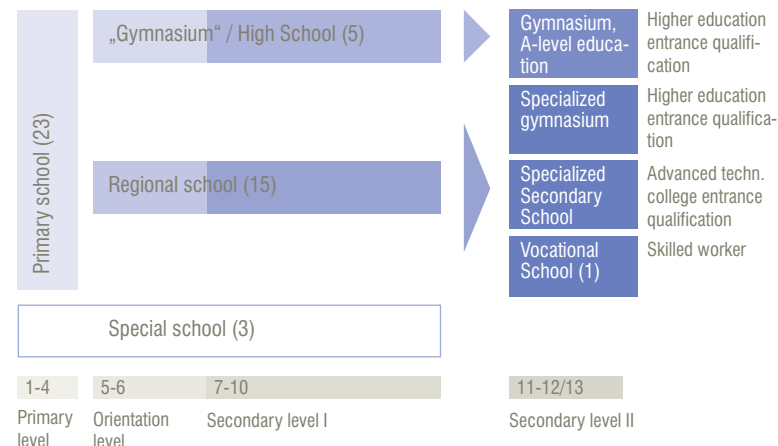
Policy and Social Affairs

County parliament



Education

All types of schools are represented. New and modernized school buildings and „gymnasiums“ (high school) are characteristic for the region.



Health care

The health care of the county is ensured by a hospital, emergency medical service (entity of the county), health resort and rehabilitation centres, an extended network of medical practices, retirement homes and daycare facilities.

