

HISTORY OF THE CASTLE

It is believed that a Germanic wooden castle existed at the end of the 12th century and was used to support the Wettin dynasty in their policy of expansion towards Köpenick, Barnim and Lebus. The castle was first mentioned in 1209 in a document issued by Holy Roman Emperor Otto IV.

After the Wettins were defeated in the Teltow War (1239-1245), a stone castle was constructed as a defence against the Ascanians of Brandenburg. The Old Castle, the south wall and the dungeon tower, all dating from the second half of the 13th century, survive to the present day. Around 1250, the influential Lords of Strelitz were also made Lords of Beeskow-Storkow, ordering the construction of two further castles, at Beeskow and Friedland, and setting in motion the cultivation and settlement of the land. On 13 March 1384, the Lords of Biberstein assumed control of the territory and the castle became an administrative centre.

Bishop Dietrich von Bülow acquired the Lordship of Beeskow-Storkow for the Bishops of Lebus on 15 June 1518. Around 1520, von Bülow ordered the conversion of the Old Castle into an episcopal residence.

On 15 February 1556, the Lordship of Beeskow-Storkow fell to Margrave John of Brandenburg-Küstrin. He supervised the construction of the Renaissance castle (manor). Originally, the building had an extra storey and was thus one of the oldest and largest preserved Renaissance castles in Brandenburg. In 1655, Storkow Castle was mortgaged to major general Margarethe von Lange, who ordered the construction of the council offices and a new entrance gate. The council offices burned down in 1775 and the Renaissance castle lost its second floor.

From 1769 to 1820, Storkow Castle served as the seat of the local council under Councillor Bütow. For a short time, the Old Castle was used as a brewery, before severe settlement damage saw the castle tower having to be torn down some time before 1840. In 1899, the town of Storkow purchased the castle from the royal exchequer, before it changed hands again in 1910, this time for 25,000 marks to the Berlin-based architect Emil Schaudt, who commissioned renovation work. In 1934, the Youth Hostel Association, the new owners of the castle, had it converted into a "Jugendburg", or "young people's castle". A half-timbered house was built to accommodate members of the Hitler Youth being "educated" here.

The town hall of Storkow burned down at the end of the Second World War, so the new municipal administration was based in the castle. It was followed by the local police station, classrooms and school kitchens, a sewing workshop, swimming baths, the employment office and later the "Station Junger Techniker", a scientific and technical education centre for young people under the GDR. The building was renovated in 1965.

On 16 December 1978, the manor was entirely burned out along with the municipal administration that was based within it. It was only in 1999 that the rebuilding of the castle could begin thanks to the support of the Brandenburg state government and EU funds. Three construction phases saw the building completely renovated. In time for the 800th anniversary celebrations of the first mention of the town of Storkow and its castle, the castle grounds were made available for use and could host attractive exhibitions.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

ADVICE ON TAP WITHIN THE HISTORICAL WALLS

The friendly, expert staff of the tourist information centre can be found in the former fireside room of the rebuilt castle manor.

Join experienced guides to learn all about the 800-year-old walls and their unique history. Visit the former brewery, the manor, the castle tower, the half-timbered house and the courtyard with its modern open-air stage.

Storkow Castle is an ideal starting-point for cycle tours, hikes and excursions in a region which boasts the Groß Schauen lake district and the Dahme-Heideseen nature reserve.

We are pleased to give you help and advice for your visit to our town.

Our services:

- Information on leisure activities and excursions in the region
- Details of accommodation of all kinds and to suit all budgets
- Tours of the castle and the town
- Ticket sales for the permanent and temporary exhibitions in the castle
- Organization of guided tours and excursions
- Advance ticket sales and distribution for events
- A wide range of cycling, walking and lake maps
- Historical books and image collections
- Storkow souvenirs and gifts and memorabilia dedicated to "Storki", our genial town stork
- Gift voucher
- Ordering of brochures and online shopping

We look forward to seeing you soon!



BURG Storkow (Mark)

Tourist Information Centre

Natureum & Kultureum

Visitor Centre in the

Dahme-Heideseen nature reserve

Events

Café

Tourist-Information Storkow
Schloßstraße 6
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Opening Times
Monday to Sunday
10am to 5pm

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VISITOR CENTRE IN THE DAHME-HEIDeseen NATURE RESERVE

The Visitor Centre at the Dahme-Heideseen nature reserve provides information about nature and the environment and makes it possible to experience the natural world first hand and in a creative way.

As a point of contact for tourists and a showcase for the whole region, it is synonymous with natural adventures, with relaxation and activities, and with fun and games for young and old alike. Temporary exhibits complement the permanent exhibition. Qualified guides are on hand to look after visitors and experts provide advice on the local wildlife and nature reserves. The centre can also plan and provide written information covering the region and further afield as well as offer expert tours of the exhibitions. Training sessions, events and environmental education classes can also be organised via the Visitor Centre, which belongs to a network covering the whole of Brandenburg.

Naturpark
Dahme-Heideseen



EVENTS

CONCERTS/PLAYS/CABARET/READINGS/DANCE

The staff of the castle and the Castle Cultural Association warmly invite you to sample a wide range of cultural delights in and around the historical castle grounds.

Two function rooms and a modern open-air stage display the cultural life of the town. In the small hall of the half-timbered house, people come together in a cosy atmosphere for the monthly coffee mornings, readings and talks. With its niches, its view up into the beams, and its atmospheric lighting, the large room in the old castle hall offers a special ambience.

The warmer months of the year see the hearty singing of choirs, nimble dancers accompanied by delightful music and plays on the open-air stage attract visitors to the castle courtyard. A few years ago, a partnership was formed between the three "Streleburg" towns of Beeskow, Friedland and Storkow. "Streleburg" refers to the fact that the castles in each of these places were all built by the house of the Lords of Strele. These towns come together to put on a wide-range of cultural events with themed nights, summer theatre and concerts given by the Music School of the Oder-Spree district.

NATUREUM PERMANENT EXHIBITION „HUMANITY AND NATURE - A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME“

Storkow Castle is one of the oldest castles in Brandenburg. There is probably no better place to familiarise visitors with the natural and cultural history of the area around the Groß Schauen lake district and the Dahme-Heideseen nature reserve.

Spread across three floors, the new permanent exhibition offers vivid insights into local history and showcases the fascinating natural treasures that live beside and in the lakes, in the forests and on the inland dunes. The link-up between the castle museum and the Visitor Centre in the nature reserve is the ideal way of illustrating what the worlds of men and nature have in common.

The tour begins in the cellar of the castle. The original vaults set the scene for the Ice Age, which had a special impact on the region. Visitors can discover Ice Age finds, learn something about the sculpting force of ice and meltwater, listen to "talking stones" and find out hands-on from models how the water found its way through the landscape or how the storms of the post-Ice Age period piled up the sand into mighty dunes. Finally, the hunter-gatherers came on the scene: the plastic figure of a Stone Age hunter will impress young and old.

In the attic, small, intricately crafted models show visitors how the countryside was settled, first by the Teutons, then later by the Slavs. Listening posts offer more in-depth information at the touch of a button. Visitors learn the roles played by Jaxa von Köpenick and Albert the Bear and how the village structures developed that are visible even today. A cabinet depicting a battle references the dark years of the Thirty Years' War before Frederick II of Prussia, "Old Fritz", stimulated new growth in the region, cultivating potatoes and attracting new settlement.



An exhibit of particular note from this era is the reference file for the town of Storkow, which visitors can browse through in digitised form. They can also delve into the history of the region with the help of historical maps and film documentaries. The castle's recent history is presented in the form of a short photo and film montage.

The exhibition space on the ground floor then examines what natural treasures the region has to offer, how they are used and what opportunities for tourists are connected with them. Each habitat is presented using a wide range of interactive and static exhibits. Small dioramas, drawers, fold-outs, scent stations, slide viewers, listening posts, turntables and cabinets full of original objects offer a variety of activities for getting to know the different habitats. A 3D relief model gives an overview of the whole region. The associated information system, which can be called up via a touch screen, shows all the opportunities available in Storkow at a glance.

To round off the tour, or as the starting point for an exhibition visit, a multivision show gives visitors a vivid introduction to the history of Storkow castle and the local area and what they now has to offer.

CAFÉ

BAKERY & CONFECTIONERY SCHÜREN GmbH

Visitors to the café within the historical walls of the castle are spoilt by a selection of hand-made, freshly baked, goods and patisseries.

Whether for a light snack or something more, sweet or savoury – everyone can find something to their taste. On warm days, you can also enjoy our delicious products in the beautiful castle courtyard in front of our café.

If you would like to hold your celebration inside the castle or in the comfort of your own home, we can offer you a wide range of catering options. From breakfasts right through to midnight feasts via brunches, light lunches or evening buffets – we will be happy to support you from A to Z.

Come and visit us Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm in our castle café and be inspired by our products!

Visitor Centre
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Tickets & Prices
Adults €4.50
Children under 6 free
(Various concessions available)

Opening Times
Tuesday to Sunday
10am to 5am (last admission at 4pm)
For special closing times, check the Internet or call +49 33678/73108