

Press information



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Press kit for PR-Event Antwerpen: NABU-Kranichzentrum

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The International NABU Experience Centre KRANICHWELTEN

Europe's largest crane centre – discover, experience, marvel

Just 16 kilometres north-west of Stralsund, in the heart of one of Central Europe's most important crane stopover sites, the International NABU Experience Centre **KRANICHWELTEN** awaits you. In Europe's largest crane centre, everything revolves around these fascinating 'birds of happiness' – their migration routes, habitats and the importance of their conservation and research, right through to poetry and mythology.

Our modern and interactive exhibition invites visitors of all ages to discover the world of cranes in an exciting and varied way. Immerse yourself **in multimedia experience zones and embark on thrilling virtual journeys** through crane habitats, moors and the world of insects. A special highlight is the 17-minute, **award-winning film** about the Year of the Cranes – impressive, moving and informative. You can also enjoy a **“bath under the sound shower” featuring the duet calls of all 15 crane species worldwide**, or learn more about our exciting projects in Europe, Africa or Asia.

In the spacious **20,000 m² outdoor area**, you can experience different habitats up close, including a lifelike lowland moor with typical vegetation and wildlife, as well as specially designed insect worlds.

In June 2026, a unique, large crane-themed playground will also be created! After your tour of our interactive exhibition, our cosy **bistro, 'Café des Glücks'**, invites you to relax and enjoy yourself – with a view of the natural surroundings. A delicious variety for explorers – sweet and savoury. A wide range of delicacies, from tarte flambée and pizza to various cakes, await you with the most beautiful views!

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Dr. Günter Nowald

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Gesellschafter:



Since autumn 2015, Germany has had its first accessible observation station at a crane feeding ground – the **KRANORAMA** is located just 300 metres from the new NABU International Experience Centre KRANICHWELTEN. It is open daily in spring and autumn during the main crane season. In the other seasons, the KRANORAMA is always open as soon as cranes are in the vicinity. At the new observation station, rangers from the centre are on hand with modern observation equipment to answer any questions. In some years, over 4,000 cranes, 8,000 grey geese, white-cheeked geese, white-fronted geese and bean geese, as well as hundreds of pintail, wigeon and mallard ducks, could be seen simultaneously on the feeding grounds in front of the centre. With such an abundance of food, up to 11 white-tailed eagles also gather daily at this magical location!

We look forward to your visit and unforgettable encounters with the cranes in the adjacent natural paradise of Lake Günzer!

A look back

Since the 1970s, the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) and the environmental foundation WWF-Germany (World Wide Fund for Nature) have each been running their own crane conservation projects in Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg. In eastern Germany, during the same period, members of the ‘Working Group for the Protection of Endangered Species in the GDR’ developed and maintained a network for monitoring crane breeding and stopover sites. Following reunification, crane conservationists from East and West Germany, together with Lufthansa Environmental Support, founded the ‘Crane Conservation Germany’ working group in 1991. In 1996, the non-profit organisation Kranichschutz Deutschland GmbH was founded with NABU and the WWF as shareholders. Since 2017, NABU has been the sole shareholder of Kranichschutz Deutschland. The centre has since been known as the NABU Crane Centre. It was closed on 1 August, as the new International NABU Experience Centre KRANICHWELTEN near Günz (Altenpleen) opened on 6 September 2025. Its aim – in addition to public relations work – is to preserve a safe breeding habitat for cranes, as well as undisturbed gathering and resting places in Germany, and to contribute to international crane conservation.

KRANICHWELTEN is the headquarters of the non-profit organisation Kranichschutz Deutschland GmbH. In addition to national monitoring projects for breeding pairs and migratory cranes, its key national and international activities include research (e.g. GPS telemetry), the conservation and restoration of wetlands, and environmental education.

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