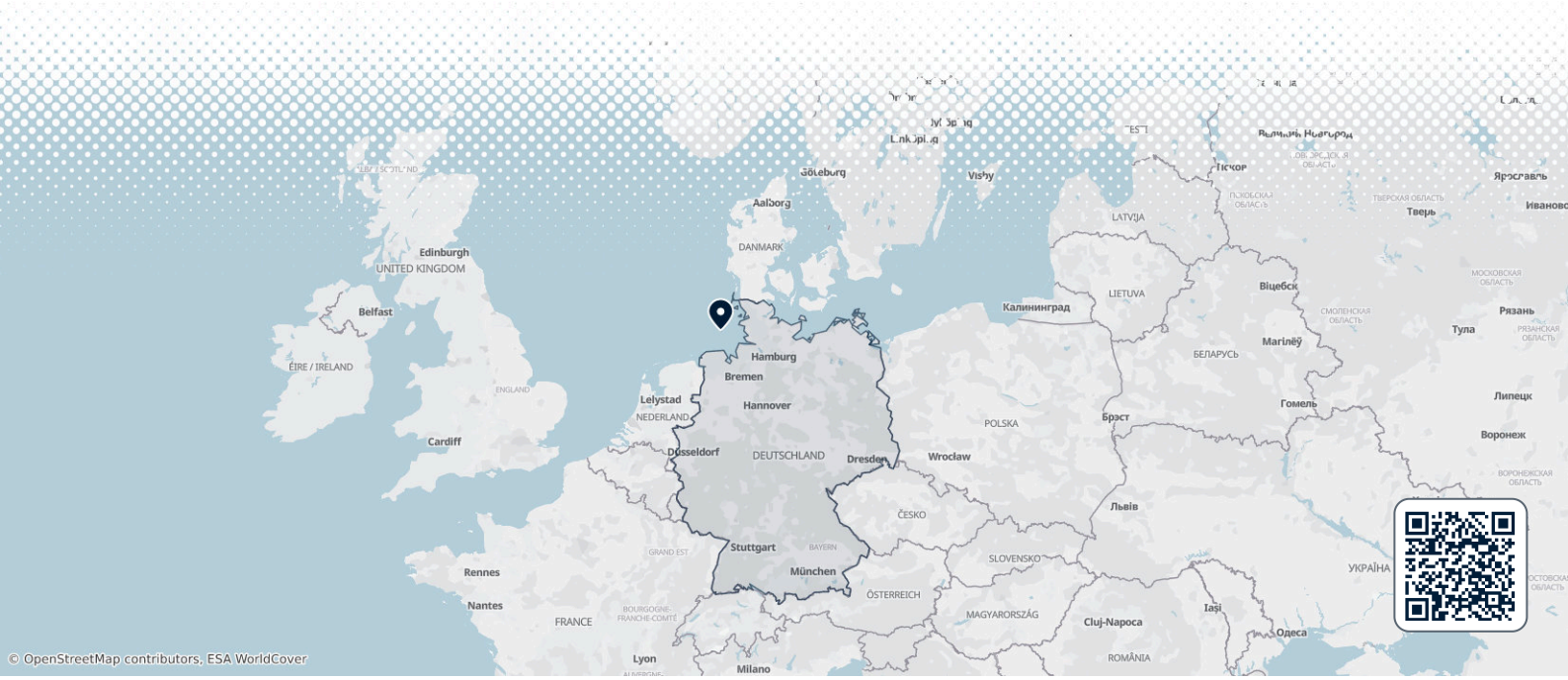


Heligoland

Schleswig-Holstein State · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Heligoland is a small red sandstone island in the North Sea, about 50 km off the German coast. It has high cliffs, a famous rock stack, seabird colonies and a low sandy island next to it.

The island suits a day trip or a short stay by the sea. Visitors come for the sea air, walks along the cliffs, seals and birds. Shops sell some goods such as alcohol and tobacco tax-free, because the island lies outside the EU customs union.

When to visit

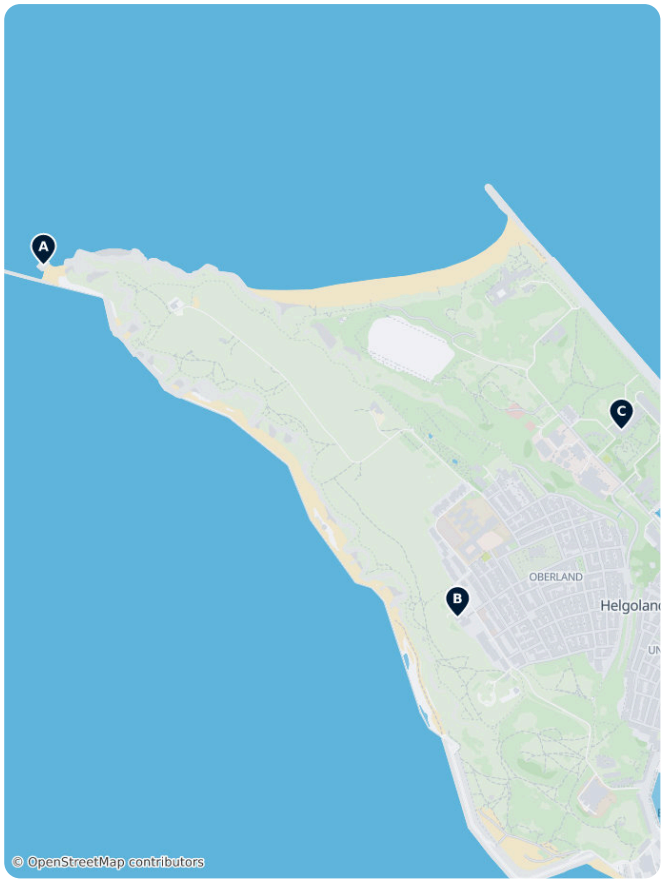
Summer is the main season, with the calmest sea and the most boats. Spring and early summer are good for the seabirds on the cliffs. Winter is quiet and windy, but mild for Germany.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 8° Feels like -3°	2° / -3°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Windy
February	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	4° / 8° Feels like -3°	2° / -2°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Windy
March	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	6° / 9° Feels like -1°	4° / -1°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for hiking	9° / 13° Feels like 4°	6° / 3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	13° / 17° Feels like 8°	10° / 7°	Dry air
June	Good Good for hiking	16° / 20° Feels like 13°	14° / 11°	13 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 22°	16° / 14°	16 rainy days
August	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 23°	17° / 15°	16 rainy days
September	Good Good for hiking	17° / 21° Feels like 13°	15° / 12°	14 rainy days · Dry air
October	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 17° Feels like 8°	11° / 7°	16 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	9° / 13° Feels like 3°	7° / 3°	17 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	6° / 10° Feels like -1°	4° / -1°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Windy

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Lange Anna is a free-standing red rock column, about 47 m high. It stands off the northwest tip of the island and is the island's symbol.
- The Lummenfelsen is a bird cliff next to the rock column. Guillemots, kittiwakes, razorbills and fulmars breed here. Gannets have bred here since 1991.
- The Düne is a smaller, flatter island with sandy beaches.
- B Heligoland Lighthouse stands on the Oberland, the high plateau. It is a landmark you can see from the sea.
- C Museum Helgoland is the local museum. It tells the story of the island.
- The Unterland is the low part of the island by the harbour. Most shops and cafés are here.



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What to experience

- Watch grey seals on the Düne beaches. Keep your distance from the animals.
- Take a sightseeing or sailing trip on the sea around the island.

Getting there

- **By sea**: Ferries run to Heligoland from Cuxhaven on the mainland coast. Check the current timetable and booking options on Helgoland tourism.
- **By air**: A small airfield on the Düne takes flights from the mainland.
- Cars are not allowed on the island, so leave yours on the mainland.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The island is small, so you can walk everywhere. A lift and stairs link the Unterland with the Oberland.
- **To the Düne**: A small boat runs from the harbour to the Düne.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The main island is very small.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Bicycles are not allowed on the island.

Food & drink

Fish and seafood are the local food. Lobster is a local speciality.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

Stay on the marked paths near the cliff edges and the bird cliff.

History

- Britain took control of Heligoland in 1807, during the Napoleonic Wars.
- In 1890 Britain gave the island to Germany in a treaty that also covered Zanzibar.
- In the Second World War the island became a fortress with long bunker tunnels. After heavy bombing in April 1945 the island was evacuated. The tunnel system was over 13 km long.
- In April 1947 the Royal Navy blew up the military installations with thousands of tonnes of explosives. The blast changed the shape of the island.
- In 1952 the island returned to German control and former residents could come back.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Heligoland's Crown Jewels

Heligoland, Germany's only high-sea island, is defined by its dramatic red sandstone geology and maritime heritage. This selection highlights the island's landmarks, including the 47-meter-high Lange Anna sea stack and the Heligoland Bird Observatory, one of the world's oldest ornithological research centers. The list covers the island's cultural history at Museum Helgoland, its modern religious architecture, the 113-meter-high radio tower, and the essential ferry connections to the neighboring Düne island.





A Lange Anna

Lange Anna, is a 47-metre high sea stack of Buntsandstein in the North Sea island of Heligoland, Germany. Its local name is Nathurn Stak.

27498, Germany (54.18813, 7.86971)

Mo–Su	Open 24/7



B Museum Helgoland

Exhibits detailing the natural history and cultural development of the island, including maritime traditions and local artifacts.

Kurpromenade 1430, 27498 Helgoland (54.18520, 7.88728)

Mar 15-Oct 31 Mo–Su	10:00–14:30
Nov 01-Mar 14 We–Sa	12:00–16:30
Dec 23-Jan 07 Mo–Su	12:00–16:30

museum-helgoland.de, +49 4725 1292



C Ev. Kirche St. Nicolai

Modern Lutheran church featuring contemporary architecture, rebuilt following the island's destruction during World War II.

(54.18303, 7.88470)

web.archive.org/web/20140109021343/htt... , +49 4725 301



D St. Michael

Roman Catholic place of worship on the island.

611 Süderstraße, Helgoland 27498, Germany (54.18124, 7.88536)



E Heligoland Bird Observatory

The Heligoland Bird Observatory, one of the world's first ornithological observatories, is operated by the Ornithologische...

(54.18428, 7.88297)

ifv-vogelwarte.de/das-institut/standorte/..., +49 4725 64020



F Heligoland radio tower

Heligoland radio tower is a 113-metre high transmission tower on the island of Heligoland in Germany. It is owned by the Deutsche Telekom.

(54.18041, 7.88328)

G Dünenfähre (Schlechtwetter)

Ferry terminal providing passenger transport between the main island and the neighboring Düne island.

3 Düne, 27498, Germany (54.18308, 7.88998)

DATA SOURCES

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