

# *European Wilderness Network*

## *Vilm WILDIsland*



2018

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*Let's get Wild!*

# Vilm WILDIsland, Germany

The 162 ha Vilm WILDIsland is part of South East Rügen Biosphere Reserve, Germany. Vilm WILDIsland is covered by old broadleaf forests with small lagoons, sandy beaches and attractive coastal features. Vilm WILDIsland is located five kilometres east from Rügen Island. It is the oldest protected area in Germany, and has been a Nature Reserve since 1936. Since 1990 it is part of the core zones of the South East Rügen Biosphere Reserve. The ancient forests on Vilm WILDIsland have never been managed by forestry. It is one of the most natural forest stand and wildest coasts in the South Baltic region. Due to non-intervention management, the strictly protected WILDIsland Vilm has developed in natural succession for many decades.

## European Wilderness Quality Standard Audit System

The 162 ha Vilm WILDIsland was subject to a Quick-Audit in 2017 and meets the Gold Wilderness Quality Standard. A European Wilderness Quality Standard Full-Audit is scheduled for 2021.

Wilderness information	
Protected area	South East Rügen Biosphere Reserve
Wilderness	Vilm WILDIsland
Country	Germany
Size of the protected area	23 500 ha
Size of the Island	171 ha: 94 ha terrestrial, 77 ha marine
Size of the WILDIsland	162 ha: 85 ha terrestrial, 77 ha marine
European Wilderness Quality Standard Audit	2017
Wilderness Uniqueness	Small island located close to the Rügen Island with old beech and mixed forest and well protected beaches
Number of visitors per year to the protected area	approx. 900 000
Number of visitors per year to the WILDIsland	approx. 10 000



Map scale 1 : 214 400



## Biodiversity

Vilm WILDIsland represents a piece of native wild forest and coastal landscape of high integrity. Vilm WILDIsland has a high importance as a local hotspot of biodiversity that is dependent on spontaneous natural processes and ecosystem dynamics. It contains representative flora and fauna species typical for ancient forests and coastal habitats. It is for example a permanent nesting place of the white-tailed sea eagle. The shallow coastal waters surrounding Vilm WILDIsland provide a resting area for migratory birds and a safe refuge for various species of geese, such as the greylag, bean and greater white-fronted geese.

## Wilderness Tourism Experience

The South East Rügen Biosphere Reserve is located 20 km north-east of Stralsund, the main access point to Rügen Island, the Biosphere Reserve and Vilm WILDIsland. The area of the Biosphere Reserve is accessible by train, car and buses. The main attraction of the South East Rügen Biosphere Reserve is the significant and diverse cultural landscape, including coast and sea, which represents almost 95% of the biosphere reserve area. Visitors have many options of easy, moderate or demanding hiking excursions to explore the diversity of this area. Access to Vilm WILDIsland is permitted only for guided tours and for participants of workshops in collaboration with the International Academy for Nature Conservation, part of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz – BfN). Visitors from guided tours are impressed and enlightened to experience Vilm WILDIsland.



## Contact

### Vilm WILDIsland

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## European Wilderness Society

Founded on more than 20 years of Wilderness work by our members, the European Wilderness Society is the only Pan-European, Wilderness and environmental advocacy non-profit, non-government organisation.

It has a dedicated multi-cultural and experienced team of Wilderness and wildlife specialists, nature conservationists, researchers and scientists, tourism experts, marketing and business professionals, legal advisors and Wilderness advocates, whose mission is to:

- ▶ identify
- ▶ designate
- ▶ steward
- ▶ promote

Europe's last Wilderness, WILDCoasts, WILDForests, WILDIslands and WILDRivers. Here non-human intervention leads to open-ended, dynamic processes.

This is conveyed through a range of projects that facilitate Wilderness knowledge exchange, including education, culture and science, from local community through to scientific and governmental level.

## European Wilderness Network

The European Wilderness Network connects Europe's wildest places. Certified by the European Wilderness Quality and Audit System, these unique areas host diverse wild ecosystems governed by dynamic open-ended processes, with no or minimum human-intervention. The Network includes, for example, Europe's last primeval beech forests, the arctic tundra, and mountain landscapes in different climate conditions. It aims to promote Europe's last Wilderness, WILDCoasts, WILDForests, WILDIslands and WILDRivers, with a comprehensive marketing strategy. The European Wilderness Network offers a platform to share Wilderness Stewardship best-practice examples and Wilderness research. It connects like-minded Wilderness managers and advocates and fosters the exchange of ideas and knowledge across Europe and the world through the European Wilderness Exchange Programme.

For more information please see <http://european-wilderness.network>

### European Wilderness Society

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