

## Worth knowing

The name "Rühstätt" probably alludes to the last "Ruhestätte" (resting place) of the von Quitzow family, whose members were buried in the crypta of the church. Since 1996 the village holds the title of "European Stork Village", being the only one in Germany and one among ten in Europe. There is no other village in Germany with so many storks breeding in the same place.

### Captions to map

Suggested tour of Rühstätt, starting and ending at the visitor centre.

Storchenreicher Ausblick – Best view of stork nests  
Sitzbank – Bench

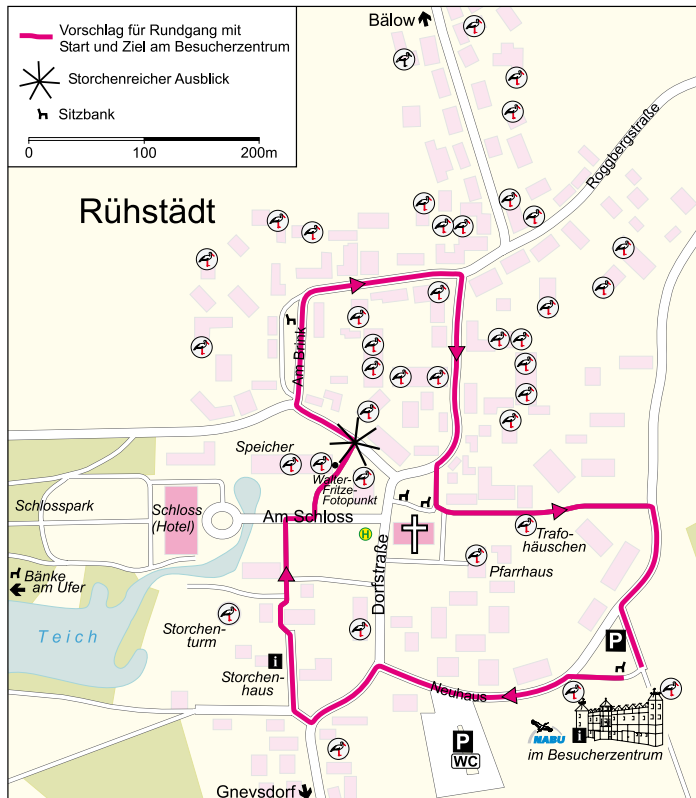
Besucherzentrum – Visitor Centre  
Storchenhaus – Stork House  
Schloss (Hotel) – Castle (Hotel)

Schlosspark – Castle Park  
Teich – Pond

Bänke am Ufer – Benches (at the Castle pond)

Walter Fritze Fotopunkt – Walter Fritze photo spot

Speicher – Storehouse  
Pfarrhaus – Parsonage  
Trafohäuschen – Transformer house



## European Stork Village Rühstätt on Elbe



## Accessibility

**by train** (regional train RE4 Ludwigsfelde – Berlin – Wittenberge/Wismar) to Bad Wilsnack. From there by bicycle or public bus to Rühstätt.

Verkehrsgesellschaft (Public Transport Association) Prignitz: phone +49 (0)3876 / 789940, [www.vgp-prignitz.de](http://www.vgp-prignitz.de) or "Prignitz-reisen" Minibus Services phone +49 (0)38791 / 6221

**by car** via Federal Road B5 (Berlin – Perleberg) to Kletzke or via Federal Road B107 (Pritzwalk – Havelberg) to the crossing with Federal Road B5, go on towards Kletzke. From there via Bad Wilsnack, Legde, Abbendorf, Gnevsdorf to Rühstätt.

## Parking at the visitor centre.

**Stops for refreshments** Storchenhof Inn, Storchenkrug Inn and Rosenhof Inn.

**Resting spots** Benches are offered in the courtyard and in front of the Visitor Centre, in the Castle Park, in "Am Brink" road and at the church.



## Storchenland Brandenburg

### Visitor Centre Rühstätt

**NABU-Exhibition „Weltenbummler Adebar“**

### Business hours

April till September daily 10 - 18 h

Guided tours of the exhibition, the Stork Village and Elbe lowlands for groups of 10 or more people are available in any seasons.

### Contact

Visitor Centre Rühstätt

Neuhausstraße 9, 19322 Rühstätt

Visitor Centre Tel. (03 87 91) 980 25

NABU Tel. (03 87 91) 980 24

Naturwacht Tel. (03 87 91) 980 22

NABU-Besucherzentrum@t-online.de

### For those who wish to know more, go to

[www.NABU-Brandenburg.de](http://www.NABU-Brandenburg.de)

[www.naturwacht.de](http://www.naturwacht.de)

[www.bioshaerenreservat-flusslandschaft-elbe.brandenburg.de](http://www.bioshaerenreservat-flusslandschaft-elbe.brandenburg.de)

[www.dieprignitz.de](http://www.dieprignitz.de)

### Imprint

Published by NABU Brandenburg

Haus der Natur • Lindenstraße 34 • 14467 Potsdam • Tel. (03 31) 20 155 70

[info@NABU-Brandenburg.de](mailto:info@NABU-Brandenburg.de) • [www.NABU-Brandenburg.de](http://www.NABU-Brandenburg.de)

Fotos: Carsten Rasmus, Kathleen Awe

Karte und Text: © KLARAS-Verlag Carsten Rasmus,

aus: Erlebnisführer Störche in Brandenburg. KLARAS-Verlag Berlin, 2003.

Design: © satzwerk Birgit Großmann. Gedruckt auf Recyclingpapier

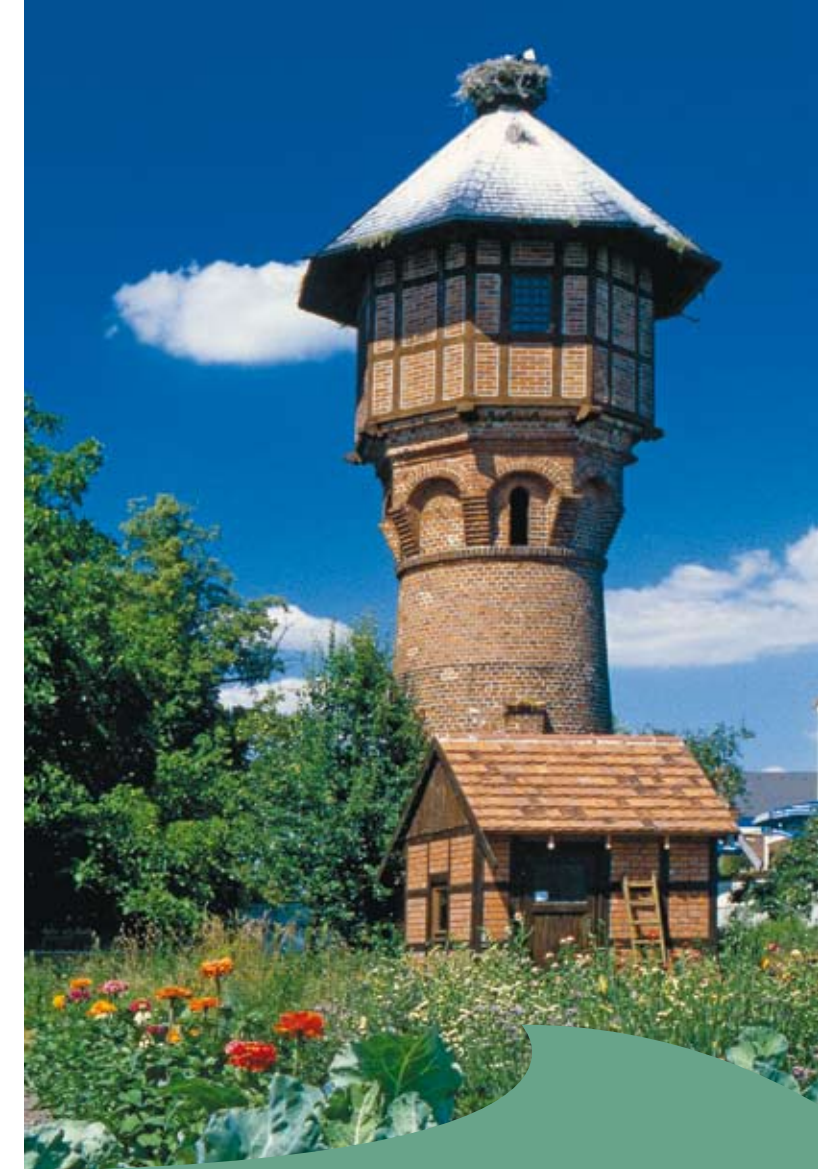
This publication was financially supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.



Nationale  
Naturlandschaften



Biosphärenreservat  
Flusslandschaft  
Elbe-Brandenburg





» Description of the tour

The tour starts at Rühstädt **Visitor Centre**, where the NABU exhibition on “world-travelling White Storks” (German title: “Weltenbummler Adebar”) offers fascinating insight into the lives of these birds. You can have a look into the huge nest on top of our brick building by live camera and watch “our” stork couple rearing their young. Or you start with weighing a stork on the scales in the exhibition. You can also pick up information on the rich variety of wildlife of the Elbe River Landscape Biosphere Reserve and find out about bike routes. Or why not opt for a guided tour with friendly NABU staff or biosphere reserve rangers through the exhibition, through Rühstädt or into the Elbe lowlands? If so, please book in advance. Two further rooms of the visitor centre are devoted for changing exhibits which allow even our regular guests to always discover something new.

Both stork nests on the roof of the visitor centre are mostly occupied by the same couple. As the young storks grow older, their begging for food becomes rather insistent. Then, the old birds enjoy the tranquility in the neighbouring nest, where they also busy themselves with preening.



When following “**Neuhausstraße**” towards the village, you will discover another nest on top of a barn. After their arrival in spring, the occupants of this nest often engage in fights against the couple from the visitor centre. These fights won't cease before the onset of breeding. When ringing young storks began in the vil-

lage in late June 2000, an egg was discovered in the nest on top of the “**Bauernmuseum**” (Farm Museum). The breeding season being advanced, the chances for the unhatched egg appeared rather bleak. Nevertheless, the young stork did fine at first. But things became tight again, when during their big departure of Rühstädt's storks one of the parental birds left the nest for its wintering ground. However, the other adult stork succeeded in rearing up its young and both were ready for heading south in mid-September.



Leave this nest to your right and follow the turn towards the “**Storchenhaus**” (Stork House) and “**Storchenturm**” (Stork Tower). Managed by the local stork club, the “Storchenhaus” is worth a visit for its choice of Rühstädt souvenirs and gifts. The stork nest on the water tower is a main eye catcher and popular photographic subject. In 1992, this brick building was restored by NABU under the generous sponsorship of the Michael Otto Foundation. Barn owls are also nesting in the tower.

Not far from the Stork Tower stands

the **castle** that was erected in Baroque style by the von Jagow family in 1782. Today, it operates as a spa hotel. The castle was built on the foundations of an older moated castle which in 1384 came to the knightly family of von Quitzow who is well known in the regional state of Brandenburg. The interior houses valua-



ble stucco ceilings and tile stoves from the Rococo period. There is a **park** adjacent to the castle and stretching along an old cut-off meander of the Elbe River which is worth a visit for its giant redwood, the ice house mound and benches at the Castle Pond. Two nesting aids are installed on the **old storehouse** and **horse stable** which is the largest outbuilding of the former estate. On the right side of the storehouse you will find the “**Walter Fritze photo spot**”, a balcony on the second floor that was opened in 2007 to offer a beautiful view of Rühstädt's rooftops and at least ten stork nests. When in front of the storehouse, be sure to make a full turn around your axis; there is no other place in Rühstädt from where to spot more stork nests at a single glance.

A left turn will bring you to the “**Brink**” (edge of the village). You will find a nest there which was occupied by a pelican in 2000. The bird had escaped from a zoo and was used to live in close proximity to white storks, but not so the Rühstädt storks on their side which within a few days put an end to the pelican's guest appearance and drove the intruder away. The **barn** behind the house of author and publisher Vera Wildgruber has a large nest on the right side of its rooftop where storks can rear their young. The small nesting aid at the left gable was installed by this stork enthusiast to provide her adult storks with a suitable place for roosting and preening.

To many people the 30-year old nest at the **northern end of the village** is the most beautiful one. The oldest stork of the village (according to the ring readings) used to take up residence in this nest. The bird was ringed in another nest, but since its return as an adult bird in 1986 has preferred this particular nest for breeding. Regrettably, the last reading for it dates back to 2005. A few metres away, we turn right into “**Dorfstraße**” (Village



Road). Several barns with two nests each are popular photographic subjects along this part of the tour. The walk continues towards the church. When looking from the cemetery at the church to the left hand side the nest on the **transformer house** can be seen. Stork regurgitated pellets containing non-digestible remains of food and feathers are frequently found on the ground in front of that building.

The nest on top of the **parsonage** behind the church is comparatively new. In 2002, a pair of storks decided to nest on one of its two chimneys which unfortunately was in use. Understandably enough, the clergy family did not want to be without hot water until the end of August. And so, it was decided to transfer the nest – with notable success! Passing the playground and Rühstädt's only manufacturing plant the tour leads to the eastern end of the village. Turn right and within a few metres you will reach the visitor centre again.

The friendly NABU staff and biosphere reserve rangers will look forward to your visit!