

GRENZHUS – INFORMATION CENTRE

For 40 years Germany was divided into two parts by a 1,400 km long border with painful consequences on both sides. In the GDR the border regime secured the dictatorship of the communist ruling party – the SED (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands). The West German government of the time reacted to the demarcation with varying political actions. The military pacts of the communist East and the democratic West faced each other at this border. After the German reunification in 1990 the border area turned into a green belt of protected natural areas. The Grenzhus shows the history of the border area between the Baltic Sea and the Elbe river from the viewpoint of the inhabitants of the border area. What kind of decisions did people who lived in a democracy compared to people living in a dictatorship have to make and what influences did this



have on their everyday life? What significance does the history of the border have today?

The Grenzhus is a meeting point, a place of information and learning as it lies midway through the historic border area. It consists of a museum, an outdoor installation and the border walkway. Testimonies, traces and memories from the past are investigated and displayed for everyone to explore.

CONTACT

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Opening hours

Monday to Friday 10:00 – 16:30
Saturday to Sunday 10:00 – 18:00


Admission

Ticket 4,- € per person / reduced 3,- €
Guided tour 30,- € / school classes 25,- €

Café „Grenzstein“

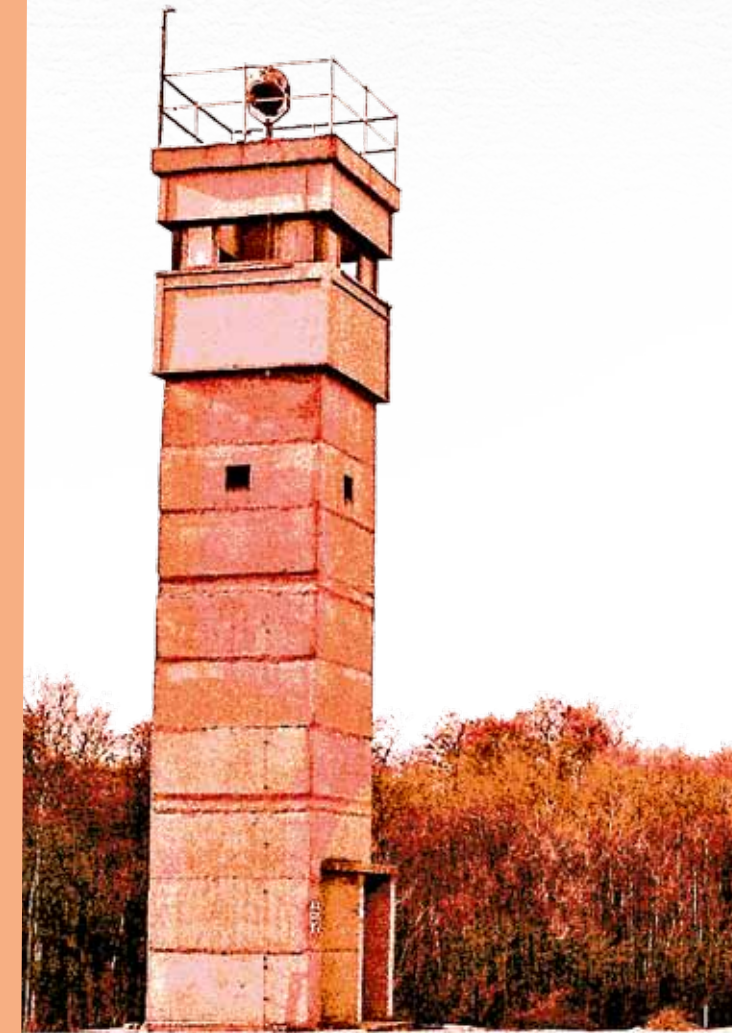
Café „Grenzstein“ offers food, hot and cold drinks and can be found in the Grenzhus building. Opening hours vary depending on the season – please check when planning your trip. Group reservations are always welcome and must be made in advance.



In cooperation with  STIFTUNG MECKLENBURG and
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**GRENZHUS
SCHLAGSDORF**
INFORMATIONSZENTRUM
ZUR INNERDEUTSCHEN GRENZE



EXHIBITIONS
on life at the border between
former East and West Germany

THE MUSEUM

The museum opened in 1999 and forms the core of the memorial site "Grenzhus Schlagsdorf". It is one of four information centres in the biosphere reserve area Elbe-Schaalsee.

The permanent exhibition shows the development of the border between former East and West Germany, its expansion into a 5 km wide restricted zone with a complex series of fortifications in the GDR territory, highlighting the consequences of the barrier on both sides of the border.

A main focus of the museum is the personal fate of people who's lives and decisions were influenced by the border. Artefacts with models and real-life stories tell of forced removals, erased villages and people's escapes as well as everyday life in the border area.

Historic film recordings and interviews with eyewitnesses give vivid impressions of life at the time of the border and the transformation of the landscape.



THE OUTDOOR INSTALLATION

In the early 1990s the extensive removal of the GDR border installations was already almost complete. In 2001 parts of those border installations were reconstructed in the disused gravel pit of Schlagsdorf. The outdoor installations have been entirely put together with original parts of the former GDR border fortifications.



A protection fence with signal and alarm wires, an observation tower and parts of the so called Border Fence 1 from the 1980's are exhibited. Other objects show the expansion of border security in the earlier decades.

The outdoor installation is about 500 metres away from the Grenzhus and can be visited during the opening hours of the museum.

THE BORDER COURSE

The border walkway "Grenzwege Schlagsdorf" is about 3,5km long and was developed in 2012. Various paths take visitors to different areas of the former border line. They each give an impression of the transformation of the landscape within the border area.

14 information points describe historic events, the building of the border fortifications and the landscape around lake "Mechower See". They offer surprising insights into the history of the now peaceful landscape.

The visitors will encounter traces of the former border while getting a topographic overview of the original layout of the border around Schlagsdorf.

The border walkway is always accessible. You can get a general map and publications of the history of the border at Grenzhus.

