

PRESSRELEASE

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Arts, Crafts & Cultural Life

The charm of Sylt's scenery has always been a source of inspiration to artists. Behind dunes and dykes, painters set to work with sweeping strokes of the brush, and chic galleries display works of fine art. Sylt's artistic landscape is accentuated with special highlights by the island's craftspeople, who have settled mainly in the east. Their painstakingly hand-fashioned objects are impressive one-offs. Fine tiles are a typical example of Sylt craftsmanship. The painted clay discs were popular with sailors, who brought them home from their journeys as souvenirs or small gifts, and they are still in great demand as an attractive wall decoration today.

The Altfriesisches Haus in Keitum gives visitors an idea of Sylt's old way of life. Restored to its original state, each of its rooms conveys what life in the 18th century was like. Equally worth seeing: Sylt's Local History Museum in Keitum with its numerous exhibits from traditional costumes to silver jewellery; Kampen's Vogelkoje, a former duck-trapping site; and Deng hoog, a walk-in Stone Age grave located in Wenningstedt.

Tradition is considered important on Sylt and still plays a part in the life of the islanders today. One of the most beautiful customs upheld by local groups is the performance of old dances in traditional costume, an event that never fails to draw an audience. What may seem somewhat exotic in our modern times used to be as ordinary as jeans and a T-shirt. The traditional costumes had their heyday in the 18th century, when the general wealth brought in by seafaring was also mirrored by people's dress: men were clad in silk and velvet, and women wore gowns with gold coins sewn onto them for their weddings.

Sylt also boasts a lively cultural scene. The calendar of events includes regular theatre performances with well-known actors and actresses, along with musicals and other shows. Classical concerts are just as popular with Sylt's visitors as church concerts given by top guest artists. Renowned writers give readings at Kampen's literary festival, and popular comedians make their appearance in the Meerkabarett.