

Facts and figures about Sylt

SYLT...

- is the largest German island in the North Sea, occupying an area of about 38 square miles.
- extends 22.2 miles from north to south and between 383 yards and 7.8 miles from west to east.
- measures 66 miles in circumference.
- lies between 5 and 12 miles off the mainland.
- is on the same latitude as the English city of Newcastle and the southernmost tip of Alaska.
- became an island about 8,000 years ago, when it was severed from the mainland.
- is 33% dunes, the remaining surface consisting of marshland and “geest”.
- is directly connected to the mainland via the Hindenburgdamm, a rail causeway opened on 1 June 1927.
- counts two unique shifting sand dunes, which migrate eastward up to 4.4 yards every year.
- has 12 churches, 8 of them Protestant, 3 Catholic and 1 New Apostolic.
- is home to about 21,500 inhabitants.
- has eleven villages and one town.
- can accommodate 50,000 visitors at a time.
- attracts more than 800,000 holidaymakers every year.
- has 12,000 second homes.
- averages less than 1% windless days a year. The wind blows mainly from the west.
- finds its highest natural elevation in the Uwe Dune in Kampen, which rises 57 yards above sea level.
- has more than 12.000 “Strandkörbe” waiting on its beaches during the season.
- offers living space to up to 2 million organisms per square metre of Wadden Sea.
- has its own dialect, called “Söl’ring”. It is spoken by 4% of the population and is a variant of Frisian.

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