

PRESS RELEASE

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The family island of Sylt

Whether it's building on the stretch of sandy beach, exploring in the mudflat or playing scientist at the children's university – the island of Sylt shows adults exactly what a packed schedule means: lots of fun! It also makes children's dreams come true: of being a clown in the island's circus or a musical star on treasure island. Clear the stage for the family island of Sylt.

The island's biggest sand pit – its stretch of sandy beach – promises the best in bathing and digging fun. Here, splash-happy kids are in their element just as much as little builders trying their hand at creating the odd work of art made from sand and water. The aquarium in Westerland is also well worth a trip, at the latest when the rain clouds block out the sun. Here you can marvel at over 2,000 fish swimming in the 25 seawater pools – all at children's eye level. Feeding time is just as exciting as walking through the underwater tunnel, where sharks and colourful tropical fish glide overhead. And if this makes you want to take the plunge yourself, you can go for a dip in the outdoor pool Sylter Welle in Westerland. The huge new slides, big wave pool and Viking ship provide plenty of bathing fun.

In July and August, the island's circus pitches its tents in Wenningstedt, where ringmaster Martin Kliever pulls both old and new tricks out of his hat. Classics include different shows every week, featuring young international circus ensembles as well as various play and workgroups. The timetable of the interactive circus (for children aged 6 and above), the flea circus (for children aged 3 and above) and groups practicing separately (for youngsters aged 13 and above) includes juggling, unicycling, trampolining, tightrope walking, magic and clownery. Participants are given the opportunity to show what they have learnt in front of a wide audience at the weekly closing event. This year, children and youngsters who can't get enough of the circus can even spend a night in a circus trailer if they wish. For more information and reservations, visit www.inselcircus.de.

Who? What? Where? When? Why? While children have a thousand and one pressing questions, scientists are working on at least as many answers. They meet in the summer in the children's university of the kunst:raum sylt quelle Foundation in Rantum. The series of lectures and seminars this coming "summer semester" deals with the elemental forces of the North Sea and the animals and microorganisms living in it. For the first time, "seminars" are also being held for the young students in cooperation with the "Erlebniszentrum Naturgewalten" (Forces of Nature Centre) in List. What's more, mudflat walking tours run by "Schutzstation Wattenmeer", a nature protection organisation, help children to discover and understand this fascinating habitat. "Do seal pups really scream and does Flipper really live in the North Sea?" The answers to these and many more questions are available online at www.erlebniszentrum-naturgewalten.de and www.schutzstation-wattenmeer.de.



MEER. LEIDENSCHAFT. LEBEN.

A boat trip is not only fun, but nice too. Especially one that takes you to the neighbouring islands Amrum and Föhr or the tiny Halligen islands. Calls of “seal ahoy” rather than “island ahoy” can be heard during a boat trip to the seal banks approaching List und Hörnum. Swords are even drawn in List several times a week: “board the ship” is the command given to those who set sail with the Gret Palucca. At the seamen’s employment office at the port in List, kids get kitted out in true pirate style with striped shirts and eye patches under the guidance of head pirates, who also give the aspiring pirates a lesson on the laws of the sea. With a proper mutiny, lots of yelling and loud cheers, the aspiring pirates set off on their adventure and waste no time in capturing the captain, who is left with no choice but to hand over the secret treasure map. More information on all trips is available online at www.adler-schiffe.de.

As soon as they reach dry land, the little pirates can head south of the island. In Hörnum, the pirates set off singing and dancing in search of treasure from mid July until late August. “Treasure Island” is a family musical, the new version of which was written by director Stephan Hoffstadt, who transformed the famous tales of adventure into an exciting musical exclusively for Hörnum. In search of the legendary treasure of pirate captain Flint, deceit, mutiny and betrayal cross paths before loyalty and friendship prevail. For one week, the young visitors can be part of the musical team and sing, dance, play music, build stage props or design costumes in workshops under expert guidance and present these at a closing event in front of an audience. More information can be found online at www.schatzinsel-sylt.de.

Along Westerland’s promenade there’s even a house especially for children – the “Villa Villekulla”. Here children can play, rollick, do crafts and, of course, laugh every day until their heart’s content. In List, the little seahorse Listi greets his friends with a kids card and a bonus booklet, which ensure lots of small gifts for everyone. By the way, the treasure drawer in the children’s beach chairs, which can be hired on List’s west and east beach, provide the perfect hiding place for these. And that’s by no means all Sylt has to offer children. Be it pony riding in Keitum, bow-building seminars in Kampen, trampolining in Wenningstedt or magic courses in Rantum – every year, Sylt’s spa administrations and tourism services put together a varied summer holiday programme for kids and teens. More information on kids club offers, some of which are available all year round, can be obtained from the island’s tourism organisations or online at www.sylt.de.

The travel portal www.sylt-reisen.de features lots of exciting and imaginative offers for families and children, which can either be booked separately or in combination with other services. Detective Day is perfect for those who have always wanted to head off on the trail of Sherlock Holmes. The trail leads directly to Sylt’s chocolate factory, where you can work as a chocolatier and make your own chocolates and pralines. Those who prefer something a little less sweet should hook up with the Vikings. At the Viking meeting, you can build your own equipment and tell tales of wild adventures. By the way, it’s not mutiny if you take part in the Sylt sailors evening the very next day More information can be found online at www.sylt-reisen.de.