

EXPERIENCE CRANES

Natural heritage at Günz

In 2013, 92 hectares of the meadows of lake Günz were given to Crane Conservation Germany (Kranichschutz Deutschland) by the governmental "Bodenverwertungs- und -verwaltungs GmbH (BVVG)". Therewith this area has become part of the National Nature Heritage and is supposed to be preserved and developed in accordance with nature conservation.

Crane Conservation Germany aims to create a refuge for breeding and resting birds at lake Günz. Additionally, the species diversity shall be increased by planting hedges and reducing nutrient as well as pesticide contamination through lease agreements with the farmers.

The KRANORAMA ...

... is a modern and barrier-free observation platform near lake Günz not far from the NABU-Crane Centre (NABU-Kranichzentrum). Here, you can enjoy cranes in their natural habitat without disturbing them.

Crane Conservation Germany implements an artificial feeding of resting birds on the meadows of lake Günz. This reduces possible damages of fields with new seeds and therewith reduces conflicts with farms. Thus, thousands of cranes, geese, ducks and small birds can be observed very closely.

In March, the cranes impress visitors with their dances. In September and October, you can hear the fascinating trumpet-like calls of large crane groups. Rangers of the NABU-Crane Centre are available for your questions. Binoculars and spotting scopes in the KRANORAMA ensure a great crane observation.

The KRANORAMA is open during the birds' migration times in March as well as in September and October. You can find further information in the NABU-Crane Centre or on our website www.kraniche.de.



PROTECT CRANES

"Schatzküste" – Hotspot 29

The crane paradise is located in the region "Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft" and the „Rostock Heath“. This area belongs to one of 30 biodiversity hotspots in Germany. The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation supports the project "Schatz an der Küste" with financial resources of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. The KRANORAMA has been built by Crane Conservation Germany within this project in order to contribute to experiencing biodiversity as well as reducing disturbances of resting birds.



The NABU-Crane Centre is open all year round. We are looking forward to your visit!

Impressum

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DAIMLER



The KRANORAMA

Crane fascination
Experience-Understand-Protect



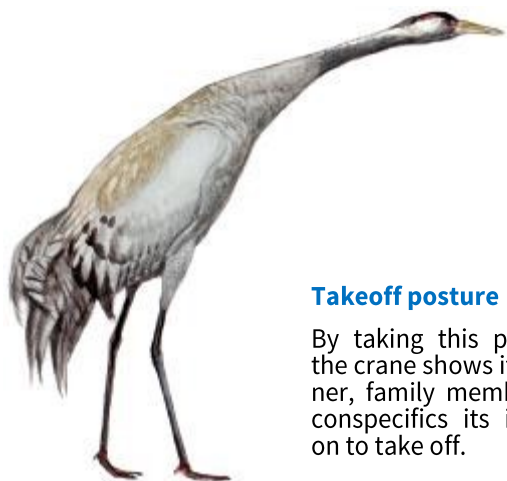


UNDERSTANDING CRANES

Dance of the cranes

It expresses sexual arousal and can be seen during courtship at the breeding sites as well as at the resting sites in spring and rarely also in autumn. At the KRANORAMA you occasionally have the chance to observe a whole crane ballet when many birds start dancing together after being infected with the mood of a few pairs.

Their fantastic dance moves include jumps, bows, flapping wings, zigzag runs, pirouettes, wind gliding and bragging. Sometimes the dancing crane throws plant parts or stones in the air. The dancing of cranes strengthens pair and family bonds.



Takeoff posture

By taking this posture, the crane shows its partner, family members or conspecifics its intention to take off.

Attack and fight (top right)

Cranes fight to defend themselves against predators such as the white-tailed eagle or foxes and to defend their territories. Fighting mainly consists of bill hits, kicks and blows with the wings. Among conspecifics, physical conflicts are often avoided by showing threatening gestures.

In case of aggressive conflicts, lots of jumps are similar to the crane's dances. The dance, however, has a more flowing character.

Mating parade (right)

The crane pair indicates willingness to mate with the mating parade. The partners come together and go for a walk, the male behind the female. The female signals its willingness by slowly spreading her wings. As soon as it stops walking, it bends forward with a stretched neck. The male leaps up and mates while flapping with its wings. Afterwards, it slides forward over the partner's neck. Both cranes immediately take a straight threatening posture, which is often followed by a short dance.



You can find the crane's behaviour fully illustrated in the book "Tanz der Kraniche" by Christian Tofte.

Crane conservation requires your help.

Support our work by donating (tax-deductible) or become sponsor!

Donation account of Crane Conservation Germany:
 Kranichschutz Deutschland
 Pommersche Volksbank eG
 IBAN DE32 130 910 54 000 100 5316
 BIC GENODEF1HST

Opening times of the NABU-Crane Centre

March and April	Mo - Su 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
May to July	Mo - Fr 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
August	Mo - Su 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
September and October	Mo - Su 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
November	Mo - Fr 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

From December to February it is possible to visit the KRANORAMA according to prior agreement.