

## The Heimatverein

The Heimatverein Linstow e.V. (local historical society) was founded in 1993 to preserve and promote the history of the Volhynian Germans who migrated to the region after 1945 and to provide a space for this important and incisive chapter in the history of the village. The Heimatverein sponsors and operates the Volhynian Resettlement Museum. It supports exchange and encounters between people with Volhynian roots from all over the world and maintains connections with Poland and Ukraine.



The museum is supported by volunteers from the region and warmly welcomes involvement from interested parties and supporters. Further information on the activities of the historical society, its statutes, and an application form for membership can be found at: [www.umsiedlermuseum-wolhynien.de](http://www.umsiedlermuseum-wolhynien.de)

The museum grounds also include a separate education and museum barn with two event spaces that can accommodate up to 80 people and are equipped with modern event technology.

Your donation helps us to continue our educational and documentation work:

### Donation account

IBAN: DE09 1305 0000 0625 0019 40

BIC: NOLADE21ROS Ostseesparkasse Rostock

## We Look Forward to Your Visit

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### Opening hours and tours

Year-round: Wednesdays from 2pm to 4pm and upon request

Additional hours from mid-May to the end of August:

Saturday and Sunday from 2pm to 4pm

### Directions

Linstow is located on the Berlin-Rostock Autobahn (A19) at the edge of the Nossentiner/Schwinzer Heide Nature Reserve. There are a wide range of leisure activities and accommodation options in the immediate vicinity.



Imprint

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# The Volhynian Resettlement Museum

in Linstow



Education and Documentation Centre on  
Migration History

## Settlement and Resettlement

Starting in 1861, an increasing number of German craftspeople, farmers, doctors, and merchants settled in Volhynia, a historical region located in what is today northwestern Ukraine. By 1914, 250,000 Germans had built new lives in about 300 settlements and shaped the local cultural, religious, and economic traditions. With the start of World War I, most ethnic Germans from Volhynia had their property seized by the Russian Tsar as “enemy aliens” and were deported to remote eastern provinces, often to Siberia. 50,000 men, women and children did not survive the ordeal. 120,000 people returned to Volhynia after the end of the war, while others emigrated – some overseas.



In 1939, the Volhynians were once again made to leave their homeland. First, under the Nazi programme Heim ins Reich (“Home to the Reich”), they were resettled in Polish territories occupied by Nazi Germany, from which the resident Polish population had previously been expelled.

With the advance of the Red Army in the winter of 1944-45, the Volhynians, like many Germans from the former eastern territories, set out in the icy cold to flee westwards in a journey that often lasted months. Many of them ended up in Mecklenburg.

## Arrival in Mecklenburg

At first, the Volhynian German refugees were accommodated in transitional camps. After years of uncertainty and suffering, about 40 families then settled in the former Linstow domain. Due to the land reform in the Soviet occupation zone, each family was allotted 10 hectares of land with a bit of meadow and forest. They built their typical Volhynian-style wooden houses on these plots of land, but were once again expropriated in 1974. Many nonetheless remained and still shape the life of the village today.



## The Museum

The museum is located in the traditionally-constructed wooden house of a Volhynian German family. It was saved from decay and professionally restored in the 1990s with great effort on the part of the community. Linstow hosts the only museum in Germany that provides insights into the turbulent history of the Volhynians.

Since 1993, a permanent exhibition has portrayed the settlement and way of life of the Volhynian Germans with a variety of exhibits. A special focus is placed on their multiple flights, expulsions and new beginnings in different places: A fate that allows for links to be drawn to the present day and offers many possibilities for reflection on current refugee and migration movements.

## Educational Offers

The museum offers a wide range of educational activities for children, youth, and adults:

- Museum tours
- Eyewitness talks
- Cultural events, e.g. museum festivals
- Project days for school classes



### Project Days

The project days are aimed at children and youth from grade 4 onwards and are tailored to the knowledge and abilities of the participants. While the focus for children is on playful discovery, older youth have the opportunity to explore central historical themes of 20th century German and European history such as war, dictatorship, flight, and expulsion in regional history.

Under pedagogical guidance, the pupils approach the themes of flight and expulsion in an age-appropriate way using the Volhynian Germans as an example. They learn to draw current links to the coexistence of locals and immigrants and acquire professional, methodological, and social skills.

As an extracurricular place of learning with exciting stories and artefacts, the museum offers the opportunity not just to experience history, but to reach out and touch it.