



The mobile watching stand operated by BUND Diepholzer Moorniederung is located on promising locations on agricultural land.

Watching without disturbing

The main resting time in autumn and spring is the best time for a visit. The cranes spread out over a total of 1,180 square kilometres on the Diepholzer Moorniederung. This means that you will not be able to watch all the cranes all at the same time.

When dusk starts to fall, you can watch the birds as fly into their resting and sleeping places. There have been crane-watching points set up along the edge of the moors. All locations can be reached with a car and there is also parking there.

During the day the cranes are seldom to be seen on the moor. They spend their time looking for food on the surrounding agricultural land. Then, the cranes can be best observed from the car. But as soon as you get out of the car, they usually see you and will fly away.

That is why the BUND Diepholzer Moorniederung set-up the mobile watching stand on the site. In the autumn the stand is positioned at the most promising locations. You can find out where the stand is currently located at: www.bund-dhm.de.

The viewing towers in the Diepholzer Moorniederung provide fantastic vantage points from which to watch the cranes fly into their rest and sleeping areas. You should be at the watching point 1.5 hours before sunset to make sure not to miss anything. The impressive sight of the cranes flying in is truly fascinating.



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For one moment

The big 1x1 of crane watching



Welcome to the Diepholzer Moorniederung



Watching cranes “live” as they fly in to land at their resting and sleeping places is always an impressive experience. In the autumn of 2014, up to 100,000 cranes were counted who made stop in the Diepholzer Moorniederung simultaneously. In order to experience this fascinating natural spectacle in the middle of a stunning moor landscape, a lot of crane “fans” come to this natural habitat during the migratory season.

If the cranes feel undisturbed, they immediately begin with their search for food and often communicate with other birds in the group. They dance, hop, jump and parade around. They throw parts of plants in the air, they growl at each other or are engrossed in caring for their feathers.

Take the time to observe the cranes and get to know them. When you watch and listen carefully, and with a little bit of patience and quiet, you are certain to witness some unforgettable moments.

» Increasing visitor numbers also show:

The golden rules of crane watching are broken time and again due to people not paying attention. It is important that the cranes’ need for quiet is being respected. When birds fly off because they have been scared, they use up valuable energy that they will then miss when they continue with the migratory flight. When they are permanently disturbed, they could give up this resting and sleeping place all together.

Cranes often make stop in sensitive nature reserves. In order to protect the animals and plants, these areas may not be entered. These quiet places are valuable for the cranes where they rest and recuperate in natural surroundings undisturbed by people.

A guarantee of experiencing as many cranes as possible just cannot exist because these are such shy birds. They are very attentive of what is going on around them and react to the slightest disturbance. It is said that cranes: “have an eye on each feather”.

Not only the cranes, but also all the other visitors will greatly appreciate your consideration and thoughtfulness.

Use the bird-watching facilities in the region:

The viewing towers offer the best conditions to watch the cranes.

When you are arriving by car:

Please park in such a way as not to disturb other drivers. Do not block any agricultural paths, tracks or roads. If the level of daylight allows, please turn off the headlights.

They look for food during the day:

During these times the cranes can be well observed from the mobile observation stand or the car. As soon as you get out, you will be immediately regarded as a disturbance and the birds will fly away.

Do not approach the birds:

The areas are used as large spaces that the migratory birds can retreat to. Please do not use hunting infrastructure such as raised hides.

Be quite and inconspicuous:

Please do adhere with this as the many other visitors with you also want to experience this impressive event in peace and quiet. Clothes in muted colours are also helpful.

Binoculars makes sense:

Because dusk is the ideal time to observe the cranes, they should also have a sufficient twilight factor.

When dusk begins to fall is the perfect time:

During the migratory season in autumn and spring, you should be at the watching point 1.5 hours before sunset.

At www.moorwelten.de and www.bund-dhm.de you can find information and tips on watching cranes.

When taking photographs:

A lens with a sufficient luminosity is recommendable. Please do not use the flash because this will disturb the cranes.

And last but not least:

Do not let your dog roam free!

»Cranes have an eye on each feather«