

Eckernförde -- The Hourglass City, Perched On The Baltic Coast

In the very north of Germany, in the state of [Schleswig-Holstein](#), is the port city of Eckernförde. Perched on a raised bar of land between the [Baltic Sea](#) and the extensive shallow Windebyer Noor Lake, this city loves the water!

Take your time to walk along the beautiful promenade beside the four-kilometer-long sandy beach. Pause and watch how the shore is lapped by clear waters.

The views of passing sail boats, cutters and passenger liners will enthrall you with ideas of adventure. There are plenty of chances to get your sea wings.

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Step on board one of Germany's only submarines in the harbor here. All fourteen in existence are found in these waters. You'll find more interesting facts and detailed models in the nearby museums.

There are also numerous regattas in the surrounding bays and harbors throughout the year, along with the very popular Pirate Spectacular. A summer's night here is filled with sailing ships, pirateering, fireworks, fun-fair rides and, of course, treasure!

Step off the beaches, past the tiny fishermen's cottages huddled together facing the waves. Here you will find the amazing old town. With tightly cobbled streets and gabled red-brick buildings, it's no wonder this is a popular tourist destination!

Eckernförde has a long history. The ornate Nicolai Church from the 13th century hides many great

and historic curiosities, including a huge detailed oak alter.

Many other buildings here attest to the town's past riches and interesting culture. Everything is based on the sea of course!

Make sure you visit one of the local fish markets, and take time to sample some local dishes in the many busy eateries. One of them is the always popular *Kieler Sprotte*.

You will detect a touch of the distinctive regional dialect up here, too. You might expect to not always understand what people are saying!

Outside of the city center, you will find kilometers and kilometers of flat farmland and waterways. Many local nature reserves are within an easy bike ride, and there are many guided bicycle tours to sign up for. There is even the chance to visit the nearby TV set from the popular daytime soap, *Der Landarzt* (The Country Doctor).