

Osterholz District -- Moors Recovered From The Devil

The Osterholz District occupies the region directly north of [Bremen](#) known as the *Teufelsmoor*, or "Devil's Fen." You will find no trace of the devil here now, of course, but this once was a barren land, brought to cultivation only through the back-breaking labor of farmers in the 18th century. ;-)

Osterholz District Map

Towns & Villages in the Osterholz District

- Axstedt
- [Grasberg](#)
- [Hambergen](#)
- Holste

- [Lilienthal](#)
- Lübberstedt
- [Osterholz-Scharmbeck](#)
- [Ritterhude](#)

- [Schwanewede](#)
- Vollersode
- [Worpswede](#)
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Today you can still see the quiet old canals that provided transportation, drainage and irrigation to the countryside. Look for the tarred-brown sails of narrow Moorbauern sailboats passing by colorful farmlands, an idyllic scene to photograph and remember.

The district seat is [Osterholz-Scharmbeck](#), noted for its bustling marketplace and many cultural events, including town fairs, an annual Christmas pageant and a local music festival.

For sightseeing, be sure to visit the town's 17th-century *Bürgerhaus* on Hunde street, the four-bladed windmill of Rönn (since 1882), and the beautiful Romanesque basilica of the town's 16th-century monastery.

Closer to Bremen on the Wörpe River, [Lilienthal](#) is the perfect venue for launching bicycle and hiking excursions into the *Teufelsmoor*. Stop here to admire the lovely Monastery of St. Mary's Church and the fascinating Lower Saxony Carriage Museum.

Also offering easy access to the fenlands and bike trails are [Grasberg](#) on the Wörpe and [Worpswede](#) near the Hamme River. Both towns lie along the so-called "Artists Route," where the beautiful landscape is sure to inspire you.