

The Kiel Canal

The Kiel Canal, which is 11 metres deep and extends over 98.6 kilometres, is the busiest man-made waterway in the world. It links the North Sea with the Baltic Sea and does not only constitute an important part of the regional economic structures, but also a key element of the trans-European transport network. This federal waterway helps ships to save approx.

250 nautical miles (460 kilometres) and a lot of time, which means an enormous competitive advantage for international shipping.

In addition to the locks in Brunsbüttel and Kiel, the Kiel Canal's infrastructure includes 10 bridges, 2 tunnels, 14 ferries and 12 lay-bys, which are widened sections that

allow oncoming traffic to pass. The Kiel Canal is the largest artificial receiving body of water in Schleswig Holstein.

The Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration ensures that the Kiel Canal is continuously maintained to provide a permanently available safe and reliable transport route, and major expansion projects have been planned to meet the future demand of international shipping. Every year, the canal is used by about 35,000 vessels (plus approx. 15,000 leisure boats) and moves about 100 million tons of goods.



How to get there:

By VRK bus (bus stop Wik-Kanal) or by car: From the centre, head in direction of Nord-Ostsee-Kanal, Hafen and follow the brown signs „Besichtigungsplattform Wik“.

Published by

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Information:

www.wsa-kiel.wsv.de
www.kiel-sailing-city.de

Guided group visits can be booked via
the Kiel tourist information.

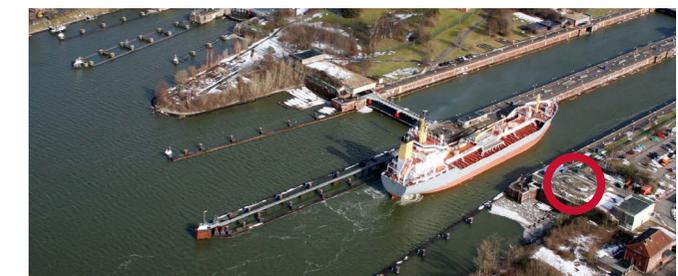
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As of: February 2015

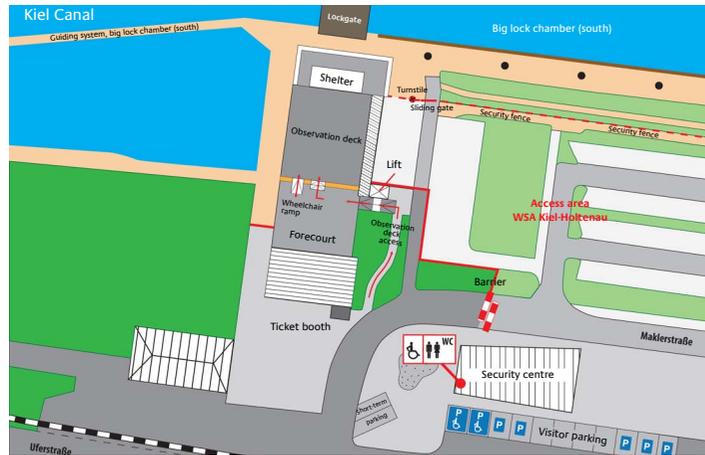
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Observation deck Kiel-Holtenau locks



Welcome to the Kiel Canal on the Kiel-Wik observation deck!



The Kiel Canal locks in Kiel and Brunsbüttel are among the biggest locks in the world. The small locks were put into operation in 1895, the big locks in 1914. The canal can accommodate vessels with a length of up to 235 m and a width of up to 32.5 m.

Locks in Kiel-Holtenau

Small locks

Usable length 125 metres
Usable width 22 metres
Lock depth sea level - 9,80 metres
Average lockage time approx. 20 minutes

Big locks

Usable length 310 metres
Usable width 42 metres
Lock depth sea level -14,00 metres
Average lockage time approx. 20 minutes

Many buildings and facilities in the district of Kiel-Wik - including the locks - are closely linked with shipping, which is why Kiel-Wik is also called the 'maritime district'.

The lock observation deck is situated on the south side of the Kiel-Wik section of the canal and is open from sunrise to sunset.

Built right on top of a Second World War bunker, the observation deck covers lock chamber No. 4 – an ideal place for watching how vessels are locked through and seeing the lock gates open and close.

Please feel free to study the various information panels and models explaining the Kiel Canal's function, its history and other facts related to the canal. A lift provides barrier-free access to the observation deck.

We wish you a pleasant visit.



Cruise liner Balmoral (length: 218 m, width: 28 m) in the big locks



Kiel-Holtenau passenger ferry

Kiel-Wik on the south side of the canal and Kiel-Holtenau on its north side are connected by a passenger ferry. Take advantage of this free service, and feel free to take along your bike! On board the ferry, you will have an excellent view of the lock operations and cross the path of the incoming and outgoing vessels on your way from one bank of the canal to the other.

