

Fishing in Brandenburg - General Tips



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Welcome to the Federal State of Brandenburg. The fishing friendly state is known for its many waters and fishing opportunities. There are about 3,000 lakes and more than 30,000 kilometres of flowing water in the midst of impressive nature for recreation and nature experience, a large part of which is also available for fishing. But if you want to go fishing here, there are a few things you need to know. The following information will help you.

Documents

Fishing is permitted in the State of Brandenburg from the age of 8. Fishing is only permitted to persons who are in possession of a fishing license with a valid fishing fee stamp and a fishing permit for the water to be fished. These documents together entitle the holder to fish with a hand-held whitefish rod. The basic knowledge required for whitefish fishing has been summarized in an [information booklet](#), which is available at tourist information office sand other places.

Verification cards and fishing tax stamps are available from the Lower Fisheries Authority of the districts and independent cities, in fishing businesses and in fishing shops. The fishing tax is valid for one calendar year (1 January to 31 December) and costs € 2.50 for children and young people aged 8 to 18 and € 12.00 for an adult.

Fishing permits („Angelkarte“, Fishing card, permit under private law) are issued by fishing companies, fishing clubs, fishing shops, tourist information offices, campground operators and others. There are daily passes, weekly passes, monthly passes and annual passes. Fishing permits may contain catch limits, water-specific closed seasons, or other information that must be followed.

Those who wish to fish with predatory fishing rods must also have a valid fishing license („Fischereischein“, only for predatory fishing). This can be obtained by passing an angling exam. Information on how to take the angling exam and obtain a fishing license can be obtained from the lower fisheries authorities.

In summary, the following documents are required to fish in Brandenburg:

- A completed registration card with a fishing tax stamp,
- Fishing license (permit under private law),
- Fishing license (only for predatory fishing).

All documents must be carried at all times when fishing and must be presented on demand. Fishing without the required documents is illegal (administrative offence/criminal offence) and will be punished by the regulatory authorities with severe penalties.

Features of a Whitefish Hand Fishing Rod

A whitefishing rod consists of a rod with or without a reel and a single-legged hook tipped with plant or animal bait. Imitations of these baits may also be used. Baits such as dough, grain, maggots, and worms are characteristic of a whitefishing rod. Bait fish, other vertebrate baits, parts thereof, or artificial imitations of these baits are not permitted. In general, as elsewhere, fishing rules must be observed to protect the flora and fauna living in and around the water.

Treatment of caught fish

Salted fish must not be released back into the water. Immediately after catching the fish, decide whether to use it or discard it. Before killing, caught fish must be stunned with strong blows to the head. The fish is then killed by stabbing it in the heart. The heart is stabbed on the belly in the throat area in front of the pectoral fins.

Other important rules

In addition to the generally accepted rules of handling fish in a manner appropriate for hunting, killing fish in a manner appropriate for animal welfare, and behaving in a manner appropriate for nature conservation at the water's edge, there are other rules in Brandenburg that we would like to draw your attention to:

[Closed seasons and minimum sizes](#) are required by law and must be strictly adhered to! Only two hand-held rods may be used at any one time, and only one spinning or fly rod may be used at any one time. Rods must be supervised at all times. A minimum distance of 50 meters must be kept from professional fishing gear.

It is not allowed to fish with ...

- Explosive, poisonous, stupefying or injurious fishing equipment
- Artificial baits with multiple fixed hooks
- Fishing hooks with more than three shanks
- More than three hooks per hand-fishing rod
- Live fish and other live vertebrates as bait. If dead vertebrates or crayfish are used as bait, only one bait per hand-fishing rod is allowed.

Other important rules for fishing are contained in the Fisheries Act of the State of Brandenburg and the Fisheries Regulations of the State of Brandenburg.

Fisheries control checks compliance with the rules

Fishing inspectors and police officers are responsible for enforcing fishing regulations in the state of Brandenburg. Fishing inspectors are authorized to check fishing documents, rods and catch and to report violations to the police. We ask you to support the work of the fishery inspectors and to obey their orders.

Holiday and short stay

In principle, the General Information on Fishing in Brandenburg applies.

For experienced anglers who do not have a residence in the Federal Republic of Germany and who are only staying in Brandenburg for a short period of time, the exception applies that they may fish in Brandenburg waters without a fishing license.

However, in order to be allowed to fish, the following documents must be carried at all times during fishing and presented upon request:

- A completed registration card with a fishing tax stamp
- Fishing license (private license)
- Passport/Identity card

Embankment

In principle, anglers are allowed to enter the banks, islands, navigation facilities, bridges, weirs and locks adjacent to the water body. However, there are several restrictions to this right of access to the shore. Public regulations may limit or prohibit this right of access, for example, for water management reasons, in protected areas (see Fishing in protected areas) or in areas used for military purposes. In these cases, access is only permitted with an official permit.

Commercial facilities (business premises) and areas directly associated with a private house, yard and residential area, as well as private piers and boat moorings, may only be entered with the prior express consent of the owner. It is irrelevant whether these areas or facilities are fenced or not.

The extent / width of the shore strip to be entered is not regulated in meters but depends on how much space is absolutely necessary to practice fishing. Moderate behaviour - i.e., consideration - is taken for granted.

The right to access the shore is exercised at one's own risk. Liability is assumed for any damage caused. It is recommended to ask as many questions as possible at the fishing permit offices and to pay attention to the signs.

Boat use

For various reasons it may be interesting or even necessary to fish from a boat. There are some basic things to consider when navigating waters.

On waters that are not open to navigation, boat size is limited to 1500 kilograms (kg) displacement. On these waters, an electric motor of up to one kilowatt may be used as an additional source of propulsion. Waters from which water is drawn for the supply of drinking water may not be navigated. Watercourses that are part of yards, gardens, parks, and commercial facilities are also excluded.

Aquatic vegetation such as reeds, bulrushes, rushes, and water lilies must not be navigated. A minimum distance of one meter must be maintained from these overgrown areas. Watercraft may not be launched or towed out of the water. The distance requirement of 50 meters from stationary and permanent commercial fishing gear applies to both shore and boat fishing.

The use of waters may be restricted or prohibited by public law, for example in nature reserves (see Fishing in protected areas). It is also advisable to check with local fishing license offices.

Paths to water bodies / forest driving permit

As a general rule, public roads and trails should be used to access water bodies. Public and/or private permits or authorizations may be required to access or approach a water body using non-public ways and roads. These must be obtained independently.

Often the waters to be fished are located in the forest or can only be reached via a forest path. In this case, the provisions of the State Forest Act must be observed. Anyone may enter the forest for recreational purposes, including reaching fishing waters, with the exception of closed or fenced areas, logging areas and forestry facilities, and provided there are no conflicting interests of the general public. Entering and using the forest is at one's own risk and is only allowed, among other things, if the forest is not endangered, damaged or polluted and the forest's biocoenosis is affected as little as possible.

Entering the forest with motor vehicles and parking vehicles in the forest is permitted only for forest management, hunting and sovereign activities (including fisheries monitoring). Exceptions to driving in the forest can be granted upon request by the respective forest owner for a fee (forest driving permit). Detailed information is provided by the Brandenburg State Forestry Office (LFB) [on its website](#).

You can apply for forest driving permits [online on the page](#) for association waters and association contract waters of the Landesanglerverband Brandenburg e.V. that can be reached in whole or in part via state forest roads.

For other waters that can be reached via forest roads, forest driving permits can be applied for at the local chief forester's office or, in the case of state forests, at the local chief forester's office.

In addition, private forest owners can also issue forest driving permits for the roads in their forest area. Private forest owners should be contacted individually.

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Fishing in protected areas

When fishing in nature reserves (NSGs), it is important to note that the regulations governing the reserve will specify the restrictions on use, including whether fishing is restricted or prohibited. If angling is exempted from the prohibitions in the nature reserve, the use of weather protection devices is also permitted, considering the criteria mentioned below.

It is always important to check the local regulations before going fishing. If you are unsure or have any questions, you can contact the [lower nature conservation authorities](#) or [the lower fisheries authorities](#) in the district concerned.

Weather Protection Devices

When fishing, the use of an angling tent, umbrella tent or similar weather protection device is permitted if it meets the following criteria:

Its primary purpose is to provide shelter from storms and not to provide overnight accommodation.

It can accommodate no more than two people and does not have a waterproof floor.

It is kept in muted colours and does not interfere with the landscape.

It must not be left in the same place for more than 12 hours in total.

These devices may be set up (used) if there are no protective regulations to the contrary (see Fishing in Protected Areas). In particular, they may not be used in legally protected biotopes. This means that they may not be set up

- near-natural, unobstructed stretches of streams and rivers, small bodies of water
- on wet meadows and wet grasslands
- source areas, bogs, and swamps, and
- quarry, bog, and riparian woodland.

Please note: The pitching and use of tents or other mobile accommodation (e.g., caravans) is not covered by this exemption and is therefore generally not permitted outside of tent or camping sites and designated bivouac sites. In addition, private forest owners may prohibit the use of weather shelters. It is therefore advisable to check with the forest owner in advance.

Links in the document

information booklet for whitefish fishing

<https://mluk.brandenburg.de/sixcms/media.php/9/Friedfischangeln6Auflage2020.pdf> (in German)

Closed seasons and minimum sizes

<https://mluk.brandenburg.de/sixcms/media.php/9/Schonzeiten-Fischarten-en.pdf> (in English, German, Polish)

Brandenburg State Forestry Office (LFB) - forest driving permit

<https://forst.brandenburg.de/lfb/de/themen/angelgewaesser-gestattungen/> (in German)

Brandenburg State Anglers Association e.V. - forest driving permits

<https://www.lavb.de/waldfahrgenehmigung/> (in German)

Addresses lower fisheries authorities

<https://service.brandenburg.de/service/de/adressen/weitere-verzeichnisse/verzeichnisliste/~fischerei-behoerden-untere> (in German)

Addresses lower nature conservation authorities

<https://service.brandenburg.de/service/de/adressen/weitere-verzeichnisse/verzeichnisliste/~umwelt-behoerden-untere> (in German)

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