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German-Polish school exchange 2025 – cooperation project in Bitterfeld



STE(A)M, sport, school and club work together to give pupils scientific and intercultural experiences

The D-OBLU, youth balloon of the German Free Ballooning Association (DFSV) takes off.



History

Students discovering the atmosphere in a balloon is nothing new: as early as 1806, a 15-year-old student accompanied his teacher, Prof. Jungius from Alsleben, on his second balloon flight. And in Bitterfeld, Rudolf Quack, a sixth-form student, took part in five balloon flights in 1926 to take measurements for his final year project for his school-leaving certificate. The DPJW school exchange balloon flight also has its own little history; it took place for the fourth time, and for the second time in Bitterfeld.



Today

Today's activities with pupils are therefore a continuation of an old tradition. The activities include excursion days with the Delitzsch Ehrenberg-Gymnasium and the partnership in the German-Polish school exchange with the Berufliche Schule des Kreises Stormarn and the Zespół Szkół Chłodniczych i Elektronicznych in Gdynia.



Ballooning is ideal



Balloon rides are an ideal way to learn about the wind, its structure and its effects, which is why the school exchange in the STE(A)M support programme Experiment Exchange of the German-Polish Youth Office (GPYO) is also called ‘Mystery of the Wind’.



A diverse programme with one goal: becoming a group together

The balloon rides were only one part of the programme; workshops were another. But above all, the goal was intercultural exchange and contact between young people from different nations. This was also achieved through the joint organisation of life in the tent camp and, in particular, cooking.



For this purpose, the 30 students were divided into small groups of 6, half of whom came from Germany and half from Poland. Ballooning, workshops and everything else that people need to live were assigned to a small group, and the tasks were changed during the course of the week.

Workshops

A small selection of our workshops in this exchange. As always, we were only able to offer a limited selection from our many possible workshops.

We not only conduct STEM workshops in our exchanges, but also prepare them in such a way that others can benefit from them for their own activities: Experiments

Fill a sandbag with 10 kg

A little competition: Fill a sandbag with 10 kg of sand without using scales, just by estimating. Then weigh it to see who came closest.



Tallest tower made of spaghetti and marshmallows



Who can build the tallest tower that stays standing for at least a few seconds?

Kite building

Light kite

Balloon flight – evaluation

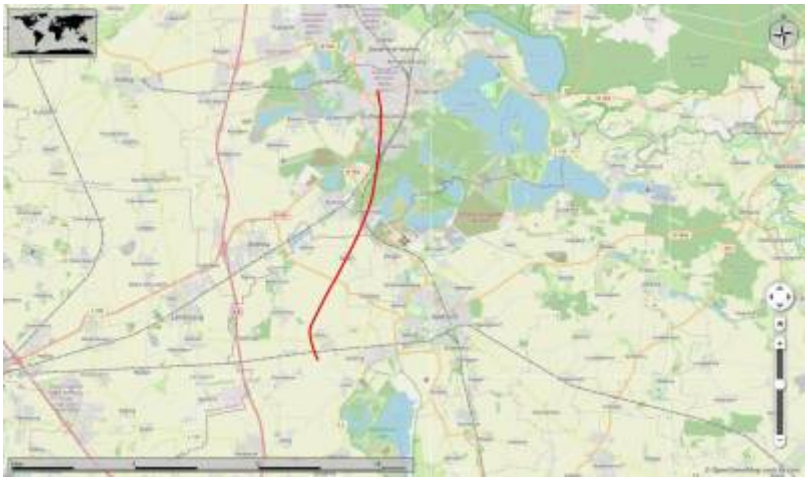
As the balloon moves with the wind, the position data recorded using GNSS satellite navigation can be used to determine the wind in relation to altitude and landscape.

23 September 2025 Gas balloon D-OWBF

D-OWBF low flight

Flight path

OpenStreetMap OSM



Opentopomap

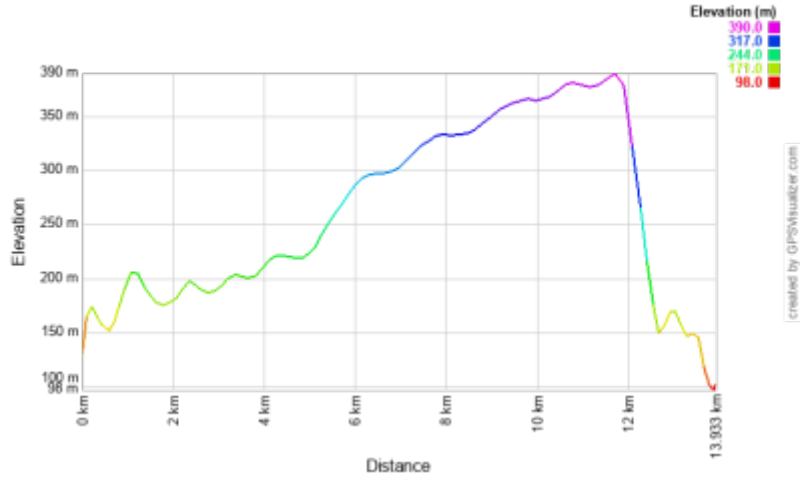
Overview



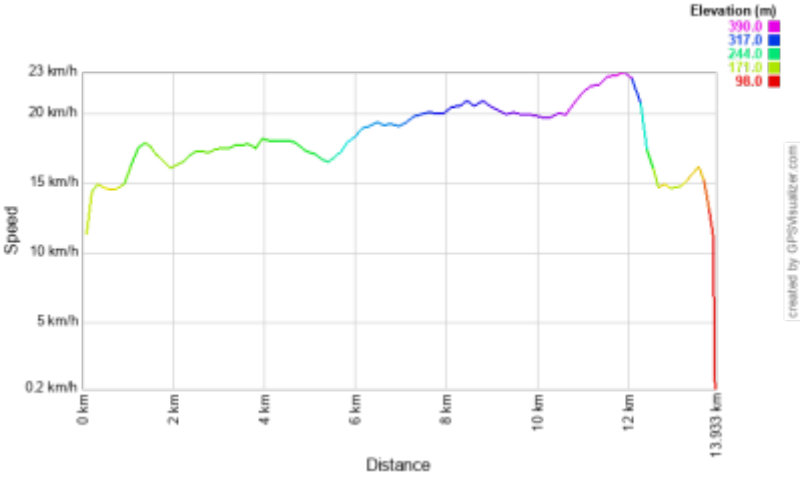
Focus on flight route



Distance - Flight altitude - Diagram



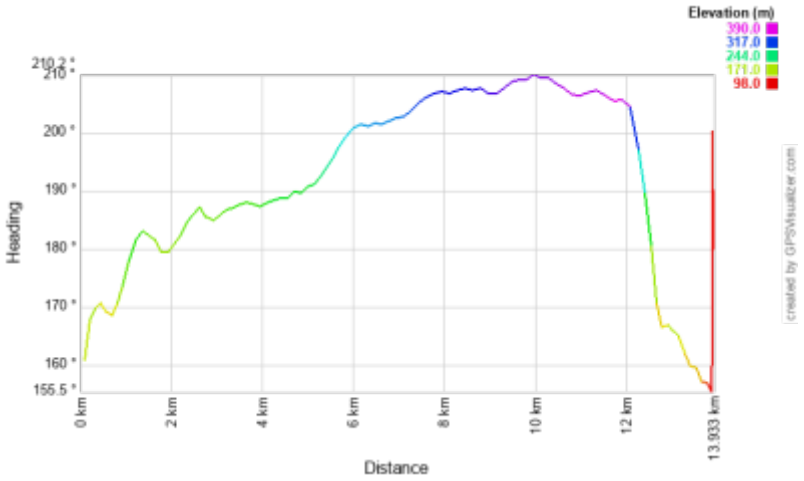
Distance - Wind speed - Diagram



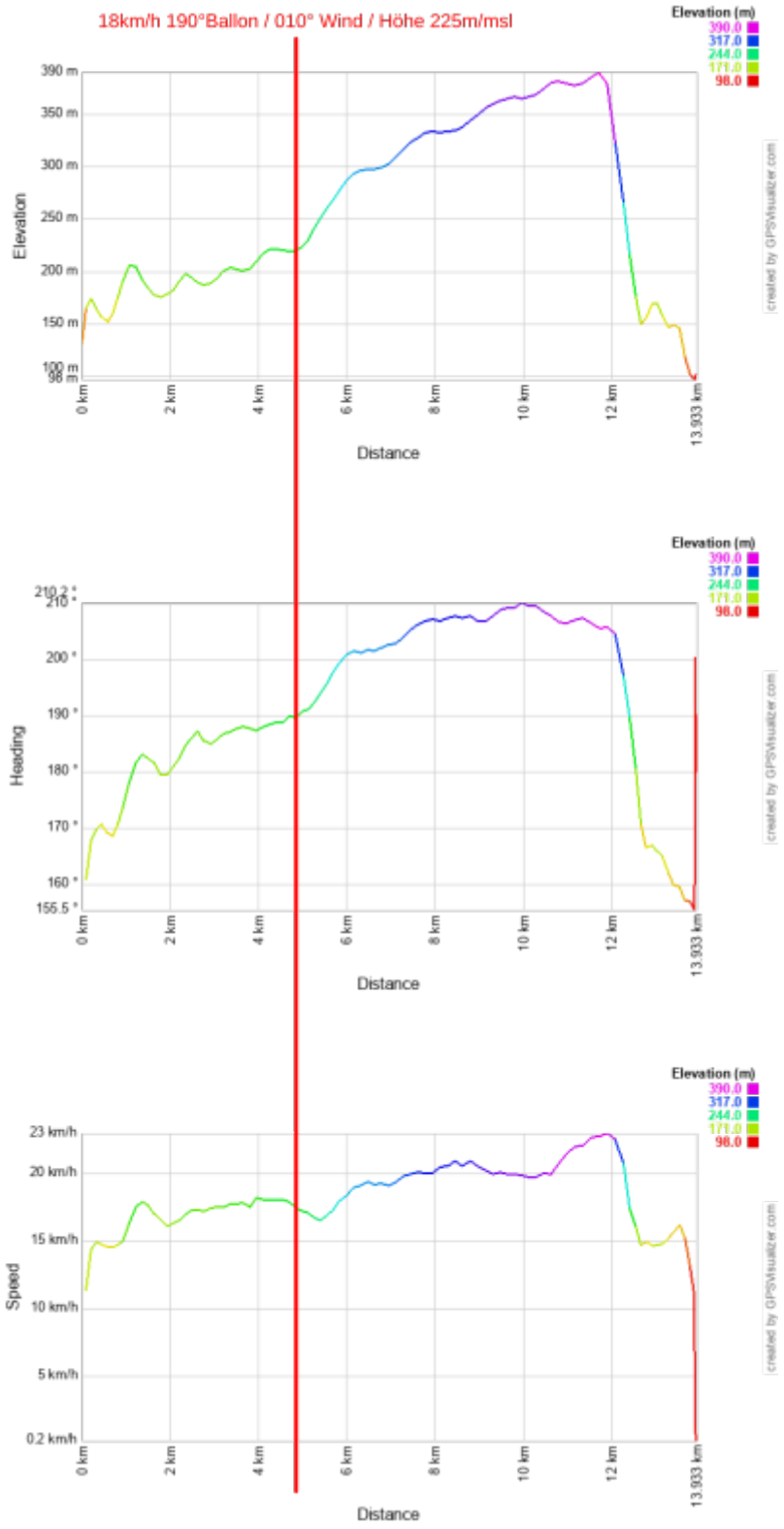
Distance - Direction of travel - Diagram

The wind direction is always given as the direction from which the wind is coming. To get the wind direction from the direction of travel, you have to subtract 180°.

Example: Direction of travel 200° minus 180° results in a wind direction of 20°.



Correlating diagrams



Presentation

The work of the individual groups was presented.



Lectures on various topics complemented the programme.



The trips this week.



Outlook

The German-Polish school exchange will take place in Poland in 2026, probably in Lower Silesia.

The next international youth exchange here in Bitterfeld-Wolfen will be a German-Czech exchange in July 2026.

Review

You can find reports on previous exchanges here:

German-Polish school exchange Ballooning

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Last update: **2025/11/23 15:49**