

North Sea Excursion 2026 (3 ECTS)

“From Anthropogenic Landscapes to Wilderness Management” (Courses 12127-01 and 24129-01)

Excursion leaders: Christine Alewell, Andreas Lang

Course components:

1. Excursion (Course 24129)
2. Presentation, optional (Course 12127)

Location: Wilhelmshaven and the East Frisian island of Spiekeroog, Germany

Excursion dates: September 1–10, 2026

(Reserve day: September 11, 2026, in case return from the island is not possible due to storms)

Introductory meeting: April 22, 2026, 12:30 (online)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://unibas.zoom.us/j/68228673139>

Meeting ID: 682 2867 3139

Registration: Please register by email to patricia.bachmann@unibas.ch no later than the end of May 2026

Preparation day: August 24, 2026, 9:00–17:00; mandatory for all participants. Hybrid participation may be possible.

Number of participants: max. 16 students; Master’s students will be given preference

Costs: CHF 750 per person plus travel costs to Wilhelmshaven

Course content

1) Excursion (Course 24129):

Interdisciplinary aspects of managing coastal landscapes of northern Germany, including land use and conservation in national parks, the importance of ecosystem research and monitoring, and the sensitive biology, geochemistry, geomorphology, and soils of the Wadden Sea.

2) Presentation (Course 12127), optional:

Independent preparation and presentation of a topic related to the excursion, including literature research, as both preparation for and accompaniment to the excursion.

Program

During the introductory meeting, the lecturers will provide general and detailed information about the course and answer any open questions. Registration details are provided above.

On the mandatory preparation day, in-depth presentations on excursion topics will be given by both the lecturers and the students.

Participants will travel independently to Wilhelmshaven on September 1, 2026. Accommodation will be at the Senckenberg Research Institute in Wilhelmshaven.

Daily excursions will cover coastal history, soil science, coastal protection, national park management, and peatland ecology.

A mudflat crossing and hike from Harlesiel to Spiekeroog will take place (ferry transfer is also possible).

On Spiekeroog, accommodation will be in holiday homes. Activities include a guided tour on the island's history, practical work on island soils, and studies of Wadden Sea fauna.

Departure: September 10, 2026