

Press information



Rostock | June 11, 2026

Press kit for Press Tour “Between Sea & History – Maritime Towns with Character”: Hansestadt Wismar

Content

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- Flyer
- Swedish Period

Link to media database: urlaubsnachrichten.de/pressefotos

PRESS KIT

Wismar – UNESCO World Heritage City on the Baltic Coast

International Press Trip

12 June 2026

Welcome to Wismar, one of Northern Germany's best-preserved Hanseatic cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located on the Baltic coast of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Wismar combines medieval heritage, maritime culture, innovative craftsmanship and modern tourism experiences.

We are delighted to welcome you to Wismar and hope that your visit provides inspiration for future stories, articles and travel features.



WISMAR AT A GLANCE

Official name: Hanseatic City of Wismar

Federal State: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

UNESCO World Heritage Site: Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar (since 2002)

Population: approx. 43,000 inhabitants

Location: Baltic Sea coast, between Rostock and Schwerin

Highlights

- UNESCO-listed historic old town
- One of Europe's most important examples of Brick Gothic architecture
- Historic Market Square
- St. Nicholas Church (St. Nikolai)
- Old Harbour (Alter Hafen)
- Hanseatic heritage and maritime traditions
- Cultural events throughout the year
- Gateway to the Baltic Sea region



For detailed information about the city's history, architecture and major attractions, please refer to the official city map provided during your visit.

PRESS TOUR PROGRAMME

Friday, 12 June 2026

10:30 a.m.

Guided Walking Tour through Wismar's Historic Old Town

Meeting point:

Bus Parking Area, Stockholmer Straße / Old Harbour

Guide:

Andrea Diehl

Highlights include:

- Old Harbour
- St. Nicholas Church
- Historic Market Square
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites

12:30 p.m.

Lunch at Alter Schwede

One of Wismar's most traditional restaurants, offering regional Mecklenburg cuisine in a historic setting.

Afternoon

Visit to Fischleder Concept Store

The Fischleder Concept Store showcases innovative and sustainable products made from fish leather. Visitors gain insight into a unique production process that combines traditional craftsmanship, design and environmental responsibility.

Late Afternoon

Visit to phanTECHNIKUM

The phanTECHNIKUM is Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's interactive technical museum. Its exhibitions explore innovation, engineering, maritime technology and the region's industrial heritage through hands-on experiences and modern presentation formats.

STORY ANGLES FOR MEDIA

UNESCO World Heritage on the Baltic Coast

How Wismar preserves its medieval urban structure and Brick Gothic architecture while remaining a vibrant contemporary destination.

Hanseatic Heritage and Maritime Identity

The influence of the Hanseatic League continues to shape Wismar's architecture, culture and relationship with the sea.

Sustainable Innovation from Fish Skin to Fashion

The Fischleder Concept Store demonstrates how local resources can be transformed into innovative design products with international appeal.

Beyond Germany's Major Tourist Cities

Wismar offers authentic cultural experiences, walkable historic districts and maritime charm away from the country's larger urban destinations.

Tradition Meets Innovation

The combination of UNESCO heritage, modern museums and sustainable craftsmanship creates a distinctive tourism profile for Wismar.

MEDIA CONTACT

Tourist-Information Office
Hanseatic City of Wismar

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Head of the Tourist-Information Office

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Germany

PHOTO DOWNLOAD

A selection of press images is available for editorial use:

<https://wismar.pixxio.media/share/1781077895KG53CrcGkqzTw>

Please credit photographers according to the information provided with each image.

We wish you an inspiring stay in Wismar and look forward to seeing your stories about our UNESCO World Heritage City.



– INCLUDING CITY MAP –
FASCINATING CITY
WISMAR

HANSESTADT
wismar
WIRTSCHAFT · WISSENSCHAFT
WELTERBE und MEER



wismar.tourist

TOURIST-INFORMATION WISMAR
Lübsche Straße 23a, D-23966 Wismar
Tel. +49 3841 19 4 33
touristinfo@wismar.de
www.wismar-tourist.de

OPENING HOURS
April – September 09.00 – 17.00 hrs
October – March 10.00 – 16.00 hrs



A good impression is conveyed by the World Heritage House. It informs guests as well as citizens about the history of the hanseatic city and illustrates the basic idea of the UNESCO World Heritage.

WORLD HERITAGE HOUSE
Lübsche Straße 23, 23966 Wismar, Germany
Tel. +49 3841 225 29 102
welterbe@wismar.de, www.wismar-tourist.de

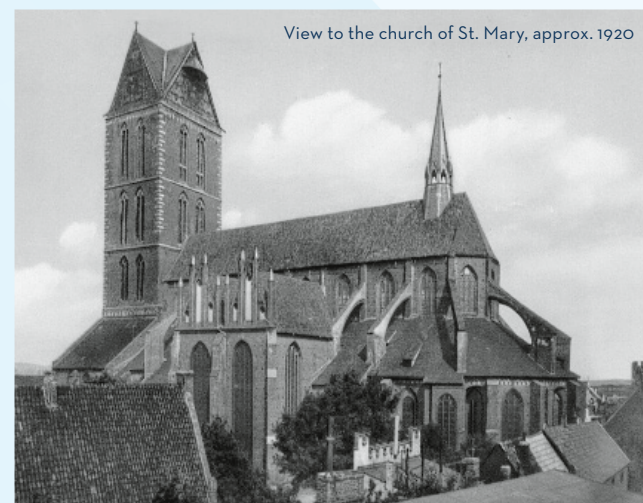
ENTRY FREE · OPENING HOURS
April – September 09.00 – 17.00 hrs
October – March 10.00 – 16.00 hrs

Hansestadt Wismar
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HISTORY OF THE TOWN
CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

- 1229** First documented mention of the Town of Wismar.
- 1259** Lübeck, Rostock and Wismar conclude a contract to secure their trade routes.
- 1276** Start of construction of the town wall, which later included five gates and 36 watch-towers.
- 1300** Start of construction of St. George, of which the choir is still preserved today.
- 1310** Construction of the triple-nave Basilica of St. Mary.
- 1370** A war against Denmark comes to an end with 'The Stralsund Peace'. Wismar prospers to the full during the Hanseatic period.
- 1380** The name of the pirate Klaus Störtebeker pops up in one of the town's court records.
- until 1381** Construction of the brick basilica St. Nicholas.
- 1427** Following unrest, the Mayor and an Alderman are beheaded on the Market Place.
- 1632** During the Thirty Years' War Swedish troops conquer the town occupied by Wallenstein.
- 1648** After the end of the Thirty Years' War the 'Town and Governance of Wismar' is awarded to Sweden according to the Peace of Westphalia.
- 1653** The Royal Swedish Tribunal is installed in the 'Fürstenthof' as the supreme court for all territories possessed by Sweden on German soil.
- 1672** Beginning of the expansion of Wismar into the largest fortress in Europe with 18 bastions, 9 ravelins and 2 citadels as well as 700 cannons. A fort is erected on Insel Walfisch (Whale Island) (completed in 1700).
- 1700** Construction of the Zeughaus (Arsenal) after the gunpowder tower explosion (1699).
- 1716** In April Sweden has to surrender the governance of Wismar to the High Nordic Allies during the Nordic War.
- 1717** Upon the request of the Danish, the fortress installations are razed to the ground. Citadels, bastions and the tower on the Insel Walfisch are blown up.



- 1803** Wismar goes back to the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg for 100 years via the deed of security for 1,250,000 talers.
- 1881** Rudolph Karstadt opens a store selling and manufacturing fabrics and clothing.
- 1888** Construction of the Neo-Gothic customs offices at the Old Harbour.
- 1893** Foundation of the 'Podeus'sche Waggonbaufabrik' (a carriage building factory).
- 1903** The Kingdom of Sweden, after the expiry of the 100 years period, waives its claim to the redemption of the deed of security. Wismar is finally integrated into the Duchy of Mecklenburg.
- 1934** Setting-up of a branch works of the Northern German Dornier Factories (until 1938).
- 1935** The new grain silo in the Old Harbour is put into operation.
- 1941** Foundation of the Hanse Shipyard in Koggenoor.
- 1945** During the 12th and last air raid of the Second World War the churches St. Mary and St. George are heavily damaged and many other historically valuable buildings were destroyed.
- 1946** Foundation of the Mathias-Thesen-Shipyard and resumption of operations in the harbour.
- 1951** Construction of the potassium tipping works.

FASCINATING WISMAR
EXHIBITIONS TO EXPLORE



A WORLD HERITAGE HOUSE
UNESCO and historical exhibition
April – September 09.00 – 17.00 hrs
October – March 10.00 – 16.00 hrs



B MARIENKIRCHTURM (THE CHURCH TOWER OF ST. MARY)
Exhibition of Red Brick Gothic 3D-Animation 'Bruno Backstein'
April – September 10.00 – 18.00 hrs
October – March 10.00 – 16.00 hrs



E ST.-GEORGEN-KIRCHE (CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE)
Visitation and observation deck
April – September 10.00 – 18.00 hrs
October – March 10.00 – 16.00 hrs



M MUSEUM SCHABELL
About the history of the city of Wismar
April – June, September – October
Tue – Su 10.00 – 18.00 hrs
July – August 10.00 – 18.00 hrs
November – March
Tue – Su 10.00 – 16.00 hrs



H TREE HOUSE/MARITIME TRADITION CENTRE
Hanseatic period and shipbuilding
April – October
Mon – Sun 11.00 – 17.00 hrs.
November – March
Fri – Sun 11.00 – 15.00 hrs.



'phanTECHNIKUM'
Museum of technological history
July – August 10.00 – 18.00 hrs
September – June
Tue – Su 10.00 – 17.00 hrs



Church of St. George and the church tower of St. Mary, © Christoph Meyer

WISMAR AND STRALSUND
UNSPOILT AND ORIGINAL

Amongst the red brick Gothic towns of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania there are two particularly well-preserved examples which tower above the others. Today the ancient town centres of **Stralsund and Wismar** still reflect the ideal developed town of the **Hanseatic league** during its heyday in the 14th century. Both towns have retained, virtually unaltered, their **medieval layout** to this day. Their network of streets and their structure of special quarters and plots provide an example of the pattern of the seatrading towns founded according to the **Lübeck Code**. The body of architecture which has survived provides not only a graphic documentation of their political and commercial significance, but also a reflection of the extraordinary wealth of the towns in medieval times. In particular, the six monumental **brick churches** form a unique cross-section through the celebrated sacred architecture of the Hanseatic Towns of the southern Baltic Rim.



Alter Hafen (Old Harbour), © Christoph Meyer

- 1960** Demolition of the nave and transept damaged during the war.
- 1988** The High School for Engineering founded in 1969 is awarded the status of a Technical University.
- 1990** Reconstruction of the Church of St. George begins.
- 1991** The Karstadt AG is given back its original Head Office building in Wismar.
- 1991** Wismar is twinned with Halden in Norway and with Kalmar in Sweden.
- 1993** Visit of the King and Queen of Sweden.
- 1994** Construction of the 'Compact Shipyard 2000' with Europe's largest covered building dock.
- 1997** Establishment of important, major timber-processing companies in the Haffeld area until the year 2000.
- 2001** The Norwegian chemical company Jackon commences production.
- 2002** Incorporation of the ancient towns of Wismar and Stralsund into UNESCO's World Heritage List.
- 2006** 777th anniversary of Wismar.
- 2007** Rearrangement of the quay walls and redesign of the public areas at the Old Harbour.
- 2010** St. George's: beginning of service after 20 years of reconstruction.
- 2014** Restoration of the building and historic restaurant 'Zum Weinberg'.
- 2014** Opening of the observation deck of St. George's and the World Heritage House.
- 2017** Reopening of the Civic History Museum of Wismar, the Schabbell.






















Krämerstraße, Karstadt and St. Nicolas, approx. 1930

The centre of these two **historical towns**, although different, do complement one another through certain special characteristics: Stralsund's unique island location between the Strelasund and the ponds emphasizes its medieval influence distinguishing the centre of the town with its own unmistakable silhouette. Wismar possesses, at 76 hectares, the largest preserved ancient town centre in the Baltic region and is a memorial to **medieval building techniques and lifestyle** par excellence. Still preserved are the harbour basin in its original location and form, the canal flowing through the town (the last remaining artificial waterway in a medieval ancient town in Northern Germany) and the market square which, with its surface area of 1 hectare, is the largest on the Baltic Coast. In June 2002 the memorial 'Historical Centres of Stralsund and Wismar' was incorporated into the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.

THE ANCIENT TOWN CENTRE OF

WISMAR

-  TOURIST INFORMATION
 -  WORLD HERITAGE TRAIL
 -  PUBLIC TOILET
 -  FREE WI-FI
 -  POST OFFICE
 -  PLAYGROUND
 -  MARKET AND EVENT HALL
 -  PARKING AREA
 -  CAR PARK
 -  PARKING AREA WITH CHARGING STATION
 -  CENTRAL STATION
 -  CENTRAL BUS STATION
 -  HARBOUR TOUR
 -  CARAVAN SITE
 -  MARINA
 -  CRUISE TERMINAL
 -  ONE WAY STREET
 -  PEDESTRIAN ZONE
 -  CITY TOUR (≈ 3.5 KM)
- 100 M

A WELT-ERBE-HAUS (WORLD HERITAGE HOUSE)

As the seat of the company of merchants, the only recognized 'trade association' in its day, this building witnessed gatherings of Wismar's most outstanding entrepreneurs. After extensive reconditioning the historic ensemble of buildings is re-opened as the UNESCO World Heritage House. The preserved building ensemble houses special theme rooms conveying a lively impression of the medieval Hanseatic town. Highlights of the exhibition are the ground plan of the town presented in the World Heritage Room and the representative papered ballroom with its rare wall covering.

B MARIENKIRCHTURM (THE CHURCH TOWER OF ST. MARY)

The 80 metre high tower of the Church of St. Mary is a landmark of Wismar. The church was damaged in the Second World War and then demolished in 1960. Up until that time it was reputed to be one of the most beautiful brick churches in Northern Germany. The former municipal church was probably built in the first half of the 13th century. At the beginning of the 14th century a second church was built over the existing one, and it was twice as large and twice as tall as the old one.

C ARCHIDIAKONAT (ARCHDEACONRY)

As the former residence of the archdeacon, this house was built around 1450 in the North German red brick Gothic style. Like many other Gothic buildings around the Church Tower of St. Mary, the Archdeaconry was seriously damaged in the last world war and reconstructed at considerable expense. The richly divided stepped gable on the north side, decorated with wind perforations, is of particular significance.

D FÜRSTENHOF (PRINCES' COURT)

The Fürstenhof was the seat of the Dukes of Mecklenburg. The 'Old House' came into being in 1512/13. It is still well and truly within the design principles dictated by the Late Gothic style. The 'New House' came into being between 1553 and 1555 and is built in the Italian Renaissance style. It is richly ornamented with sculpted limestone and terracotta decorative elements. Following the cession of Wismar to the Swedish crown in 1648, the highest Swedish court for Swedish territorial possessions in Northern Germany, the so-called Tribunal, was installed in the Fürstenhof from 1653 to 1802. After extensive renovation work, the Fürstenhof is today the seat of the county court of Wismar.

E ST.-GEORGEN-KIRCHE (CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE)

The Church of St. George is one of the three main churches in Wismar and is a magnificent architectural monument to the North German red brick Gothic style. Once it was the church of the craftsmen and tradesmen. The origins of the Church of St. George lie in the first half of the 13th century. Over centuries of construction work, the church was altered many times and in 1594 it finally reached completion. An observation deck at a height of 35 meters offers an impressive view of Wismar. The elevator to the observation deck can be used daily during the opening hours.

F HEILIGEN-GEIST-KIRCHE (CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)

The rectangular Gothic 'naveless' church came into being in its present form in the 15th century, incorporating some elements of the former building. The interior is covered by a painted wooden ceiling. The baroque ceiling murals date from the year 1687, showing scenes from the old testament. A particularly beautiful view of the church is to be seen from the courtyard. Directly adjoining the church is the so-called 'Long House'. Originally a hospital, it was used for many years as an old people's home.

G ZEUGHAUS (THE ARSENAL)

The Zeughaus is regarded as one of the most significant baroque manifestations of Swedish military architecture in Germany. The former building was replaced by a new one in 1700. In 1699 the old arsenal was destroyed by a powerful explosion in a gunpowder tower following a heavy storm. Today the Zeughaus is the home of the Town Library.

H BAUMHAUS UND MARITIMES TRADITIONSZENTRUM (TREE HOUSE AND MARITIME TRADITION CENTRE)

The Baumhaus is a baroque building from the middle of the 18th century. The square building with two Swedish heads in front of the portal took its name from the turnpike which was formerly on this site. The 'tree' was a floating log which served as a barrier to access the harbour. It was closed off during the night and in threatening situations. In 2019, the Baumhaus has opened the permanent exhibition 'Maritime Tradition Centre'. The exhibition offers insights into the development of Wismar during the Hanseatic period and the development of shipbuilding including the history of Wismar's shipyard.

I WASSERTOR (WATER GATE)

The Water gate is the last of five town gates which were incorporated into a 4 m high town wall. This gate was erected around 1450 in the Late Gothic style on the site of a previous gate. On the town side the gate still displays a typical Late Gothic stepped gable, but on the north gable, reconstructed around 1600, the form is that of a triangle. Both gable façades are decorated with transoms and two coats of arms.

K GRUBE (WATERWAY)

The Grube is one of the oldest artificial waterways that flows through a city in Germany. Via the Mühlenteich, the Wallensteingraben and the Lostener See, it connects the Schweriner See to the Baltic Sea. It was constructed in the middle of the 13th century using boulders, and for many years supplied the citizens with their drinking and utility water. Its waters drove Mill wheels and acted as a reservoir for extinguishing fires.

L ST.-NIKOLAI-KIRCHE (CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS)

The 37 metre high central nave is the fourth-highest church nave in Germany. Construction began on the church that we can see today in the 14th century. Originally the tower had a slender ridge turret which fell victim to a hurricane in 1703. The collapse of the turret caused large portions of the interior to be destroyed, these were later replaced in the baroque style. St. Nicholas' was the church of seamen and fishermen.

M MUSEUM SCHABBELL

The Schabbell was built between 1569 and 1571. It was designed by the Dutch master architect Philipp Brandin of Utrecht, and was to be used by the future Mayor of Wismar, Heinrich Schabbell, as a brewery and residence. It is one of the earliest Renaissance buildings in the Baltic region and demonstrates the combination of materials widespread in the Netherlands, namely brick with decorative elements sculpted out of sandstone. Nowadays, it houses the Civic History Museum. The museum's collections and exhibitions reflect the culture and history of the Hanseatic town of Wismar and the surrounding area.

N 'ALTER SCHWEDEN' (THE OLD SWEDEN)

The 'Alter Schwede' was built around 1380. In the Middle Ages there were residential and business premises on the ground floor, and the first floor was used as storage space. It was not until 1878, when a catering establishment moved in, that the building was given the name 'Alter Schwede' in remembrance of Wismar's Swedish period from 1648 to 1803.

O WASSERKUNST (PUMPING STATION)

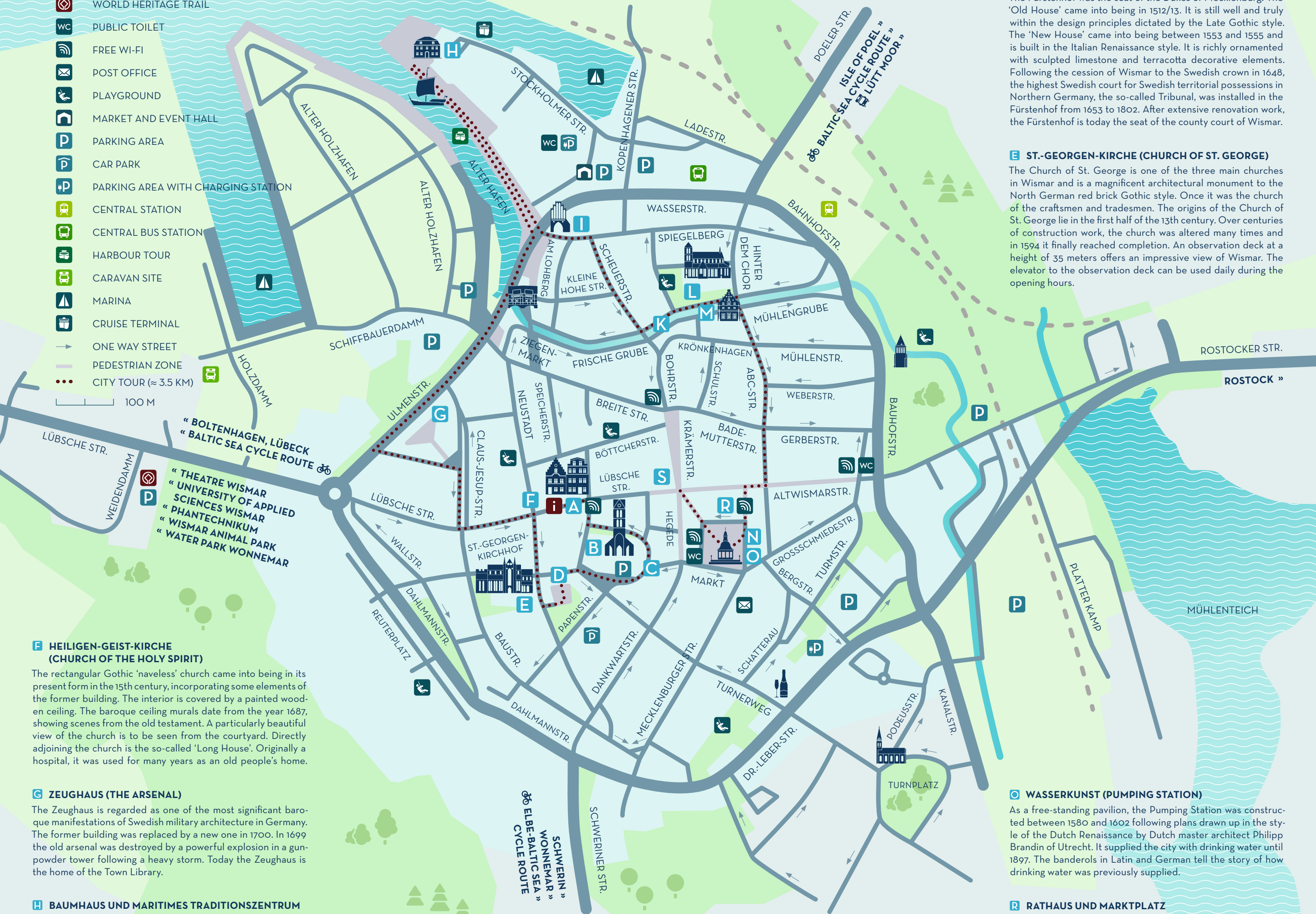
As a free-standing pavilion, the Pumping Station was constructed between 1580 and 1602 following plans drawn up in the style of the Dutch Renaissance by Dutch master architect Philipp Brandin of Utrecht. It supplied the city with drinking water until 1897. The banderols in Latin and German tell the story of how drinking water was previously supplied.

R RATHAUS UND MARKTPLATZ (TOWN HALL AND MARKET SQUARE)

With its 10,000 m² surface area the market square is one of the largest in Northern Germany. The Town Hall is situated on the north side of the square. In 1807 the left wing of the Late Gothic building collapsed. The Town Hall was reconstructed in the classical style between 1817 and 1819 in accordance with plans by the court architect Johann Georg Barca of Ludwigslust. In doing so the surviving Gothic remains of the cellar area were incorporated into the new building. The permanent exhibition 'Wismar - Images of a Town' can be found in the 'Rathauskeller'.

S KARSTADT AND KRÄMERSTRASSE

The four-storey art nouveau building on the corner of Krämerstraße and Lübsche Straße is the original head office of Karstadt AG (a chain of department stores). With just one employee, it was here that in 1881 Rudolph Karstadt established his later empire. He introduced what was, at that time, the unusual business policy of payment in cash! The name 'Krämerstraße' (Chandler Street) with its many remarkable gabled houses, indicates its earlier and current role as a business boulevard.



HISTORY OF THE TOWN

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

- 1632** ✕ During the Thirty Years' War Swedish troops drive off the forces of the Kaiser.
- 1648** 🛡 After the end of the Thirty Years' War the 'Town and Governance of Wismar' is awarded to Sweden according to the Peace Treaty of Osnabrück.
- 1653** ✕ The Royal Swedish Tribunal is installed in the 'Fürstenhof' as the supreme court for all territories possessed by Sweden on German soil.
- 1675** Siege by Danish, Brandenburg and the Kaiser's troops. Wismar capitulates.
- 1672-1700** Expansion of Wismar into the largest fortress in Europe with 18 bastions, 9 ravelins and 2 citadels as well as 700 canons. A fort is erected on 'Insel Walfisch' (Whale Island).
- 1690** E Construction of the Provision House at what is known today as the 'Lindengarten'.
- 1700** K Construction of the 'Zeughaus' (The Arsenal) after the gunpowder tower explosion (1699).
- April 1716** In April Sweden has to surrender the governance of Wismar to the High Nordic Allies during the Nordic War.
- 1717** Upon the request of the Danish, the fortress installations are razed to the ground. Citadels, bastions and the tower on the 'Insel Walfisch' are blown up.
- 1757** ✕ Wismar is conquered by Prussian troops in the Seven Years' War.
- 1803** Wismar goes back to the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg for 100 years via the deed of security for 1,250,000 talers.
- 1903** 🛡 The Kingdom of Sweden, after the expiry of the 100 years period, waives its claim to the redemption of the deed of security. Wismar is finally integrated into the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg.

WISMAR'S SWEDISH FESTIVAL

HISTORICAL CITY FESTIVAL

Every summer, the hanseatic city hosts a big party reminding of the 155 years of membership in the Swedish Kingdom. For one weekend the inhabitants of Wismar celebrate an impressive historic city festival together with guests from all over the world - the largest Swedish Festival outside of Sweden. From the market square to the Old Harbour the city offers Swedish traditions and customs, regional specialties and a colourful music and theatre programme for a cheerful atmosphere in Wismar's old town. The market square becomes a medieval army camp. The members of the Wismar shooting club and Swedish military-historical clubs wear magnificent uniforms, put on their sabres and rifles and re-enact historical battles. At the Old Harbour there is a colourful fair with handicrafts, tasty treats and the fast fun rides.



© Christoph Meyer



© Christoph Meyer

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FASCINATING WISMAR

EXHIBITIONS TO EXPLORE



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WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

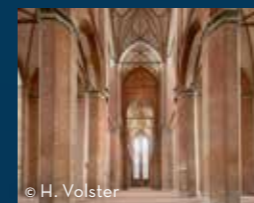
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© A. Rudolph

MARIENKIRCHTUM (THE CHURCHTOWER OF ST. MARY)

Exhibition of Red Brick Gothic
3D-Animation 'Bruno Backstein'
April - September 10.00 - 18.00 hrs
October - March 10.00 - 16.00 hrs



© H. Volster

ST. GEORGEN-KIRCHE (CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE)

Visitation and observationdeck
April - September 10.00 - 18.00 hrs
October - March 10.00 - 16.00 hrs



© C. Meyer

MUSEUM 'SCHABELL'

about the history of the city of Wismar
April - June, September - October
Tue - Su 10.00 - 18.00 hrs
July - August 10.00 - 18.00 hrs
November - March
Tue - Su 10.00 - 16.00 hrs



© Pagels

'WISMAR - IMAGES OF A TOWN'

Exhibition in the cellar of the
town hall
Tue - Sat 10.00 - 16.00 hrs



© A. Rudolph

'phanTECHNIKUM'

museum of technological history
July - August 10.00 - 18.00 hrs
September - June
Tue - Su 10.00 - 17.00 hrs

WISMAR'S SWEDISH PERIOD

HOT ON THE TRAIL

WISMAR'S SWEDISH PERIOD

SEARCH FOR TRACES

A The Commander's House

The building at no. 15 Am Markt, which stems from the late 16th or early 17th century, was acquired by the City of Wismar during the Thirty Years' War, and was fitted out as the Swedish Commander's House. In 1658 it was severely damaged by a fire but was then restored. It is supposed that the house was plastered in the 18th century and had two volute gables. In 1801 the double-fronted house was completely re-constructed – a new facade with a rustic structure was intended to give the impression of there being a second floor.

Until 1879 the house belonged to the wholesale merchant David Thormann. His brother, the master-builder Heinrich Thormann, was responsible for giving the building its present appearance in the second half of the 19th century, when he freed it of all the details which cluttered it and restored the facade to the style of the Dutch Renaissance. In 1930 the double-fronted house became the property of the Sparkasse Wismar (Wismar Savings Bank), which continues to use it to the present day.

B 'Alter Schwede' (The Old Swede)

One of the oldest burghers' houses in Wismar is situated on the east side of the market square. It is regarded as being one of the most beautiful and most valuable late gothic secular buildings with hanseatic characteristics in our State. The brick construction with its stepped buttress gable was built around 1380. The popular name 'Alter Schwede' can be traced back to a restaurant, which carved a place for itself in history and which was fitted out in the neo-gothic style in the second half of the last century. It was supposed to serve as a reminder of Wismar's affiliations to Sweden between 1648 and 1803.

C The Wrangel tomb

Helmut v. Wrangel (born approx. 1600) is descended from a Baltic noble family. The Swedish general died in 1647 in Triebel in Bohemia. Four weeks after his death he was brought to Wismar. A baroque burial chapel was installed in St. Mary's church. To a large extent destroyed by events during the war up to 1945, the parts of it which could be saved were kept in St. Nicholas' church until 1996. Nowadays, it can be seen as part of the exhibition of the history of the City in the 'Rathauskeller'. The larger-than-life wooden figures of the General and his wife were probably produced in the workshop of the Wismar wood sculptor Christian Möller.

D The Old Water Tower

The supply of water to the City of Wismar has a long history and demands our respect for the masterly engineering techniques of centuries gone by. The Old Water Tower in the 'Lindengarten' dating from the second half of the 15th century is the last remaining peel tower that was part of the mediaeval city fortifications. From the year 1682 it was incorporated into the city's water supply network. Until 1897 the tower in the 'Lindengarten' fed water into the city's water network. The architectural monument was restored during the years 1994/96. The 'Lindengarten', in which the Old Water Tower is situated, was originally part of the Swedish fortification.

F The Wrangel clock

The dial of the clock on the church tower of St. Mary's was donated by the Swedish major general Wrangel in 1647. Renovated and refurbished in 1981, it was put into use again in April 1982. The clock face is 75 m above the ground and measures 5 x 5 m. Its dimensions are altogether formidable. The minute hand is 3.30 m and the hour hand is 2.40 m long.

G The Mevius epitaph

The epitaph of the Councillor of the Consistory and Swedish Vice-President of the Wismar Tribunal David Mevius († 1670) was situated in a north-facing side chapel in the Church of St. Mary in Wismar, but is nowadays to be found in the Church of St. Nicholas. Carved from wood, the epitaph is in the form of a bordered work featuring angels and allegorical female figures in the form of busts looking out from a framework of leaves, blossoms, and grapes, executed in the most lavish of baroque styles. In the upper medallion there was formerly to be seen an effigy of Mevius himself as a half-length portrayal. In the centre, as the main feature, there was a long inscription in Latin bordered with a carved wreath of oak leaves. Underneath this, in the form of a pendant, there are two small figures of angels supporting the coat of arms of the deceased (divided, in the foreground two branches, behind, above a pillar entwined by a snake, a star in a garland).

H The Swedish Heads

The Swedish Heads are two busts of Hercules painted in the baroque manner and are to be found in front of the 'Baumhaus' in the 'Alter Hafen'. The originals formerly stood on mooring posts in the entrance to the harbour at a point in Wendorf. After a Finnish barge damaged the heads in 1902 they were cast as exact replicas of the originals and one year later were re-installed in the same position. One of the originals has been preserved and is to be found in the Civic History Museum in the 'Schabbell'. There is no conclusive unanimous opinion as to the origin and significance of the Swedish Heads. It has been possible to establish that in 1672 a post, in fact that which marked the furthest boundary of the harbour, was referred to as the 'Swede' and that at the beginning of the 19th century the two heads were installed as a reminder of the Swedish period. In all probability the two originals were likely to have been rudder heads and at one time formed part of the three-dimensional decorative elements on the stern of a ship.

I 'Brauhaus' (Brewery) on Lohberg

The house was erected as early as 1452 for the purpose of brewing beer. In the 15th century there existed in Wismar more than 180 various locations where beer was brewed, producing prodigious amounts of the delicious amber liquid. A further indication of the people of Wismar's frenzied brewing activities is the large number of hop orchards – namely 148. During the period of Swedish rule the building was used as a provision house. Since 1995 the old hanseatic tradition of brewing has been re-assumed.

K 'Zeughaus' (The Arsenal)

The building is generally regarded to be one of the most important baroque manifestations of Swedish military architecture in Germany. In the year 1700 the old building was replaced by a new one after in 1699 a thunderstorm caused a violent explosion in a gunpowder tower, thereby destroying complete parts of the city and also the old arsenal building. The Swedish master-builder Erik Dahlberg erected the Arsenal building directly on what was then the waterfront. The upper floor has a self-supporting construction which does not use any supporting pillars. The immense roof truss is only supported by the perimeter walls. In this way there was created an ideal warehousing space of just 60 x 15 m for what were in those times the largest instruments of war around. These were conveyed to the upper floor by means of horses pulling them up a sloping ramp. Once the Nordic Wars were over Wismar's military installations were razed to the ground. The 'Zeughaus' was spared this fate, since it was bought by some of the citizens of Wismar. In 1993 the complex redevelopment of the building began. King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden made available 80,000 kroners for the true to the original reproduction and reinstatement of the Royal Swedish coat of arms on the main portal.

L 'Fürstenhof' (Princes' Court)

On the occasion of his betrothal to the Prussian Princess Anna Sophia in the year 1555, the Duke of Mecklenburg, Johann Albrecht I (1525-1576) caused to be built in Wismar 'a little castle' – the 'Fürstenhof' or Princes' Court. The so called 'New House' is a building, which is richly adorned with three-dimensionally carved stone and terracotta. It was built in the style of the Italian Renaissance. The carved stone friezes depict events from the Trojan War (street facade) and the parable of the prodigal son (facing on to the courtyard). The upper frieze of terracotta shows a series of portrait medallions. In the year 1653 it was in this building that the Royal Swedish Tribunal was ceremonially opened. It remained in this location until 1802 and was responsible for all Swedish territories on German soil. After extensive redevelopment between 1999 and 2002 it is now used by the Wismar District Court.

M 'Schwedenstein' (The Swedish stone)

The 'Schwedenstein' was unveiled on the one hundredth anniversary of the final return of Wismar to the State of Mecklenburg in August 1903. The 400 hundredweight lump of rock is a gift from the Grand Duke Friedrich Franz IV to his city. The stone bears inscriptions as well as the coats of arms of Sweden, Mecklenburg, and Wismar. Originally the 'Schwedenstein' was also crowned with a bronze eagle. Nowadays the 'Schwedenstein' can be found positioned in a street which bears its own name.

