

Press information



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Press kit for PR-Event Stockholm: Tourismuszentrale Rostock und Warnemünde

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Arts, Architecture & Other Attractions

Rostock: Where Hanseatic History meets Baltic Sea Charm and contemporary Arts

Rostock | 27.09.2026

With its unique combination of historic architecture, art, maritime history and Baltic Sea landscapes, Rostock offers a wide range of reasons to visit for the Swedish market. The city appeals to culture enthusiasts and city-break travellers alike, as well as visitors who wish to combine their stay with a visit to Warnemünde or other destinations in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

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Rostock is a city where Hanseatic history meets the dynamism of a modern university town. The historic city centre, with its imposing Brick Gothic churches, medieval city gates and characteristic gabled houses, tells the story of Rostock's former importance as a trading and port city. Neuer Markt square, with St. Mary's Church and the Town Hall, as well as St. Peter's Church on the eastern edge of the Old Town, are just as worth discovering as Kröpeliner Straße and Universitätsplatz. The University of Music and Theatre, housed in the former St. Catherine's Monastery, the Mönchentor city gate and the historic ramparts also illustrate how the city's rich history is reflected in its urban landscape today.

The city of seaside resorts

Rostock is Germany's seaside resort capital. In the north of the city, visitors from around the world can experience the diversity of the Baltic Sea and coastal forests by swimming, hiking or strolling along more than 15 kilometres of sandy coastline. Rostock's most famous seaside resort is Warnemünde. This district captivates visitors with its distinctive architectural character, which keeps the history of the former fishing village alive to this day. Along the Alter Strom, historic fishermen's houses with colourful façades, lovingly restored details and characteristic gables line the waterfront.

These buildings tell the story of Warnemünde's maritime past and, together with the traditional fishermen's cottages, narrow streets and lighthouse, shape the character of the resort. This historic ensemble is complemented by magnificent villas and hotels built in the resort architecture style, reflecting Warnemünde's development into an elegant and fashionable Baltic Sea resort. In this way, Warnemünde uniquely combines northern German coastal traditions with the elegance of a historic seaside resort, offering architecture enthusiasts fascinating insights into the ever-changing history of the Baltic Sea coast.

Art History in the Hanseatic and University City

Rostock is also home to the Kunsthalle Rostock, an important exhibition venue for modern and contemporary art. The striking pavilion on the shores of

Schwanenteich lake opened in 1969 and is regarded as a remarkable example of modernist architecture in the former GDR. Today, the Kunsthalle presents temporary exhibitions that combine regional artistic perspectives with national and international viewpoints. One particular focus is on artists with ties to the Baltic Sea region. From 27 September 2026 to 21 February 2027, the exhibition series „Perceptions of Female Artistic Positions in the GDR“ will conclude with a presentation dedicated to Susanne Kandt-Horn. The exhibition focuses on a nuanced examination of a female artist's biography in the GDR, exploring its contradictions and challenges.

Rostock also boasts a diverse museum landscape. The Cultural History Museum of Rostock, housed in the former Convent of the Holy Cross, offers insights into eight centuries of urban and cultural history. From 15 November 2026 to 21 February 2027, it will host the exhibition “Order Must Be Maintained – A City's History of Rules and Prohibitions.” The exhibition explores how regulations, taboos and social norms shaped urban life—and what their history reveals about us today. It takes visitors on a journey through centuries of order and disorder in the city.

A Maritime Museum and Travelling from Sweden

The Maritime Museum aboard the historic ship in IGA Park offers a direct connection to maritime history. The listed ocean-going vessel provides insights into shipbuilding, seafaring and working life at sea. Built in Rostock, the freighter sailed the world's oceans for many years before opening its watertight doors to visitors for the first time on 13 June 1970. Today, the ship houses a museum featuring multimedia exhibitions on the region's shipbuilding and maritime history, while the 10,000-tonne steel giant itself stands as an impressive witness to the past.

For Swedish visitors, Rostock is particularly easy to reach via the direct ferry connections from southern Sweden. TT-Line and Stena Line connect Trelleborg with Rostock, making it convenient to travel by car, motorhome or motorcycle. Depending on the service, the crossing takes approximately six to seven hours. With regular departures, Rostock is an ideal destination for a short break or a starting point for a longer journey through Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

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