

# Press information



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## **Press kit for Press Tour “Between Sea & History – Maritime Towns with Character”: Landeshauptstadt Schwerin**

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Link to media database: [urlaubsnachrichten.de/pressefotos](https://urlaubsnachrichten.de/pressefotos)

# Schwerin

## A UNESCO World Heritage City Between Palace and Lakes

Life moves at its own pace in Schwerin. The palace reflects in the lake, café terraces bask in the sun, and historic alleyways are just a short stroll from expansive parks and gardens. Germany's smallest state capital brings together UNESCO World Heritage, culture and nature within easy walking distance.

Since 2024, the Schwerin Residence Ensemble has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The designation recognises an exceptionally well-preserved 19th-century residential city, where architecture, landscape design and urban planning continue to form a harmonious whole. Yet Schwerin is far more than an outstanding cultural monument.

What makes Schwerin special is its atmosphere. Between palace, lakes and historic streets, visitors discover a city that feels relaxed, personal and closely connected to the water that surrounds it.

### UNESCO World Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value

At the heart of the city rises Schwerin Palace, set on an island in the lake. Together with 37 other buildings, squares and gardens, the Residence Ensemble tells the story of Schwerin as the seat of the Dukes and Grand Dukes of Mecklenburg. The story continues to this day: the palace is home to the Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. At the same time, the Palace Museum invites visitors on a journey through courtly life, with magnificent rooms including the Throne Room and the ancestral gallery.

Yet the legacy of the former residence extends far beyond the palace island. The Alter Garten, together with the Mecklenburg State Theatre and the State Museum Schwerin, forms one of northern Germany's most impressive historic ensembles. Just a few minutes away, the towers of Schwerin Cathedral, St Paul's Church and Schelf Church rise above the rooftops of the Old Town. Between them, narrow streets are lined with independent shops, galleries and cafés. Many are still run by their owners, and there is almost always time for a friendly conversation.

Some of these buildings have histories that date back to the era of the Grand Dukes. Former court suppliers continue to preserve their heritage and invite visitors not only to discover the World Heritage Site, but also to savour it – over a glass of wine or a slice of cake.

### **A City on the Water**

One of Schwerin's greatest charms is its compactness. Culture and nature exist side by side. From the palace gardens, the Franzosenweg lakeside path winds through avenues of old trees. Boats glide across Lake Schwerin, while the historic gardens reveal ever-changing views of the city. Whether by kayak or bicycle, the surrounding lake landscape offers countless opportunities to explore.

Schwerin's cultural life thrives throughout the year. The historic Palace Festival, the Palace Festival Performances, concerts, exhibitions and many other events bring contemporary life into a remarkable historic setting. Schwerin is a living residential city where past and present meet in a unique way.

This creates the distinctive character of Schwerin: a city where World Heritage is not merely preserved but lived – among lakes, historic streets and a vibrant cultural scene.

## Schwerin at a Glance

- State capital of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- Population: approximately 100,000
- Schwerin Residence Ensemble inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage in 2024, 38 constituent parts, including historic buildings, squares and gardens
- Schwerin Palace: seat of the state parliament and home to the Palace Museum
- Historic Old Town with short distances between culture and nature
- State Museum Schwerin with an important collection of Old Masters, reopening in 2025 after extensive restoration
- Mecklenburg State Theatre with more than 450 years of history
- Schwerin Cathedral with its 117.5-metre tower
- City of lakes with 12 lakes within the city limits
- Lake Schwerin, the second-largest lake in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the fourth-largest lake in Germany

## Images

High-resolution press images of Schwerin and the UNESCO World Heritage Residence Ensemble are available free of charge for editorial use:

<https://urlaubsmarke.tourismus.mv/d/XmUmKRmEcJQ7>

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# World Heritage SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE



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[www.schwerin.de/welterbe](http://www.schwerin.de/welterbe)

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**unesco**

Schwerin Residence Ensemble  
World Heritage since 2024

## FOR YOUR QUESTIONS. AND YOUR PLANS.

Fancy a city tour, concert or urban adventure?  
Then drop by our tourist information at the market square.  
Here you can get tickets, tips and lots of ideas for your time in Schwerin.



## WELCOME TO SCHWERIN

Surrounded by lakes, magnificent buildings and cobble streets, Schwerin welcomes you with a unique blend of history, culture and lifestyle. Everything is close together – ideal for those who like to explore on foot.

In the heart of the city, Schwerin Palace awaits you on an island in the lake, surrounded by parks, waterways and magnificent views. It is one of the most beautiful Residence Palaces in Europe. Together with over 30 other historic buildings, squares and gardens, it forms the Schwerin Residence Ensemble – a cultural heritage site of exceptional value that has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 27 July 2024.

But it is not only its great history that makes it so appealing. You can look forward to lovingly run cafes, modern museums, a lively theatre and many opportunities to rest and relax.

This city map will guide you to the most beautiful places in the Residence Ensemble. Let yourself wander and discover Schwerin with its world heritage.



## WORLD HERITAGE AT A GLANCE

If you want to discover the Residence Ensemble, the best place to start is here: the bronze 3D city model at the „world heritage square“ (Welterberplatz) shows the palace, cathedral and other buildings in miniature format – to marvel at, touch and understand. A perfect introduction to Schwerin's world heritage.

Further information on the Schwerin Residence Ensemble and its components can be found online.



## GO ON A DISCOVERY TOUR

Old town, palace, world heritage site – experience Schwerin with people who love it. If you like, you can explore the city from the water or your own.



### CITY TOURS

Our city guides will show you Schwerin's most beautiful sides – from UNESCO treasures to hidden corners. These and other tours can be booked by request in English and other languages:

**Public city tour**  
The classic: from the market square to the cathedral to the palace.  
Daily at 11 a.m. | approx. 1.5 hours | Tourist Information

**World Heritage Tour**  
What makes the Residence Ensemble so special? Experience the palace, castle gardens and Residence buildings up close.  
approx. 2 hours | Tourist Information

**Night watchman tour**  
An evening stroll through history and the narrow streets – led by the original night watchman with halberd and lantern.  
approx. 1.5 hours | Tourist Information

Scan here for information and enquiry options about the guided tours.



Information about the digital offerings can be found online.



**Audio guide:** Available to borrow in English – for your individual tour.

**Instawalks:** Three tours to Schwerin's most beautiful photo spots and art locations.

**Stamp Pass App:** Discover the most beautiful sights in a playful way. Listen to the city's history – directly on your own smartphone.

**ON YOUR OWN**  
Do you prefer to travel at your own pace? These digital offerings will accompany you through the city:

### CITY TOURS

Hop on, sit back and enjoy: take a double-decker bus, regular bus or tourist train and see Schwerin's most beautiful sights in comfort.

#### Red double-decker bus

Hop on, hop off and enjoy the view – convertible in good weather. In German and English.  
May–Sept daily | 60 mins | From the palace pier

#### Panorama bus

Personal and manoeuvrable – with live commentary from the driver. Daily throughout the year | 60 mins | From the palace bridge and market | In German only

#### Petermannchen train

Comfortable travel through the city and exclusively through the palace garden. April–October daily\* | 60 mins | From market square  
In German only

#### Tickets available on board

\* Departure times change in the off-season  
All times and prices at a glance can be found here.

### FROM THE WATER

The palace and city backdrop can be wonderfully explored from the water – on a boat trip or individually.

#### Boat tours with the White Fleet (Weiße Flotte)

approx. 1.5 hours | From the palace pier | In German only  
March–December daily | Tickets at the pier and online

#### Petermannchen ferry on the Pfaffenteich

Four piers: railway station, arsenal, power station and Schelfmarkt  
May–September Tue–Sun and on public holidays | In German only  
Tickets on site

#### Paddling & boat tours

Explore Schwerin's lake landscape on your own with a SUP, kayak or boat. Tip: Start your tour right in front of the palace – great views included.

Scan here for tour tips and providers.



## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE: THE SCHWERIN RESIDENCE ENSEMBLE

Since 2024, the Schwerin Residence Ensemble has been an official UNESCO World Heritage Site. What makes it so special? Its unique combination of architecture, landscape and history. In the 19th century, a typical European Residence city between historicism and modernism developed around the Palace.

Theatre, museum, palace, churches, gardens, administrative buildings – everything follows one idea: this was not only a place to govern, but also to represent, live and astonish. Various architectural styles – from Neo-classicism to Neo-renaissance, Neo-baroque and Neo-gothic to the regional Johann Albrecht style – exemplify the artistic variations of historicism in the Schwerin Residence Ensemble.

Particularly impressive is its location in the middle of the water. The palace is reflected in the lake, avenues lead through parks, and views open up into the distance again and again. Schwerin thus still embodies the romantic ideal of the 19th century combining nature and architecture into a harmonious whole.

The ensemble of 38 buildings, squares and parks is exceptionally well-preserved to this day. Depending on their function, the components can be divided into five categories:

### PALACE & MANOR HOUSES

At the heart of the ensemble: the Residence Palace with gardens – plus various manor houses in the city: this is where the grand ducal family lived and ruled.

### SACRED AND CULTURAL BUILDINGS

Several churches, a court theatre and an art museum demonstrate the grand dukes' passion for culture and their religious beliefs.

### ADMINISTRATION

The Residence was also intended to provide modern administrative facilities – the State Archives, the classicist administration buildings on Schloßstraße and the administrative building on Pfaffenteich bear witness to this ambition.

### INFRASTRUCTURE & CIVIL SERVANTS' HOUSES

Nothing would have worked without them: gardeners, hunters, civil servants and court suppliers ensured that the court ran smoothly.

### MILITARY

The military was also part of the Residence – with barracks, an armoury and an officers' mess on the edge of the Palace Gardens and at Pfaffenteich.

## EXPERIENCE WORLD HERITAGE

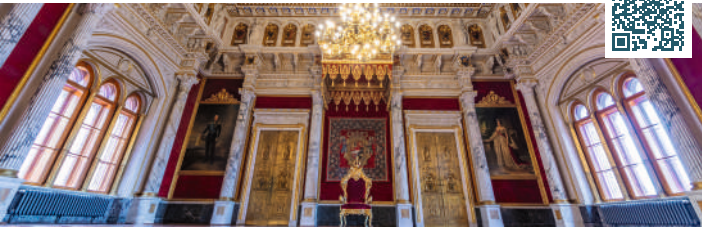
The Schwerin Residence Ensemble tells a story at every turn. Many places are open to the public – and well worth discovering.

### PALACE

Once the residence of the Grand Dukes of Mecklenburg, today it is the seat of the state parliament. In the palace museum, you will discover magnificent halls such as the ancestral gallery and the throne room.

**Tip:** Experience the palace on guided tours, audio tours or at concerts.

[www.schwerin.de/schloss](http://www.schwerin.de/schloss)



### PALACE AND CASTLE GARDENS

A green paradise: the castle gardens on the palace island with its orangery, grotto and lake view, and the extensive palace gardens with their baroque cross canal, sculptures and pergolas. **Tip:** Discover the palace gardens on your own with the free app.

[www.schwerin.de/gaerten](http://www.schwerin.de/gaerten)



### MUSEUM

Opposite the palace, the State Museum tells the story of the dukes' love of art. Grand ducal collection meets modern art in historic rooms.

[www.museum-schwerin.de](http://www.museum-schwerin.de)



### THEATRE

In the court theatre dating from 1886, the Mecklenburg State Theatre now delights audiences with opera, drama, ballet and concerts. Particularly beautiful: the Neo-baroque interior design with lots of gold and velvet, as well as the view from the former grand ducal box.

[www.mecklenburgisches-staatstheater.de](http://www.mecklenburgisches-staatstheater.de)

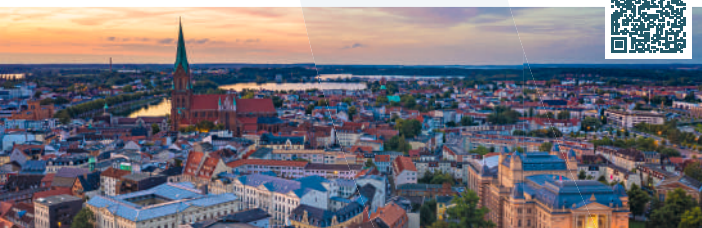


### CHURCHES

The cathedral offers a panoramic view of the city and lakes from its 117.5-metre-high tower. Impressive features include the crucifix altar, the ducal burial vault, the Ladegast organ and the Uecker window. The palace church, Schelfkirche and Paulskirche are also open to visitors.

**Tip:** Organ music is played in the cathedral every Monday at 2.30 p.m. during the summer.

[www.kirche-mv.de/kirche-schwerin/offene-kirche](http://www.kirche-mv.de/kirche-schwerin/offene-kirche)



### COURT SUPPLIERS

Where cake was once baked and wine stored for the court, you can now enjoy fine cuisine in a historic setting. The buildings are part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. **Tip:** Cafés and restaurants in other World Heritage buildings also invite you to take a break.

[www.schwerin.de/gemuss](http://www.schwerin.de/gemuss)



#### WALKS THROUGH THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE

##### Residence Ensemble tour

Min. 2 hours

Discover the entire UNESCO World Heritage Site on foot: palace island, old town, theatre, museums, gardens

##### Pfaffenteich tour

30 minutes

A classic stroll with views of the cathedral, bourgeois villas – and a ride on the Pfaffenteich ferry

##### Franzosenweg

From 30 minutes

A romantic walk along the water: from the palace gardens to the Adebors Näs viewpoint

**Tip:** You can continue on to Zippendorf beach (1 hour) or cycle to the Muess open-air museum (40 minutes).

##### Grand Castle Garden Tour

45–60 minutes

Experience Schwerin's garden design: with pergolas, sculptures and the famous view over the baroque cross canal.

#### COMPONENTS AT A GLANCE

##### PALACE AND MANOR HOUSES

- 1 Residence Palace
- 2 Castle garden & palace garden
- 3 Old Manor
- 4 New Town Manor
- 5 Greenhouse
- 6 Cavalier's House

##### SACRED AND CULTURAL BUILDINGS

- 7 Court Theatre with machine room and scenery store
- 8 Museum with curator's mansion
- 9 Cathedral
- 10 St Nikolai Church
- 11 St Paul's Church

##### ADMINISTRATION

- 12 Ministerial Manor House/Münzstrasse
- 13 Ministerial Manor House/Puschkinstrasse
- 14 Grand Ducal Administration Building
- 15 Grand Ducal Estate Office
- 16 Governmental Administration Building I
- 17 Governmental Administration Building II
- 18 Fridericianum
- 19 Schwerin State Archives

##### INFRASTRUCTURE AND CIVIL SERVANT RESIDENCES

- 20 Old Court Gardener's House
- 21 Grand Ducal Hunters' Lodge
- 22 Court Gardener's Establishment
- 23 Royal Stables and Royal Stables Peninsula
- 24 Grand Ducal Veterinary Stables
- 25 Grand Ducal Steam Laundry
- 26 Grand Ducal Linen and Bedding Chamber
- 27 Demmler's Residence
- 28 Villas on Werderstraße 125–139
- 29 Villas on Werderstraße 141
- 30 Court supplier Uhle
- 31 Court supplier Wöhler
- 32 Court supplier Krefft
- 33 Railway station and Duke's Salon

##### MILITARY

- 34 Old Artillery Barracks
- 35 New Artillery Barracks
- 36 Officers' mess
- 37 Armoury
- 38 Commander's house



# Discover Schwerin

## City Map



[schwerin.de](http://schwerin.de)



Landeshauptstadt  
**Schwerin**



## Discover Schwerin

### Welcome to Schwerin

Here in Schwerin, history accompanies you at every turn. A Palace like out of a fairytale, glittering lakes and historic old town streets characterise the city. Everything is close together – perfect for those who like to explore on foot.

In the heart of the city, Schwerin Palace rises on an island – surrounded by parks, waterways and magnificent architecture. Together with 37 other buildings, squares and gardens, it forms the Schwerin Residence Ensemble – a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 2024.

But Schwerin is much more than just a backdrop of times gone by. Between classicist façades and half-timbered houses, you will find lovingly run cafés, galleries, independent shops and museums. **Here, culture meets enjoyment** for you to enjoy Schwerin's special attitude to life.

Just outside the city gates begins the **lake district**, a region that is perfect for short breaks. Hiking and cycling trails lead through forests and idyllic villages, past castles, manor houses and hidden bathing spots waiting to be explored. Or you can hop in a canoe and experience nature from the water.

This city map will guide you to the city's most important sights. But you can also just go with the flow and discover your own personal favourite places in Schwerin with its old town, World Heritage Site and lake district.



[www.schwerin.de/welterbe](http://www.schwerin.de/welterbe)

## Small tour and mayor highlights

- 1 The **market square** along with the town hall, beautiful gabled houses and the Lion Monument is the perfect place to set off from on a sightseeing tour. Behind the magnificent Pillar Building one can see the imposing Cathedral overlooking the city. Just a stone's throw away you will find the "Schlachtermarkt".
- 2 **The Schwerin Cathedral:** As early as 1260 its predecessor – a Roman church – was erected on this site. Now it stands as a Gothic brick cathedral. From the viewing platform in the 117,5 metres high tower you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the entire city. Additionally, the church owns an extensive collection of artworks from the Middle Ages and later.



- 3 The **Schelfstadt** is a district characterised by its many timbered houses, the "Schelfmarkt" – a market square – and the baroque church "Schelfkirche". Small shops and boutiques line the "Münzstraße" and invite you to take a closer look.
- 4 **The Schleswig-Holstein-Haus** in the "Puschkinstraße" has been extensively reconstructed and turned into the cultural centre of Schwerin, where exhibitions, readings, lectures and concerts are held.
- 5 **Pfaffenteich** – There are various historical buildings dotted around this lake. Well worth seeing is the Arsenal, the "Kücken-House", the former city bath of Schwerin and townhouses along the south bank.
- 6 The **Mecklenburgstraße** leads you directly from the "Pfaffenteich" to the centre of the Old Town. There is no better place to have a look around some of its shops and stores or to rest in one of its many cafés and restaurants.
- 7 The **Schlossstraße** runs from the "Marienplatz" square straight to the "Alter Garten" square. Walking along, you will see several prestigious buildings, such as the Rococo- House opposite the Café Prag, government buildings and the impressive neoclassical State Chancellery.



- 8 The **Alter Garten** square is situated opposite the palace and used to be the fruit and vegetable garden of the ducal family. Surrounded by the magnificent buildings of the neo-baroque State Theatre, the State Museum, the Old Palais and the Victory Column, the "Alter Garten" square ranks among the most beautiful places of Northern Germany.
- 9 The **Schwerin Palace** once was the fortress of a Slavonic tribe resident here. Today it is the seat of the State Parliament of Mecklenburg West-Pomerania. Some of the rooms have been turned into a museum and are open to the public. Visitors can admire the Throne Hall, the Bel Étage, a collection of European porcelain and much more.
- 10 The **baroque Palace Garden** captivates its visitors with its symmetric design. Its major features are the Cross Canal, statues of the famous artist Balthasar Permoser, a memorial of the grand duke and the white pavilion.



### Tourist-Information der Landeshauptstadt Schwerin

Am Markt 14 | 19055 Schwerin

Phone: +49 385 545-5000 | [touristinfo@schwerin.de](mailto:touristinfo@schwerin.de) | [www.schwerin.de](http://www.schwerin.de)

### Opening Hours:

Apr – Dec Mon – Fri 10 am – 6 pm | Sat, Sun, Public Holidays 10 am – 4 pm  
Jan – Mar Mon – Fri 10 am – 5 pm | Sat 10 am – 4 pm  
Sun, Public Holidays closed

Publisher: State Capital Schwerin, Cover photo: Funkhaus Creative © State Palaces, Gardens and Art Collections of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania  
Photos: MV-T/Erik Gross (1), SMG/Oliver Borchert (2), SMG/Oliver Borchert (3), Celien Graubaum (4), MV-T/Tiemann (5)