

The tapestry room...

...“Telemachos on the Island of Calypso”

The highlight of the exhibition is the restored tapestry room on the first floor. 64 square metres of wall surface are almost completely decorated by precious French prints. Fragments of this wallpaper are also part of the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the villa of the 7th President of the United States of America, Andrew Jackson, near Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

The wallpaper cycle depicts the mythological story of the travels of Telemachos on the Island of Calypso in an adaptation by the French author François Fénelon (1699). The tale is founded on Homer's *Odysseus* and describes a young man discovering his own sense of responsibility.

Between 1815 and 1820 the artist Xavier Mader designed the template for the panorama wallpaper, which was produced by the Paris manufacturers Dufour & Leroy in 1823. The panorama is comprised of several assembled sheets of paper, on which layers of limewater colour are printed one on top of the other with the help of wooden moulds. 2,027 different printing blocks were cut in total and tinted in 87 colours. “Printed” interior decoration came into fashion for the upper-class bourgeoisie at the beginning of the 19th century and was an expression of a new cosmopolitanism.



W E L T E R B E H A U S

Lübsche Straße 23
23966 Wismar
Tel. 03841 19433

Opening hours

April – September: 9 am – 5 pm
October – March: 10 am – 4 pm

Entry free



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WELTERBE UND MEER

UNESCO World Heritage Exhibition

The World Heritage House Wismar



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Mecklenburg
Vorpommern



MV tut gut.

wismar-tourist.de

The historic town centres of Stralsund and Wismar have been listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites since 2002 and ideally represent the highly developed hanseatic town of the 14th century, a period of great prosperity for the Hansa. The mediaeval layout of the town centres, their networks of streets, town squares, quarters and plots remain virtually unchanged to this day. The well-preserved historic townscape of Wismar and Stralsund, as well as the mélange of red-brick gothic religious buildings and admirable secular architecture are exceptional examples of the hanseatic art of construction.

As a member of the "Wendish Quarter", which as the nucleus of the league was the political and economic centre of the Hansa, Wismar also played a major role in the trade of cultural acquisitions, technological knowledge and ideological concepts in the entire northern and Baltic regions.



Extent of the World Heritage area and buffer zone

- World Heritage area: 168 ha (80 ha Stralsund + 88 ha Wismar)
- buffer zone: 448 ha (340 ha Stralsund + 108 ha Wismar)



The ensemble of buildings on *Lübsche Straße 23* is of a high historical and cultural value due to its listing as a World Heritage site and its 700-year architectural and restoration history. The complex boasts numerous historical findings, some of which have been put on display and illustrated in the exhibition.



In its original structure the mediaeval gabled house had several functions. The ground floor contained the vestibule, which opened onto the street and courtyard through a large light window. This was where goods were accepted and traded. Above were the attics, which were used exclusively for storage purposes, whilst the living quarters were situated in the wings, the so-called *Kemladen*. During the 19th century, thanks to the outsourcing of the storage facilities, many of the *Dielenhäuser* near the harbour were converted into residential houses.

Several proprietors have formed and influenced the World Heritage House over the years. In the 19th century it was owned by the mayor, Gabriel Lembke, whose baroque and period furniture, as well as the unusual windows, panel and doors he incorporated gave the house a kind of artistic charm.

- Around 1350: Construction of the Dielenhaus and subsequent addition of the Kemladen
- 17th – 19th century: several alterations of the gabled house, converting it to a residential house
- 1924: Purchase by the Company of Merchants, subsequently used as offices, a public house and museum
- from 1950: public use by the Cultural Association of the GDR
- from 1990: vacant
- 2004: Safeguarding
- 2013/14: reconstruction/renovation
- June 2014: World Heritage house opening

From June 2014 residents and visitors alike can learn all about Wismar's history in the World Heritage house, which, alongside Regensburg and Stralsund, is only the third of its kind in Germany.



The World Heritage room on the ground floor represents the entrance to the exhibition. An inlay of the town layout spreads across the middle of the room. Whilst sitting on benches that resemble the town walls, audio guides explain the fundamental idea of the UNESCO World Heritage programme, and why the historic town centres of Wismar and Stralsund are to be found on this exclusive list. In addition, visitors are informed about other national and international World Heritage sites, as well as continuing projects by the German World Heritage Foundation.

Specific themed rooms with interactive media are dedicated to historical background information and important aspects of the town's construction history, whilst viewing panels show original architectural findings and room décor found in the gabled house and *Kemladen*. The courtyard boasts Wismar's historical water supply system.

Theme rooms:

- Citizens build their town
- Buildings teach history
- Rules form this town
- Trade brings wealth
- Merchants develop the *Dielenhaus*
- Water in the town
- Tapestry room

Each visitor receives a free ticket upon entry, which can be clipped at each exhibition display, thus referring to the location of each of the sites on display.