









What does it take to become a World Heritage Site?

The World Heritage Convention identified ten criteria for nomination. To be inscribed in the World Heritage List, sites must meet at least one out of ten criteria and must document evidence of authenticity (cultural heritage sites) or integrity (natural heritage sites). The Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar meet two criteria for cultural heritage:

Criteron II: The object has exhibited an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

Criteron IV: The object is an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape, which illustrates one or several significant stage(s) in human history.





Contact

HANSEATIC CITY OF STRALSUND

World Heritage Manager Steffi Behrendt
P.O. Box 2145 · D-18408 Stralsund, Germany
Tel.: +49 3831 25 23 16, Fax: +49 3831 25 25 23 16
E-Mail: sbehrendt@stralsund.de
Website: www.stralsund.de

HANSEATIC CITY OF WISMAR

Office for Sustainable Urban Development,
Project Management and World Heritage
P.O. Box 1245 · D-23952 Wismar, Germany
Tel.: +49 3841 22 43 123, Fax: +49 3841 22 43 129
E-Mail: welterbe@wismar.de

Website: www.wismar.de

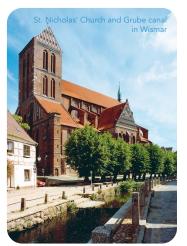
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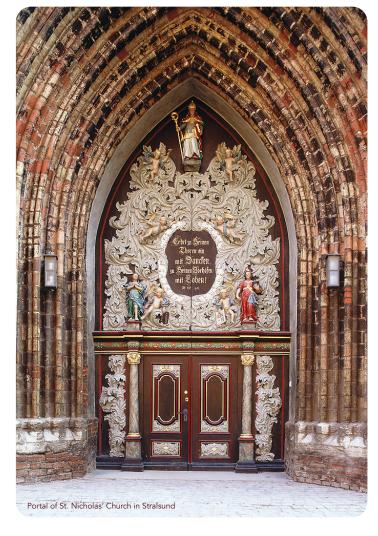
TWO CITIES — ONE HERITAGE

Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar A UNESCO World Heritage since 2002









Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar

Stralsund and Wismar are examples of typical medieval Hanseatic cities. In both cases the medieval city layout, arising from the network of streets, quarters, squares and plots, has been preserved nearly unchanged. Beautifully restored buildings from almost eight centuries, including gable houses, monasteries, town halls and six Brick Gothic churches, enrich the urban landscape. These structures reflect the wealth and political significance that both cities attained as maritime trading centres in the Hanseatic League.

During almost 200 years of rule by the Swedish crown in the 17th and 18th centuries, Stralsund and Wismar became important military and administrative centres. Baroque palaces and ramparts are among the most visible vestiges of this era. All below-ground structures in both city centres are classified as archaeological monuments.





A critical factor for the rapid growth of both Hanseatic cities was their location along the southern coast of the Baltic Sea. In Wismar, the original medieval harbour has largely been preserved. The canal "Grube", which flows straight through the city, is the oldest urban man-made waterway in Northern Germany. Furthermore, Wismar impresses with a great market square with the elaborate waterworks, St. George's Church with its tower observation deck and a Baroque armoury.

The historic centre of Stralsund is surrounded by the Strela Sound and dammed ponds from the 13th century. From the direction of the sound, the city's picturesque silhouette is dominated by three Gothic churches. The city harbour is a popular tourist destination, with its warehouses, the OZEANEUM and a marina. St. Nicholas' Church and the Town Hall with its magnificent facade on the Old Market square are the city's most renowned attractions.

Where can I obtain more information?

More information about Stralsund and Wismar is available at the World Heritage visitors centres in both cities. We strive to bring the past and our cultural heritage to life using interactive exhibits with photographs, films and descriptive texts. For further information please visit web page: www.stralsund-wismar.de.





World Heritage Exhibition Stralsund

Ossenreyerstraße 1

Open daily from 11 am to 5 pm (April-October) and Monday-Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm (November-March), closed on Sundays and public holidays Entrance free! Languages: German and English





World Heritage House Wismar

Lübsche Straße 23

Open daily: 9 am to 5 pm (April to September) and 10 am to 4 pm (October to March)
Entrance free!

Languages: German and English