

St. Nicholas' Church and Town Hall on Old Market Square in Stralsund



Gothic portal to the St. Catherine's Monastery in Stralsund



Historical building over the Grube canal in Wismar



Courtyard of the Holy Spirit Hospital in Wismar

St. George's Church in Wismar



## TWO CITIES – ONE HERITAGE

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

World Heritage sites are properties of outstanding universal value to the common heritage of mankind. From Arequipa to Zanzibar – the World Heritage List is long and diverse, encompassing over 1000 sites in more than 160 countries. In 2002, the Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar joined the global ranks of culturally significant sites.

### 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:

**CRITERION 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.

**CRITERION 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

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**Design:** [www.anjanehmzow.de](http://www.anjanehmzow.de)





St. Nicholas' Church and Grube canal in Wismar



Fährstraße in Stralsund



Portal of St. Nicholas' Church in Stralsund

## 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.



Historic centre of Wismar



Historic centre of Stralsund

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](http://www.stralsund-wismar.de).



### World Heritage Exhibition Stralsund

Ossenreyerstraße 1  
 (next door to the Tourist Office on the Old Market Square)  
 Open daily: 10 am to 5 pm  
 Entrance free!  
 Languages: German and English



### World Heritage House Wismar

Lübsche Straße 23  
 Open daily: 9 am to 5 pm (April to September)  
 Entrance free!  
 and 10 am to 4 pm (October to March)  
 Languages: German and English