

Hanseatic Rostock and Fairytale Schwerin tour: This exciting tour will begin with a brief orientation tour of Warnemünde. Then you are off to explore the fascinating cities of Rostock and Schwerin.



Schwerin Castle

Below is a brief introduction to just some of the amazing and historical venues you will see on your Hanseatic Rostock and Fairytale Schwerin tour.



Schwerin Castle:

Schwerin Castle is a stunning palatial schloss located in Schwerin, the capital of Mecklenburg. It is located on an island in the city's main lake, Lake Schwerin.

For centuries the palace was the home of the dukes and grand dukes of Mecklenburg and is, today, the home of the Mecklenburg state parliament.

Schwerin Castle, known as "Neuschwanstein of the North", is one of the most important works of romantic Historicism in Europe and is designated to soon become a World Heritage Site.

Schwerin is the capital and second-largest city of the northern German state of Mecklenburg.

Schwerin was first mentioned in 1018 and was granted city rights in 1160, making it the oldest city of Mecklenburg. Globally famous for its romantic Schwerin Castle, the city also boasts a largely intact old town, thanks to only minor damages in World War II.

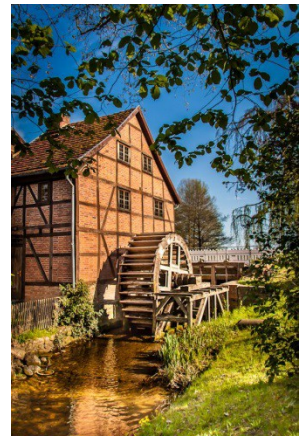
Schwerin is surrounded by many picturesque lakes, the largest being Lake Schwerin. In the midst of these lakes there was a settlement of Slavic Obotrite (medieval west Slavic tribes dating back to the 11th century). The area was called *Zuarin* and the name Schwerin is derived from that designation. In 1160, Henry the Lion Henry defeated the Obotrites and captured Schwerin. The town was subsequently expanded into a powerful regional center. A castle was built on this site, and expanded to become a ducal palace. It is rumored to be haunted by the small, impish ghost, named Petermännchen ("*Peterman*").



Schwerin Schelfstadt quarter



Schwerin State Theater



Old Mill



Rostock

Rostock, a beautiful Hanseatic City with its own seaside resort and gateway to the Baltic Sea, is the largest city in the northern German state of Mecklenburg. Rostock is located on the Warnow river, about 7 miles north of Warnemünde (on the coast of the Baltic Sea). It is both an old and young city that spreads itself out along the Warnow river. In the 11th century, Slavic tribes founded a settlement on the Warnow river called *Roztoc*; the name Rostock is derived from that designation. The Danish King, Valdemar I, set the town aflame in 1161. Afterwards the place was settled by German traders & was granted city rights in 1218.

The rise of the city began with its membership in the Hanseatic League, beginning in 1251. In the 14th century it was a powerful seaport town with 12,000 inhabitants and the biggest city of Mecklenburg. Ships were constructed in Rostock and the formerly independent fishing village of Warnemünde at the mouth of the Baltic Sea became a part of Rostock in 1323, to secure the city's access to the Sea.

The historic city center breathes Hanseatic flair and here you will find many examples of north German Gothic brick architecture. Apart from churches, there are also convents, a city wall, gates and gabled houses. Rostock is also home to one of the oldest universities in the world, the University of Rostock, founded in 1419.



Kröpelin Gate



Rostock ramparts and city walls



Old Town Rostock

Large sections of Rostock's city defensive walls are still preserved today. The city wall itself with gates, towers, watch houses and ramparts was built during the second half of the 13th century. The "Kuhtor" is the oldest town gate in Mecklenburg (first mentioned in 1262). The longest section of the city wall, at 450 meters, stretches from the Kröpelin Gate to Schwaansche Strasse. The only beach gate preserved is the classicist gate "Mönchentor".

The Kröpelin Gate (Kröpeliner Tor), first mentioned in documents in 1280, is the most magnificent of the former 22 city and water gates. The six-story building with a height of 54 meters is today a city historic meeting center and contains an exhibition about Rostocks city fortifications.



Saint Marien Church



Astronomical Clock



Convent of the Holy Cross

Saint Marien is Rostock's most beautiful and important church (1230). The transept and nave of the cruciform basilica are of equal length and underline the cohesive impression of this Gothic church. Lavish furnishings include the astronomical clock (1472) and a bronze baptismal font (1290).

The Convent of the Holy Cross is a former Cistercian convent founded in 1270 by the Danish Queen Margarete. The monastery was named after a fragment of the cross of Jesus Christ. It is now seat of the Cultural History Museum of Rostock. The convent complex with church (nowadays the university church), cloisters and refectory is fully preserved.

Tour description:

This captivating tour starts directly in front of the cruise terminal. An enthusiastic local guide will take you to the most fascinating locations of Rostock and Schwerin giving you a great insight into the local history and modern life. The tour begins with a brief orientation walk of Warnemunde, the fisherman's village and seaside resort where your ship is docked. Enroute, you will have the pleasure of viewing the typical gabled houses and the authentic "Old Stream" canal with its boats.

A 30 min trip on the local commuter train and tram will take you to downtown Rostock. There your guide will walk you past the city's major architectural sights including town hall, market square, university of 1419, monastery of the Holy Cross, the town wall and gates. An inside visit to St. Marien Church with its fantastic organ and astronomical clock (1472) will also be a prominent part of your tour.

You will take a panoramic train ride for approx. 1 hour to Schwerin, the capital of Mecklenburg county. Upon arrival in Schwerin, be sure to enjoy a lunch snack and drink at a local venue. Accompanied by your guide, you will stroll through the old town admiring the market, cathedral, old and new parliamentary buildings as well as the state theatre and museum. The charming Castle of Schwerin is the highlight of the afternoon. Nestled at the lakeside and surrounded by beautiful gardens, it will give you splendid photo opportunities. Going inside the fairytale castle, you will visit several preserved rooms dating back to 19th century.

With memorable impressions of the Hanseatic City of Rostock and picturesque Schwerin, you will return by train to the starting point in Warnemunde. Free time, (if any time is remaining after the tour), may be enjoyed with an evening stroll along the promenade area of Warnemunde.

Hanseatic Rostock and Fairytale Schwerin tour itinerary:

- Type:** Architectural and historical
- Length:** 10 hours. (9:30-19:30)
- Status:** Open group tour
- Group size:** Max. 20 persons
- Activity level:** Medium. Involves a lot of walking with frequent stops.
- Transportation:** train, tram
- Inside visits:** St. Marien Church, Schwerin Castle

Important! We will not be able to offer this tour on Mondays!

Important! The itinerary below is a sample. The *actual* start and end times of our tours are adjusted to coordinate with your ship's arrival and departure.

- 9:30 Meet with guide in front of cruise terminal
- 9:30 - 10:15 Brief orientation tour of Warnemuende
- 10:15 - 10:45 Take train & tram to Rostock
- 10:45 - 12:50 Guided walk of Rostock incl. town wall, the gates, university, monastery of the holy cross, town hall, boulevard etc. Inside visit to St. Marien church upon entire group's interest
- 13:07 - 14:03 Take train to Schwerin
- 14:30 - 15:00 Snack (coffee & cake or sausage & beer or similar) and/or some time at leisure
- 15:00 - 16:30 Guided walk of Schwerin incl. market, cathedral, government buildings, park around palace, theater etc.
- 15:45 - 16:30 Inside visit to Schwerin Castle
- 16:45 - 17:30 Continue sightseeing or enjoy some time at leisure in Schwerin
- 17:53 Return to Warnemuende by train via Rostock
- 19:30 Tour ends at the ship

Price includes:

- English-speaking tour guide
- all applicable train fares
- lunch snack and drink
- Schwerin Castle entrance fee