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# PORT EXPLORER



## BERLIN WARNEMÜNDE GERMANY

The small fishing village of Warnemünde (pronounced VAR-nah-moon-dah) is a small,

but popular coastal resort. Originally purchased by the rich merchants of Rostock during the Middle Ages to protect their access to the sea, Warnemünde has grown from a sleepy fishing village into a colorful port town. Modern day visitors use the town as a gateway to discover the treasures of the former East Germany, including the country's new capital, the historic and modern city of Berlin.

Warnemünde sits at the entrance of the Warnow River, a waterway that connects the medieval city of Rostock to the sea. The traditional red brick buildings give Rostock its typical Gothic, Hanseatic features and harks back to a time when the city was the second most powerful center of trade in the region. Rostock's many historic churches, towers, and the architecture of its original burgher houses still combine to create a unique medieval atmosphere.

Many of the visitors arriving by sea to Warnemünde choose to spend their day exploring Berlin, one of Germany's and Europe's most modern and intriguing capitals. The metropolis has found its old cosmopolitan charm and rhythm after years of reunification and reconstruction. The Brandenburg Gate seems to be the center in which Berlin has grown back together and remnants of the infamous wall have all but disappeared. The Pergamon Museum, the Kaiser-Wilhelm Memorial Church and the Charlottenburg Palace are only a few landmarks that await the intrepid visitor. Regardless of what you plan to do in Berlin, take plenty of film, the city's landscape and skyline seems to be in a constant state of change.

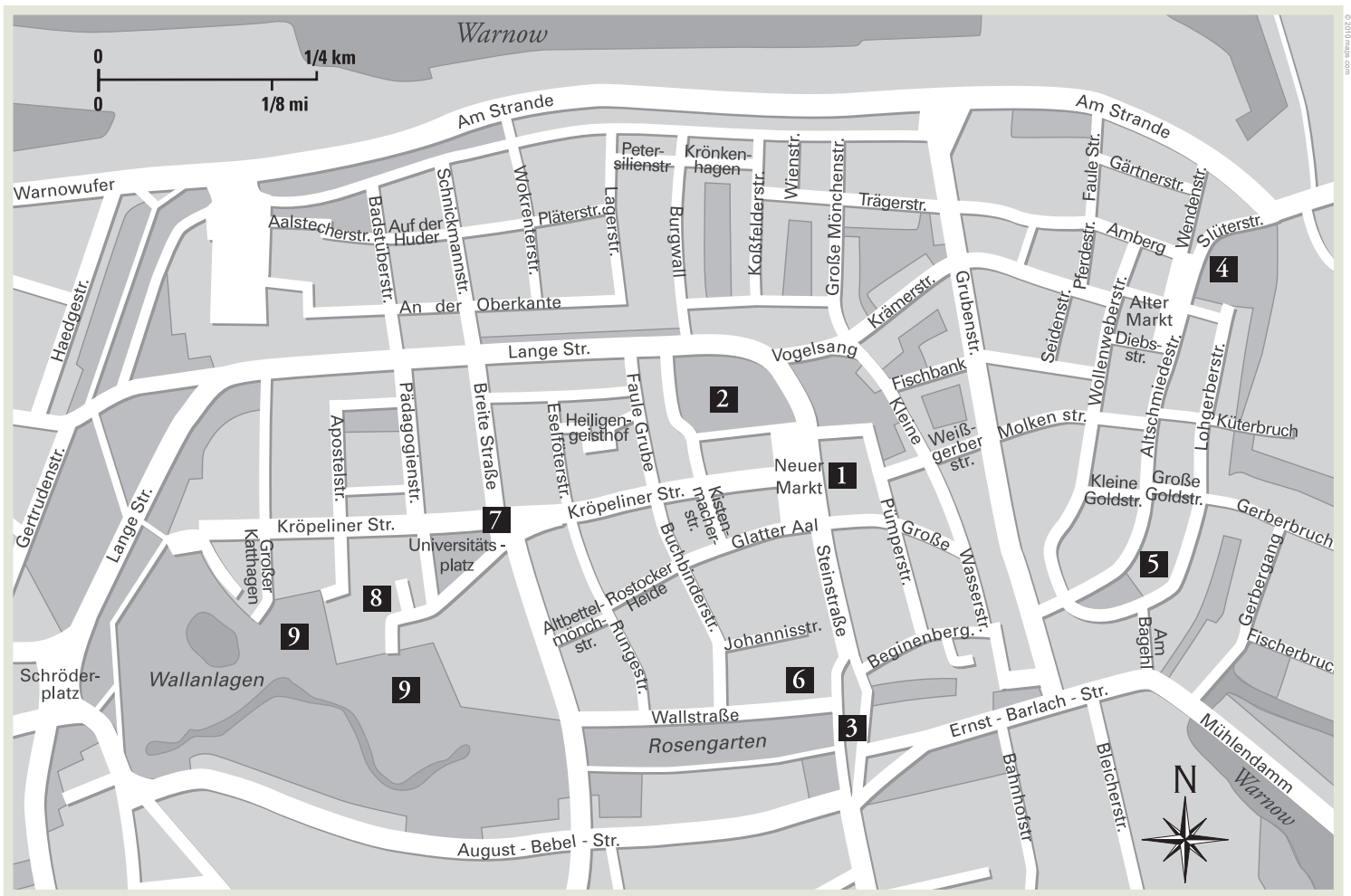


### HISTORY

The Slavs are the first to have inhabited the area but these settlements were destroyed in 1161 when the Danish King Waldemar I destroyed the Roztoc Fortress. Shortly thereafter the region was settled by German merchants and craftsmen. In 1218 Rostock received its official town charter and by the middle of the century town walls were built and the city became a member of the Hanseatic League, the premier merchant trading organization in the Baltic during the Middle Ages. Profitable maritime activities brought great wealth to Rostock during the 14th and 15th centuries making it the second most powerful city on the Baltic coast. During this time northern Europe's first university was established in Rostock, the small fishing village of Warnemünde was purchased, the astronomical clock in the Marienkirche was completed, and the city gained

the right to mint currency. The Reformation brought serious upheavals to the Protestant city that were followed in the 17th century by the occupation of

the Thirty Year's War. With the decline of the Hanseatic League and a town fire that reduced the port to rubble in 1677, the long prosperous city fell into financial ruin. Rostock's economy continued to shrink during the ravages of the Northern War and the Seven Years' War in the 18th century. Around the middle of the 19th century merchants began rebuilding Rostock and erected buildings outside of the town walls. A financial boom continued into the next century as the region became a center of shipbuilding. Following World War I, Rostock developed into a center of the armaments industry, producing aircraft and submarines. During World War II Rostock was badly damaged by severe bombing attacks. On May 1, 1945 the Soviet Army marched into the city and began the first steps of a socialist reconstruction and a 45-year Soviet occupation. In 1989, with the Eastern Bloc economies and ideologies in disarray the Berlin Wall fell, signaling the end of the Cold War. By October of the following year Rostock found itself at the center of the German reunification.



## WARNEMÜNDE PLACES OF INTEREST

Although the town of Warnemünde is small there are a few points of interest within walking distance of the ship. A stroll through the Alter Strom is a relaxing diversion from the hustle and bustle of Rostock or Berlin. The area served as the original port entrance until 1903 and now houses a collection of fishing boats and private yachts. The relaxed atmosphere has also attracted some cozy pubs, cafes, and boutiques flanked by small fisherman's cottages. For an overall view of Warnemünde visitors can climb the more than 100 steps to the top of the town's 100 year old Lighthouse. At more than 100 feet high/37 m. views of the town's Alter Strom and its wide sandy beaches can be better appreciated. On clear days even the Danish port of Gedser can be seen at a distance of 27 miles/45 km.

## ROSTOCK PLACES OF INTEREST

**1 Rostock's Rathaus** (Town Hall) has been the seat of the city's administration for more than 700 years. The structure originally consisted of three burgher houses that were united to form a single building. A Gothic wall joining seven turrets was built on its rooftop and a Baroque façade was added in the early 18th century.

**2 The Marienkirche** is one of the largest churches in the Baltic region with construction dating back to the 13th century. The Gothic structure is based on the cross-shaped

French cathedral style design and is similar in design to the Marienkirche in Lübeck. Among its treasures are a working astronomical clock built in 1472, a 13th century bronze baptismal font, and a Baroque altar designed by Rochus in the 16th century.

**3 The Steintor** was the Gothic south gate of Rostock before the reigning Prince Albrecht destroyed it in 1566 when the city's forefathers refused to swear a formal oath of allegiance. The structure was rebuilt in the Dutch Renaissance style and is adorned with the Secret Seal, the Town Seal, and the council's coat of arms with the inscription *Sit intra te concordia et publica felicitas*, Let harmony and general prosperity rule within your walls.

**4 Petrikirche** (St. Peter's church) is a 14th century gothic brick basilica distinguished by its 384 foot/117m. tower. The historic church was built on the site where the town was originally founded in 1218. There is an elevator to the top of the tower for viewing purposes.

**5 Nikolaikirche** (St. Nicholas' church) is the city's most unique and oldest church, dating back to the 13th century. A public road passes through a tunnel, the Schwibbogen, running beneath the altar of the church and twenty apartments have been built into the roof. The church was also the center of the area inhabited by Slavs in medieval Rostock. The church is closed to visitors.

**6 The Ständehaus** (Guild Hall) was completed in the red brick Historicist style in 1893 and served as the seat of the provincial guilds. It's exterior is adorned with Mecklenburg's coat of arms and statues of the Grand Dukes Friedrich Franz II and Georg. Today the Hall serves as the local courthouse and is not open for public viewing.

**7 The Universitätsplatz** gets its name from the square's main building, the University. Founded in 1419 the building was completed in 1870 and is best known for the valuable documents housed in its library. The square is also home to the former Palace and the baroque Barocksaal Festival Hall, which was completed in the 1750's. A statue of Gebhard Leberecht Blücher overlooks the square and is a celebration of the Rostock native who became a hero of the German Wars of Liberation.

**8 The Kloster zum Heiligen Kreuz** (Cistercian Convent) was originally founded by the Danish Queen Margaret in the 13th century. The former Holy Ghost Convent now houses the Kulturhistorisches Museum, the Museum of Cultural History

**9 The Town Walls** that stand today are remnants of the protective wall that encircled the entire city during the Middle Ages. Flanking Wallanlagen Park are some of the best preserved sections of the original gates and the 177-foot/54 m. Kröpeliner Tor, the largest of the original 22 town gates. Other remnants of the original protective wall can be found beside the Petrikirche in which a plaque commemorates the confirmation of the town charter in 1218.

#### Beyond Warnemünde/Rostock



**Berlin**, located in the Northeast section of Germany, is a 2 1/2 hour journey from Warnemünde. A divided city for nearly 30 years, the metropolis is now united to form the largest city in continental Europe. Once the heart of the Prussian kingdom, economic and cultural center of the Republic of Weimar, and headquarters of Hitler's Third Reich, Berlin has been one of the strongest influential factors in the history of the European continent and the world.

**Bad Doberan** sits about 10 miles/15km. from Rostock and is a small country town that was the holiday resort of the Mecklenburg ducal court. The 700 year old copper topped Minster of the former Cistercian monastery is the town's most notable monument. Inside guests can view the princes' tombs and the oak tabernacle. A visit to Bad Doberan often coincides with a ride on the Molli, a historic narrow gauge railway that is pulled by an antique steam locomotive.

**Schwerin** is situated at the edge of the beautiful Mecklenburg Lake district, one of Germany's last great unspoiled areas of natural beauty. Built around no fewer than ten lakes, a highlight of Schwerin is the magnificent castle set on an island with an extensive baroque pleasure garden The city also boasts several well preserved medieval buildings including the Dom, one of four cathedrals founded by Henry the Lion.

#### SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Warnemünde, Rostock and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

#### LOCAL CUSTOMS

**Bargaining:** Shop prices are fixed and there is little opportunity to bargain here.

**Tipping:** Tipping is not necessarily expected in Germany, however, if you receive good service, it is customary to leave 5% – 10%. For taxi drivers, it is customary to round up to the nearest euro.

#### LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

The most famous German Specialty is sausage. For a main course, pork accompanied by potatoes, dumplings, or spatzle, a textured noodle is one of the most common meals. A popular vegetable is cabbage and is usually prepared in a variety of ways including pickled (sauerkraut) or cooked with apples (apfelrotkohl).

The natural accompaniment to German food is beer or wine. With more than 40% of the world's beer production taking place in Germany, wherever you go, you are likely to find a locally brewed beer in a distinctive style.

#### SHOPPING

Although Warnemünde is a small port city its appeal as a weekend getaway has slowly brought small tourist shops to the area.

Both Rostock and Berlin offer extensive shopping opportunities. Most stores are open from 9:00am – 8:00pm Monday through Friday and 9:00am – 4:00pm on Saturday. Most shops accept major credit cards. Items of interest include German fashions, porcelain, typical German ceramics such as beer steins, and electronic goods.

Value added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

#### LOCAL CURRENCY

The unit of currency in this port is the euro. There are 8 euro coins with a common face. On the reverse, each member state contributes a design. There are 7 euro notes. All euro coins and notes are legal tender in member states. Major Credit Cards are commonly accepted. Additional banks and exchange kiosks can be found in Rostock and Berlin along with accessible ATM ma-

