

...the lakes



The regional capital is blessed with calming nature provided by twelve lakes.

The centres of few inland cities – particularly ones with ducal or royal influences – are situated so close, so perceptibly and so idyllically to water like Schwerin.

Germany's third largest inland waterway – Lake Schwerin – lies at the foot of the castle. The water quality is excellent and the banks are a lush green. Eleven more lakes stretch far into the town and account for one-third of its area.

Schwerin lakes

The regional capital boasts twelve lakes, providing the area with an abundance of calming nature and fresh air. Guests on **pleasure boats** can enjoy impressive views of the castle and the town at all times of the day. There are few large inland towns – especially ones of a grand-ducal or royal character – whose **centres are situated in such close proximity to water** and in such a picturesque manner like Schwerin. It is said that no person in Schwerin lives further than two hundred metres away from water. Lake Schwerin – Germany's **third largest inland waterway** – almost completely surrounds the castle. Eleven more lakes reach far into the town and account for one-third of its area.

City trippers are however, quickly far away next to and on the lakes and can treat themselves and their feet to a break in **idyllic nature** from traipsing the pavements. There are many opportunities for **strolling, swimming and watching boats**, rowing and fishing, sailing and paddling, hiking and cycling. The **quality of the water is excellent** and the banks of the lakes are lush green.

There are numerous moorings for rowing, pedal, motor and house boats. The Werderwiesen boat garages are even regarded as the largest garage complex on European waterways.

The Elde and Elbe and eventually the North Sea can be reached via the Stör and Störkanal.

Since the introduction of passenger shipping in 1852, boat trips across Lake Schwerin have gained a place in the town's visitors' programme. No ship does the tour of the castle in such style as the MS Elfriede. The iron lady has already been operating for over 90 years. The younger members of the fleet serve several routes into the neighbouring lakes. The schedule includes events such as coffee and cake trips and dusk tours as well as Father's Day trips and a prosecco party. The vessels can also be booked for private functions of any kind and guests can also delight in live music and a buffet with a wide range of delicious food. The view of the stunning lake scenery can be enjoyed for free. The Petermännchen ferry promises the most inexpensive cruise in the world. For two Euros it takes guests from one side of the Pfaffenteich to the other.

The **cycling and hiking trails** along the lakes are not only impressive due to the idyllic nature. They also link up numerous **architectural gems**, including beautiful churches, old gardens and other stately homes (e.g. Schloss Wiligrad).

The Schwerin lakes are of great significance for the protection of species and biotopes. Among the breeding birds are the sea eagle, osprey, whooper and dwarf swan, tufted duck and kingfisher. Five nature reserves provide an important place to rest and spend the winter for numerous wading birds and waterfowl. River-perch, pike, pike-perch, bass and eel as well as the dominating white species of fish bream, rudd, roach and bleak splash about in the water. Otters feel at home on the banks of the lakes.

