

...the old part of the town



Saunter along the historical streets, visit the shops and dine in style.

Just a few minutes away from the grand-ducal palatial castle, mediaeval alleyways invite you to take a stroll. Several hundred historical buildings and cultural monuments, including many half-timbered houses as well as the market and the town hall, allow visitors to experience the town's history from its foundation in 1160 until today.

Schwerin's Historical Town

Take a stroll, do some shopping and dine like a royal with a view of the castle.

Right in the middle the mighty **Schwerin Cathedral** stretches up 117.5 metres into the sky, making it taller than all of the other churches between the Baltic Sea and the Mecklenburg Lake District. Two other large **brick churches tower** above the town.

The old part of the town is characterised by massive **official residence and government buildings** from the baroque and historicism periods. Elegant mansions bear testimony to an illustrious era. After all, large sections of the town centre were geared wholly to the representation and prestige of the grand dukes.

However, the old part of the town also acquires its particular flair from the **pedestrian areas** and squares as well as the **Pfaffenteich** – Schwerin's tranquil lake "Binnentalster". It is bordered by resplendent town houses, the promenade lined by limetrees and steps leading down the banks to the water. Behind many historical walls, exclusive boutiques, small galleries and many **independent stores** offer art and antiques in addition to fashion. Moreover, Schwerin is home to one of the largest shopping complexes in northern Germany with its large centres around the Marienplatz.

Coffee house culture and traditional, home-style dishes in many **restaurants** are typical of Schwerin. Almost every week, markets, festivals, processions and other **events** draw the visitors' attention to the different facets of the old part of the town.

Just a few minutes from the grand-ducal palatial castle, mediaeval alleyways invite you to take a stroll. Several hundred **historic buildings and cultural monuments**, including half-timbered houses as well as the market and the Town Hall, make the town's history come alive – from its foundation in 1160 until today.

The Lion Monument situated in the market square of the old part of the town was erected in memory of the town's founder Henry the Lion. Behind it stands the radiantly white pillared building. Here, a pastry shop serves delicious cakes and gateaux made according to traditional recipes. An additional eye-catcher in the market square is the Town Hall dating back to the 14th century. In 1835, it was given its current Tudor-style facade by senior government building officer Georg Adolph Demmler.

In the cathedral 220 steps lead to the visitors' platform, affording a stunning view of the town, the castle and the lakes. On their way up visitors pass five bells, the oldest of which originates from 1363. The interior boasts impressive objects of religious veneration such as the gothic altar of the Holy Cross, the bronze baptismal font dating from 1325 as well as the triumphal cross from 1420. Each year, organists from all over the world play on the magnificent Ladegast organ with its 5100 tin pipes.

The original Romanesque cathedral was donated by Henry the Lion. It was later converted into a Gothic cathedral. At 105 metres long and with an arch height of 26.5 metres, it is among the largest works of red brick Gothic. However, no tower was added in the Middle Ages. It was not erected until 700 years later and was completed in 1893.

The tombs of several dukes are also noteworthy, including the place of rest of Grand Duke Friedrich Franz II. as well as the epitaph for Duke Christoph von Mecklenburg and his consort Elisabeth von Schweden.

Two additional large **red brick churches rise up** above the town.

Like the cathedral, they are also closely linked to the ruling dynasty in Mecklenburg. The castle is not only within sight of both but also at eye level. The Grand Duke Friedrich Franz II. commissioned renovation work to be carried out on the Schelfkirche and the Neo-gothic Paulskirche was completely rebuilt.

The E-Werk, situated on the northern bank is particularly striking. This historical building with its Renaissance-style turrets and embellishments was once a state-of-the-art power generation plant. Today, it provides seats for some 100 theatre enthusiasts.

The Schlosspark-Center, the Marienplatz-Galerie and Schweriner Höfe bring together three department stores, some 164 shops and 39 gastronomic establishments.

Almost every week, markets, festivals, processions and other **events** draw the visitors' attention to the different facets of the old part of the town.

And the **castle** is always **within sight**.