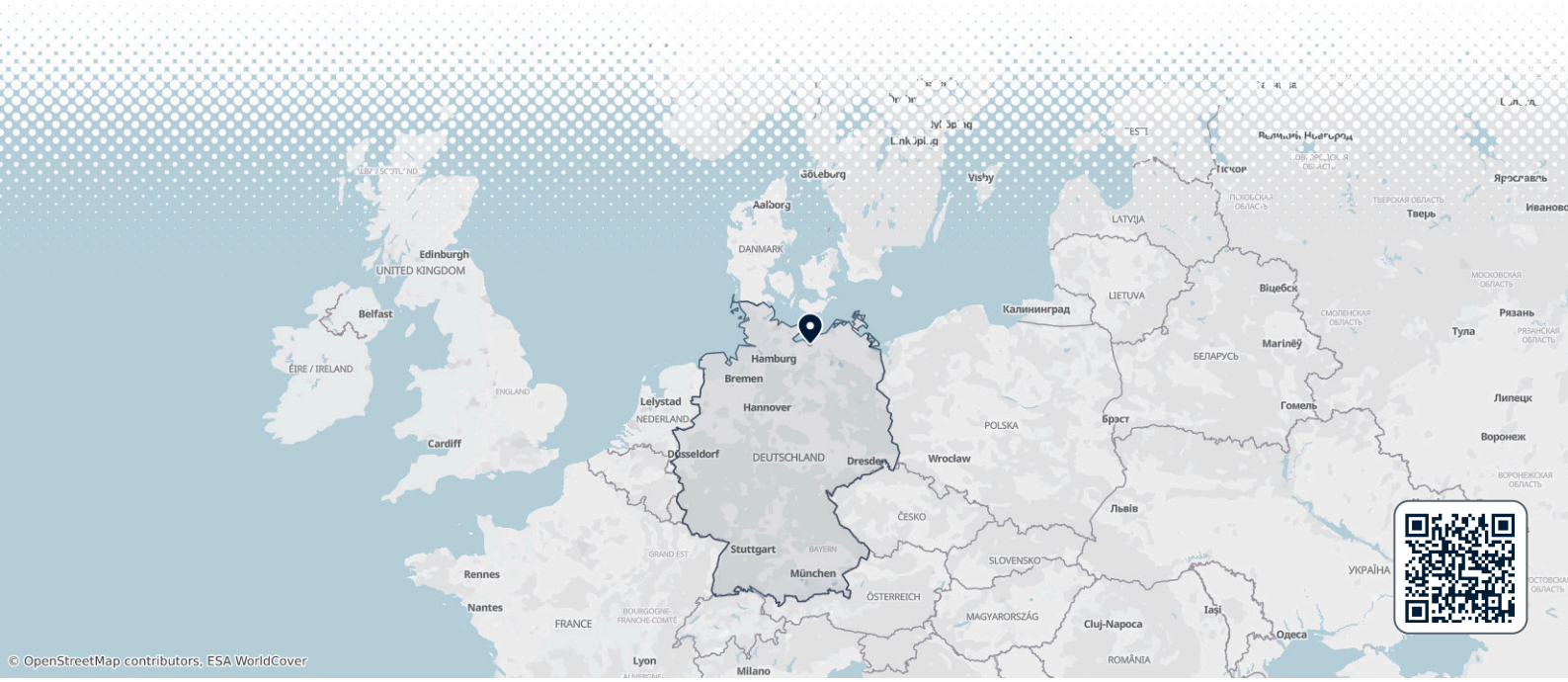


Wismar

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Wismar is a small Hanseatic port town on the Baltic coast of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Its old town is built of red brick and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The town suits a relaxed trip of one or two nights, on foot, with time by the harbour.

The logician and mathematician *Gottlob Frege* was born here in 1848. Wismar is also a good base for visiting Schwerin, Rostock and the Baltic coast.

When to visit

Summer is the warmest season and the best time for the harbour and boat trips. It is also the wettest, so bring a rain jacket. Spring and early autumn are cooler and quieter. Winters are cold with frost, and the wind from the bay makes it feel colder.

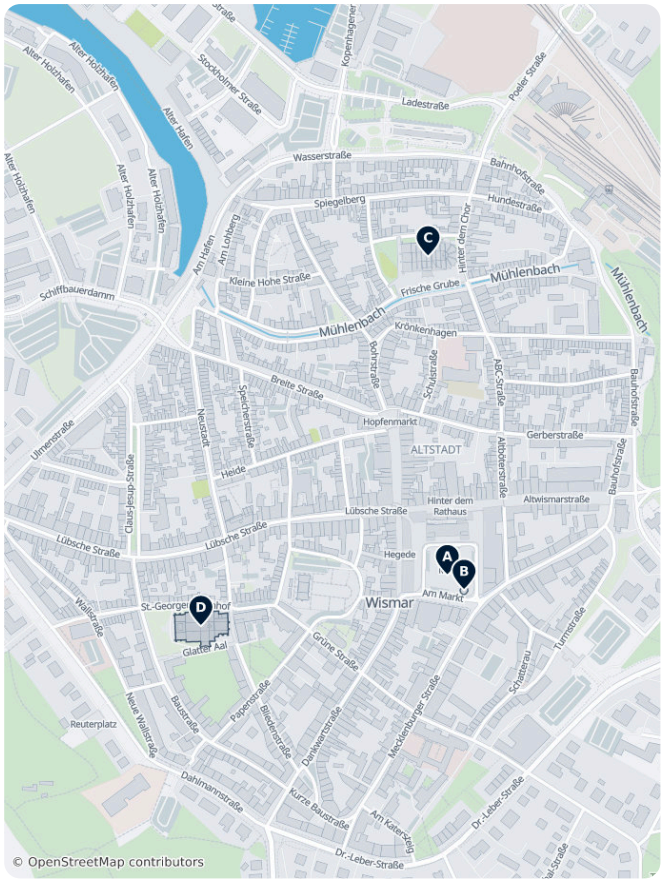
The Schwedenfest is held every year. It remembers the time of Swedish rule, with costumed soldiers and visitors.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 9° Feels like -4°	-1° / -9°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like -2°	-1° / -7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 13° Feels like 2°	1° / -4°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	12° / 18° Feels like 7°	4° / -1°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 22° Feels like 13°	8° / 4°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 26°	12° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 27°	14° / 11°	15 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 27°	14° / 11°	14 rainy days
September	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 24° Feels like 16°	11° / 8°	Dry air
October	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 18° Feels like 9°	8° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 13° Feels like 2°	4° / -2°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 9° Feels like -2°	0° / -7°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, August

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Historische Altstadt von Wismar is a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2002, listed together with Stralsund. The market square, the harbour and the brick churches form the core.
- B Wasserkunst stands on the market square. This fountain pavilion dates from 1602 and is a symbol of the town.
- C Sankt Nikolai is a large brick Gothic church built between 1381 and 1460. Its central nave is 37 m high.
- D St.-Georgen-Kirche is a red-brick Gothic church. It is one of the three big town churches.
- The Marienkirche tower is 80 m high and is a landmark of the town. The nave was demolished in 1960 and only the tower remains.
- The Fürstenhof is a ducal residence from the Italian Renaissance, built mainly in 1553-1555.
- The Wassertor is a gate of the old town wall. It appears in the silent film Nosferatu.
- The Alter Hafen is the old harbour.

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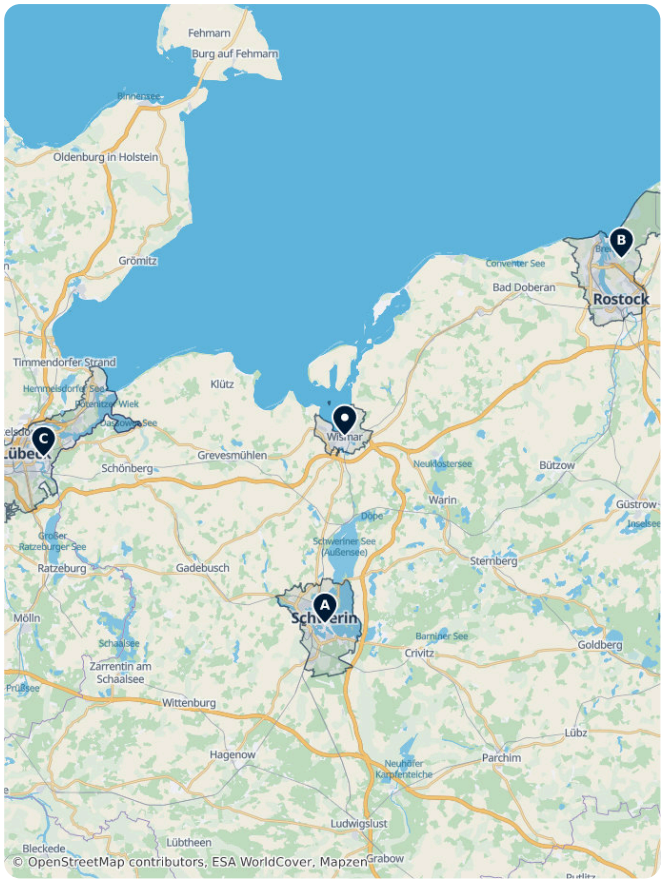
What to experience

- Take a boat trip from the old harbour into Wismar Bay.
- Climb to the observation deck of St.-Georgen-Kirche for a view over the old town and the harbour.
- Visit the Christmas events in the old town in winter.

Day trips

Several good towns can be reached by train.

- Bad Doberan has a large brick Gothic minster. It lies on the regional train line towards Rostock.
- A Schwerin is the state capital, with a palace on an island in the lake.
- B Rostock is a Hanseatic port city with a brick old town and a seaside district at Warnemünde.
- C Lübeck is a larger Hanseatic city with a UNESCO old town.
- Poel is an island in the bay opposite Wismar, with beaches and quiet villages.



Where to explore

Stralsund is the other town on the UNESCO listing. It lies farther east on the Baltic coast.

Getting there

- **By air**: Hamburg Airport is the usual gateway for international travellers.
- **By train**: Regional trains run to Schwerin, Bad Doberan and Rostock. Direct RE 8 trains connect Wismar with Schwerin and Berlin. Book tickets on Deutsche Bahn.
- By road: The A20 links Wismar with Rostock and Lübeck. The A14 leads to Schwerin.

Getting around

- The old town is small and flat. Most sights are within a short walk of the market square.
- The central bus station is next to the train station. Most city and regional bus lines meet there.
- Cycling is possible. The old streets are cobbled.
- Find visitor information on the city website: Wismar city website.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is small and flat, so most sights are a short walk apart.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling is possible, but the old streets are cobbled.

Food & drink

Fish is the local choice on this coast. Look for fish rolls and fresh fish dishes around the old harbour. The streets around the market square have most of the restaurants and cafés.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

The old town has cobbled and uneven streets, so wear sturdy shoes.

History

- Wismar joined the Hanseatic League in 1259. It signed a defence agreement with Lübeck and Rostock in the same year. The big brick churches come from this trading age.
- From 1648 Wismar was under Swedish rule. This lasted in practice until 1803. Sweden gave up its claims in 1903. The Schwedenfest remembers this time.
- In 1945 bombs damaged St.-Georgen-Kirche. Reconstruction was completed in 2010.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



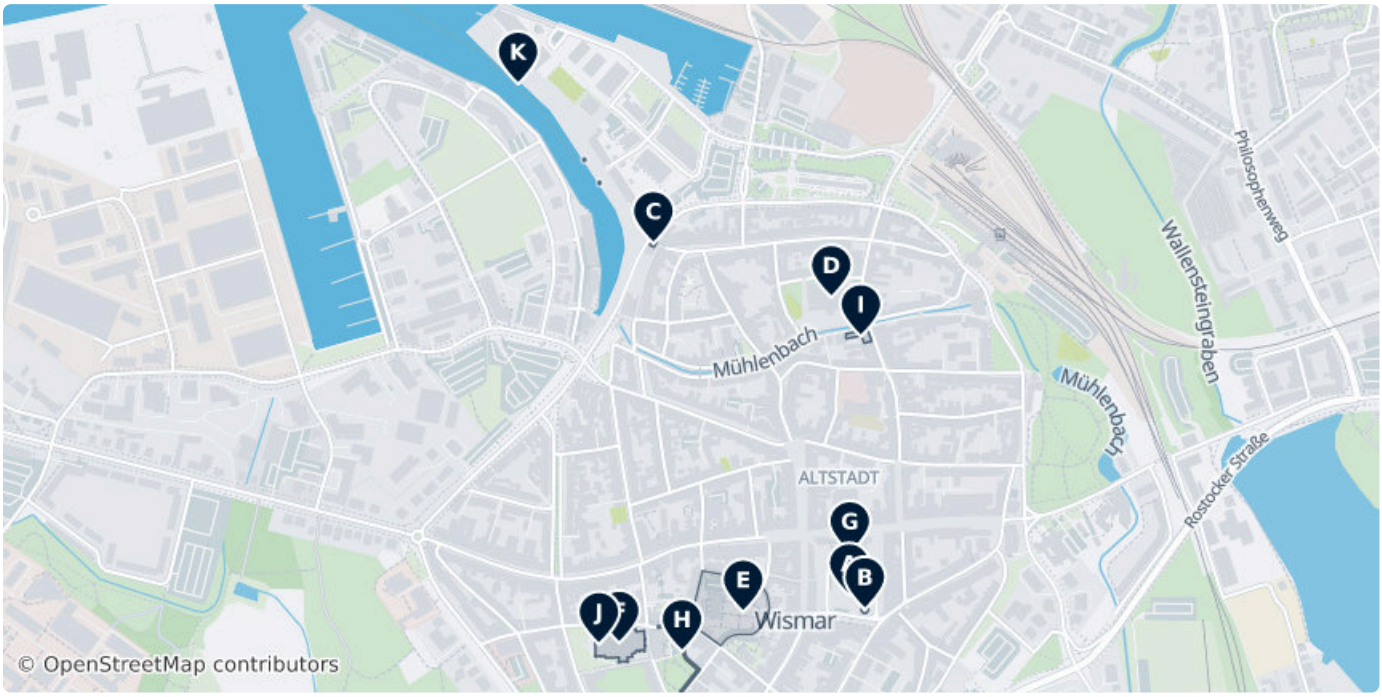
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Wismar Essentials

Wismar is a UNESCO World Heritage site defined by its Hanseatic history and monumental Brick Gothic architecture. This list covers the city's core heritage, from the sprawling Market Square featuring the Renaissance-style Wasserkunst fountain and Neoclassical Town Hall to the towering medieval churches of St. Nicholas and St. George. Visitors can explore the last remaining city gate at the harbor, the ornate Fürstenhof palace, and the maritime legacy preserved in the reconstruction of the medieval Poeler Kogge.





A Historische Altstadt von Wismar

Wismar, officially the Hanseatic City of Wismar is, with around 43,000 inhabitants, the sixth-largest city of the northeastern German state...

15 Am Markt, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89135, 11.46609)



B Wasserkunst

An elaborate Renaissance-style wrought-iron fountain and pavilion built between 1579 and 1602. Located on the central market square, it served as the city's main water supply until 1897.

17 Am Markt, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89116, 11.46647)



C Wassertor

Built in 1450, this is the last of Wismar's five original city gates. The late Gothic brick structure served as the primary entrance from the harbor into the fortified city.

68 Spiegelberg, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89636, 11.46136)



D Saint Nicolai

The Church St. Nicholas of Wismar was built from 1381 until 1487 as a church for sailors and fishermen. St.

14 Sankt-Nikolai-Kirchhof, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89559, 11.46566)



E Ruine der Marienkirche

The 80-meter-high tower is all that remains of this 14th-century Brick Gothic church, which was heavily damaged during World War II and subsequently demolished in 1960.

1 Sankt-Marien-Kirchhof, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89112, 11.46353)



F Georgenkirche (Wismar)

A massive 13th-century Brick Gothic church that was severely damaged in WWII and meticulously restored. It now serves as a cultural venue and exhibition space.

St.-Georgen-Kirchhof, 23966 Wismar, Germany
(53.89068, 11.46054)

Apr-Sep Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Oct-Mar Mo–Su	10:00–16:00

georgenkirche.de



G Rathaus

A Neoclassical town hall built between 1817 and 1819 following the collapse of the previous Gothic building. It features a grand white facade overlooking the market square.

Markt, 23966 Wismar, Germany (53.89195, 11.46611)



H Fürstenhof

A 16th-century Renaissance palace that served as the residence of the Mecklenburg dukes. It is noted for its ornate terracotta reliefs and Italian-inspired architectural details.

38 Bliedenstraße, Wismar 23966, Germany (53.89056, 11.46205)

wismar.de/Tourismus-Welterbe/Wismar-sehenswert/Back...



I Schabbellhaus

A Renaissance-style brewery and residence built for Mayor Hinrich Schabbell in the 1570s. It currently houses the Wismar City History Museum.

Schweinsbrücke 8, 23966 Wismar, DE (53.89504, 11.46637)

Tu–Su 11:00–17:00

wismar.de/Tourismus/Museum-Schabbell/



J Aussichtsplattform St.-Georgen-Kirche

An observation platform located 35 meters up the tower of St. George's Church, accessible by elevator, offering panoramic views of the Old Town and the Baltic harbor.

8 Sankt-Georgen-Kirchhof, Wismar 23966, Germany (53.89066, 11.46005)

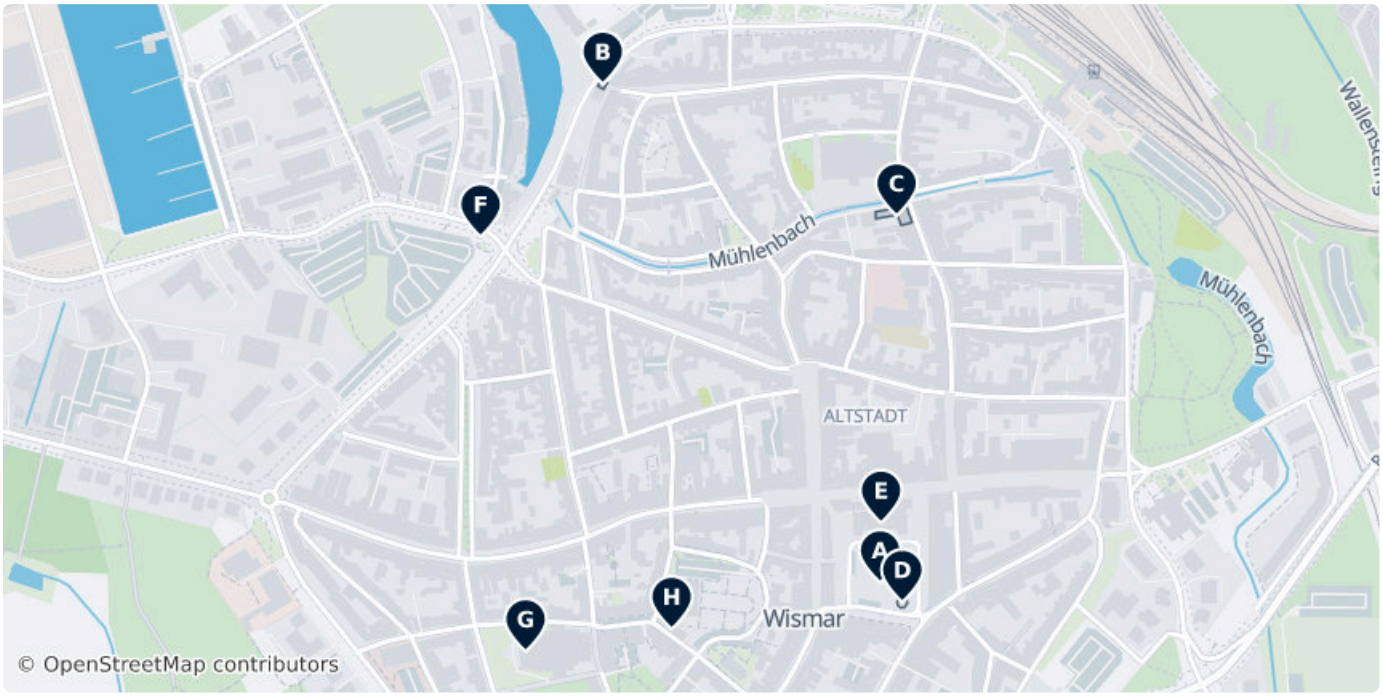
S.S. "Wissemara"

A faithful reconstruction of a 14th-century Hanseatic cog based on a shipwreck discovered near Poel Island. The vessel is docked in the harbor and offers traditional sailing excursions.

6 Alter Holzhafen, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89863, 11.45810)

Wismar Heritage Sites

Wismar's historic center preserves the architectural legacy of the Hanseatic League as a UNESCO World Heritage site. This collection highlights the city's Brick Gothic monuments, including the iconic Wassertor gate and the massive St. George's Church. The central market square features the Renaissance Wasserkunst and the Neoclassical Town Hall, while the Schabbellhaus offers insights into local history within a 16th-century brewery. These sites showcase Wismar's evolution from a medieval trading hub to a Swedish provincial capital.





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B Wassertor

The last of Wismar's five original city gates, this Brick Gothic structure was built in 1450. It served as the harbor entrance and features a distinctive stepped gable.

68 Spiegelberg, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89636, 11.46136)



C Schabbellhaus

A Renaissance-style building constructed between 1569 and 1571 for Mayor Hinrich Schabbell. It now houses the City History Museum, documenting Wismar's Hanseatic and Swedish periods.

Schweinsbrücke 8, 23966 Wismar, DE (53.89504, 11.46637)

Tu–Su 11:00–17:00

wismar.de/Tourismus/Museum-Schabbell/



D Wasserkunst

A Dutch Renaissance wrought-iron fountain completed in 1602. Located on the market square, it supplied the city with drinking water through a network of wooden pipes until 1897.

17 Am Markt, Wismar 23966, Germany (53.89116, 11.46647)



E Rathaus

A Neoclassical town hall built between 1817 and 1819 following the collapse of the previous Gothic building. Its basement houses an exhibition on medieval architectural history.

Markt, 23966 Wismar, Germany (53.89195, 11.46611)



F Fischerturm

A historical fortification structure related to the city's maritime defenses.

1 Schiffbauerdamm, Wismar 23966, Germany (53.89483, 11.45928)



G Aussichtsplattform St.-Georgen-Kirche

An observation platform located at a height of 35 meters within the tower of St. George's Church, providing panoramic views of the Old Town and the Baltic Sea.

8 Sankt-Georgen-Kirchhof, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89066, 11.46005)



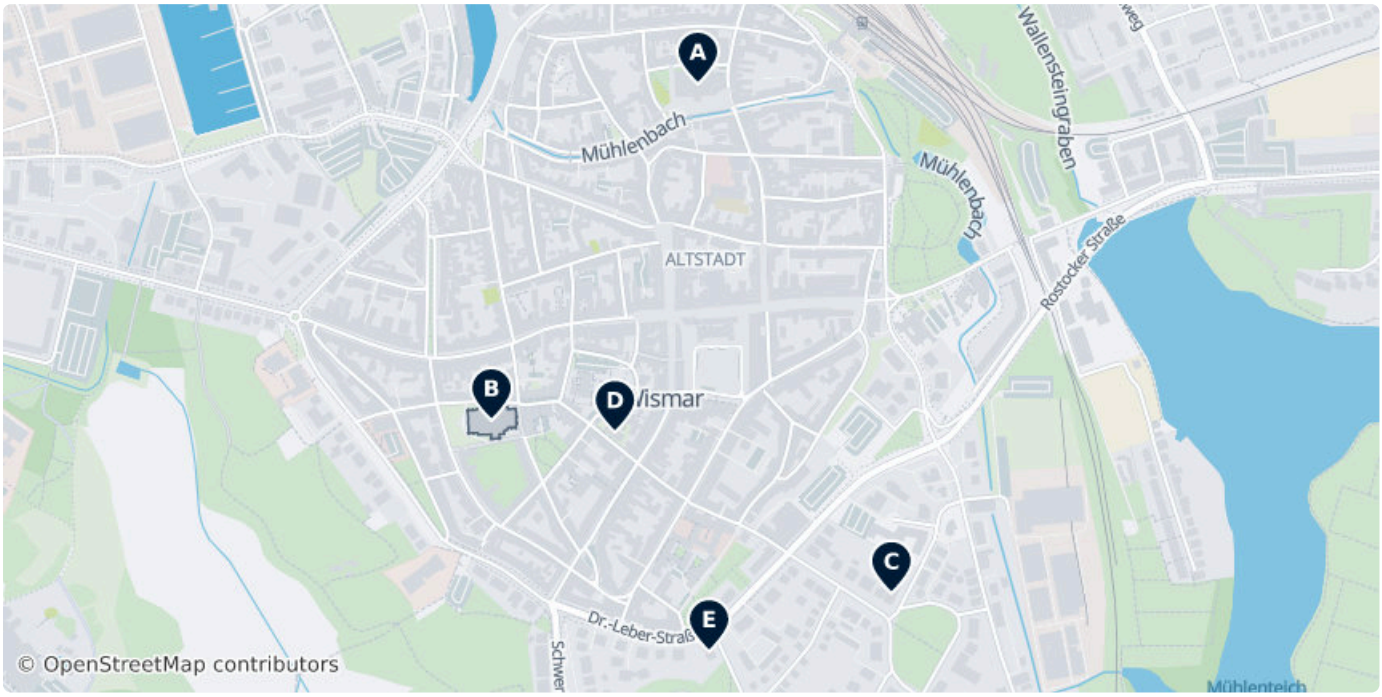
H Alte Schule

Foundations and remains of a 14th-century Gothic school building. Located in the Gothic Quarter, it was largely destroyed during air raids in 1945.

(53.89089, 11.46254)

Churches of Wismar

Wismar’s skyline is defined by its massive Brick Gothic churches, a testament to its Hanseatic wealth. This list features the soaring 14th-century St. Nicholas, built for seafaring residents, and the reconstructed St. George’s, known for its immense scale. Beyond the medieval giants, the collection includes the 20th-century Catholic St. Lawrence and the New Church, established on the site of the destroyed St. Mary’s nave. Together, these sites represent the city's architectural resilience and spiritual diversity within its UNESCO-protected historic center.





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14 Sankt-Nikolai-Kirchhof, Wismar 23966, Germany
(53.89559, 11.46566)



B Georgenkirche (Wismar)

One of Northern Europe's largest Brick Gothic structures, this massive 13th-century church was extensively reconstructed following heavy damage in World War II. It features a high hall choir and serves as a venue for cultural events and exhibitions.

St.-Georgen-Kirchhof, 23966 Wismar, Germany
(53.89068, 11.46054)

Apr-Sep Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Oct-Mar Mo–Su	10:00–16:00

georgenkirche.de



C Sankt Laurentius

A Roman Catholic parish church located south of the historic old town, serving the local Catholic community in a predominantly Lutheran region.

(53.88815, 11.47046)

katholische-kirche-wismar.de



D Neue Kirche

A heritage-listed emergency church built in 1951 using salvaged materials. It stands on the grounds of the former St. Mary's Church, whose nave was destroyed during World War II.

(53.89051, 11.46360)

E Neuapostolische Kirche Wismar

A modern place of worship for the New Apostolic congregation in Wismar, featuring contemporary architectural design and full wheelchair accessibility.

(53.88730, 11.46593)

wismar.nak-nordost.de

DATA SOURCES

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