A Hearty Welcome to the Hanseatic City of Stralsund

UNESCO ranked Stralsund and included the city and its environs in the world’s heritage. It is a city of extraordinary cultural richness. Lovingly restored patrician residences, imposing testimonies in stone of a great past - these are the brick monuments of gothic architecture, characteristics of the entire Baltic region. Next to Stralsund’s impressive domes and churches it is the town hall with its intricately modeled façade that typifies the highest art of medieval artisanship. The attractiveness of Stralsund is even more enhanced by a variety of artifacts, typical of the hanseatic era. The city’s unique location on the Strelasound with the island of Ruegen in plain view adds to the cultural ambiance an intriguing maritime touch. An idyllic port setting, yachts and sail boats and all kinds of smoked fish are integral part of each visitor’s program.

Friday, September 9th

Arrival arcona Hotel BALTIC, Stralsund

Only a few steps separate the hotel from the center and the port of the Hanseatic City of Stralsund. The 4-star hotel has a long tradition and is harmoniously integrated into the surrounding brick architecture of the UNESCO World Heritage city. Together with outstanding service and the outspoken traditional hanseatic hospitality, the generous appointment and layout of 128 rooms and five suites are guarantees for a comfortable stay. A restaurant acclaimed for the variety and quality of its offerings adds to the attractiveness.

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The Program

Friday, September 9th

4:30 – 6:30 pm Guided tour through the old city center

starting 7:30 pm Dinner at Fischermann’s Restaurant

Restaurant in the old grain silo in the port

Silo V was constructed in 1944 and included 18 compartments where grain was stored until 1986. The structure is protected by its declared status as a monument but was not in use for 15 years. After substantial remodeling Fischermann’s was opened in 1999. The 300 seat restaurant is located right on the water’s edge and includes a spacious glass-encased terrace in plain view of the harbor and its various activities. On display throughout the restaurant premises is a mix work by renowned artists.
Saturday, September 10th

9 - 10:45 am  Annual Meeting (venue: Loewenscher Saal, city hall)
11 - 11:30 am  Reception by the Lord-Mayor
11:45 am - 1 pm  Presentation “The Hanse – Trade, Culture and Politics”

*Dr. Karen Michels, Historian*

Stralsund’s City Hall ranks among the most outstanding monuments of north German Brick Gothic. Construction began in the early 13th century. Because of its special architectural features the city hall served not only as seat of the Council and jurisdiction but also accommodated various commercial activities. The “Loewenscher Saal” was originally a meeting place for the city’s upper class. Crests of the hanseatic cities of Wismar, Luebeck, Hamburg, Greifswald, Stralsund and Rostock above the windows pointing to the town square signify seatrade relations. Over the centuries the city hall underwent several modifications.

1 - 2:30 pm  Lunch on board the Windjammer „Gorch Fock“

Cadet training bark of the Reichsmarine – GORCH FOCK

After the sinking of the training bark Niobe in 1932 the Reichsmarine ordered the construction of the Gorch Fock. Built in a record time of 100 days at Hamburg’s shipyard Blohm+Voss the Gorch Fock was launched on May 3, 1933. At the outbreak of WWII the bark was decommissioned. At the end of the war a Wehrmacht commando sank the vessel in the Strelasound. On instruction of the Soviet military administration the Gorch Fock was lifted in 1947, followed by two years restoration work at Rostock and Wismar. From 1951 onwards the bark was sailing under her new name Towarich and her homeport was Kherson in the Ukraine. Following the demise of the Soviet Union the vessel came under Ukrainian flag in 1992. In 2003 Tall-Ship Friends e.V. acquired the bark and transported her in a special floating dock to Stralsund. Here she was rechristened as Gorch Fock after a substantial overhaul at the local Volkswerft.
3 - 4:30 pm  Guided tour through outstanding monuments of Baltic gothic brick architecture (town hall, St. Nikolai and cloister, St. Marien)

St. Marien of Stralsund is after Lueneburg’s Nicolai Church the youngest gothic basilica made of bricks in Northern Europe. It was constructed along the lines of Luebeck’s Marienkirche. Yet many details were adjusted to the architectural zeitgeist of the late Gothic era. Due to such adaptations the entire structure presents itself in an unusual clarity.

5 - 6 pm  Visit the Ozeaneum

**OZEANEUM – Diving into the northern seas**

The Ozeaneum, located on Stralsund’s harbor island, is an architectonically spectacular edifice. As such unique in Europe it lets the visitor experience the underwater world of the Baltic and North Seas, as well as the Atlantic Ocean. Large schools of fish, typical for these seas, such as the cod and the herring, can be watched through large screens in basins of several million liter capacity. Central to the Ozeaneum’s exhibitions are the exploration and utilization of the world’s seas.

6 - 7:15 pm  Free disposal

7:30 pm  Reception followed by Gala diner in the Deutsches Meeresmuseum

**Deutsches MEERESMUSEUM – Tropical Seas behind cloisterwalls**

The **MEERESMUSEUM** in Stralsund’s old town center is domiciled in the former Dominican cloister St. Katharinen. There are exhibitions related to various topics concerning maritime research, fisheries, as well as flora and fauna of the Baltic Sea. In 36 tropical aquariums a large variety of fish, turtles and other sea creatures can be seen.
Sunday, September 11th

9 AM  Board buses to visit the Island of Ruegen

Millions of years ago, during the cretaceous era, the sea covered all the east European lands. Microorganisms, corals, and seashells, sinking to the sea bottom, created over time gigantic chalk layers, which ultimately converted into chalky rock. During the ice age stresses in the underlying earth strata pushed the chalk upward. It is likely that Ruegen was part of the Swedish landmass until about 25,000 years ago. Only after the last glaciers had molten and the Baltic Sea had risen by 25 meters, the lower lying parts became inundated. It can be assumed that the remaining land above water level and later sedimentations combined to form the island. As the climate grew warmer vegetation started to grow and soon there were large varieties of shrubs and trees. Caribou and elk established large populations. Traces of humans on Ruegen go back about 7,000 years. Ruegen is the largest and most beautiful island of Germany. One finds all forms of topography on the island. The area comprises about 973 square kilometers; the coastline is 573 kilometers long. The name “Ruegen” means “torn land”. Bays and inlets dissect the land into peninsulas called Wittow, Jasmund, Mönchgut and Zudar.

10 - 11:30 AM  Guided tour through Putbus

Residency PUTBUS

In 1810 Prince Wilhelm Malte founded Putbus as youngest residency of the North with an Italian flair. In 1997 Putbus was confirmed as officially recognized spa. Putbus is also called “the White City” or “the City of Roses”. As ordered by Prince Malte, current-day city administrators see to it that the classicist character of Putbus and the brilliantly white houses as well as the rose vegetation are meticulously kept as they were when the city was inaugurated. In 1816 the first seawater spa on Ruegen was established in Putbus. Because of its fast growing popularity Prince Malte hat a second spa, the Friedrich-Wilhelmsbad, built in classicist style.
Binz started to develop from 1830 onwards as first relative simple seaside resort on land where a village of fishermen and their families had been recorded for the first time in 1318 under the name Byntze. In 1880 the first hotel on the beach was constructed. From that time onward and more vacationers discovered the picturesque nature and white sandy beaches. The magnificent houses in the sea resort style, typical of the Baltic shores, have become synonymous for Binz. Today, Biz is the largest resort on Ruegen.

1 - 3 PM Lunch at Kurhaus Binz

Kurhaus Binz

This hotel has an impressive history. During the “golden 20s” it was this venue where nobility, and members of the financial and cultural circles met. The refurbished Kurhaus maintains this tradition. Today, each guest is welcomed and treated like a king with perfect service and in a sovereign manner. The Kurhaus Binz is an ideal starting point for discovering Germany’s largest and most varied island.

3:30 - 5 PM Visit Prora and Flintstone fields in the North of the Schmalen Heather

The „Hitler Holiday Castle“ Prora is a monster. It is a contraption of reinforced concrete, 4.5 kilometers long and 6 floors high on the eastern shore of Ruegen. It was built in the 1930s to plans by the architect Clemens Klotz on behalf of the Nazi travel organization “Kraft durch Freude“. The idea had been that 20,000 workers and their families could spend their vacation here at the same. But the project was never entirely completed. Today the “Colossus of Ruegen” houses several museums and exhibitions.

5:30 - 6:30 PM Visit and short walk through the medieval town of Bergen in the center of Ruegen

7:30 PM Return to arcona Hotel BALTIC

ANNEX: Location of Stralsund and Ruegen
Location of Stralsund and Rügen