Welcome to Greifswald
The market square is the heart of Greifswald’s historic Old Town. Just like in past days, the town’s ‘front room’ is still the meeting place for chatting, gossip and shopping. The most beautiful façades on the market square more than certainly belong to the Town Hall and the two brick Gothic gabled houses Markt 11 and Markt 13. Being old merchants’ houses, they remind us of the previous wealth of the Hanseatic traders and, together with seven further buildings, belong to the European Route of Brick Gothic. On a walk through the streets of the Old Town, visitors can discover the witnesses of the medieval past. Built in the middle of the 13th Century, the spires of the three churches, St. Nikolai, St. Marien and St. Jacobi can be seen from far afield. The Old Town is surrounded by the remnants of the town wall. Built back then to protect the town from attacks, the former ramparts are today the perfect venue for drawn-out walks.

Lovingly known by Greifswald’s citizens as ‘long Nicholas’, ‘fat Marie’ and ‘little Jacob’, the three redbrick churches shape the face of the historic Old town. As the church in which Caspar David Friedrich was baptised, and the place in which the University was founded, the cathedral St. Nikolai annually attracts numerous visitors to Greifswald. But only a few of them know about the secret cathedral library with its collections of books that once belonged to the Franciscan and Dominican monks and date back several hundred years. The St. Marien Church also has one or two secrets. Have you seen the whale yet?

The Centre-Piece

Book your guided tour of the Old Town here: +49 3834 8536 1380

Nicholas, Marie & Jacob
Greifswald is a romantic town – not just because of its picturesque Old Town and its position next to the sea, but also because Caspar David Friedrich was born here in 1774. As one of the most influential romantic painters, his paintings hang in the world’s foremost museums. Several of his motives, such as the Museum Harbour and the Abbey Ruins in Eldena can still be found today in Greifswald.

Caspar David Friedrich
Seit 1774. In Greifswald.

Tracing Romanticism

Caspar David Friedrich Path
A circular route through the town leads you in the footsteps of the celebrated painter to some of the most important stations in his life and work, including the church he was baptised in, St. Nikolai, the house he was born in and the motives for his inspiration. The Abbey Ruins in Eldena in particular are vitally important to the town’s history and a recurring motif within the works of Friedrich.

> www.caspar-david-friedrich-greifswald.de

Picture Gallery
Friedrich’s originals hang in the picture gallery of the Pomeranian State Museum, which was built according to plans from Johann Gottfried Quistorp, Friedrich’s drawing teacher. Apart from Friedrich’s paintings, the former Franciscan monastery also houses the works of other romanticists such as Runge, Dahl and Carus and the largest collection of Danish paintings in a German museum.

> www.pommersches-landesmuseum.de

Caspar David Friedrich Centre
The house in which Friedrich was born is today a museum – the Caspar David Friedrich Centre. Here, the origin, makings and methods of the painters are brought to life. The father’s old soap works in the vaults, the family cabinet with the family tree and the Rügen and Eldena room with famous motives from Friedrich’s works can all be viewed.

> www.caspar-david-friedrich-gesellschaft.de

Romantic town festival
Visitors can experience a day with Caspar David Friedrich every year, on the last Saturday of August. The historic town festival in honour of the town’s influential son attracts visitors with arts and cultural highlights themed on the romantic era. Nostalgic fair, old crafts, romantic music and readings invite those present to discover the painter.

> www.greifswald.info
Maritime heritage

The maritime heritage of the Hanseatic era proudly presents itself in Germany’s biggest museum harbour. More than 50 historic ships bear witness to the prosperous age of Hanseatic maritime trade – and it’s only a stone’s throw away from the market square with its merchants’ houses. Some of the old ships still loosen their moorings and take passengers on board for sailing trips, others have been converted into restaurant boats. The Hanseatic town’s flagship is the training ship Greif. The brigantine regularly sets sail for trips lasting one or more days from April to October.

Hull, Keel & Strakes

The Museum Shipyard is situated on the north bank of the river Ryck. Several shipyards for wooden boats could be found here up until the 19th Century. Today, the old wharf buildings are a popular meeting place for passionate boat builders and interested guests. In the summer months, the grounds of the shipyard are transformed into a unique open-air cinema. The ‘Cinema on Sails’ uses the sails of the old tall ships as a screen and attracts spectators to enjoy an open-air movie experience. Next to the shipyard you will find the production buildings of the world’s third largest yacht manufacturer. Feel free to take a stroll between the historic tall ships and the streamlined yachts.

Book your sailing trip here:
+49 (0)3834 8536 13 80
International University Life

Ever since the University was founded, it has been a magnet for scholars and students from all over the Baltic Sea Region. Today, the University’s international network has spread to all four corners of the world. Several international research projects, more than 120 University partnerships and a number of cooperation agreements at faculty and institute level have contributed to the excellent international reputation for decades.

» international.office@uni-greifswald.de

Research and Conference Venue

The University’s history and the geographical location in the Baltic Sea Region are still relevant for the teaching and research of today, but the areas of focus have expanded. The fields of health and prevention, environment and climate, energy and raw materials, and the chances and risks of globalisation are at the centre of academic interest. The new Audimax on the university’s newest campus offers space for up to 560 participants, providing a location for international conferences at the highest of levels.

» unifuehrungen@uni-greifswald.de

Cultural Heritage

With more than 10,000 students, the University plays an important role in the cultural diversity of the Hanseatic town. In particular, several music festivals are organised by enthusiastic students and members of the University. These include the Nordischer Klang, the biggest Nordic culture festival outside of Northern Europe; the Bach Week, the oldest music festival in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; and the Polenmarkt, as a festival of Polish culture.

Historical Places & Buildings

The University’s main building is among the town centre’s most beautiful buildings and boasts the magnificent baroque Aula, which is still used for concerts and academic ceremonies. The historical Karzer, or student detention cell, has also been preserved as a rare witness of academic jurisdiction. The Kustodie (University Collections) offers weekday tours through the University’s historical rooms and buildings, all year round (registration required).

» unifuehrungen@uni-greifswald.de

Experience Knowledge and Culture

The University of Greifswald

The Draw of Knowledge. Since 1456.

Greifswald’s citizens like to describe their town as “a university surrounded by a town”. Founded in 1456 on the initiative of the mayor of the time, Heinrich Rubenow, the University has shaped the face of the town ever since.
A Quaint Port of Call

The beautiful fishing village of Wieck is located 5 kilometres away from the town centre of Greifswald. The village is one of the oldest fishing villages on the north German Baltic Sea coast and has retained its maritime charm to this day. As soon as you enter the village, you will feel that the clocks seem to tick a bit slower here. Thatched fishermen’s houses line the village roads, delightful fishing boats rock in the harbour basin and quaint fish restaurants adorn the harbour promenade. Needlefish are among the regional specialities. From April to May the unusual fish with the green scales come to the Bay of Greifswald to spawn.

Wieck’s trademark is the wooden bascule bridge that was built in 1887, based on Dutch design. It joins the two districts of Wieck and Eldena with each other and regulates boat access into Greifswald’s Museum Harbour. Still today, the leaves of the historic bridge are drawn by hand several times a day. If you then look towards the mouth of the river, Greifswald’s modern flood barrier will come into view. The storm tide barrier received the German Engineers’ Construction Prize and was opened in 2016.

Festival Gaffelrigg

There’s a buzz of activity in the fishing village Wieck at the Fishing Festival Gaffelrigg in mid-July, when several tall ships and thousands of visitors meet up in the harbour. The maritime festival culminates when the Ryck is set on fire.

» www.greifswald.info

A Bridge Between Then and Now

Fishing Village of Wieck

Wieck’s fishermen maintain the long fishing traditions in Wieck and deliver fresh fish from the Baltic Sea to the local restaurants.
Set Sail!

The Greifswalder Bodden is a bay of the southern Baltic Sea and is surrounded by the islands of Usedom, Rügen and the Pomeranian mainland. The University and Hanseatic town of Greifswald is located to the south of the Bodden. Here, it is joined by the Ryck that leads on to the historic Old town and the Museum Harbour. With the Baltic Sea on the doorstep, several sailing clubs, boat manufacturers, sailmakers, and other maritime trades have set up business in Greifswald. Modern yacht manufacturers and traditional shipbuilders share the shores around the Museum Harbour. Berths for visiting boats are available right next to the Bodden in Greifswald–Wieck or in the Marina Yachtzentrum, not far from the historic Old town. The marina has more than 250 berths with very modern docking and sanitary facilities. Sailors, who are not coming with their own boat, can charter yachts in Greifswald. Anyone who would like to taste the sailing atmosphere of yonder year can book a voyage aboard one of the tall ships moored in the Museum Harbour. Sailing enthusiasts meet up on an annual basis at the Boddenetappen in Greifswald. The three-day sailing regatta has been held in Greifswald since 1970.

Surf & Turf

The Bodden landscape off the coast of Greifswald is a popular spot for water sports. The water here warms up faster than elsewhere and the water, which is mainly shallow enough to stand in, is perfect for surfers and sailors of all levels. Particularly in the summer months, active wind and kitesurfers can be seen enjoying the ride on the Greifswalder Bodden. The first point of contact for sailing and surf courses is Greifswald–Wieck’s sailing school. With own access to the beach and the shallow waters on the doorstep, this is a perfect location in particular for newcomers to the windsurfing scene. Sailing and surf equipment can be hired.

An Idyllic Sailing and Windsurfing Spot

The Greifswalder Bodden
(Bay of Greifswald)

The school ship Greif is the flagship of the Hanseatic town of Greifswald. The brigantine was built in 1951 and was used as a training ship for the Navy. During the summer months, it hoists the anchor for day trips and voyages that last several days. www.sssgreif.de

Sailing on the Greifswalder Bodden

Marina Yachtzentrum

Kitesurfing on the bay

www.sssgreif.de
We are looking forward to your visit!

CONTACT

Tourist Office
Greifswald-Information
Rathaus am Markt
17489 Greifswald

Tel: +49 3834 85361380
email: stadtinformation@greifswald-marketing.de
www.greifswald.info