



17 Queen Margarete of Denmark



19 The Octagon



20 Albrecht III, King of Sweden



21 Duke Magnus II von Mecklenburg

Opening times of the Minster

May to September

Monday-Saturday 09:00-18:00

Sundays / public holidays 11:00-18:00

March, April, October

Monday-Saturday 10:00-17:00

Sundays / public holidays 11:00-17:00

November to February

Monday-Saturday 10:00-16:00

Sunday / public holidays 11:00-16:00

The Minster is not open on Good Friday and Christmas Eve. Opening hours may be subject to change depending on church activities.

Entrance fee

since 1902 as a contribution to opening and maintaining the Minster (about 300.000 € / year)

	Entrance fee (without guided tour)	Guided tours (incl. Entrance fee)	Special Guided Tours (incl. Entrance fee)
Adults	3,00 €	4,00 €	5,00 €
Groups *	2,50 €	3,50 €	4,50 €
reduced *	2,00 €	3,00 €	4,00 €
Pupils (6-18 J.)	0,00 €	1,00 €	1,50 €
Families	6,00 €	8,00 €	10,00 €

* disabled people, students and for groups of 20 or more

Guided tours in English

For guided tours please contact us ahead of time to arrange an appointment, preferably

Fax: +49 (0) 38203 - 625 28, or

Email: verwaltung@muenster-doberan.de

Tel.: +49 (0) 38203 - 779 590

Guided tours in German

are given several times a day. During our guided tours - duration approximately 50-60 minutes - you will hear about the history of the former Cistercian abbey and the amazingly valuable original furnishings in the Minster. Among other things, you will be shown the main altar (1300), cross altar (1360), chalice cabinet (1310), candelabra of Mary (1280), choir stalls (mostly 14th century) and burial places of Dukes of Mecklenburg (13th-20th century).



24 Epitaph of the Dukes



Limestone consoles



Roof (about 1290)



Bell from 1301

Tour times in German

Mai - Oktober:

11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00 (daily)

November - April

11:00, 13:00 (daily)

Themes for Special Guided Tours

Inside tour of the Minster and outside tour of the abbey grounds introducing the Minster and its internationally significant furnishings followed by a tour through the abbey grounds and charnal house. Tour of the bell, tower and vaulted ceilings with a view of the Baltic Sea:

Rare opportunity to explore a medieval vaulted ceiling 30 m above ground, roof framework, winch and the Minster bell dated from 1301. Access over a spiral staircase of 70 and 50 steps. Max. 30 people / tour.

Sunday services

Church services are held every Sunday at 9:30 in German.

Concerts

Starting in June through September recitals are held every Friday at 19:30.

Among other things you will experience organ recitals, choir and brass band concerts. This is a unique opportunity to enjoy the fantastic acoustics in the 700 year old Minster, a place steeped in century old music traditions. Details and additional dates are on our website at: www.muenster-doberan.de

After each concert on Friday a public bus goes to Heiligendamm, Kühlungsborn, Bastorf and Rerik.

We recommend: a trip to Bad Doberan with the Mölli-train departing Kühlungsborn west at 17:35 or 18:03 from Heiligendamm.



8 Jesus carries his cross



6 Cross Altar (1360/70)
The birth of Christ



17 Last Supper - Detail



8 Cross Altar (1360/70)
Jesus crucified

Reconstruction and restoration

The former abbey church has been, for centuries, a sign of faith and hope as well as a meeting place. It is also a sign of human creativity and genius at its best. The building, the furnishings and its upkeep have been community tasks for generations.

Despite the ongoing restoration work on this building, which is of national importance as well as an international art treasure, it shows the scars of time. The Evangelical-Lutheran community of Bad Doberan is unable to cover the cost for the upkeep and restoration of the Minster.

It takes about € 300,000 annually to maintain and continue the restoration of the most valuable pieces. Subsidies from state or local government have to be matched by funds of our own. We are grateful for any help and donations!

There are several ways to help support the upkeep and restoration of the Minster:

1.) Putting cash donations into the donation box in the Minster. 2.) Transferring donations directly to the account for donations.

Ev.-luth. Kirchengemeinde, Ev. Kreditgenossenschaft eG, IBAN: DE38 5206 0410 0505 3501 15, BIC: GENODEF1EKL

Every donation helps! Thank you very much!

Minster Restoration Society

It is the goal of the Minster Building Society to address these problems. To achieve it's goal, the Minster Building Society hopes to win many new "Friends of the Minster", from both near and far, who want to help to restore and maintain the Minster. You too can help either through active participation or financial support.

Our Minster needs many friends! Please join the Minster Building Society!

Members have free access to the Minster and enjoy various other benefits such as reduced fees for guided tours, beneficial concerts and are kept up-to-date concerning the latest developments of the ongoing restoration process.

Membership fee per year:

Adults: 20 Euro, Students 10 Euro, Pupils 5 Euro, Families 30 Euro, Companies 50 Euro

Contact: Münsterbauverein e.V.
Klosterstraße 2, D-18209 Bad Doberan
Tel: +49 038203-779 590 Fax: +49 038203-62528



Tower of the Minster



Ossuary (about 1250)



Central pillar in the northern transept

Location and connections

- situated along the European Route of Gothic brick architecture in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, in the northeast of Germany
- set in a spacious abbey park close to the city center of Bad Doberan
- parking space for busses and cars directly in front of the Minster
- Highway A 20 Lübeck-Wismar-Bad Doberan-Rostock-Szczecin (Stettin) - exit Bad Doberan
- Federal road B 105 Rostock (15 km) - Bad Doberan-Wismar (40 km)
- please follow the road signs "Münster" in Bad Doberan
- coastal road to Warnemünde and Kühlungsborn
- 6 km to the oldest seaside resort in Germany - Heiligendamm
- enjoy a ride with the narrow gauge steam train "Mölli" from Kühlungsborn and Heiligendamm to Bad Doberan and back (summertime hourly)
- railway connection between Rostock, Bad Doberan and Wismar (daytime hourly)

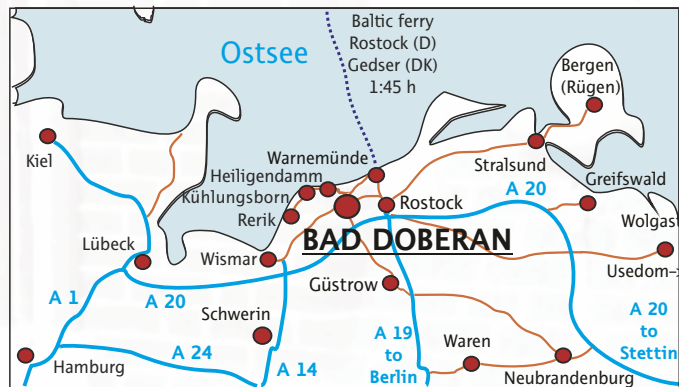
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European Route of Brick gothic e.V.
Georgenstraße 21, 10117 Berlin, www.eurob.org

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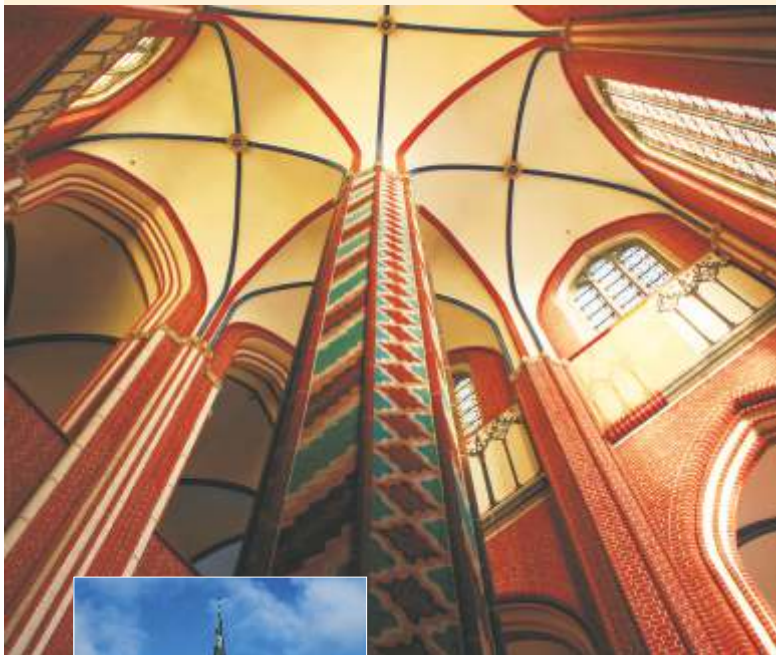


European Route
of Brick Gothic



www.muenster-doberan.de

MINSTER BAD DOBERAN



13th century Cistercian
abbey-church with rich
medieval furnishings of
international acclaim

The Minster of Bad Doberan

Along the “European route of Gothic brick architecture” in northeastern Germany, close to the old Hanse city of Rostock, is the Minster of Bad Doberan, the Ex-Cistercian abbey-church dedicated in 1368.

The first abbey in Mecklenburg, founded in 1171, which was also used as the burial site for the regional rulers, became important both politically and historically. Through the activities of its inhabitants, the abbey greatly contributed to the cultural and economic development of Mecklenburg and became the centre of Christianity in this region.

Of special importance are architecture and furnishings in the Minster. The interior was mostly spared the turmoils and ravages of war. No other Cistercian abbey in Europe can lay claim to such a large amount of original interior still intact. Among the treasures are the main altar which is the oldest wing-altar in art history, the monumental cross altar and the sculpted tomb of Danish Queen Margarete Sambiria.

Even after the reformation and the dissolution of the abbey in 1552, the church continued to serve as the main burial place for the ruling Mecklenburg nobility as well as the place of worship for the Evangelical-Lutheran congregation.

Historical overview

- 1171 Founding of the Cistercian abbey in Althof near Doberan
- 1179 Destruction of the abbey during a regional war
- 1186 Reopening of the abbey on the present site
- 1232 Completion of the Romanesque basilica
- 1280 Starting the construction of the Gothic Minster
- 1296 Building construction of the Minster with the roof is finished
- 1368 Consecration of the Gothic Minster
- 1478 Abbey is portrayed as rich and happy
- 1552 Dissolution of the abbey through the reformation - no destruction of artefacts
- 1564 Magister Kruse becomes first evangelical pastor in Doberan
- 1637 Extensive looting during the 30 Year War
- 1638 Major work done on roof and furnishings
- 1648 Removal of several abbey buildings begins
- 1793 Doberan becomes the summer residence of the dukes
- 1900 End of neo-Gothic restoration of the Minster
- 1945 Minster survives war and looting
- 1984 End of general restoration. The Minster was considered the third most valuable national historic treasure during the former GDR.
- 2002 Start of overall restoration (2011 e.g. High altar and roof)
- 2015 Sunday services, guided tours and concerts are visited by approximately 170,000 visitors annually.
- 2016 Restoration of the Tabernacle and Tomb of Lord Samuel von Behr



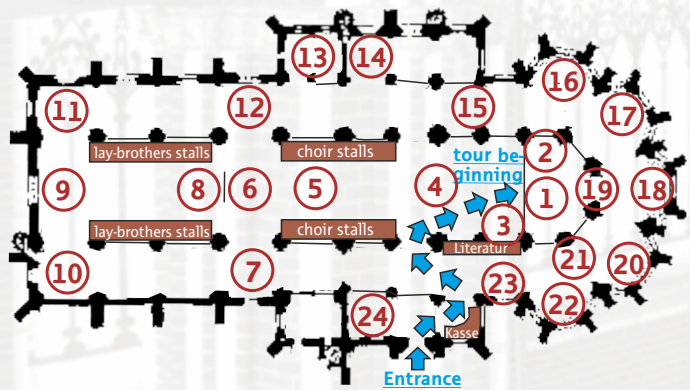
1 High altar



2 Chalice cupboard



3 Levite pews



Architecture

The Doberan Minster is a unique symbiosis of a high gothic cathedral building, based upon French cathedral style and elements of other Hanseatic churches as well as influence by the building code of the Cistercians.

During trips to France, the monks of Doberan were inspired by the gothic churches there. They returned with new ideas and implemented them here. Also in the surrounding Hanseatic cities, churches were built in gothic style.

The regional dukes influenced construction even further. The Doberan Minster became the most important burial site for the Dukes of Mecklenburg who donated money for its continuing development. With no real stone or sandstone available, brick was used as building material. To produce bricks they mixed sand, clay and water and filled wooden forms which then dried and were baked in field ovens.

The cement of limestone for the brick joints was free of gypsum to prevent expansion and erosion thus guaranteeing a long life span.

Interesting facts about the building

- basilica with triple nave and five Choir chapels
- nine sections long, length 79 m, width 39 m
- height of the central nave 26.5 m
- height of church tower 72 m
- five metre deep foundations made of rocks cemented together with Roman style cement which was made of lime(stone) heated to 160 degrees Celsius
- exterior style according to Cistercian rules of simplicity but gables with rose shaped decorations



4 Ornamental candle holder



5 Rows of choir stalls



6 Double sided cross altar



7 Pieces of medieval glass (about 1300)

Tour of the Minster

When sightseeing alone or as part of guided tours please observe the following rules: Taking pictures with flash is strictly prohibited. It destroys precious paintings. Please don't lean against the walls as it destroys the paint and rubs off on your clothing.

Tours through the Minster are best started in the choir at the **main altar** (no. 1).

1. The main altar was created around 1300 as an enclosed altar by unknown artists. It is not only the oldest wing altar in Germany, but also the oldest in art history. The upper and middle sections date back to that time. The upper row depicts stories from the New Testament which match the depictions of the Old Testament in the middle row. The New Testament is represented on the left wing depicting the joy of Mary and on the right wing the suffering of Mary.

2. The Tabernacle was built between 1350 - 1360 in the form of an enormous Gothic style monstrance, probably by the same carver who made the lower row of the main altar. The 11.60 metre high carving is made of oak and is the oldest tabernacle of its kind in Germany.

The **chalice cupboard**, to the left of the tabernacle, is an exceptionally unique showpiece, created around 1300. There was room inside for 20 sets of utensils for celebrating mass (chalices, plates, jugs, spoons).

3. Credenza (around 1300), carved from oak wood

4. Eagle lectern (19th century), made of copper, restored in 2002; **Candle holder** showing the statue of Mother Mary (around 1280)

5. Rows of choir stalls (1310-1370), preserved in excellent condition; **Pulpit** 1868 by Tobias Weiß from Munich;

6. The double sided cross altar and the Lettnerwand divided the monks choir pews in the eastern part from the lay brothers' seating in the western part. The altar was probably created under the supervision of a Bohemian or south German master builder, with the help of north German master Bertram von Minden. The time of creation is dated 1360 - 1370. It is the most monumental of its kind in Europe. For the dedication of the church in 1368 the greater part of it was probably finished.

7. Valuable pieces of medieval glass (1300), joined together in 19th century.



8 Double sided cross altar



8 Cross altar - Samson



8 Baptismal font



10 Face of the astronomical clock

8. Monumental double sided cross altar (1360-1370). The cross is shown as the tree of life - true to the words of Christ: "I am the vine and you are the branches" (John 15:5). The portrayal of Christ as the life-giving and triumphant tree, conquering Satan, is one of the most important symbols of medieval Christianity. The cross, which brought death, is not seen as an instrument of torture but through the resurrection of Christ it came to be understood as a symbol of eternal life. Certain figures or stories from the Old Testament influenced scenes, persons or statements in the New Testament.

Pews of the lay brothers (around 1280). **Romanesque baptismal font** from the 13th century.

9. Western window and pews oft the Dukes (19th century).

10. Above the western entrance is the **face of the astronomical clock**, which was destroyed during the 30 year war in 1637. It was built in 1390 by Nicolaus Lilienfeld according to the belief of a geocentric universe.

11. Granite sarcophagus of Friedrich Franz I. (died 1837). He was the first Great Duke of Mecklenburg and founded the first seaside health spa in 1793 in Heiligendamm. He chose Doberan as summer residence and thus brought growing fame to Doberan.

A few steps further on, in the side aisle, **medieval tombstones** of abbots have been arranged as a new display in 2004 and 2005.

12. This **window** (1300) was restored from 1978-1980 and in the year 2000. The abbey started operating two glassworks in the 13th century. During the glass making process various pigments from natural resources, for example earths, salts or metal-oxides were added to the colourless heated glass to achieve unique colour schemes.

Beneath the windows are stone tablets commemorating the victims of war and violence. The church community added the two outermost plates in 1985, 40 years after the ending of World War II. They name some places of murder and cruelty and admonish us to keep peace and justice.

13. The von **Bülöw Chapel** with interior frescos painted in 1873.

14. The **Chapel of Pribislav** was the burial place and chapel of the House von Mecklenburg since 1302. It was named after Duke Pribislav, founder of the abbey, who died in 1178 in Lüneburg. His remains were transferred to Doberan in 1219.



11 Abbot tomb stone



13 Organ built in 1980



14 Duke's coat of arms



15 „Mill Altar“ (1420)

15.„Mill Altar“ (around 1420), one of the first of its kind. **Scaled model** of the former Abbey.

16. Tomb of Lord Samuel von Behr (died 1621), chancellor and minister.

17. The late-Romanesque, early-Gothic figure of **Queen Margarete of Denmark** (died 1282) carved from oak, is supposed to be the oldest tomb sculpture in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the oldest female sculpture of all Cistercian abbeys in Europe.

Corpus Christi Altar with The Last Supper (1330); **Altar of the crucifixion of Christ** (1340), restored in 2003/04.

18. Tomb and crypt of Duke Adolf Friedrich I of Mecklenburg (died 1658).

19. Octagon (around 1420), a burial chapel for 13 dukes of Mecklenburg

20. Tomb of Duke Albrecht III von Mecklenburg and King of Sweden (died 1412), buried in the octagon (19) and his first wife Richardis von Schwerin (1377), buried in Stockholm.

21. Memorial statue of Duke Magnus II von Mecklenburg (died 1503).

22. Tomb of Duke Johann Albrecht II von Mecklenburg (died 1920) and his wife Elisabeth von Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach (died 1908) was created in 1910 by the master builder Winter from Braunschweig.

23. The translation of the **"Dedication Certificate"** from 1368, the **memorial tomb stone** of Heinrich von der Weser and his wife (14th century), the **memorial burial plate** of Peter Wise (died 1338), a merchant from Lübeck and sponsor of the abbey.

In the **display cases**, literature, postcards and souvenirs which can be bought at the cashiers booth.

24. The **tomb stones** of Johannes Moltke (died 1388) and his wife Margaretha (died 1391) and of Knight Heinrich Moltke and Katharina Moltke. In the corner a **limestone pillar** from the 13th century, which was probably moved here from some other, now nonexistent, building of the abbey. On the wall is a **Renaissance style ducal epitaph** from 1583.

More information about the minster and the rich furnishings you will find in the booklet “Minster of Bad Doberan”, 32 pages, available also in Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Russian and Swedish for EUR 2,00 at the entrance of the cathedral or in the Münster-online-shop.