



PRESS RELEASE

MEERESMUSEUM

(Last updated: December 2023) The MEERESMUSEUM in Stralsund's historic city centre is housed in the former St. Catherine's Dominican Monastery built in 1251. This location is the oldest affiliate of the Ocean Museum Germany.

In the 1990s, the MEERESMUSEUM was complemented by two new museum locations: The NATUREUM at Darßer Ort in the Western Pomerania Lagoon Area National Park opened its doors with exhibits about the region's coastal landscape and fauna in 1991. The NAUTINEUM on the isle of Dänholm between Stralsund and Rügen established an exhibition space for fisheries, oceanographic research, hydrography and sea waterways in 1999. The latter location also serves as a depository and has a dissection facility for scientific examinations of marine animals.

In 2008, a fourth museum location, the modern OZEANEUM, opened its doors on Stralsund's harbour island. This location features four permanent exhibitions, including the largest Baltic Sea exhibit in Europe. The OZEANEUM focuses on various aspects of the northern seas, whereas the MEERESMUSEUM highlights the diversity of tropical oceans. In 2009, the Ocean Museum Germany with its four locations ranked third in the list of Germany's most visited museums, with a total of over 1.2 million visitors.

The main hall of the church St. Catherine, in which the MEERESMUSEUM is located, was subject to extensive renovations from 1972 to 1974, during which a unique metal frame was installed in the interior. The main hall was divided into three levels to provide space for the exhibits of the museum. Now MEERESMUSEUM will be modernized by mid-2024. Die Werft - Munich was contracted for exhibition design. The plans include a redesigned entrance foyer, new flowing display cases and original-sized installations of marine animals in the exhibitions, as well as an impressive large aquarium with a reef. The total usable floor space is 7500 m². The

One museum – four locations:

MEERESMUSEUM

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18439 Stralsund
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Fax: +49 3831 2650-209

OZEANEUM

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18439 Stralsund
Tel.: +49 3831 2650-610
Fax: +49 3831 2650-609

NAUTINEUM

Kleiner Dänholm
18439 Stralsund
Tel.: +49 3831 2650-355

NATUREUM

Darßer Ort 1–3
18375 Born
Tel.: +49 38233 304
Fax: +49 38233 70448

deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/en

Directorate

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aquariums in the historic vaulted cellar of the monastery will be restructured to provide visitors again the opportunity to travel through the warm seas of our planet. Audiences favourites such as Marlene, the leatherback sea turtle, and the fin whale skeleton suspended from the arch of the former choir, will be presented again after the modernisation. The sea turtles will also continue to fascinate visitors while feeding and swimming in their 350,000 liter aquarium.

Reichel Schlaier Architekten in Stuttgart won the European-wide architectural competition for the modernisation of the MEERESMUSEUM in 2017. The winning design combines a careful approach to the museum's valuable historical structures with confident new architectural concepts - a balancing act between monument preservation in this world heritage site and the demands of a modern museum with a well-developed brand identity. The focus lies on sustainable building, including the energetic renovation of the aquariums. Furthermore, many improvements are planned to make visiting the MEERESMUSEUM even more enjoyable and to provide accessibility.

The cost of the measure before the start of construction was around 40 million euros. The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community and the Ministry of Economics, Infrastructure, Tourism and Labor of the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern handed over the grant notifications for half of the construction costs each in June 2020. The Hanseatic City of Stralsund is participating by donating a plot of land worth just under 70,000 euros. In July 2023, the federal and state governments signaled further support of 11.1 million euros to offset the increased construction costs as a result of the Corona pandemic and the Ukraine war. The Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building and the state government of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are each providing half of the total sum required.

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Digital elements of the new exhibitions in the MEERESMUSEUM, for example on oceanography and ocean currents on a digital globe and using prehistoric aquariums, are funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media with 455,000 euro.

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