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BALTIC STORIES.

Professionalization of events for culturally embedded and sustainable tourism development of destinations in South Baltic region.

Main events



Poland: Westpomerania Region

Event: The Slavs and Vikings festival in Wolin (Westpomerania region).

The key and at the same time the one of the most frequently visited events in the Westpomerania region. The first festival took place in 1993. After two-year brake, it returned in 1996 and has been regularly organized since then. During the three days of the festival, Wolin transforms into a commercial port. People from all over the world come here to see the most excellent craftsmen present their masterful products. At this time, this usually quiet and peaceful settlement becomes a stormy battlefield of the Vikings and Slavs. The idea of this festival relates to the Scandinavian legend of a warrior stronghold Jomsvikingsaga. It is always organized at the beginning of August. Every year, Wolin is a destination point for the reconstruction groups and the Slavs and Vikings culture explorers from different parts of the world. It should be pointed out that in the event participate two groups of recipients:

- Participants: people connected with the Slavs and Vikings culture from all around the world. Participation in the event is free of charge for them. As it was indicated by the organizer, for the event come participants from: Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the USA, Canada, Australia, Chile, Italy and Spain. In 2016, the number of participants was approx. 2.500. Also, it is very important that notification of willingness and readiness to come is not enough to become a participant of the event. A person who wants to be a part of the event should have a uniform like a Slav or Viking and proven handicraft skills and products. They can be gastronomy or esoteric abilities as well.
- Visitors: local inhabitants, tourists. The entrance is paid for them (15 PLN adults/10 PLN children). According to the data delivered by the organizer, in 2016 the number of visitors reached a record value: approx. 28.000 people. Visitors are mainly observers, but they have a possibility to take part in the activities and games provided by the participants. The big number of visitors are tourists spending holidays on the coast. The main factors which influence such big interest are uniqueness of this event on worldwide scale, possibility to move in time through historical staging and reconstructions, accompanied by concerts of old-time music or cruises on ancient boats and possibility to try food prepared with old methods and recipes.

Event Website: <http://www.jomsborg-vineta.com/>

Event Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Centrum-S%C5%82owian-i-Wiking%C3%B3w-Wolin-Jomsborg-Vineta/245778572122704>



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Location: The Slavs and Vikings Center is an open-air museum located on the quay of the Dziwna River. There are several objects here: replicas of early medieval Wolin (today the number of objects is 27 huts, 2 gates with ramparts and fortifications, a port wharf).

Address:

Ostrów Island
Reclaw 37, 72-410 Wolin
POLAND
(entrance from Reclaw)

Correspondence address:

Stowarzyszenie Słowian i Wikingów
Graniczna 2
72-510 Wolin
stowarzyszenie@jomsborg-vineta.com

Opening hours:

April-June	10:00-16:00
July-August	10:00-18:00
September-October	10:00-16:00

Entrance:

Children under 5 years: free entrance
Adult ticket: 10 PLN
Reduced: 7 PLN (children, students, pensioners, seniors citizens)
Group ticket: minimum 10 people paying for the tickets
Adult ticket: 8 PLN
Reduced: 6 PLN
Guided tour (about 1 hour): 30 PLN

Tourist Information Point in WOLIN

Muzeum Regionalne im. A. Kaubego
Zamkowa 24
72-510 Wolin, POLAND
+48 91 326 17 63
muzeum.wolin@wp.pl
www.muzeumwolin.pl

The nearest harbour:

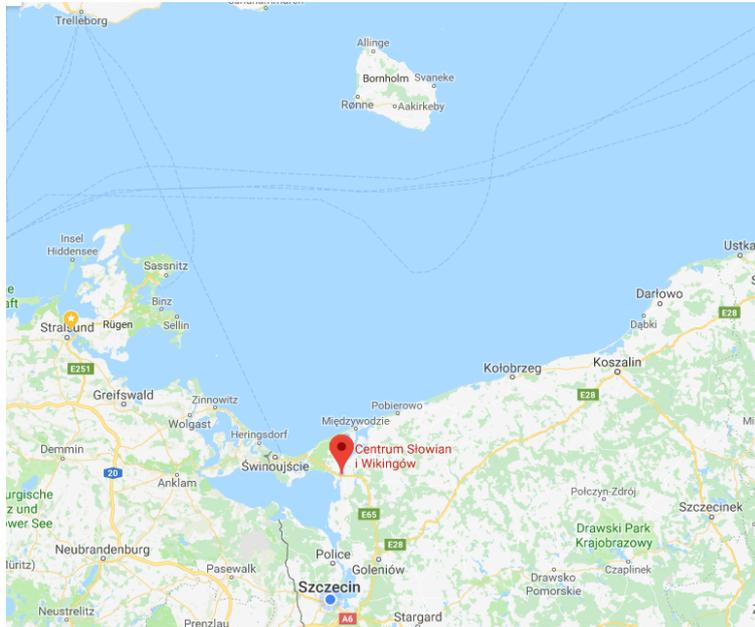
Wolin (German: Wollin), a coastal island belonging to Poland (Kamień Pomorski county and Świnoujście), constituting the southern shore of the Pomeranian Bay. It is separated from the mainland by the Dziwna Strait, the Kamieński Lagoon and the Szczecin Lagoon, and from the island of Usedom-Świna. The area of the island is approximately 265 km².

Map:

<https://www.google.pl/maps/place/Centrum+S%C5%82owian+i+Wiking%C3%B3w/@54.1998179,13.5537225,8z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x47aa7cd9442f1f87:0x91d04cc03e7d516!8m2!3d53.8414439!4d14.6201044>



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Event: The International Lighthouse Day.

For five years, in each 3rd Sunday of August the „International Lighthouse Day” is celebrated. The organizer is the Lighthouses Enthusiasts Association. The main purpose of this event is to promote the lighthouses and indicate opportunities of their use nowadays. The aim of this event is also to present the theme of the maritime economy to the society.

During the International Lighthouse Day, everybody can visit each working lighthouse on the west coast for free, even at night. The biggest event is organized in Świnoujście, where the highest lighthouse in the coast is situated. The Maritime Office in Szczecin is the owner of the lighthouses and and landlord of the square in front of the main object where the event is conducted by the Management of Sea Ports of Szczecin and Świnoujście.

The event program includes musical concerts, painting and photo exhibitions, meetings with the lighthouse keepers, workshops and competitions. There is a lot of activities for children. Those who wish it can try to win a running race to the top of a lighthouse and get gifts funded by sponsors and partners. The number of visitors is approx. 2.000 people on each place. This event should be organized in each lighthouse (at present it takes place only in 2/7 lighthouses). The participants of the event are mainly tourists from Poland and abroad (Germany, Sweden, other) spending free time on the Baltic coast.

Website: www.latarnie.com.pl

Facebook: does not exist

Location:

The lighthouse in Świnoujście, the tallest building of this kind on the Polish coast and at the same time the tallest brick lighthouse in the world (64.8 m). There are many cultural routes through the West Pomeranian Voivodeship, among others the trail of the lighthouses, which connects 17 lighthouses of the Polish coast. The approximate length of the route running through two provinces (West Pomeranian and Pomeranian) is 669 kilometers. The lighthouses are located near the most beautiful seaside resorts and almost all are open to the public. Seven of them, including 6 available to visitors, are located in West Pomerania (in Świnoujście, Kikut, close to Wiselka, Niechorze, Kołobrzeg, Gąski, Darłowo, Jarosławiec).

Address:

Lighthouse
Bunkrowa 1
72-600 Świnoujście, POLAND

Opening hours:

1 March-30 June and 1 September-31 October	10:00-18:00
1 July-31 August	10:00-20:00
1 November till end of February	10:00-16:00

Entrance:

8 PLN: full ticket (adults)
5 PLN: reduced
4 PLN: groups (more than 20 people)



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The city of Świnoujście is a seaside health resort situated on 44 islands, close to the German border, with the widest beaches on the Polish shore. It is also a harbour with regular ferry connections to Sweden. One of the means of transportation in the city is a ferry that plies between the islands of Uznam and Wolin. In Świnoujście, there is a lot of high quality SPA hotels. Świnoujście is also a perfect place for military lovers. The remains of the old Prussian fortifications have been well-preserved (the Angel's Fort and the western fort, the Museum of the History of the Świnoujście Fortress)

Tourist Information Point in Świnoujście:

Słowiański Square 6/1, 72-600 Świnoujście

+48 91 322 49 99, +48 91 327 16 29

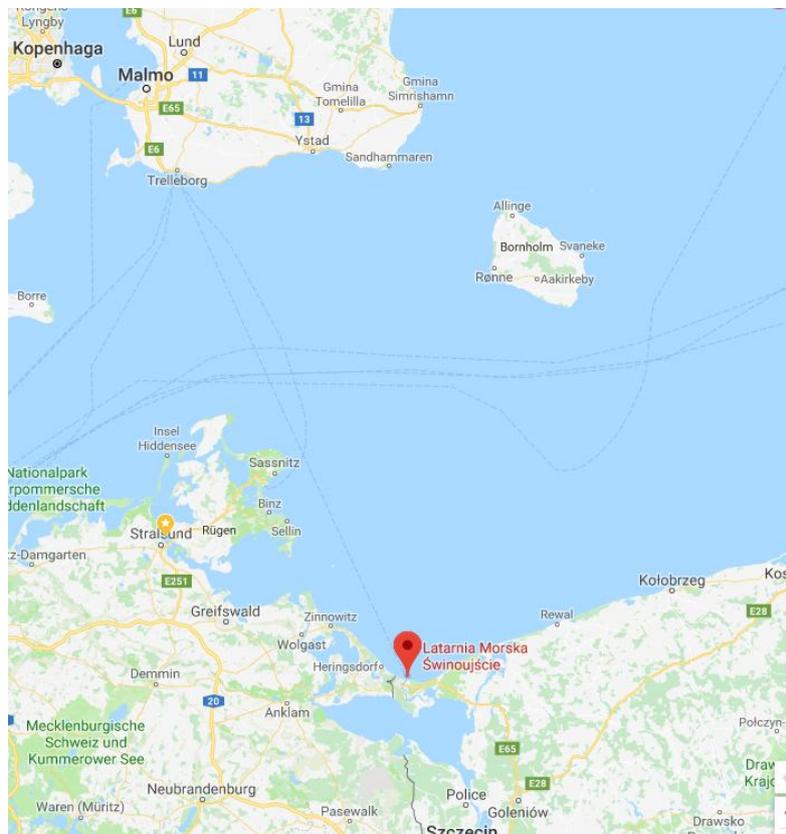
cit@um.swinoujście.pl

For more information, visit the website: <http://www.swinoujście.pl/>

The nearest harbour: Świnoujście

Map:

<https://www.google.pl/maps/place/Latarnia+Morska+%C5%9Awinouj%C5%9Bcie/@54.615502,12.867398,8z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x47aa5f6a0569b7d5:0xf5af185c02e79afe!8m2!3d53.9159889!4d14.2841729>





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Event: International rally of military vehicles (Borne Sulinowo).

For a few days of August, Borne Sulinowo turns into a military town. Thousands of rally participants, dressed in unique uniforms of various historic period armies, hundreds of military vehicles, wonders of military technology surround reconstructions of historical and thematic adaptations. Everybody may feel like watching a war movie. Visitors can take a ride on a tank, amphibian or other incredible military vehicles. During the event, musical concerts are held, and a lot of military products (authentic old uniforms, military clothes and accessories) are sold. The biggest military rally has been organised in Borne Sulinowo for 13 years. The main purpose of the event is promotion of militaries, history and all Westpomerania region. The number of visitors is about 40-100 thousand people, including 4 thousand participants from all over Europe, mainly Poland, Germany, Sweden, the Eastern countries and Canada, who come with their own military vehicles and stay for a few days in the camp. The key factors which make that event so popular are: localization in Borne Sulinowo, a mysterious, formerly military city not marked on the map, interesting topic and possibility to buy military products on good prices.

A similar event takes place also in Darłowo, both are organized also in winter time.

Event Website: www.zlot.bornesulinowo.pl

Event Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mi%C4%99dzynarodowy-Zlot-Pojazd%C3%B3w-Militarnych-Borne-Sulinowo-12568644424422/>

Location: Borne Sulinowo. More information: <http://cit.bornesulinowo.pl/cms/>

Tourist information point:

Bolesława Chrobrego 3A

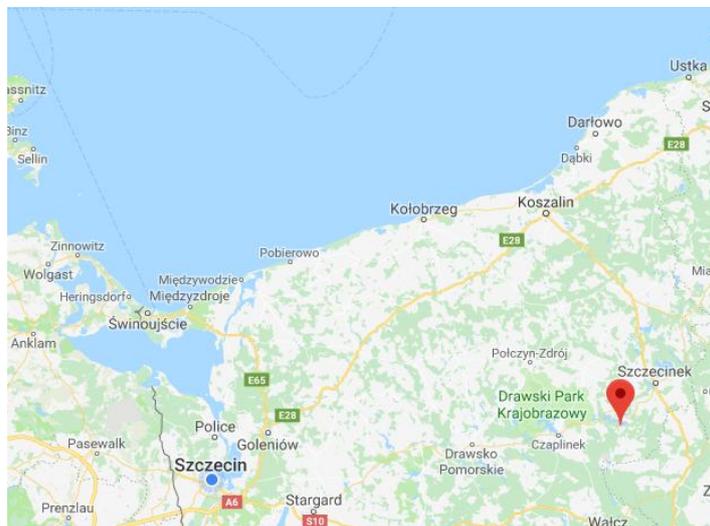
78-449 Borne Sulinowo

+48 94 37 34 166

it@bornesulinowo.pl

Map:

<https://www.google.pl/maps/place/78-449+Borne+Sulinowo/@54.2154465,14.4162198,8z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x47017717a5761709:0xc7625a02de5159f0!8m2!3d53.57639!4d16.53406>





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Lithuania: Šilutė

Event: Šilutė Town Festival.

This traditional festival is held annually. The official date of the festival – last Saturday of May – is the city's birthday. It marks the date when in the pinewood in 1511 the first tavern was founded. The celebration breezes with traditional culture of the region (Minor Lithuania), but there are also many modern activities. During the festival, people can visit various exhibitions and expositions as well as the festive fair where they can buy various souvenirs. A variety of performances, contests, sports competitions, shows of folklore and contemporary music performances are organized. School communities, youth organizations, as well as elderly people communities and business organizations participate in this event because it is one of the best ways to promote their activities, services and production. The event closes with spectacular fireworks. The Šilutė Town Festival is one of the biggest events aiming at attracting tourists. It is organised by the Šilutė culture and entertainment center.

Website: No official website

Facebook: No Facebook account

Entrance: free

Tourist information point:

Šilutės tourist information center
4 Lietuvinkų St. LT-99185 Šilutė
8-441 77785

info@siluteinfo.lt

<http://siluteinfo.lt/en/>

The nearest harbour:

Small Ship Harbour of Šilutė

Uosto str. 6

Šilutė, Lithuania

<https://www.facebook.com/silutesuostas/>

For bigger ships:

Castle Harbour in Klaipėda (50 km from Šilutė)

Pilies str. 4

Klaipėda, Lithuania

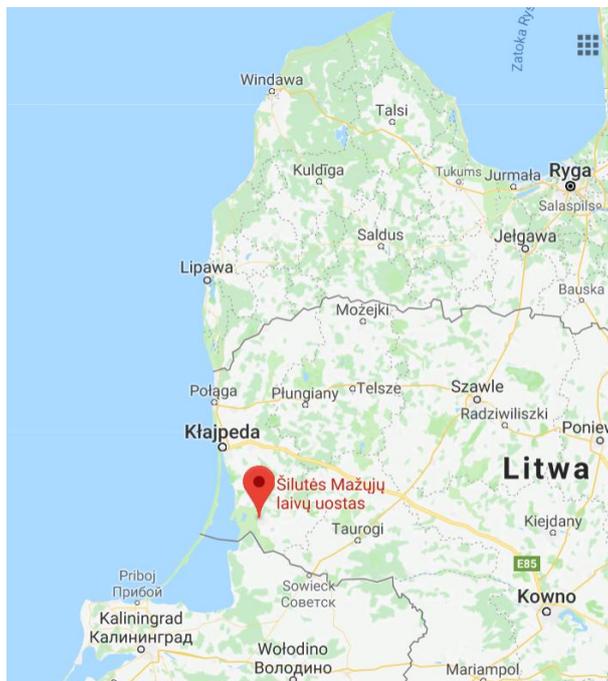
<http://www.yacht.lt/>

Map:

<https://www.google.lt/maps/place/%C5%A0ilut%C4%97s+Ma%C5%BE%C5%B3j%C5%B3+laiv%C5%B3+uostas/@55.340088,21.4501724,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x46e48c8059f58251:0x9cd878801e58727c!8m2!3d55.340085!4d21.452361>



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Event: Fish Soup Championship.

The traditional Fish Soup Championship is held every first weekend of September in the Šilutė Harbour for small ships. Every time, more than 3 tonnes of soup is cooked during the Championship. More than 40 teams participate to cook the best traditional soup and to win the Champion Ring. The Championship is international as teams come from Poland, Sweden, Russia, Germany, Latvia and other.

Website: does not exist

Facebook: does not exist

Location: Šilutė Port of small ships

Entrance: Free





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Sweden: Västervik and Gotland

Event: Hasselörodden.

Each year on the third Wednesday in July, about 30-40 genuine wooden boats ride from Hasselö to Fiskaretorget in Västervik. A distance takes about 4 hours, depending on the weather. The rowers gather at Hasselö in the morning, wearing clothes from the turn of the century, and then they row together to Västervik.

It has become a tradition of praise in the ancestral traces. This tour was carried out by residents in the archipelago to sell their products on the market in the city.

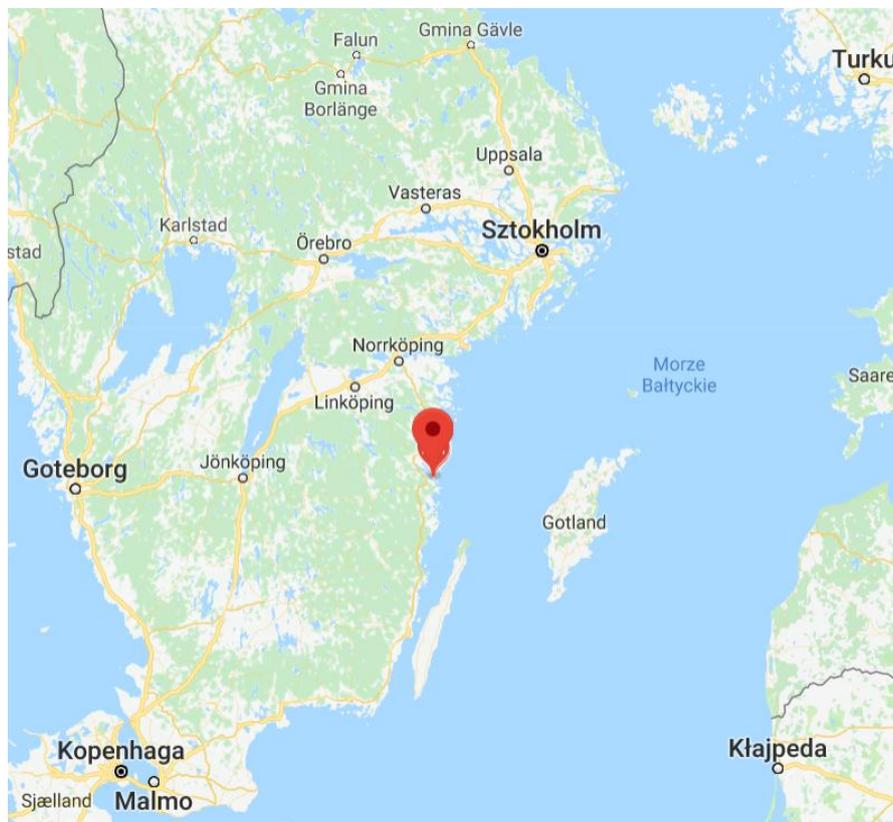
When the boats arrive in Västervik, they are welcomed by the audience who wants to see a glimpse of the boats and its rowers. The city is filled with people and the rowers are celebrated with snaps when they come ashore. In 2014 the event celebrated the 35th anniversary.

Event Website: No official website

Event Facebook: No official Facebook page

Map:

<https://www.google.lt/maps/place/V%C3%A4stervik,+Szwecja/@58.343511,11.0624839,6z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x465842418a72d1d9:0x66d4694b77bbf5ba!8m2!3d57.7577156!4d16.6369759>





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Event: Rågödagen.

This day is full of activities revolving around genuine wooden boats from the area of Tjust and Västervik, for the whole family. Welcome to a day that goes in the sign of hemp, crude oil and pine tar. The event takes place every third Saturday in July. Skippers tells the stories and show their boats and motors, professional fishermen show their skills, a sailing competition, a flea market and much more. Visitors are welcome to sail or row a wooden boat to experience the feeling. You can also visit the boat workshop or the exhibition about different boats used in the archipelago over time. Food and drinks is served in the restaurant. Access by passenger boat from Loftahammar.

Website: <https://rago.nu/evenemang/ragodagen>

Facebook: No official Facebook page



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Event: The Medieval Week in Visby, Gotland.

The event is an eight day long medieval festival in the city of Visby, on the Swedish island Gotland. The festival as a whole is free, but there are many different parts of the festival that have a special entrance fee, e.g. concerts, tournament shows, theatres, etc.

The Medieval Week has been organized since 1984 and has been growing in size since then. The week hosts about 40.000 visitors. The event is the biggest of its kind in Sweden, with a long history. It has a profound impact on the local society on Gotland and is a very important part of the promotion of Gotland as an island with a strong medieval history. Because of the size of the event and the 30+ years of experience on organizing, quite much is known about the impact that The Medieval Week has on the region.

The Medieval Week hosts about 40.000 visitors each week. The average visitor is from the region of Mälardalen in Sweden (Stockholm and its neighbouring regions). They are around 25-34 years old. Families with children are the biggest visitor group. About 80% of visitors travels to Gotland and 8% of the total comes from other countries than Sweden. They spend an average of 206 million SEK each year (travels not included).

Since the last couple of years, the Medieval Week has grown in size and is now considered an important part of the profile of Gotland.

Event Website: <http://www.medeltidsveckan.se/en/>

Event Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Medeltidsveckan/>

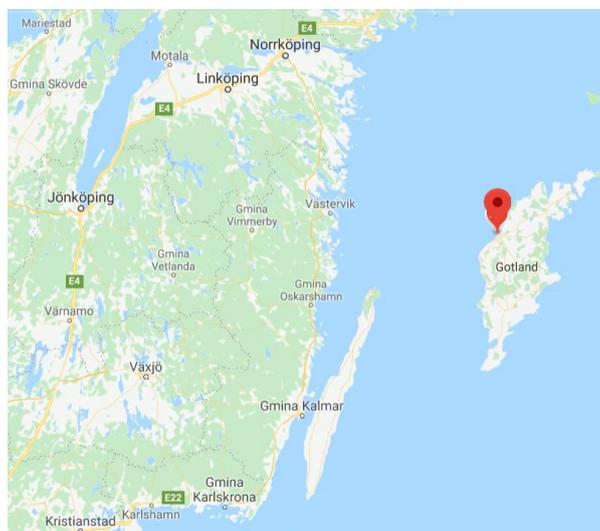
Address:

Strandgatan 14,
621 56 Visby
+46 (0)498-29 10 70

info@medeltidsveckan.se

Map:

<https://www.google.lt/maps/place/Visby,+Szwecja/@57.5666487,13.7925192,7z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x46f7a8d3d122ce09:0xa00fef5b28d09c0!8m2!3d57.6348!4d18.29484>





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Source: <http://www.medeltidsveckan.se/en/>



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The Västerviks museum:

It is a local history museum with an exhibition about Mars Matchless and the 16th century maritime world on the Baltic Sea, an exhibition telling the story of Västervik as a port with an open-air museum. Next to the museum, there is a café and a restaurant.

Website: <http://www.vasterviksmuseum.se/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vasterviksmuseum/>

Address:

Västerviks Museum
Kulbacken
593 38 VÄSTERVIK

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday 10:00-16:00
Sunday 13:00-16:00
Also in June-August
Saturday 13:00-16:00

Entrance:

Adults: 50 SEK
Children under 18: free

Tourist information point:

Stora Torget 4, Rådhuset
593 33 Västervik
+46(0)490 875 20
turist@vastervik.com
<https://www.vastervik.com/en>

The nearest harbour: *guest harbour in Västervik* <http://www.vasterviksgasthamn.se/en/>

There is a guest harbour near the town centre of Västervik with complete facilities and services.

Tourist attractions:

Västervik city centre

The city of Västervik dates back to the medieval times, with a castle ruin and a church built in the 15th century. The wooden houses and narrow streets give the city a picturesque and charming feeling.

The archipelago

The archipelago with 5.000 islands might be the Sweden's most beautiful archipelago. Take a passenger boat or rent a kayak to explore the islands.

The Västervik resort

A beautifully located camping with various accommodations, adventure pool and activities for children all day long. <https://www.vastervikresort.se/?lang=1033>

Bronze age coast

This area is rich in remains from the bronze age and you can visit grave fields and rock carvings in landscapes that are well-preserved and unaffected by recent times building developments.



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The project "BALTIC STORIES. Professionalization of events for culturally embedded and sustainable tourism development of destinations in South Baltic region" is co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund under the Interreg South Baltic 2014-2020 programme.

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