



Old Lighthouse Travemünde

The old lighthouse at Travemünde is the oldest in Germany.

It was first mentioned in a document around 1330.

The tower was destroyed in 1534 by Danish troops.

It was replaced by the present tower in 1539 which was built by Dutch workers.

The illumination would most probably have been provided originally by means of an open fire. Later on a lamp with a gold-plated concave mirror was used. At that time hempseed oil was used as illuminant.

In 1827 the upper part of the lighthouse was destroyed by a lightning strike. It was rebuilt in a classicistic style.

In 1903 the lighthouse was connected to the mains using carbon arc lamps, which were replaced by bulbs in 1937.

Geographic position: 53° 57' 44" North, 10° 52' 51" East

The lighthouse was listed in 1922 as a technical monument.

In 1972 the lighthouse was discontinued because the new hotel "Maritim" obscured the light. A new beacon was established on the upper storey of the hotel in 1974.

2003/2004 the old lighthouse was renovated. 12 000 bricks were replaced up to a depth of 30 cm.

The wall is up to one metre thick. At the same time the complete outside surface of 6,000 square metres was pointed and the walls inside were partly plastered.

The Waterways and Shipping Authority (WSA) Lübeck invested 250.000 Euros for the renovation.

The old Travemünde lighthouse is 31 metres high and is now on 8 floors a maritime museum which gives an idea of the history of lighthouse techniques. Various models of lightships, sea-lanterns and complete optical devices are on display. Photographs of lighthouses, for which the Waterways and Shipping Authority Lübeck is responsible, are displayed on the walls.

More than 142 steps lead to the upper storey. Here the optical device with 1000 watt bulbs is displayed, which was used until the navigational light was extinguished. It is still functioning. From the gallery one has an absolutely beautiful view of the Scandinavia Wharf, the old part of Travemünde, the Lübeck bight and parts of the coast of the Federal State Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Admission fees:

Adults 2,00 €
Children up to 14 1,00 €

Opening times: 13.00-16.00

May - October: Monday – Sunday

November – April: Sunday

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