Museums in Münster
Münster,
City of Art and Culture

The Peace of Westphalia, contemporary young art, historical rarities, the city’s history or foreign worlds — Münster and its museums have a lot to offer you, from all eras and genres. In order to help you avoid missing anything from this concentrated conglomerate of remarkable art and culture the working committee Museums in Münster has produced this museum tour guide. It is designed to give you an overview and serve as a thematic road map through the landscape of Münsters’ museums. Or maybe it is also of interest to know how old Münster’s oldest museum is? Or, would you like to know where you can learn everything about the horse and its relationship with human beings? Or does your interest lie more in the art by Pablo Picasso, or perhaps you are captivated by exciting contemporary art? Of course, you can also learn all about the city’s history!

A lot has happened in Münster’s art and cultural scene in the past few years. Numerous activities have been initiated and implemented by the working committee Museums in Münster to present the city’s extensive museums’ scene. This museum guide is also a product of this. In a concise format it illustrates the diversity and geographical significance of the museums’ landscape in Münster. Not only the citizens of Münster will make new discoveries. Visitors to our city, in particular, will be astonished at Münster’s cultural diversity and the exciting range of events on offer here. We hope that you will enjoy reading this guide and that it awakens in you the desire to set off to see the originals.
Ein bisschen New York in Münster

Foto: LWL / Hanna Neander

LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur in Münster
www.lwl-museum-kunst-kultur.de
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Tiere hautnah erleben

365 TAGE, täglich ab 9:00 Uhr geöffnet

ALLWETTERZOO.DE
City Museum of Münster

The City Museum of Münster was founded in 1979 and since 1989 is to be found in Salzstraße. Alongside the museum foyer in the ground floor is also a row of shops. Over an area of 2,500 sqm 1200 years of city history are presented in 33 cabinets.

The outline of the exhibition is provided by numerous models of the city and its architecture. Varying special displays present specific topics and aspects of Münster’s artistic and cultural history.

The City Museum of Münster is aimed at everyone interested in the history, art, and culture of the Westphalian city.
Rüschhaus Museum

The Rüschhaus, built between 1745 and 1749 by the Baroque master builder Johann Conrad Schlaun (1695–1773) as his own country seat, is both a jewel of late baroque architecture and a memorial to Annette von Droste-Hülshoff (1797–1848). While the overall architectural refinement of the estate has the air of a feudal aristocratic residence, the design of the building itself is more like that of a moated rural farmstead.

Annette von Droste-Hülshoff was born at Hülshoff Castle in 1797. The father of the poet and author bought the Rüschhaus in 1825. Annette von Droste-Hülshoff lived here from 1826 to 1846. The poet called her study and living room the “snail’s shell” and it remains unchanged to this day.

Museum Haus Rüschhaus
Am Rüschhaus 81
48161 Münster-Nienberge
+49 (0)2534/1052
info@haus-rueschhaus.de
www.haus-rueschhaus.de

A visit of the interior is only possible within a guided tour. The garden is accessible during the opening hours: www.haus-rueschhaus.de
Münster’s Town Hall, a Gothic building dating from the mid-14th century with its high gable, is unique throughout Germany. The characteristic gabled building was faithfully reconstructed in the 1950s. In 1648, the Spanish-Dutch Peace Treaty – part of the Peace of Westphalia – was confirmed in the Hall of Peace. The Hall was completely refurbished at the beginning of 2003. In April 2015, the European Heritage Label has been awarded to the Town Halls of Münster and Osnabrück as the ‘Sites of the Peace of Westphalia’ by the European Commission. The European Heritage Label is an initiative of the European Union to improve knowledge of European history, as well as the role and values of the EU.
Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum

The reconstruction of an historic post mill from the Emsland laid the foundation for the Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum in 1961. Situated in the museum grounds on the banks of Lake Aa, more than twenty further original buildings from the Münster region and neighboring areas can be visited. Farmhouses furnished in traditional style are also part of the museum just like craftsman workshops, a single classroom rural school from the 19th century, and an old village shop. The museum therefore provides a vast amount of insight into how peasants and craftsmen once lived and worked near the big city of Münster.
Memorial place Villa ten Hompel

Today, the Villa ten Hompel in Münster – former home of cement factory owner during the Weimar Republic, regional headquarter of the order police during the Nazi regime, site of denazification and the regional department of indemnification in the post-war period – is a place of historical significance.

The permanent exhibition “History – Violence – Conscience”: Taking into account the building’s history, the new exhibition reveals the crimes committed by the uniformed police forces during the Second World War and the way in which these crimes were dealt with in the post-war period. The exhibition looks at the police’s complicity in crimes against Jews, Sinti, and Roma, the process of denazification and reconstruction in post-war Germany, the judicial approaches for dealing with Nazi war crimes, and Germany’s bureaucratic attempt to “indemnify” the victims of Nazi terror.

Geschichtsort Villa ten Hompel Münster
Kaiser-Wilhelm-Ring 28
48145 Münster
+49 (0)251/492 7101
tenhomp@stadt-muenster.de
www.villa-ten-hompel.de

Wednesday and Thursday: 6 pm – 9 pm.
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 2 pm – 5 pm.
Free admission.
Archaeological Museum of WWU

The extensive collections of the Archaeological Museum of WWU — founded in 1884 — offers exciting insights into the arts and crafts of ancient cultures in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East. The outstanding collections (originals, castings of ancient sculptures, models of ancient monuments, sites and shrines, as well as coins) contribute both to the teaching and research of Münster University and to the museum’s range of activities involving the general public.
The Bible Museum of the Münster University, founded in 1979, is affiliated to the Institute for New Testament Textual Research. It reveals the history of the Bible from its handwritten beginnings to the modern day through roughly 400 exhibits. This wide-ranging exhibition makes the museum unique and worth visiting: Precious manuscripts and prints of the Greek New Testament, elaborately designed polyglots (multilingual editions), the German Bible from Pre-Lutheran versions to Luther’s translation, and 17th/18th century versions up to modern-day Bible translations, European and Non-European translations, and Bible illustrations.
Zwinger

Stronghold | Work of Art | Monument
The Zwinger was built in the early 16th century as a stronghold and turret. It was later used as a defensive tower, horse mill, powder store, prison, painter’s studio, cultural center for the Hitler Youth, and, until its partial destruction in early 1945, by the Gestapo as a place to detain and execute political prisoners. As part of the “Sculpture Projects in Münster 1987”, the artist Rebecca Horn installed the “Concerto in contrary motion” inside the Zwinger. After the Zwinger’s restoration and the redesign of the work of art, the ruin was converted in 1997 into a memorial for the victims of violence.

The dungeon is a subsidiary of the City Museum of Münster.

Zwinger
Promenade near Lotharingerstraße
48143 Münster
+49 (0)251/492 4503
museum@stadt-muenster.de
www.muenster.de/stadt/museum/zwinger.html

April – October: on 1st Sunday of each month at 11 am (meeting point City Museum), and on 3rd Thursday of each month at 8 pm (meeting point Zwinger).
Leprosy Museum Münster

The Münster Leprosy Hospital was situated roughly 2.5 miles north of the old town. It was founded in 1333 and gave the later city district its name ‘Kinderhaus’. In the historical grounds around the building, the Leprosy Museum shows visitors how lepers lived and how they were cared for in the Middle Ages and modern times. The museum’s exhibition draws attention to the issue of social exclusion of the sick then and now.

Lepramuseum der Gesellschaft für Leprakunde e. V.
Kinderhaus Local Heritage Museum

Since 1992 the Local Heritage Museum has been housed in Münster’s oldest residential building, the Pfründnerhaus in Kinderhaus. The museum sheds light on the origins and early history of the region, the history of the poorhouse, the church, and schools in Münster, as well as old handicrafts (cobbling, washing, baking, weaving, spinning, etc.) in Kinderhaus. Furthermore, there is a wedding room and exhibition space (nativity exhibition, art exhibitions, lectures, antique markets, etc.).

Heimatmuseum Kinderhaus der Bürgervereinigung Kinderhaus f. Kultur, Heimatpflege u. Naturschutz e. V.
Hiltruper Museum e. V.

The Hiltrup Museum was founded in 1984. It has been located in the former Hiltrup firehouse since 1998. The museum’s permanent exhibition focuses on the history of Hiltrup. It additionally presents temporary exhibitions that deal with various topics (e.g. the 1950s) and artists. At the same time the museum is a venue for a wide array of cultural events.
Gatehouse Gallery of the Münster Heritage Federation

The Münster Heritage Federation (Stadtheimatbund Münster e. V.) is based in the historical gatehouse since 2014. It is an umbrella organization for 37 associations which are active in the care and preservation of cultural and regional heritage. The gatehouse was built in neo-classical style in 1778 by Wilhelm Ferdinand Lipper, the successor of Johann Conrad Schlaun, as a guard house. Since then it has witnessed numerous tenants.

After an extensive renovation the gallery room became the main focus of the small building. Temporary exhibitions either dealing with Münster or committed to peace take place here on a regular basis. Younger and still unknown artists are also given the chance to present their works.

Torhaus-Galerie des Stadtheimatbundes Münster e. V.
Neutor 2
48143 Münster
+49 (0)251/98113978
info@stadtheimatbund-muenster.de
www.stadtheimatbund-muenster.de

Monday – Friday: 10 am – 12:30 pm, and by appointment. Free admission.
Porcelain Museum in the Gatehouse Gallery

The association for the promotion of the Porcelain Museum reviews the history of porcelain painting in Münster and Westphalia between 1840 and 1990. During this period, there were 12 different porcelain painter’s workshops in Münster alone; the most important one was run by August Roloff (1919–1955), a porcelain painter trained at Porzellanmanufaktur Fürstenberg. Without a permanent base, the association presents temporary exhibitions at various venues. In addition to several small display cases in the gatehouse in Neutor, the association currently also boasts a display case in the Integration Office of the City of Münster, a small display case at the headquarters of the Workers’ Welfare Association (AWO) in Münster, and in the Local Council building in Kinderhaus.
Art
LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur

The LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur in Münster is one of the largest art and cultural history museums in North Rhine-Westphalia. The museum was founded over 100 years ago and now boasts a collection of roughly 450,000 objects. In September 2014, the LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur opened the new building designed by the Volker Staab Architectural Office, Berlin, with a new display of its collection. The museum thus increased its exhibition space to a total of 7,500 sqm, creating the perfect conditions for modern presentations. Linking the new building to the old building dating from the early 20th century permits visitors to experience the display of its collections from the Middle Ages through to the present day in an undisrupted, content-sensitive tour for the first time. These collections are presented in 51 newly designed rooms. Additionally, six spacious rooms are available for the program of the special exhibitions.
Kunstmuseum Pablo Picasso Münster

The Kunstmuseum Pablo Picasso Münster, opened in 2000, is the first and up to now only Picasso Museum in Germany. Concealed behind landmarked facades right in the heart of Münster’s old town, the building with its 800 Picasso lithographs houses a truly unique collection of international significance. Besides Pablo Picasso, the focus of special temporary exhibitions also lies on his fellow artists of modern classicism such as Georges Braque, Henri Matisse, and Marc Chagall.
St. Paul’s Cathedral Treasury in Münster

Due to its truly remarkable treasures of goldsmith’s and textile art, the Cathedral Treasury in Münster is one of Europe’s most important treasure chambers. On display are precious reliquaries dating from the 11th to the 18th century, worthy liturgical objects and vestments of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Baroque era, alongside 20th century artworks. The Cathedral’s Medieval treasures of worship form, however, the main focus of the exhibition. More than 700 works from across all artistic genres, which tell the story of Christian worship and scholarship at St. Paul’s Cathedral, are exhibited on three floors.
The Museum of Lacquer Art is located in the heart of the city and is the only one of its kind in the world. The extensive collection of the museum comprises approximately 2,000 exhibits from East Asia, Europe, and the Islamic world with objects from the past two millennia and is displayed to visitors in changing themed exhibitions. The fascination already conveyed by the architecture of the building is continued inside the museum. The aesthetic and beauty of the pieces of art subdivided according to regions are accessible at first glance – their value becomes even more apparent the more one learns about the elaborate production techniques. The regularly occurring special exhibitions of the museum deepen individual aspects of both traditional and contemporary lacquer art. Moreover, events such as concerts and readings turn the museum into a cultural meeting place that is highly appreciated by guests. The museum is a facility owned by BASF in Münster.
The Museum for Contemporary Outsider Art combines exhibition hall, gallery, studios, archive, library and shop. It houses a collection of painting, drawings and objects due to the support of disabled and mentally handicapped residents who have artistic talent. Since 1996 the museum shows works of the own collection together with European contemporary art. The Kunsthauß is a regularly place of projects, conferences and international meetings as the 2x2 Forum Outsider Art. The modern building situated in an old park is part of the Alexianer Münster GmbH, a campus with mental hospitals, workshops, park, café and hotel located to the south of Münster.
Westfälischer Kunstverein

Founded in 1831, the Westfälischer Kunstverein is one of the oldest art associations in Germany and enjoys international standing. The Kunstverein still promotes and establishes young contemporary art to this day and, from the post-war period by the latest, has assumed significant responsibility for the sponsorship of young, up-and-coming artists on an international level in the field of visual art in the City of Münster. The work of several young artists, who would later achieve international recognition in their own right, were presented here to a broader audience for the first time. Whereas the Kunstverein’s exhibition practice is devoted to contemporary art, the focus of the collection is upon medieval painting. The collection itself, comprising approximately 2,000 artworks, has been placed at the disposal of the LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur. Having enjoyed an association with the Landesmuseum ever since 1908, the Kunstverein relocated the Museum’s new premises between Domplatz and Rothenburg in 2013.
Kunsthalle Münster

It is now twelve years since the Kunsthalle Münster (before 2012 Münster Exhibition Hall for Contemporary Art) took up residence in Speicher II in the docklands area. Over the course of the past decade, the former grain silo, renovated and modified for use as a place for artistic production and exhibitions, has become a space where artists can take risks and experiment with new ideas. The programme of the Kunsthalle focuses on the presentation and discussion of current trends in contemporary art, committing itself to showcasing the whole breadth and diversity of the visual arts at an international level. In keeping with this aspiration, it has succeeded in bringing artists such as Monika Baer, Phil Collins, Diango Hernández, Nic Hess, Christine & Irene Hohenbüchler, Ann Veronica Janssens, Josephine Meckseper, Mike Nelson, Olaf Nicolai, Laura Owens, Tobias Rehberger, Ugo Rondinone, Markus Schinwald, Joëlle Tuerlinckx, and Aerinout Mik to Münster.
Münster Academy of Art

The Münster Academy of Art is an academy of fine arts offering postgraduate courses. Roughly 350 artists and teachers participate in an intense range of courses focusing on painting, sculpture, installation art, performance, photography, film, and new media.

Münster Lectures: Usually, each Tuesday during the semester starting at 6 pm. This is followed by the inauguration of the exam exhibitions. The academy's motto “Art and Public” is manifested in the exhibitions and in the public events through which the Academy of Arts actively contributes to cultural education in the region. For instance, the exam exhibitions are presented to the general public in the academy’s showrooms during term time. Regular exhibitions by students are also held in the “showcase” of the academy, the Wewerka Pavilion on the banks of the Aasee lake operated together with the City of Münster. Roughly 150 national and international exhibitions are presented by students and academics each year.

Kunstakademie Münster – Hochschule für Bildende Künste
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+49 (0)251/8361330
rektorat@kunstakademie-muenster.de
www.kunstakademie-muenster.de
The Wewerka Pavilion is the showroom of the Münster Academy of Art. It was designed in 1987 by the architect and artist Stefan Wewerka for the documenta 8 in Kassel. As a loan from its owner, Axel Bruchhäuser, the pavilion was transferred to Münster and installed close to Tormin Bridge on the banks of Lake Aa. It is under the joint care and responsibility of the city and the Academy of Art. On the one hand, the location in the recreational park offers young artists the chance to reach a larger audience with their works and, on the other hand, enables the citizens of Münster to experience the academy and its students. Due to its unusual double character as both a closed off showroom and a sculptural autonomous object, the pavilion represents an experimental space for the young artists as well as quite a demanding challenge.
Nature
Looking a mammoth straight in the eyes, experiencing dinosaurs up close, seeing a native American up on his horse or traveling into the eternity of the universe – all this is possible at the LWL-Museum of Natural History in Münster, featuring a planetarium that delivers the sharpest images in Germany. The combination of natural history museum and large sized planetarium under one roof is unequaled throughout Germany. Visitors can go on a fascinating journey to unknown worlds and foreign cultures. The museum was founded in 1892 and houses unique objects such as the world’s biggest ammonite and oldest plesiosaurus.
Westphalian Horse Museum in the Allwetterzoo Münster

From a virtual carriage ride to a 47-million-year-old primeval horse: Numerous interactive exhibits and exciting original objects invite visitors to explore the world of horses in an unusual way. Meet the impressive “Polydor”, one of the most successful breeding stallions of all times, discover fascinating details about the life of pit ponies, and experience the world through the eyes of a horse. During Sunday’s horse shows and in the horse park visitors can get in close touch with real horses.

The Westphalian Horse Museum is located in the center of the zoological garden Münster (“Allwetterzoo”). Entry to the museum is included in the admission fee for the zoo.
Botanical Garden of WWU

The Botanical Garden of the University of Münster was founded in 1803 and, as a scientific institution, is a central resource for research and teaching. Beyond that, it fulfills a wide array of tasks. This includes the conservation of species and genetic diversity as well as supervising the maintenance and creation of valuable plant collections.

In addition to its role as a scientific facility, the Botanical Garden is open to the general public. Despite attracting roughly 200,000 visitors a year, it is still an oasis offering tranquility and relaxation right in the heart of Münster.
Geomuseum of WWU

The Geomuseum, founded in 1824, received its current look in 2011/2012. Using a comprehensive collection of exciting original objects, the exhibition represents our current knowledge of all processes in and on Earth, starting with the “Big Bang” and focusing on objects from Westphalia. Inanimate nature (crystals a.o. minerals, ores, rocks, meteorites) and the history of living organisms play an equally important role in the museum: Fossils of stone coal trees, dinosaurs, and fishes as well as mammoth and aurochs invite visitors to experience evolutionary research hand-on.
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1. Heimatmuseum Kinderhaus
2. Hiltruper Museum
3. Kunsthaus Kannen
4. Lepramuseum Münster
5. Museum Haus Rüschhaus
Collection
Generations

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