Welcome to Münster

So what is it that truly makes Münster Münster? Is it the imposing cathedral? The awe-inspiring churches and the patrician houses? Or is it the Town Hall, a Gothic building which bears the historical legacy of the Peace of Westphalia treaties? Or is it the lively, bustling atmosphere, the countless young faces to be seen throughout the city’s streets and cafés – as well as plenty of bicycles?

Münster: historic town? Or modern city? It is precisely this contrast, this constant contradiction between old and new, which lends the city its unmistakeable flair. On the one hand, it is a bishop’s seat and Hanseatic city with over 1,200 years of rich tradition while, on the other hand, it is also an academic city with a large student population. All of these factors come together to make Münster one of Germany’s most unique cities.

Here, awe-inspiring history and vibrant urban culture are inextricably woven into daily city life – something which you can experience everywhere you turn: be it a trendy bar, built into the city’s medieval walls, Picasso’s art, displayed across two buildings which used to house the Westphalian aristocracy, or architectural gems created by Baroque master builders, found right next door to iconic examples of contemporary architecture.

It is this interaction between old and new which lends Münster its charm and beauty. Welcome to your very own journey of discovery!
Of course, you could just sit in a café on the Domplatz or by the Prinzipalmarkt, watch the world go by and allow Münster’s special flair to simply sink in. Great, sure. But, on the other hand, that can't really be all there is to the city, can it? Just think of all the things you’re missing out on! There are so many exciting things to see, we promise! So, if you’re finished with your cappuccino, we could set off now ...
TOUR 1
“THE HEART OF THE OLD TOWN”

If you’re looking to discover a few of the sights, as well as to experience the typical urban flair of the city, then look no further. This tour starts and finishes at the Domplatz, in the very heart of the city. Along the way: experience history, culture and fantastic shopping opportunities!

1. CATHEDRAL AND DOMPLATZ
   Chimes accompanied by revolving figurines Mon. – Sat. 12:00 p.m., Sundays and bank holidays 12:30 p.m.
   www.paulusdom.de

2. LWL-MUSEUM FÜR KUNST UND KULTUR
   Visits to the Friedenssaal
   Tues. – Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sat., Sun. and bank holidays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
   www.lwl-museum-kunst-kultur.de

3. HISTORIC TOWN HALL
   Duration: approx. 1 hour
   www.tourismus.muenster.de

4. PRINZIPALMARKT
   www.tourismus.muenster.de

5. LAMBERTIKIRCHE (CHURCH)
   www.sanktamberti.de

6. ÜBERWASSERKIRCHE (CHURCH)
   www.muensters-innenstadtkirchen.de

The Heart of the Old Town
Duration: approx. 1 hour

1 – 6
TOUR 1 “THE HEART OF THE OLD TOWN”

In many ways, **ST.-PAULUS-DOM** (Cathedral) is the very heart of the city. It was on this hill, more than 1,200 years ago, that the first of Münster’s monasteries was founded. The city then grew around it. As the bishop’s seat, the mother church and the main church of the diocese of Münster, the cathedral is of great importance to the surrounding Roman Catholic community. It is also significant from a cultural-historical and an artistic perspective. The foundations of the current cathedral were laid in 1225. Built largely using sandstone from Baumberg in the late Romanesque style and featuring Gothic additions, this striking building is filled with unique treasures and surprises. Without a doubt, one of the special features of this historical monument is the 16th-century **TIP ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK** with its daily chimes and revolving figurines – to name just one example. What’s more, Münster’s **TIP WEEKLY MARKET** takes place on the Domplatz every Saturday and Wednesday. This is considered to be one of the most attractive and largest continuous markets in Germany; a place where local farmers come to sell their regional and seasonal produce. There is also a wide range of delicacies and exotic foods on offer, making the market a very popular meeting place for a good coffee or snacks such as potato pancakes, fried fish, burgers, fried potatoes and currywurst – best enjoyed standing in the fresh air with a view of the Cathedral.

Situated directly opposite is the **LWL-MUSEUM FÜR KUNST UND KULTUR** , which was re-opened a few years ago following renovation works. Its distinctive pointed building makes it easy to spot from the Domplatz. Even if you don’t have the time for a long museum visit on this tour, make sure to use the opening hours as an opportunity to cross through the **TIP MUSEUM FOYER, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO ACT AS A PASSAGeway** between Domplatz and Rothenburg. Here, architect Volker Staab has created a connection from the Cathedral’s forecourt to both the urban courtyard and the museum’s inner foyer, with its generous height of 14 metres and an open patio, through his “courtyard architecture”. From here, we carry on towards the next stop on our journey, heading up the Rothenburg towards the Prinzipalmarkt, the Town Hall and St. Lamberti church. On the way, take time to notice the small, independent shops and restaurants that line the street – many of these are specialist and family-owned businesses that are run with a great deal of passion.
THE HEART OF THE CITY

The **HISTORISCHE RATHAUS** and its Friedenssaal (Hall of Peace), with the **STADTWEINHAUS** situated next door, is located opposite the alleyway which leads towards the Domplatz. Münster’s landmark, with its characteristic gable, dates back to the 14th century. The former council chamber is of particular historical significance: the Hall of Peace is where several treaties of the Peace of Westphalia, signed in both Osnabrück and Münster, were signed in 1648, bringing the Thirty Years’ War to an end. Here, you can also make use of augmented reality (via an app) to set off on a voyage of discovery (see also: friedeneuropa.de). Should you feel the urge to do so, go around to the back of the Town hall. Here, in the **TIP PLATZ DES WESTFÄLISCHEN FRIEDENS** you can find Eduardo Chillida’s bronze sculpture “Tolerance through Dialogue” on display in the courtyard.

What would Münster be without its **PRINZIPALMARKT**? This is the beating heart of the Hanseatic city. Traders built their houses here from as early as the 12th century. Instead, they merely rebuilt the houses and striking gables in a simpler style. Today, the Prinzipalmarkt is not just one of the liveliest parts of the city, with cyclists and pedestrians going about their daily business, it is also a place to stroll and hold celebrations, where the city receives its guests, and where outdoor restaurants offer a wide range of typical Westphalian delicacies. The high-quality range of retail stores located “under the arches” invite passers-by to stop and browse, while the typical views of Münster on show here are photographed almost every second – the Prinzipalmarkt may well be the city’s **TIP MOST POPULAR PHOTO SPOT**.

Standing outside the Höhe Rathaus in the Prinzipalmarkt gives you the perfect view of **ST. LAMBERTI**. This late Gothic hall church, situated near the Krameramtshaus and the City Library, is one of the key stops along our tour. (If you follow the Salzstraße, you will get to the Dominikanerkirche (Church) and the Erbdrostenhof.) You should be able to see three iron cages hanging from the church tower. In the 16th century, the bodies of the Anabaptist leaders who took over Münster were displayed here to act as a warning. This is also where the tower keeper carries out her work. Every day (except Tuesdays), **TIP THE TOWER KEEPER BLOWS HER HORN** every half hour between 9:00 p.m. and midnight, sending the signal in three of the four cardinal directions.
AROUND THE DOMPLATZ

The tour continues behind St. Lamberti, where the street with the Drübbel (once a particularly narrow stretch of street which was very densely populated, today only visible through markings in the cobblestones) the Roggenmarkt, the Bogenstraße and the Spiekerhof, with their wide range of specialist shops and traditional pubs, more or less surrounds the Domplatz. Without a doubt, one of the main attractions here is the Kiepenkerl-Memorial, a true landmark of the Münsterland region. Before finishing our tour back at the Domplatz, let’s take a look at the Aa, the river and lifeline of the city, as well as the Liebfrauen-Überwasser-Kirche (Church) and the Diocesan Library. The church was built around 1340. A hall church with an imposing Gothic tower, its name, which translates to “church over the water”, is derived from its location on the other side of the Aa. Here, we tip cross the “AA” river and go back “over the water” to where our tour began, the St. Paulus Dom (Cathedral) and the surrounding Domplatz.
TOUR 2
“BACK TO NATURE”

Are you a nature lover? As Germany’s “environmental capital”, nature can be found everywhere you turn in Münster. The city centre’s green belt is exceptionally diverse, and is packed with attractions, places to relax, parks and sculptures. Münster received the 2019 German Sustainability Award for its commitment to protecting the environment and encouraging sustainability. Feel free to hand-pick the parts of our nature tour which interest you, or complete it in its entirety ...

7  PROMENADE  
Length: 4.5 kilometres  
www.tourismus.muenster.de

8  SCHLOSS AND GARDENS  
(RESIDENCE AND RESIDENCE GARDEN)  
www.tourismus.muenster.de

9  BOTANISCHER GARTEN  
(BOTANICAL GARDEN)  
October to March: 
daily from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
April to September: 
daily from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Free entry  
www.garten.uni-muenster.de

10  AASEE (LAKE AA)  
www.tourismus.muenster.de
TOUR 2 “BACK TO NATURE”

No matter where you’re looking to start your nature tour of Münster, the Promenade is always a good idea. Taking the form of a green belt which surrounds the city centre, the Promenade is a local recreation area, a cycling track, jogging route and boulevard all rolled into one. The Promenade was built where the city wall once stood: a defence system made up of moats, watchtowers and sturdy strongholds. Even back then, the plans made it clear that this was to be a place where citizens could enjoy “strolling”. And that is exactly what this circular route, approximately 4.5 kilometres long, continues to be used for.

Start your walk from wherever you are. This green belt can be reached quickly and easily from any point in the city centre. And, no matter whether you choose to go in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction, under the leafy canopy of the lime tree-lined boulevard, you are sure to get that same feeling of communion with nature that you would get if you were in a forest. The mulch paths are pleasant to walk on, and parks, play areas, streams and benches invite you to rest a while and take things slow, despite the fact that the high numbers of speedy Münster cyclists passing through the area is very much a part of everyday life here. It takes approximately one hour to complete the entire circuit at a normal walking pace. However, the route is worth investigating, even if you choose to only complete a section of it.

Part of the Promenade leads past the Schlossplatz. The Fürstbischöfliche Schloss zu Münster (Prince Bishop’s Residence in Münster), which can only be viewed from the outside, was constructed from Baumberg sandstone in the Baroque style by Johann Conrad Schlaun. Today, it is the seat and symbol of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität (University of Münster). The Residence Gardens extend out behind the Residence. Surrounded by a picturesque moat, this natural space attracts visitors with its many paths, boulevards and large trees. While we’re on the subject of trees: a Tree Experience Trail with Eight Stops invites visitors to experiment, discover and enjoy. Passers-by of any age can learn about tree-based ecosystems to their heart’s content through the interesting facts displayed at each stop. The spacious designed gardens are approximately 14 hectares in size and filled with small, forested areas and winding paths. Spend an hour wandering wherever the fancy takes you or simply following the edge of the moat.
GARDEN DELIGHTS AND LAKESIDE FUN

A lovely natural spot, the University of Münster’s **BOTANISCHE GARTEN** (Botanical Garden) is well worth a visit. Established as a hortus botanicus in 1803, it can be found within the gardens of the Residence. Its unique feature: guests can enjoy the diversity of nature here any day of the year, even during bank holidays. The open spaces and greenhouses serve a range of functions. Or discover the **TIP MÜNSTER LÄNDISCHER BAUERNGARTEN** (Münsterland cottage garden)! This authentic, hedge-lined garden features areas filled with vegetables and flowers. The small “Pättkes” (a local term for “path”) form the shape of a cross and are meant to imitate those in monastery gardens. A colourful oasis! Find out new information and expand your knowledge through the range of tours and events on offer, as well as through the various signs on display. Ten greenhouses and many open spaces, as well as a lake, impressively huge trees and unexpected, unusual plants spark the imagination and invite visitors to try and take a broader view of nature and its many marvels. One highlight of the garden is the seed-bearing plant system, which has been set up according to the latest findings in the field of botany and which features example plants from 46 related phyla. The orangery, a listed building, is also very popular, as is the large tropical house, which resembles a large green jungle. A feast for the senses!

If you leave the Residence Gardens (with Botanical Garden) via the side exit on Hüfferstraße, you can reach the Aasee (Lake Aa) in just a few minutes by passing by the **TIP ROUNDS OF THE ALTER ZOO** (Old Zoo) and the equally lush and green Zentralfriedhof (Central Cemetery).

**LAKE AA**, approximately 40 hectares in size, is a favourite haunt of local residents — a local recreation area in the heart of the city which is incredibly diverse when it comes to leisure options. The lake, with its surrounding 90 hectares of parkland, and featuring trees, meadows and walkways, is part of the city’s flood protection. It is particularly pleasant to take a trip on the Solaaris or to head out on your own adventure with a pedalo or sailing boat. Walkers, cyclists and inline skaters alike are all drawn to Lake Aa, with its picturesque paths and lush greenery. Cafés, restaurants and hotels located around the lake ensure that visitors do not go hungry. The lake is also a true paradise for culture vultures. Many **TIP SCULPTURES** from past Skulptur Projekte Münster can be found on display here. Depending on your walking speed, it can take up to two hours to complete the entire circuit.
TOUR 3
“AROUND THE HARBOUR”

The area surrounding the city harbour is characterised by urban living and diversity which is shaped by young culture. Bright graffiti, chill gatherings with friends, streets lined with restaurants serving a wide range of cuisine, the lively Kreativkai and more – it’s an area worth checking out for yourself...

Around the Harbour
Duration: 1 to 3 hours
Moving away from the city centre and heading towards the area behind the main train station, you can find signs of colourful, urban life – especially in the **HANSAVIERTEL** and the Kreativkai. With its trendy bars, colourful student life and exciting food spots, the Hansaviertel is particularly enticing. South of this, located directly by the water’s edge, is the **KREATIVKAI**. The successful mixture of renovated warehouses and modern architecture gives the quay its unique charm. Creative individuals have clearly left their mark on the quarter, where you can find advertising agencies, architecture firms, co-working spaces and publishing houses, as well as a free art scene. Examples of this art scene can be found clustered in groups throughout the quarter, for example in the **TIP „SPEICHER II“, WHICH FEATURES AN ART GALLERY** and 30 studios. The area also boasts a diverse food scene, with one exceptional restaurant after another to be found on the northern side of the harbour basin. On the southern side, industrial monuments such as an old port crane and a striking storage silo serve as reminders of an earlier time, when the harbour was still an important trading centre. Many buildings in the area have been renovated. For example, the Wolfgang-Borchert-Theater (Wolfgang Borchert Theatre) is located in the Flechtheimspeicher, a former granary built by M. Flechtheim und Comp. Another point of interest to be found on this slightly rougher southern side of the harbour, also known as the **„B-SIDE“**, is the **TIP HAFENKÄSEREI**. This dairy, which offers visitors a transparent insight into its manufacturing process, produces a range of organic cheeses. What’s more, it also offers tours and tasting sessions. The evening is also a good time to take a stroll along this lesser well-known side of the harbour and get a good view of the lights from the livelier section of the harbour area, particularly popular for its nightlife.

Go a couple of hundred metres south-west past the Messe und Congress Centrum Halle Münsterland (Conference Centre) and you will find the **TIP HAWERKAMP** – an iconic festival site situated on former industrial wasteland that features daring artists, creative projects, an old engine shed that houses an events space, and numerous clubs. Here, the party tends to last until dawn – even during the week. In summer, one of the area’s biggest attractions is **TIP COCONUT BEACH**. Against a backdrop of palm trees and sand, this events space keeps its calendar interesting with a range of ever-changing formats. Well worth a visit!
It goes without saying – if the **DORTMUND-EMS-KANAL** didn’t exist, neither would Münster’s harbour area. The canal is a perfect place to go for a stroll or to explore the Dortmund-Ems-Kanal-Route (cycle route) by bike. In summer, this is a place for barbecuing and relaxing. Rowers can be seen year-round, while many locals cycle along the exceptionally straight canal to get to and from work, or use it as a place to walk their dogs. Maybe you’ll even see the MS Günther chugging along? This party boat has been livening up Münster’s events scene for several years now as a floating events space. If you’re interested, you can go and take a look at the canal’s **TIP TWIN LOCKS** at the Schifffahrter Damm (street): This construction allows two ships to be let through at the same time – one being descended to travel north along the canal and one being raised up to travel south along the canal – by pumping the water from one basin into the other. From the harbour, the walk to the locks takes approximately 45 minutes.

**GUIDED TOURS**

**JOIN PROFESSIONALS ON A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY**

As you may have noticed, this brochure is only able to provide you with a brief overview, even when it comes to Münster’s most important sights. If you want to learn more about the city, feel free to enlist the help of some professionals! Please find a selection below, listed alphabetically:

**DER MÜNSTERBUS**

Telephone: 0251 – 98 16 31 41
www.muensterbus.ms

**K3 STADTFÜHRUNGEN**

Telephone: 0251 – 14 32 517
www.k3.de

**STADT LUPE MÜNSTER E. V.**

Telephone: 0251 – 59 06 87 60
www.stadt-lupe.de

**STATTREISEN MÜNSTER E. V.**

Telephone: 0251 – 59 06 87 60
www.stadt-lupe.de

Find more tours and tips for tourists here: www.tourismus.muenster.de
ART, HISTORY AND MORE

With so many sculptures and works of art on display in the public sphere, Münster practically constitutes a tripping hazard – so mind your step! However, there’s just as much to see indoors, in the more than 30 museums which call Münster home: from golden medieval treasures to Picasso’s graphic work and the latest from today’s art scene, from local history to lacquer art from the Far East – there’s a huge number of artistic and cultural wonders on display in Münster which are just waiting to be discovered.
Museums

KUNSTMUSEUM PABLO PICASSO
This is the first museum in Germany dedicated exclusively to the works of Pablo Picasso. In addition to its extensive collection of lithographs and graphics, the museum also organises special exhibitions featuring items on loan from museums around the world.

Picassoplatz 1
Tues. – Sun. and bank holidays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
www.kunstmuseum-picasso-muenster.de

LWL-MUSEUM FÜR KUNST UND KULTUR
This museum stands out due to its open architecture and striking design. Across an exhibition space measuring 7,500 m2 in total, it presents exhibits which range from the early Middle Ages to the contemporary avant-garde.

Domplatz 10
Tues. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., until 10:00 p.m. on the 2nd Friday of every month
www.lwl-museum-kunst-kultur.de

STADTMUSEUM MÜNSTER (CITY MUSEUM OF MÜNSTER)
This museum displays the history of the city of Münster across 33 themed cabinets. Numerous models of the city and its architecture serve to demonstrate the shape Münster has taken on, and the changes it has been through, from the time it was founded until today.

Salzstraße 28
Tues. – Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Sat./Sun. and bank holidays 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Free admission.
www.stadt-muenster.de/museum/

FRIEDENSSAAL (HALL OF PEACE) IN THE HISTORIC TOWN HALL
This was where, on 15th May 1648, the Peace of Münster was signed, a partial settlement between Spain and the Netherlands. This was followed by the signing of the Westphalian Peace in Münster and Osnabrück on 24th October 1648, which brought an end to the Thirty Years’ War. On the walls of the Council Chamber, which has been preserved in its original form, you can still see the portraits of the sovereigns and emissaries of the powers involved.

Prinzipalmarkt 10
Visiting times: Tues. – Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sat./Sun. and bank holidays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (except during official events)
www.tourismus.muenster.de
The Rüschhaus House

This house is both a jewel of late Baroque architecture (J. C. Schlaun) and a memorial to German writer Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, who lived here from 1826 to 1846. Can only be visited as part of a tour (Tel.: 02533-1052), the Baroque garden is always open.

A post mill, a rural farmstead, a peasant’s cottage, a smithy, and even a village school – here, almost 30 half-timbered buildings from the 17th to the 19th centuries still stand as a testament to farming traditions in Westphalia.

This building housed police headquarters during World War II before being turned into the offices of the Reparations Agency. Today, it is both an innovative museum and a research and education facility.

This renovated warehouse by the harbour provides 1,000 m² of exhibition space in which to display and discuss contemporary visual arts projects.

THE RÜSCHHAUS HOUSE

This house is both a jewel of late Baroque architecture (J. C. Schlaun) and a memorial to German writer Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, who lived here from 1826 to 1846. Can only be visited as part of a tour (Tel.: 02533-1052), the Baroque garden is always open.

Am Rüschhaus 81, Münster-Nienberge
www.burg-huelshoff.de/besuch/haus-rueschhaus

MÜHLENHOF-FREILICHTMUSEUM (MÜHLENHOF OPEN-AIR MUSEUM)

A post mill, a rural farmstead, a peasant’s cottage, a smithy, and even a village school – here, almost 30 half-timbered buildings from the 17th to the 19th centuries still stand as a testament to farming traditions in Westphalia.

Theo-Breider-Weg 1
March – Oct.: Mon. – Sun. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Nov. – Feb.: Mon. – Fri., Sun. 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WESTFÄLISCHES PFERDEMUSEUM IM ALLWETTERZOO MÜNSTER
(WESTPHALIAN HORSE MUSEUM IN THE MÜNSTER ALL-WEATHER ZOO)

Westphalia is traditional horse country. In this museum, 1,000 m² of exhibition space has been specifically set aside to provide an insight into the natural and cultural history of horses and horse riding in the area.

Sentruper Straße 285
Tues. – Sun. and bank holidays 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
www.lwl-naturkundemuseum-muenster.de

GESCHICHTSORT VILLA TEN HOMPEL (VILLA TEN HOMPEL)

This building housed police headquarters during World War II before being turned into the offices of the Reparations Agency. Today, it is both an innovative museum and a research and education facility.

Kaiser-Wilhelm-Ring 28
Wed. 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Thurs./Fri. 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sun. 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Free admission.
www.muenster.de/stadt/villa-ten-hompel

KUNSTHALLE MÜNSTER (MÜNSTER ART GALLERY)

This renovated warehouse by the harbour provides 1,000 m² of exhibition space in which to display and discuss contemporary visual arts projects.

Hafenweg 28
Tues. – Fri. 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Sat./Sun. 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Free admission.
www.stadt-muenster.de/kunsthalle/ausstellungen

BIBELMUSEUM DER WESTFÄLISCHEN WILHELMUS-UNIVERSITÄT
(UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER BIBLE MUSEUM)
The museum makes use of around 400 precious exhibits to demonstrate the history of the Bible. Closed until further notice due to renovation works.

Pferdegasse 1
www.uni-muenster.de/Bibelmuseum

KUNSTHALLE MÜNSTER (MÜNSTER ART GALLERY)

This renovated warehouse by the harbour provides 1,000 m² of exhibition space in which to display and discuss contemporary visual arts projects.

Hafenweg 28
Tues. – Fri. 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Sat./Sun. 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Free admission.
www.stadt-muenster.de/kunsthalle/ausstellungen

More museums and information:
www.museen-in-muenster.de
Every ten years, the Skulptur Projekte transforms Münster into a key venue in the international art scene. Since 1977, “art in public places” has been the motto under which artists have been tackling the subjects of urban space and Münster’s history. This has led to a number of important artworks being created – many of which still continue to shape the character of the city.

**TOLERANZ DURCH DIALOG – EDUARDO CHILLIDA**
The bronze benches created by the famous Basque sculptor (1924 – 2002) are based on the guiding principle which can be inferred from the Peace of Westphalia – one of peace negotiated through the patient search for compromise; a process which is not always easy and not always without clashes.

**CONCERT IN REVERSE – REBECCA HORN**
The inner courtyard of the historic Zwinger was where the Gestapo executed prisoners in 1944. Today, it has been transformed into a touching memorial. Here, 42 metal hammers beat against the walls, red oil lamps cast flickering patches of light, water drips into a cistern – a haunting experience.

**THE MOON IN ALABAMA – TOBIAS REHBERGER**
In the Bahnhofsviertel, internationally renowned artist Tobias Rehberger has transformed some switchboxes into works of art. In doing so, he has turned grey cubes into imaginative seats, providing the city landscape with a distinctive new look. Now, these places are perfect for a romantic rendezvous, for spending time together, or simply for looking at.

**LARGE VERTEBRAE – HENRY MOORE**
The three parts of this bronze sculpture stand close together, yet they do not connect. In their harmonious smoothness and, embedded in green parkland, they combine the experience of modern art with that of nature.
TRAY

Wood with black lacquer and inlays from engraved mother of pearl; blooming plum branch and crescent moon, China, 14th century (late Yuan, early Ming dynasty), purchased 1999

In the Far East, winter plums are regarded as the first sign of spring, carrying the promise of an imminent end to winter.

GIANT POOL BALLS – CLAES OLDENBURG

A long-established landmark of the city – when faced with this installation, it is not too hard to believe that a giant once played billiards on the grass here and left behind three balls. Oldenburg achieved worldwide fame through his concept of enlarging – and thus defamiliarising – everyday objects.

TWO GREY DOUBLE MIRRORS FOR A PENDULUM – GERHARD RICHTER

Since 2018, the Dominikanerkirche (Church) has housed this artwork by Gerhard Richter. The heart of the installation is a Foucault pendulum, which provides viewers with a visible demonstration of the rotation of the Earth. The pendulum experiment is flanked by two grey glass sheets, which seem to move between the spheres of painting, sculpture, architecture and the “living picture”. (Will be closed for approx. one year due to renovation works from January 2020.)

www.tourismus.muenster.de

Find more information in the quick guide “Sculptures in Münster”, which features suggested tours that visit 64 works of art across Münster, as well as at:

www.tourismus.muenster.de – under the heading: Art and culture

Alternatively, you can discover the works of art with the Skulp.Tour app, which you can download for free at:

www.skulptour-muenster.de
CLEAR THE STAGE!

Got some spare time in the evening? Then Münster’s the perfect place to be. Whether you’re into grand opera, comedy or drama, dance theatre or variety shows, jazz festivals or live rock – if you dive into Münster’s stage world, you’ll be spoilt for choice. Get ready to experience something new.

www.tourismus.muenster.de – heading: Art and culture
Theatre

**THEATER MÜNSTER** (MÜNSTER THEATRE)
Münster’s theatre, which made waves after the war with its daring architecture, offers not only plays, but also dance, theatre for children and young people, and ambitious musical performances.

Neubrückenstraße 63
www.theater-muenster.com

**WOLFGANG-BORCHERT-THEATER** (WOLFGANG BORCHERT THEATRE)
One of the oldest privately-run theatres in Germany, with unconventional re-imaginings of the classics as well as contemporary plays.

Am Mittelhafen 10
www.wolfgang-borchert-theater.de

**THEATER IM PUMPENHAUS** (PUMP HOUSE THEATRE)
A hotspot for exciting avant-garde performances – especially when it comes to international dance theatre.

Gartenstraße 123
www.pumpenhaus.de

**GOP VARIÉTÉ-THEATER** (THEATRE)
Leave the everyday world behind you. Be amazed at top artists, laugh at off-beat comedy – and enjoy the culinary delights on offer.

Bahnhofstraße 20 – 22
www.variete.de/spielorte/muenster/

**BOULEVARD MÜNSTER**
From elegant comedy to sparkling humoresque – top entertainment guaranteed.

Königsstraße 12 – 14
www.boulevard-muenster.de

**FREUYNDE UND GAESDTE** (FRIENDS AND GUESTS)
Münster’s only location theatre plays at the most unusual venues – from Lake Aa to a pub in the Kuhviertel Quarter.

www.f-und-g.de
**Shows and Music**

**MESSE UND CONGRESS CENTRUM HALLE MÜNSTERLAND**

(Exhibition Centre)

This has been the region’s largest event centre for 80 years – hosting trade fairs, conferences, concerts and all kinds of events. The Rolling Stones’ first concert in Germany took place here.

*Albersloher Weg 32*

[www.mcc-halle-muensterland.de](http://www.mcc-halle-muensterland.de)

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**JOVEL MUSIC HALL**

A traditional club founded by Steffi Stephan, bassist for German rock sensation Udo Lindenberg, and featuring appearances from former big names in the music world, as well as popular discos.

*Albersloher Weg 54*

[www.jovel.de](http://www.jovel.de)

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**HOT JAZZ CLUB**

From Randy Brecker to Bill Evans and Brian Auger to Klaus Doldinger and John Lee Hooker Jr. – they’ve all played here.

*Hafenweg 26b*

[www.hotjazzclub.de](http://www.hotjazzclub.de)

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**GLEIS 22**

Whether it’s live bands or disco, you won’t find any mainstream music here. Has been voted Germany’s best music club multiple times.

*Hafenstraße 34*

[www.gleis22.de](http://www.gleis22.de)

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**SKATERS PALACE**

From mini-ramps to the skate hall, here, skating is an attitude. The Skaters Palace hosts events, parties and cool concerts.

*Dahlweg 126*

[www.skaters-palace.de](http://www.skaters-palace.de)

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**More information:**

[www.tourismus.muenster.de](http://www.tourismus.muenster.de) – under the heading: Events

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**Cinema**

**CINEPLEX MÜNSTER**

Nine large cinemas with space for 2,700 visitors – the place to watch the latest blockbusters.

*Albersloher Weg 14*

[www.cineplex.de/muenster/](http://www.cineplex.de/muenster/)

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**SCHLOSSTHEATER KINO MÜNSTER**

A high-quality cinema located in a listed building. Has received a number of awards for the films it shows.

*Melchersstraße 81*

[www.cineplex.de/infos/das-schlosstheater/1161/muenster/](http://www.cineplex.de/infos/das-schlosstheater/1161/muenster/)

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**CINEMA & KURBELKISTE**

Another Münster cinema that has won a lot of awards as well. A small art-house cinema which is exciting, lively, features lots of special programmes, and has a nice pub.

*Warendorfer Straße 45 – 47*

[www.cinema-muenster.de](http://www.cinema-muenster.de)
SHOPPING & GOING OUT

SHOPPING FUN MEETS THE MÜNSTER WAY OF LIFE

Had enough culture for a while? What about a relaxed shopping spree? No matter what your budget is, whether you’re looking for classic fashion or the latest styles, rare antiques or culinary delights – in Münster you will find things you just can’t get elsewhere. And all this in a charming atmosphere that you can stop to enjoy while taking a break.
**PRINZIPALMARKT**
Taking a stroll under the colonnades of the imposing patrician houses is a must. Here, you can find elegant fashion and exclusive jewellery, watches and antiques in specialist shops that, in many cases, have been here for a very long time. Enjoy a unique view over the entire city while drinking a coffee in the shade of the Town Hall and Lambertkirche (Church).

**ALTER FISCHMARKT**
A new gateway to the city centre, framed by elegant gabled houses, the Alter Fischmarkt is home to attractive courtyard restaurants, an exciting department store for children, and exclusive clothes shops.

**SALZSTRASSE**
Münster’s oldest commercial street is a lively mixture of shops selling clothes and shoes, jewellers, home décor establishments and small cafés – surrounded on all sides by cultural highlights, in particular the so-called “Baroque island”, which comprises the Erbdrostenhof, the Dominikanerkirche (Church) and the Clemenskirche (Church).

**STUBENGASSE AND HANSECARRÉ**
The outstanding modern architecture here (which won the German Urban Design Prize in 2010) presents an attractive contrast to the historical Prinzipalmarkt. Here, you can find trendy chain stores selling young fashion alongside bars and cafés, all located in large squares that open up completely new opportunities for strolling around the centre of Münster.

**LUDGERIVIERTEL**
Located between Ludgeristraße and Königsstraße, this quarter is an attractive mix of large clothes shops and department stores, smaller shops unique to Münster, and a number of restaurants and cafés. The Ludgeristraße is one of Germany’s top ten shopping streets. One attraction of note here is the modern Münster Arkaden, a three-storey shopping arcade.
ROTHENBURG
A lively street linking Prinzipalmarkt, the Münster Arkaden (mall) and the Aegidiimarkt. The perfect place to take a stroll and enjoy the combination of high-quality chain stores, local independent shops and traditional Münster hospitality.

KIEPENKERLVIERTEL
This is where Münster’s history and individual lifestyle come together to create a unique shopping experience. Many of the shops here are run by the owners themselves, while a range of trendy shops also cater to a younger audience. To top it off, the quarter also features galleries and eating establishments which offer cuisine ranging from traditional Westphalian to international.

KUHVIERTEL
With its winding alleyways, the Kuhviertel is one of the most traditional quarters in the city centre. Although it is most well-known as a traditional pub quarter, it also has plenty to offer art and antiques lovers with its galleries and antique shops.

HÖRSTERSTRASSE
Many small, exclusive shops specialising in fashion, furniture, antiques and art provide the setting for a relaxed shopping spree, while cafés and restaurants invite visitors to relax and enjoy themselves during a break or in the evening.

BAHNHOFsviertel
A wide range of shops, restaurants and things to see and do make this quarter a popular destination for locals and visitors alike, with its renowned hotels, numerous cafés and clubs, as well as the GOP Varieté-Theater (Theatre).

HAFENVIERTEL/KREATIVKAI
The trendiest place to go out in Münster can be found by the harbour. Situated by the water’s edge, old harbour buildings and exceptional new builds provide visitors with an exciting mixture of art and culture, gastronomy and hip clubs – around the clock.

More information at:
www.muenster-kauft-ein.de
www.muenster-geht-aus.de
Food

BIG ON TRADITION
Traditional Westphalian cuisine can be found in rustic pubs and sophisticated restaurants alike – both in its authentic, original form and as a modern reinterpretation. Try the Altes Gasthaus Leve, the oldest restaurant in the city, or Pinkus Müller, the first organic German brewery.

YOUNG AND INTERNATIONAL
Whether it’s Lebanese, Peruvian or fusion food, vegan or low carb delicacies, or the latest trends in the burger or bowl scene, Münster’s gastronomic scene is the perfect place to discover something new. In a city home to almost 65,000 students and people from more than 160 countries, this is hardly surprising.

UNIQUE TO MÜNSTER
Münster was once home to more than 150 Altbier breweries. Today, Pinkus Müller is the only one which remains. Another legacy from this period which has also stood the test of time is the traditional drink “Altbierbowle”, a mixture of Altbier, fruit syrup and fruit. Münster’s beer brewing tradition is currently experiencing a revival in the form of the craft beer scene, which aims to break away from standard taste and give beer a regional flavour.

WEEKLY MARKET
Every week, the Domplatz hosts a market that truly brings home the sheer variety which is typical of Münster. Here, farmers from the Münsterland region display their goods next to Dutch stalls selling fish or cheese, while Mediterranean delicacies, served alongside those from regional organic farms, invite passers-by to enjoy a quick snack or to make a purchase.

Weekly market: Wed. + Sat. 7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
www.wochenmarkt-muenster.de
Organic farmers’ market: Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
www.oekomarkt-ms.de

LIVE COOKING
High-quality ingredients deserve loving craftsmanship. Whether it’s roasting exquisite types of coffee or creating delicious organic cheeses by the harbour – many places in Münster allow you to watch local manufacturers while they work.

Find a complete overview of Münster’s food scene at:
www.muenster-geht-aus.de
EVERYTHING TO KEEP YOUR LITTLE ONES AMUSED

All the tourist attractions, churches and streets can be hard work for little legs. But don’t worry. Münster is a young, family-friendly city – something which becomes clear when you consider the range of activities we have on offer to help keep even the youngest visitors entertained.

www.tourismus.muenster.de
www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero
www.muenster.de/kinderportal.html
All the greenery in Münster offers a welcome change, especially for parents with children – here, there’s plenty of space to play, run around and relax. However, that’s not all we have to offer in terms of activities for children.

ALLWETTERZOO MÜNSTER (MÜNSTER ALL-WEATHER ZOO)
The All-Weather Zoo is a great day out for all the family. Here, visitors can experience animals from all over the world up-close. What’s more, they can learn more about the animals, their habitats and conservation during the daily feedings and talks from zoo keepers.

Sentruper Str. 133
www.allwetterzoo.de

AASEE (LAKE AA)
We highly recommend taking a trip on the solar-powered ship, the “Solaaris”, which regularly runs between the lakeside terraces, Mühlenhof Open-Air Museum, and the zoo. And, while we’re at it, what about a nice little tour of the lake in a pedalo or sailing boat?!

www.overschmidt.de
www.aaseepark.de

MAXI-TURM (MAXI TOWER)
The Stadthausturm (townhouse tower) offers boys and girls between the ages of three and ten plenty of diversion, fun and games. Here, trained staff can take care of your children for up to three hours, giving you the opportunity to take a relaxing stroll through the city.

Prinzipalmarkt 15, Mon. – Fri. 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
(except for the 2nd – 5th weeks of the summer holidays)
www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero

MAXI-SAND
Like a mini oasis in the middle of the city, the Maxi-Sand sandpit offers younger visitors plenty of space to relax and recover from exploring the city. Parents are responsible for supervising their children.

Harrewinkelplatz, May – September: Mon. – Sat. 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
www.stadt-muenster.de/kinderbuero

See more of what Münster has to offer for children at:
www.muenster.de/kinderportal.html
TAKE A DEEP BREATH!

After all the hustle and bustle of city life, how about enjoying a break in lush green surroundings? Or maybe even taking a short trip to the countryside? The best part about this is that you don’t even have to leave Münster to do so. Whether it’s the green belt of the Promenade, the grounds of the Schloss (Residence) or the Aasee (Lake Aa), which leads directly into the open countryside, or whether it’s the few minutes it takes to cycle to the Gasselstiege cycle path, the River Werse or the Rieselfelder nature reserve – what would Münster be without its lush greenery?
Aasee (Lake Aa)

Lake Aa has a special place in every local resident’s heart. In close proximity to the old town, it is hard to resist a visit to the lake and its green surroundings. Get the best views of the lake from the new lakeside terraces. Or from Jorge Pardo’s “Pier” – just one of the many sculptures to be found around the lake.

www.aaseepark.de

Botanischer Garten (Botanical Garden)

Founded in 1803 as a scientific institution within the university, the garden is also open to the public. It offers a diverse range of plants which is without parallel and provides an oasis of relaxation in the heart of Münster.

www.garten.uni-muenster.de

Promenade

In the 18th century, Münster’s city fathers made the decision to tear down the mighty city walls. However, the fact that they replaced these with a boulevard lined with a double row of lime trees is something for which today’s citizens and visitors are very grateful: so much greenery – and so close to the city centre!

www.tourismus.muenster.de

Rieselfelder European Nature Reserve

A wildlife habitat for many rare species of animals and plants, Rieselfelder is one of the most important bird sanctuaries in the EU, offering an exceptional opportunity to experience nature. The reserve has proved to be an ideal sanctuary for endangered species of waterfowl and wading birds in particular.

www.biostation-muenster.org
Though it may not have been as historically significant for the city as the Aa, this has made the River Werse all the more important when it comes to leisure activities. Paddling on the river or cycling along its banks – allow the Werse to get you out among lush greenery and take a few deep breaths. This is how we relax in Münster!

The bicycle, locally known as a “Leeze”, is the most popular form of transport in Münster. Every day, more than 100,000 people use their bikes to get around the city. So if you’re looking to have the true Münster experience during your stay here, you’d best be on your bike! Approximately 4,500 kilometres of well-signposted cycle paths take you from the city centre to the beautiful, largely flat parkland which makes up the surrounding Münsterland region. No matter whether you’re looking for a day trip or a bike tour lasting several days, simply head off or use one of the many themed routes as a guide. You can find a wide range of touring maps in Münster Information.

www.naviki.org
www.tourenplaner-muensterland.de
www.radregion-muensterland.de

RIVER WERSE
Though it may not have been as historically significant for the city as the Aa, this has made the River Werse all the more important when it comes to leisure activities. Paddling on the river or cycling along its banks – allow the Werse to get you out among lush greenery and take a few deep breaths. This is how we relax in Münster!

www.radregion-muensterland.de
DID YOU KNOW?

When you look beyond the typical attractions, what else is there to find? Münster also has a few other qualities up its sleeve, qualities which have lent it international recognition. In this section, you can find a small selection of things which are unique to Münster – maybe you’ll even recognise one or two of them?
CSI MÜNSTER AND WILSBERG
How could it come to this? Münster, of all places, as a hotbed of crime! However, the numbers don’t lie: TV detectives such as Börne, Thiel, Wilsberg and co. are among the most popular investigators to be found on the small screen in Germany. Find further relevant information in our crime-related guide, “Murderous Münster”, available from Münster Information.

www.tourismus.muenster.de

THE TOWER KEEPER
Sitting high up in the tower of the Lambertikirche (Church), Martje Saljé is one of the last tower keepers in Europe. She can be heard blowing her horn every half hour between 9:00 p.m. and midnight, every day except Tuesday.

www.tuermerinvonmuenster.de

ANABAPTISTS
In the 1530s, Münster was home to unspeakable events. The citizens defied their sovereign rulers, the bishops, and rejected the old faith. The Anabaptists proclaimed the city the “New Jerusalem” and made their leader, Jan van Leiden, king. The uprising came to a violent end. Treachery allowed the bishop to recapture the city, which resulted in a bloodbath. To this day, the iron baskets on the Lambertikirche (Church) tower serve as a reminder of the executed Anabaptists.

www.tourismus.muenster.de

FELIX THE RABBIT
Children (and parents) love the widely-travelled rabbit and the letters he writes. But did you know that he actually comes from Münster? Just like Princess Lillifee, he is the product of an old, family-run firm of publishers in Münster.

www.felix-der-hase.de

STUDENTS
They make for a young, multicultural city and are an unmistakeable part of everyday life in Münster life. With a ratio of more than 200 students per 1,000 inhabitants, Münster’s concentration of students is among the highest in Germany. What’s more, year after year, the universities here encourage an influx of new faces and talent (approx. 65,000 students). This has proven to be infectious and is something which keeps the venerable old city young and lively – a fountain of youth for the city as a whole.

www.tourismus.muenster.de

“LEEZE” (= BICYCLE)
With 1.67 bicycles per capita, babies and pensioners included, Münster is a city of bikes. Germany’s first-ever bicycle parking garage was built here in 1999 near the train station. Two more soon followed. The centrepiece of this bicycle network, which comprises 300 kilometres in total, is the Promenade, a bicycle highway surrounding the city centre which is often the cause for many amazed faces among visitors.

www.tourismus.muenster.de

WESTPHALIAN CUISINE
Ham, pumpernickel, pig’s trotters, peppered beef stew – Münster is the perfect place to discover traditional, down-to-earth Westphalian cuisine! Whether it’s hearty rustic fare or a sophisticated modern dish – when prepared by our professionals, it’s guaranteed to be delicious.

www.pinkus.de

PINKUS BEER
This Westphalian Altbier brewery and restaurant is full of tradition: today, the sixth generation of the Müller family is now responsible for brewing the famous Pinkus beers – including the first organic beer in the world. The brewery exports to communities of fans around the world.

www.pinkus.de
The History of Münster

You don’t have to be a historian to be able to understand the significance of Münster’s history. The past 1,200 years of the city’s history have been shaped by key events and their repercussions. We have put together a summary of some of the most important milestones below...

**ca. 793**  Münster is founded. The missionary Ludger founds a monastery (“monasterium”) at the ford on the Aa on behalf of Charles the Great.

**805**  Ludger is ordained as bishop of Münster.

**ca. 1350**  Construction work on the Town Hall is completed. At this time, Münster has approximately 9,000 inhabitants. Even at this early stage, Münster was, as a major Hanseatic city, an important intellectual and cultural hub.

**1534 – 35**  The Anabaptists take over Münster and reign for 16 months. The three cages in which the Anabaptist leaders were displayed after being tortured to death can still be found on the tower of the Lambertikirche (Church).

**1648**  Following five years of negotiations in Münster and Osnabrück, the Westphalian Peace ends the 30 Years’ War. The partial settlement was signed between the Netherlands and Spain in the Friedenssaal (Hall of Peace), officially recognising the sovereignty of the Netherlands.

**1816**  Münster becomes the capital city of the Province of Westphalia after the Congress of Vienna confirms the authority of the State over the Church and, with it, Prussian rule over the former prince-bishopric in 1815.

**1899**  Operations begin at the city harbour, with its connection to the Dortmund-Ems Canal.

**1945**  Münster is among those German cities most severely affected by the Second World War. 90% of the city centre was reduced to rubble. The number of inhabitants dropped from 132,800 to 25,000.

**1958**  Construction work to rebuild the Town Hall is completed.

**1977**  The first sculpture exhibition takes place (every 10 years).

**1993**  Münster celebrates its 1,200th birthday.

**1998**  Together with Osnabrück, Münster is at the heart of festivities for the celebrations which form the “350 Years of the Peace of Westphalia” anniversary.

**2004**  Münster receives the LivCom Award as the most liveable city in the world in its category.

**2005**  1,200-year anniversary of the city being a bishop’s seat.

**2015**  The European Commission awards the town halls of both Münster and Osnabrück with the European Heritage Label as the “Sites of the Peace of Westphalia”.
MÜNSTER FROM A TO Z

Looking to hire a bike? Or maybe you want to extend your stay and are looking for accommodation? Or how about some tips about what’s currently on in town? Ask us! As “Münster pros”, we’re happy to help! Find an overview of our services over the following pages.
GETTING HERE
No matter whether you’re getting here by car, bus or train, by plane or by bike, the university city of Münster is easy to get to. Find maps on how to get here, an outline of our low emission zone, and city maps at www.tourismus.muenster.de

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
We provide a special map to help people with disabilities to discover the city – which also contains information about the accessibility of tourist attractions. Available for free at Münster Information.

CONGRESS OFFICE
The Congress Office is your first point of call when it comes to organising conferences and congresses in Münster. We are your one-stop shop for making your event a resounding success, offering a comprehensive range of services free of charge!

LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT
The latest information on public transport can be found at the mobilé service centre opposite the main train station, in the city’s public utilities-run CityShop at Salzstraße 21, or at www.stadtwerke-muenster.de/privatkunden/busverkehr

PARKING GUIDANCE SYSTEM
The parking guidance system guides you to the next car park with free spaces.

SOUVENIRS
You can find a wide range of souvenirs in the “Münster-Souvenirs” shop.

TAXIS
There are many taxi ranks in the city centre (see map)

SIGNPOSTS FOR TOURISTS
Green signs are used to indicate the hotel route. The brown and white signs in the city centre are to draw your attention to important tourist destinations and show you how to get there.
“Münster live” is a comprehensive monthly programme of events taking place in the city. An overview of Münster’s open-air events is also published once a year. Both programmes can be found at Münster Information.

www.tourismus.muenster.de

You can find places to park your caravan directly in front of Campingplatz Münster (Münster Campsite). Other spaces are located in the Albersloher Weg/Hafenstraße car park, the Stadbad Ost car park, on Mauritz-Lindenweg and at the Eymann Sauna in Münster-Amelsbüren.

www.tourismus.muenster.de

Book your accommodation free of charge through Münster Marketing – either in a face-to-face consultation or online.

Heinrich-Brüning Straße 8, 48143 Münster
Mon. – Fri. from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sat. from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Telephone: +49 251 492 - 2726, fax: +49 251 492 - 7759
Email: tourismus@stadt-muenster.de
Website: www.tourismus.muenster.de

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