



DÜSSELDORF

Düsseldorf, the dynamic metropolis on the Rhine, is as exciting as never before; with its focus on art, architecture and culture and both traditional and innovative the former fishing village on the River Düssel is now the capital of the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, fashion and trade fair centre and a playground for architects of renown from all over the world. Around 30 museums, including the Kunsthalle on Grabbeplatz, the Kunstpalast at the Ehrenhof and numerous galleries and collections, have made the city a venue for contemporary art, with modern architecture to be admired at the Media Harbour and many other places besides.

Restored town houses and ancient churches, cosy pubs and traditional microbreweries line the charming little streets in the heart of town clustered around mediaeval Burgplatz. Life here and on the Rhine promenade is suffused with a lightness and a serene sense of Rhenish tranquillity.

Over 180 photos depict the many facets of Düsseldorf, with special features on the city of fashion and shopping, culinary specialities such as Ähzezupp, Halve Hahn and Pärken, architectural gems both ancient and modern and the chief waterway of the River Rhine.



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Journey through



DÜSSELDORF

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Stürtz

First page:
On the market square
the equestrian statue of
Elector Johann Wilhelm
of the Palatinate (1658–

1716), or Jan Wellem for
short, is one of the oldest
monuments in town,
created by Gabriel de
Grupello in 1711.

Previous page:
The Rhine promenade,
over a mile long, is the
perfect place to stroll, relax
and meet up with friends.
Various pubs and cafés

have moved into the old
casemates and warehouses
lining the former harbour,
serving good food and
Düsseldorf's dark Altbier
under shady awnings.

Below:
Most of the little streets
in the old town are free of
traffic, with some com-
pletely pedestrianised.
This is where you will find

traditional pubs, cosy
cafés, a number of micro-
breweries and diverse
restaurants catering for
all tastes and pockets.

Page 10/11:
There are spectacular
views of the Rhine and
Oberkassel to be had
from the Rheinturm

which boasts a bar with
panoramic windows 168m
(551 ft) up. A few steps
higher is a revolving

restaurant which allows
you to gaze out over all
parts of Düsseldorf with-
out leaving your seat.



Contents

12	Surprisingly different: Düsseldorf, vibrant metropolis on the Rhine
26	Between the Rhine and Königsplatz – Düsseldorf's lively centre Page 40 Altbier, Ähzezupp and Halve Hahn – culinary ABC Page 68 City of fashion Düsseldorf – shop till you drop
74	The Media Harbour and other districts – Düsseldorf's creative scene Page 84 Glass, concrete and steel – short architec- tural city tour
110	In the suburbs – Düsseldorf's green belt Page 118 Lifeline Rhine
134	Index
135	Map
136	Credits

The most prominent buildings in the old town, among them the church of St Lambertus and the Schloßsturm, are flanked by the bright lights of the big wheel several times a year when Düsseldorf celebrates one of its many city festivals.



Left: The most popular place to watch the sun go down in Düsseldorf is undoubtedly the grand flight of steps on Burgplatz with its wonderful panoramas of the Rheinturm and Rheinkniebrücke.

Below: Appearances are deceptive: this clock on the Rhine promenade doesn't actually tell the time. The small hand gives the height of the current water level of the Rhine in metres, with the big hand indicating the number of centimetres.



Bottom: The barrier-free ramp from the Rhine to Burgplatz hasn't been this colourful for very long. It was only revamped in 2017, when the quay wall was adorned with a mosaic of bright tiles.



ALTBIER, ÄHZEZUPP AND HALVE HAHN – CULINARY ABC

A city can not only be explored on foot but also by your taste buds. However, not everything on the menu in Düsseldorf is immediately recognisable as such to the uninitiated. *Ähzezupp*, *Halve Hahn*, *Bierhappen*, *Röggelchen*, *Pärken* – these are terms not even all Germans are familiar with and they don't always linguistically tarry with what's actually on the plate in front of you.

A hearty meal

The strange-sounding *Ähzezupp*, for instance, is a thick, no-nonsense pea soup served with bacon, sausage or knuckle of pork. *Halve Hahn*, which actually means "half a chicken", is not that at all: there's no chicken in sight, whether grilled, fried or roasted. In Düsseldorf a *Halve Hahn* is a mature, strong-smelling cheese often made with caraway seed and eaten with mustard: dark, very hot Düsseldorf *Mostert*. This is now available in a number of flavours, the ultimate vernacular variant being – not surprisingly – mustard with *Altbier*.



Simply good:

Pärken and *Bierhappen*

Pärken are two plain German sausages in a white roll with mustard or with a crusty rye roll, fondly termed *Röggelchen* in the diminutive form here. *Bierhappen* (literally: "beer nibbles") are not nibbles at all but totally unpretentious, fully-fledged rolls traditionally eaten with *Altbier*. They are filled with fine liver sausage, hearty minced pork (*Mett*) or coarse black pudding (*Flöns*) and hot onion rings (*Ölks*). For some the beer drunk with them takes some

getting used to, as does the name *Altbier* which literally means "old beer". This traditional Düsseldorf brew isn't of course old or spoiled but top fermented, "old" referring to the older brewing tradition. Its spicy flavour and dark colour may seem strange at first but after a few glasses the ice is usually broken. Locals also swear that *Altbier* is good for the kidneys – but this is said of other beers, too ...

Beer and *Bierhappen* are best enjoyed at one of the many microbreweries in the old town or outside in a shady beer garden in the summer. Incidentally, people of all classes mingle in the often rather rustic craft breweries, traditional pubs and breezy gardens, frequently after work – and the *Kobesse*, as the waiters are called here in Düsseldorf, are obliging but often rather coarse in their manner. You don't actually have to order a second (or third or fourth) *Altbier*, by the way; as soon as your glass is empty, the waiter simply comes up and replaces it with a full one.

What do the people here like to eat in their own homes? Spicy potato fritters (*Rievekoch*) with apple sauce, for example, often also served in the local breweries on Fridays. *Sauerbraten* is another typical dish, a tender joint of beef marinated in vinegar, bay leaves and peppercorns before being braised in the pan. The meat is so tender after cooking that it practically falls apart and the slightly sour sauce is sweetened with raisins. *Sauerbraten* is served with red cabbage and potato dumplings. Salted knuckle of pork (*Hämmche*) is also a popular local delicacy and eaten with sauerkraut and boiled or mashed potatoes. A mixture of boiled potatoes, apples and fried black pudding often adorns local tables under the name of *Himmel un Äd* ("heaven and earth").

For those who aren't that fond of plain home cooking à la Düsseldorf the city has plenty else to offer. This is thanks to the many different nationalities resident in the city. The sizeable Japanese community has a number of excellent restaurants in and around Immermannstraße. Chinese, Italian, Turkish and Greek specialities can be savoured in practically all of the city districts, which of course also have their simpler pubs and snack bars selling kebabs, *Currywurst* sausage and chips. One special culinary hotspot popular with young and old, vegetarians and meat eaters, beer drinkers and wine connoisseurs is the market on Carlsplatz. Even if you're not hungry, it's worth coming here for the great atmosphere alone.



Left: There's no avoiding *Altbier*, the Düsseldorf tittle per se, when you're in town. The dark, top-fermented beer is always to hand, whether bottled or on tap at the bar.

Above: Although there are about 300 pubs, cafés, restaurants and breweries in the old part of town, there's often quite a crush both inside and out. On warm summer evenings in particular it's often hard to find a space outside.



Small photos, right, from top to bottom: Snack bars are becoming more and more original in their design in the hope of attracting customers and standing out from the competition. There's also a wide range of different foods on offer.

No trip to Düsseldorf would be complete without a visit to the mustard shop with its little museum on Berger Straße. There are so many different mustards to try here; not all of them may be to your liking, but your taste buds will certainly be tickled!

A fresh potato fritter (*Rievekoch*) from a street stall will still your hunger pangs for a while and line your stomach before you go out on the town to try an *Altbier* or two.

Ähzezupp – the name may not sound very appetizing but in fact describes a rather tasty and nutritious thick pea soup guaranteed to warm you up on a cold winter's day. *Ähzezupp*'s often served in the local breweries.





To fill the gap where the city fortifications had once stood, between 1802 and 1804 master builders Anton Huschberger, Friedrich Weyhe and Gottlieb Bau laid out a water-filled ditch about one kilometre long, 5 m (16 ft) wide and 30 m (98 ft) deep which is fed by the Triton Fountain. The ornamental moat at first had a number of different names: Neue Allee (new avenue), Mittelallee (middle avenue) and later Kastanien-Allee (chestnut avenue) thanks to the many horse chestnut trees planted along it. The current designation was bestowed following an attack on King Friedrich Wilhelm IV who was pelted with horse manure on a visit to the city in 1848. In an attempt to mollify the royals, three years later the moat was renamed Königsallee or king's avenue.



Page 64/65:

Undoubtedly one of the most magnificent contemporary structures in town: the elegantly curved

Kö Bogen I at the end of Königsallee, erected in a profusion of marble and glass from plans drawn up

by star architect Daniel Libeskind. Work is already in progress on the nearby Kö Bogen II.



Left: So that you don't completely lose track of the time when shopping, at the north end of Königsallee stands a historic clock, still in working order and affectionately known as Green Mathilde or Slim Else by the locals.

Below: Water only flows from the Triton Fountain, which is supplied by the River Düsseldorf, in the summer. The fountain is still worth admiring, however, and always a popular motif with selfie-taking Asian tourists in particular.



CITY OF FASHION DÜSSELDORF – SHOP TILL YOU DROP

As its motto Düsseldorf could quite shamelessly adopt “shop till you drop”, for the city is an El Dorado for purveyors and purchasers of fashion and beauty. The sheer diversity of products is such that many an avid shopper can only agonize over what to buy (next). Düsseldorf has long been a city where fashions are created and trends set, with the Rhine metropolis now one of Europe’s leading bastions of style, this leading role frequently underpinned by a number of trade fairs dedicated to the latest vogue. International labels, such as Gucci, Prada, Dior, Vuitton and Chanel, have all set up shop here. Their sales headquarters, studios and showrooms are predominantly located in the Media Harbour, with the stores selling the coveted articles found on elegant Königsallee, affectionately known as KÖ, the narrow side streets and busy Schadowstraße.

Those who can afford it make their modish acquisitions in the exquisite boutiques on Königsallee. Stretching a kilometre, one luxury establishment after another vies for custom, with vast shopping malls covering several floors sandwiched in between them, leaving practically nothing to be desired. The fine fashion emporia in the historic centre also largely satisfy the requirements of their well-heeled clientele. Königsallee is a boulevard of the vanities to boot. This isn’t just where you come to shop but also to see and be seen. Famous celebrities, aged aristocrats and the *nouveaux riches* parade their wealth here, evident in their designer clothes and the sets of wheels which whisk them and their latest procurements home. For those with more modest funds at their disposal the big department stores with their less costly wares are all represented on and close to Schadowstraße. C&A, H&M, Peek & Cloppenburg and Galeria Kaufhof have out-fits catering for all tastes and budgets.

Shop in style

At the north end of Königsallee opposite the Hofgarten a new hotspot of international fashion has evolved in the form of KÖ Bogen I, well worth a visit for the architecture alone. Just before it, on the corner of Schadowstraße and Blumenstraße, is the Schadow Arkaden, which with its star shape and pretty façade not only stands out from the bigger shopping centres but also has around fifty retailers boasting a wide range of potential purchases. The interior of Stilwerk on Grünstraße, a side street off Königsallee, is also an architectural delight.



The mall has an oval base, five storeys and a glass roof for perfect lighting. The well-coordinated spectrum of items to tempt the purse ranges from stylish designer togs to unusual pieces for the home. You can find an excellent mix of eateries and stores artfully draped with luxury items and international brands at the KÖ Galerie, with about 100 shops, cafés and restaurants distributed across three levels. And if you haven’t yet had enough, a walkway takes you to the adjacent Sevens – Home of Saturn shopping arcade with its unusual interior decor and even balance of food, fashion, beauty and technology outlets.

Just fifteen minutes’ walk away, south of Königsallee, the Düsseldorf Arcaden have established themselves on what used to be the Friedrichstraße goods yard. The prices here are moderate, the range of items in the ca. 120 shops tantalisingly diverse. After such a hefty session of retail therapy you can restore your energy at the shopping centre’s very own fitness centre and health spa before once more entering the throng. There’s also plenty going on fashion-wise further afield. The creations of the young designers and makers of modes in the shops in Flingern, Derendorf, Oberbilk and Unterbilk are saucy, sassy and sexy. And if you’re having trouble negotiating the jungle of fashion stores, you can simply hire a personal shopper to advise you on your colours and styles, steer you towards the right houses of *haute couture* and even carry your bags – making shop till you drop in Düsseldorf an experience you (and your bank account) won’t forget in a hurry ...



Left: The ground floor of the city museum on Berger Allee has a small yet informative exhibition documenting Düsseldorf’s rise to one of the largest fashion metropolises in Europe.

Above: The stores and store fronts on Königsallee simply effuse elegance and luxury, such as the windows of this jewellery and fashion house in the arcades of the WZ Centre close to Girardet Bridge.

Small photos, right, from top to bottom: The little shops and boutiques in the old town often have many surprises in store, clearly distinguishing them from the shopping centres in and near Schadowstraße and on Königsallee.

The Stilwerk shopping mall on Grünstraße, a side street off Königsallee, combines retail therapy with culinary delight and architectural harmony. This alone makes it well worth a visit.

The inner courtyard of the Wilhelm Marx Haus, what’s known as the Stadtbrückchen, is now home to one of the greats of the fashion industry: Hugo Boss. Fashion-conscious males can come here in search of the perfect outfit.

What would Düsseldorf be without Königsallee? The kilometre-long avenue invites you to shop till you drop – although the luxurious items on show in the windows are not for everyone’s pocket.



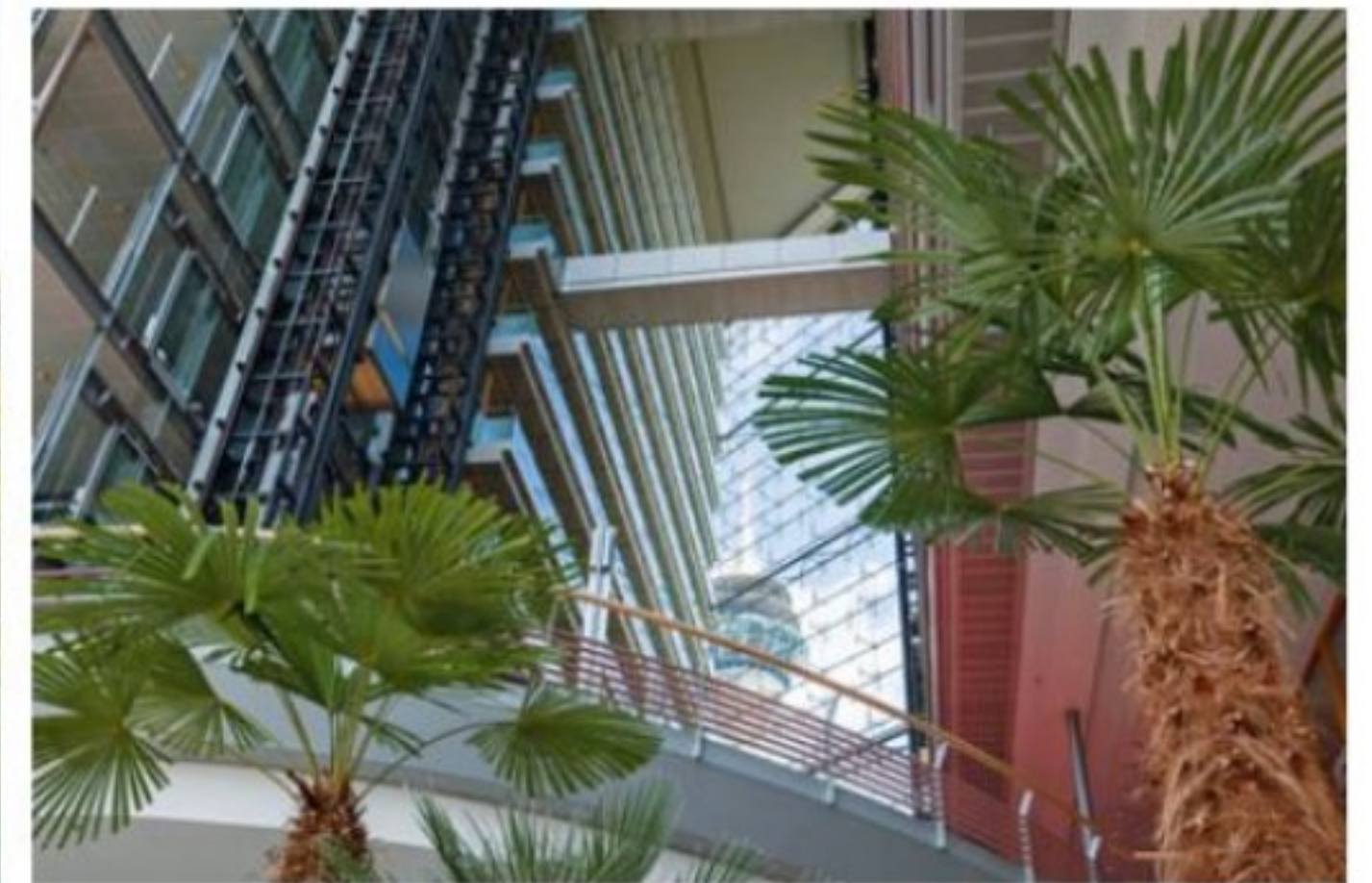


Left:
Seen from a distance this impressive office block takes on the shape of a gateway which is why it's called Stadttor or city gate. The building also marks the entrance to the tunnel which runs underneath

the Rhine bank, making it the symbolic gateway to the historic centre of Düsseldorf. Formerly the seat of the state chancellery, the offices now house North Rhine-Westphalia's ministry of transport.

Below and bottom:
The Stadttor was designed by architects Petzinka, Overdiek & Partner and built in six years from 1992. They not only created a striking edifice in the heart of town but also

won several prizes for their design. The 56-m (184-ft) hall, fully glazed on two sides, boasts a bold round platform on the first floor which is accessed by an escalator.





Left and below: Badly damaged during the Second World War, Schloss Jägerhof at the west end of the Hofgarten was only fully rebuilt ten years after the end

of hostilities. Most of the rooms have since been used as a museum. In 1987 the Goethe Museum took up residence here. It documents the life and work of Johann Wolfgang

von Goethe who was a regular visitor to Düsseldorf and often stayed in the nearby Jacobi Haus on his visits, now the seat of the local Malkasten art group.



Above: Schloss Eller in the suburb of the same name was created in 1826 on the site of a moated castle, with the

original watery defences still in place. The main building can now be rented for conferences, meetings and wedding

receptions. The palace is well worth a visit for the meticulously tended gardens and half-timbered outbuildings alone.

Below:
Urdenbach is about one kilometre from Schloss Benrath on the south edge of the city. House number 11 on picturesque Dorfstraße goes back to the 18th century.



Right and bottom:
The community numbers over 10,000 and was once a village of fishermen and potters, traces of which are still in evidence. The centre of Urdenbach

boasts several cultural and historical gems in the form of well-preserved half-timbered houses, some of which originated in the 16th century.



INDEX

Text	Photo	Text	Photo
Alter Hofen	118	52, 53	
Aquazoo	18, 74	105	
Benroth	14, 110	112, 113	
Blik	74		
Brewery „im Föchschen“		30	
Burgplatz	12, 13, 26, 119	12, 30, 31, 33, 37, 72	
Buscher Mühle	74	104	
Carlsplatz	26, 40	56, 57	
Carlsstadt	14, 26, 118	54-59, 94	
Carls-Haus	84	73	
Church of St. Andreas	15	51	
Church of St. Lambertus	13, 15, 26	28/29, 34, 35	
Church of St. Maximilian		50	
Cladefstraße		58, 59	
Cololum	84	80/81	
Comellusplatz		72	
Derendorf	68, 74		
Drei-Scheiben-Haus	84	99	
Duisburg	110	128-130, 132, 133	
Düsseldorf Arkaden	68		
Ehrenhof	20, 74, 84	102, 103	
EKO-Haus	110	126	
Filmuseum		52	
Filngem	74, 68	92, 93	
Fortuna-Büchchen	12	101	
Friedrichstadt	74	90/91	
Gerresheim	14		
Goethe-Museum	74	96, 97	
Golzheim Friedhof		105	
Grabbeplatz	20, 84	63	
Grafenberg wild life park	110	110	
Haus des Kamevals		45	
Heinrich-Heine-Allee	84	73	
Heinrich-Heine-Institut		59	
Heinrich-Heine-Museum	21		
Hofgarten	13, 68, 74	96-99	
Hotel Hyatt Regency	84	74, 83, 84	
Insel Hombroich (Museum)	110	127	
Jochthafen	118	22/23, 79, 82	
Jocobi-Haus		98	
Johanniskirche		70	
Josephskapelle	26	36	
K20	20, 84	63, 85	
K21 (Ständehaus)	18, 20, 84	24/25, 85	
Kaiserswerth	14, 110	122-125	
Kaisertalch		90/91, 95	
Kleferstraße		92, 93	
Kö-Bogen I+II	19, 68, 84	64/65	
Kö-Galerie	68		
Königsallee	13, 26, 68	35, 66-69, 71, 72	
Kunsthalle	20		
Kunstplast	18, 20		
Landschaftspark Nord Duisburg		128/129	
Landtag		78	
Lausward	118	119	
Mahn- und Gedenkstätte		53	
Mannesmann-Büroturm	84		
Marktplatz	16, 26	5, 43, 44, 49, 73	
Marktstraße		46/47	
Medienhofen	12, 18, 68	22/23, 74-85	
Mettmann	74, 84, 118	121	
Monhelm am Rhein	14, 110	121	
Münster-Therme	74		
Neanderkirche		104	
Neandertal	14	50	
Neanderthal-Museum	14, 110	121	
Neuer Zollhof (Gehry-Häuser)	74, 84, 119	18, 22/23, 80-82, 84	
Neuss	110		
Nordpark	18, 74		
Oberbilk	68, 74		
Oberkassel	74	10/11, 106-109	
Oberkasseler Brücke	12, 18, 84	100, 101	
Palais Wittgenstein	26		
Pebble's Terrasse		74, 83	
Pempfort		74	
Rothaus	16, 26	42, 43, 73	
Rattinger Tor		98	
Rhein	12, 13, 16, 26	118, 119	
Rhein in der Brücke	110, 118, 119		
Rheinpark	74, 118	32, 33, 89, 136	
Rheinturm	18, 74, 84, 118	22/23, 30, 78, 80/81	
Rheinuferpromenade	12, 26	6/7, 30, 31, 48, 83, 88, 89	
Roggendorf-Haus		79	
Roncalli's Apollo Varieté	74	83, 88, 89	
Ruhrort	110	130, 131	
Schadow-Arkaden	68		
Schadowstraße	26, 68		
Schauspielhaus	18, 84	62	
Schloss Benroth	110	112, 113	
Schloss Eller	74	97	
Schloss Heitorf	110	127	
Schloss Jägerhof	74	96, 97	
Schloss Kalkum	110	126	
Schlosssturm	13, 26, 119	12, 118	
Schulstraße		58	
Schwanspiegel	20, 84	94	
Sevens - Home of Saturn	68		
SIGN!	84	80/81	
Stadtrückchen		70	
Stadtmuseum	14, 26	62, 63, 68	
Stadtpalais Spee		64, 63	
Stadttor	74, 84	86, 87	
Stahlhof		71	
Stilwerk	68	69	
Theater Kom(m)ödien	20		
Theatermuseum		99	
Tonhalle	18, 74, 84	100	
Tritonenbrunnen		35, 66, 67	
Unterbilk	68, 74	90/91	
Udenbach	110	114, 115	
Udenbacher Kämpfe	110	120	
Volksgarten	74	95	
WDR-Studio	74, 118	82	
Wilhelm-Marx-Haus	84	69, 70, 85	
Zons	110	17, 116, 117	

