







Amsterdam/Rotterdam

## Interesting facts about Gelsenkirchen

Gelsenkirchen is situated in the middle of the Ruhr metropolitan region, after Paris and London the third-largest conurbation in Europe. Over five million people live here. For around 30 million people Gelsenkirchen can be reached inside two hours. Around 40 percent of the population of the European Union live within a 500-kilometre radius of the city.

Gelsenkirchen has over 260,000 residents.

Gelsenkirchen is easy to get to: both by car, via the A2, A42, A52, A31, A40 and A43 motorways, and by local public transport or mainline train.

Within a radius of just 100 kilometres there are four airports.

In Gelsenkirchen and its immediate vicinity you will find three golf clubs, including two 18hole courses.

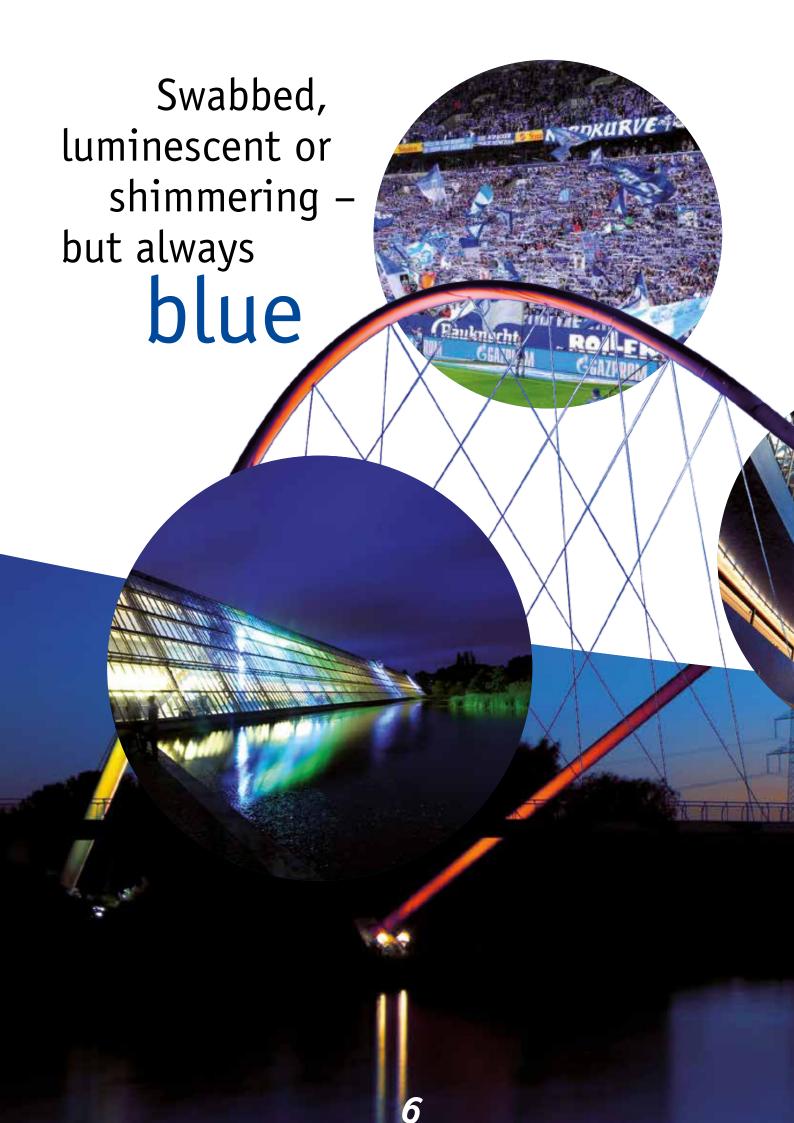
One of Germany's biggest solar power residential estates, comprising 422 flats, is located in Gelsenkirchen. There are also other solar power estates within the city and directly adjacent to the VELTINS-Arena 'auf Schalke' the eye is caught by an enormous solar sail.











many other landmarks get illuminated. The shimmering blue of solar cells is found in many places in and around the city. Visible from afar is the large solar sail next to the VELTINS Arena.

The colour that rules here is royal blue, as football is celebrated in one of Europe's most modern stadia. However, it's not just the vociferous fans that create a great atmosphere in the arena. Robbie Williams, U2, AC/DC, Bruce Springsteen, Metallica, Herbert Grönemeyer, Helene Fischer, PUR and other stars also thrill audiences here with their voices.

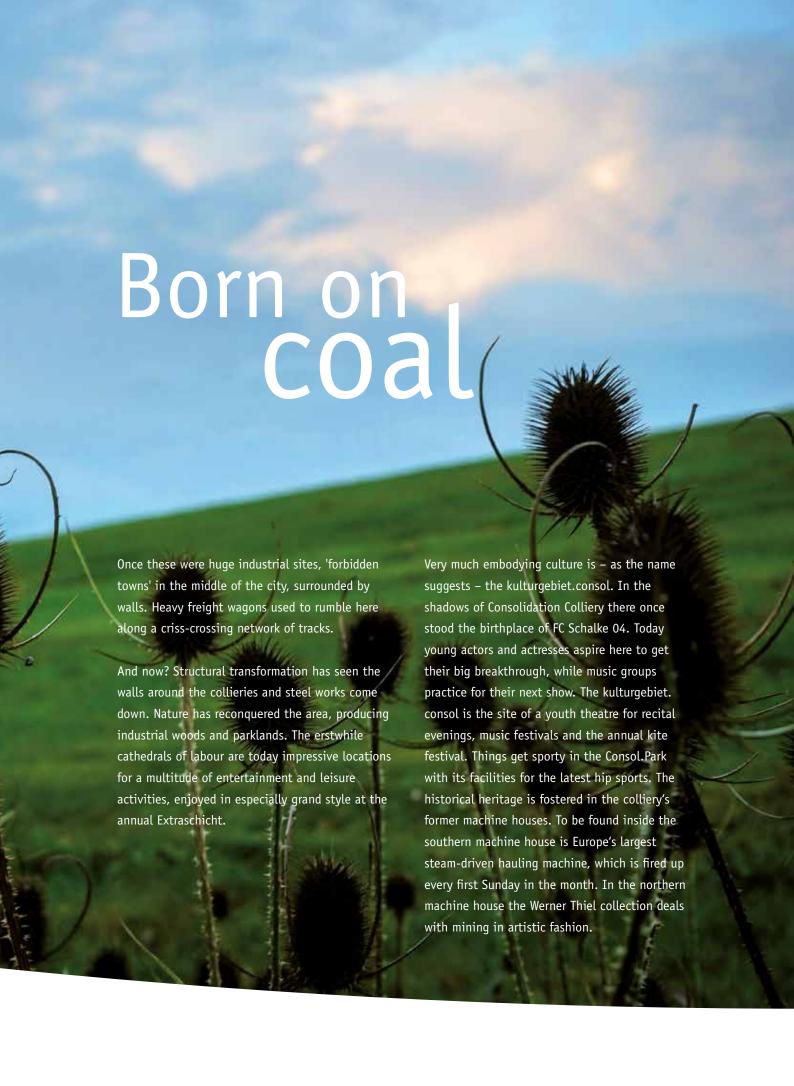


Slide out the pitch, close the roof and – hey presto! – the Veltins Arena is a venue for biathlon or boxing.

On any journey into the blue there is a lot to discover in Gelsenkirchen. Anyone looking deeper into the history of the city will find out that within 'Gelsenkirchen blue' there is indeed a due shot of royal blue. The documentary film 'Schuss ins Blau' (Shot into the Blue) shows that in 1958 it was two shades of blue that had the city buzzing with excitement. That year the Royal Blues of FC Schalke 04 won their last German Championship title so far and French artist Yves Klein created his ultramarine blue Sponge Relief in the Musiktheater. A coincidence? No. In Gelsenkirchen football and art belong together, just like the colour blue belongs to the city.

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### largest industrial woods

Today a district forester roams through the woods around the former Rheinelbe Colliery. Covering almost 40 hectares, it is the largest industrial woodland in the Ruhrgebiet. Nature shapes the terrain here with the remains of walls covered in moss, winding paths leading through the woods and the frequent sight of dragonflies and bats. The 'Emscher Orchid' feels at home here. Epipactis Helleborine is the botanical name of this indigenous species of orchid.

Renowned artist Herman Prigann created the artistic side of this extraordinary woodland. His sculptures evoke memories of the industrial past and give the place something of a fairy-tale, mystical feel. Towering above everything else, the highpoint in the truest sense of the word is the Himmelstreppe, the 'Stairway to Heaven'.





Have you ever seen the little sister? Nordstern Colliery in Gelsenkirchen is every bit as pretty as its big sister, the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex, in Essen.

From over 80 metres up on the visitor platform at the feet of the Hercules statue by Markus Lüpertz right next to the pithead tower, you look out over the former National Garden Show site. Today it is a huge landscaped park right next to the water.

In addition to the colliery, the red double-arched bridge is a further characteristic feature of the park, which really has a lot to offer: a climbing garden, 'children's land' and the 'Deutschland Express', one of the world's largest Märklin model railways, plus lots and lots of nature. The food and drink on offer here ranges from beer garden to candlelight dinner and fine cuisine in a 4-star hotel.

At this anchor point of the Industrial Culture Route you can see in a mine tunnel the way things used to be. And in the Nordstern tower the imposing industrial setting gives a special flair to the NRW Video Art Centre.

Where once coal was loaded, an amphitheatre now invites you to enjoy cultural entertainment. Just a few steps further on it's time to shout: "Cast off!" The White Fleet's passenger ship is already setting off on its journey down the Rhine-Herne Canal.



At the amphitheatre beside the Rhine-Herne canal, the Musiktheater im Revier (MiR), the kulturgebiet. consol, the summer festival at Schloss Berge and elsewhere Gelsenkirchen offers something for all in a full programme of entertainment every year.

The MiR is probably the most beautiful opera house in the region. Nor is it just a venue for opera and operetta. Ballet and light entertainment music are performed there as well. The opera house's ballet work has won many awards. The MiR thrills audiences again and again with its dramatisations and creates surprises with sounds that you might not expect to hear there – such as steam punk, for example. The opera house owes its unmistakable character to the integration of architecture and fine arts.





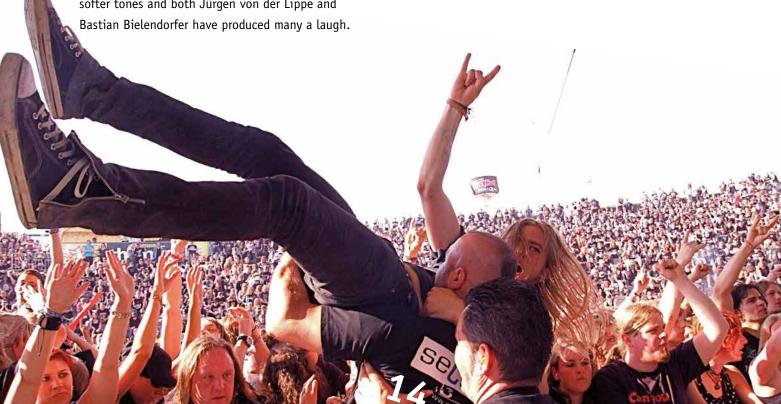
## Loud sounds and soft tones

A venue of a very special kind is the VELTINS Arena auf Schalke. It is not just a place of pilgrimage for football fans. Slide out the pitch, close the roof and hey presto: biathlon or boxing can be staged in this football temple. Music fans get a real treat for their ears in the Arena. From Helene Fischer and Coldplay to the international heavy metal elite, all the big names play there.

In Gelsenkirchen even the canal becomes an entertainment venue. The parade of ships at the start of the 'Kulturkanal' series of events attracts thousands of visitors. Where once cargo ships were loaded with coal, today the amphitheatre in front of the backdrop of the former Nordstern Colliery is a popular location for all kinds of open-air events. RockHard, for instance, likes to get things really going here.

The MiR was designed by architect Werner Ruhnau. He created a building that 50 years ago was visionary, today feels thoroughly modern and in 50 years' time will be a classic of the 20th century.

Just a few minutes' walk away from the MiR is Gelsenkirchen's 'front parlour', the Hans-Sachs-Haus. The civic forum and atrium of this brick expressionist building provide lots of space for cabaret, music and readings. The 'Wilder Sechziger' have rocked away here, chamber concerts have set softer tones and both Jürgen von der Lippe and Bastian Bielendorfer have produced many a laugh.



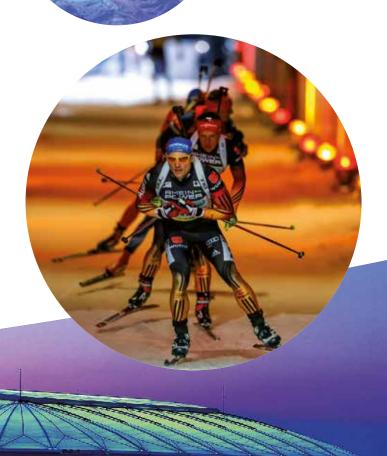


## Even the **Canal** is a place of culture

The kite festival at Consol, chivalric games, story-telling festivals, jazzy sounds in the 'stadt-bauraum' of the former Oberschur Colliery or at the International Jazz Festival in the city centre, surprises at the Blind Date Festival or at Summer-Sound – in Gelsenkirchen there is always something going on.

Culinary delights alongside music are regularly on offer at the market next to the cathedral. Just one of many offerings that puts a swing into everyone's step in the city centre.

Gelsenkirchen, you see, knows only one kind of programme: a packed programme!



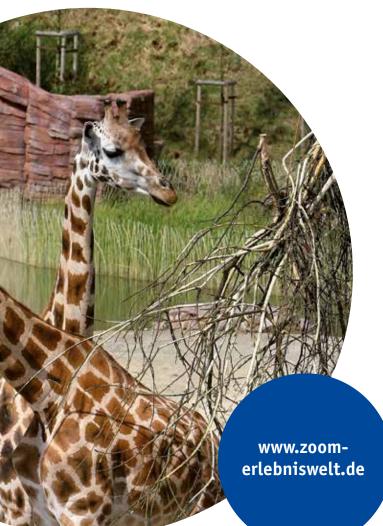




## Explorers on a journey of discovery

Alaska, Africa or Asia in the heart of the Ruhrgebiet? That's the ZOOM World of Adventure! Over an area of more than 30 hectares, Gelsenkirchen Zoo invites you to go on a tour of discovery through the living environment of over 100 species: from the cute red panda in Asia World all the way to the grand Kodiak bears in Alaska World. What makes the ZOOM World of Adventure special is the site's layout, which is assiduously close to nature. The traditional zoo enclosures of yesteryear have given way here to authentic landscapes modelled on the animals' natural home. Instead of concrete and steel, spacious compounds are formed here by, for example, rivers and cliffs. Without any visible borders, so that the animals can be experienced close up in their habitats. One of many highlights in this regard is, for example, the tropical hall featuring an evergreen rainforest – lived in by exotic birds, reptiles, orangutans and other animals. For anyone who simply can't get enough of adventure, the three themed worlds also offer attractions such as the Alaska Ice Adventure - a simulated ride through Alaska's different vegetation zones. Or the African Queen. A boat trip featuring a waterfall, baboons and hippos.

Young or old – in the ZOOM World of Adventure everyone goes on a journey of discovery!







imagine. Right in the heart of this large
European conurbation Gelsenkirchen in particular
has a remarkable variety of parks and green spaces
on offer. A quarter of the city is an area of natural
or landscape conservation and there are numerous

open spaces and green touches as a result of the old workers' estates laid out as garden cities.

Perfect conditions, therefore, for outdoor activities.





Out and about

### on two wheels

There are new discoveries to be made elsewhere in the region as well: along the routes of closed-down railway lines cycle paths lead all over the Ruhrgebiet, freeing cyclists from the busy roads as they take them from one city to another and to the Industrial Culture Route sites. At the heart of it all: Gelsenkirchen. The Emscher Park cycle path, for instance, which covers 230 kilometres, connects the open spaces of the Emscher countryside park.



From climbing

to golfing

Admittedly, the former Ruhrgebiet slag piles are not a patch on the Alps, however anyone who likes things a bit more energetic is nevertheless well catered for in Gelsenkirchen. Facilities on offer such as a climbing wall in the Nordsternpark and two golf courses provide for sporting diversion aside from the beautiful game. Every spring the VIVAWEST Marathon is a special highlight for all running enthusiasts. Passing colliery settlements, old pithead towers and industrial culture, the marathon leads from Gelsenkirchen out through Essen, Gladbeck and Bottrop and shows the region from its sporting side.



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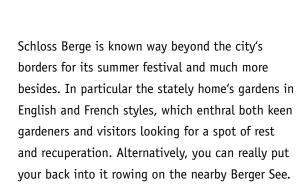
Wherever there is so much green, there is also generally blue not far away. In Gelsenkirchen that is primarily the Rhine-Herne Canal, which crosses the city halfway along its course. Whether by canoe or passenger boat, Gelsenkirchen has lots to offer from the water, too. While swimming in the canal is not allowed, anyone looking to cool off in summer will find ample opportunity to do so in Gelsenkirchen's indoor and outdoor pools.

## Blue blood

Smoke-stack barons and coke-fire counts is what industrialists like Thyssen used to be called, because they liked to maintain an aristocratic lifestyle. Yet it was not with the arrival of heavy industry that the 'aristocracy' first came to Gelsenkirchen. There was blue blood flowing in the city long before Thyssen, Grillo and co. And truly aristocratic 'blue blood' at that.

Lüttinghof castle originates from the 14th century. Surrounded by moat and avenues of longestablished trees, it is a popular destination for cyclists and walkers. From April to September the pastry garden tempts visitors with all sorts of home-made delights, while from October to March coffee and cake is served inside under the vaulted ceiling. Here in this waterside castle music lovers can also enjoy jazz and chamber concerts.

## Submerge yourself in bygone times



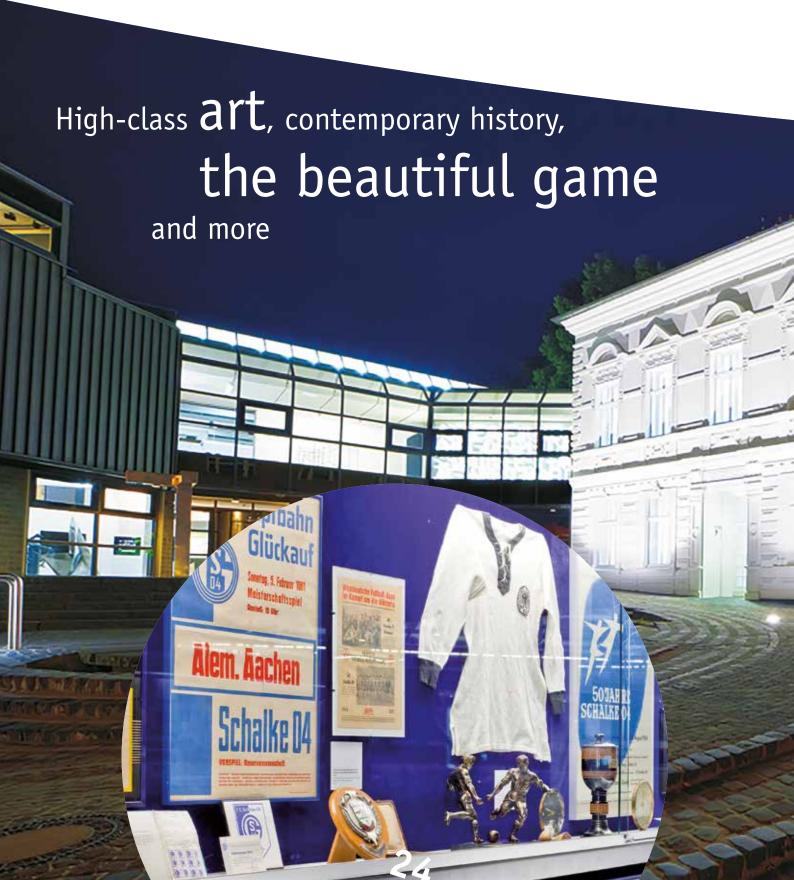
Schloss Horst is one of Westphalia's most important Renaissance stately homes. The museum inside enables not only children to delve deep into bygone times, but leaves adults astounded as well. The Schloss has also made a name for itself as a backdrop for splendid chivalric games and festivals in the very heart of the Ruhrgebiet.







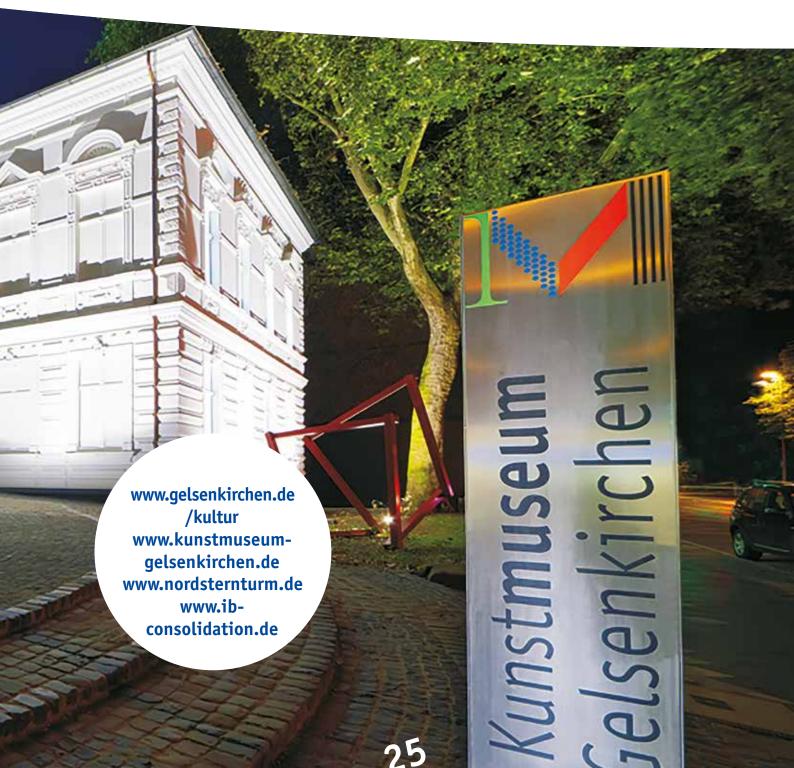
# Worthy of a museum



Paris has the Louvre, London the largest civic museum in the world. And Gelsenkirchen? It movingly sets art in motion. The city's Art Museum exhibits a collection of kinetic art unparalleled in Germany. Motion becomes here an aesthetic part of the art object – with the visitors right in the middle of it. Many of the objects can be touched or pushed, causing them to change. Optical illusions create the impression of movement. The visitors thus become an active part of the exhibition. Also well worth seeing is the collection of classic and modern art, including, for instance works by by Max Liebermann, Emil Nolde and René Magritte.

Another area of focus is the design-led concrete art centred on the work of Anton Stankowski, a designer and graphic artist born in Gelsenkirchen. His works made a lasting mark on graphic design. The Gelsenkirchen Art Museum has since 2010 been one of the RKM Ruhr Art Museums.

Another special art experience is to be found in the extraordinary ambience of the Nordstern tower. Modern media art and industrial setting enter here into an incomparable combination. A stage is created here for the who's who of international video art.



Since 2012, the Nordstern Video Art Centre has been putting on varying exhibitions in the pithead tower of the former Nordstern Colliery in cooperation with the New Berlin Art Association. All the big names have been or are to be seen in the Video Art Centre, including, for example, Bruce Naumann, Richard Serra, William Kentridge and Rosemarie Trockel. Also famous in their profession are the architects who created this unusual Nordstern Colliery exhibition site: Fritz Schupp and Martin Kremmer. They also built the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex world heritage site. The way to the Video Art Centre is indicated by the monumental 'Hercules' sculpture that rises high above the Nordstern tower.

## Where football passions run high

The city's mining history is the central theme of three museum-like locations and an art installation. A steam-driven hauling machine can, for instance, be seen in the southern machine house of Consol Colliery, history is brought to life through accounts told by experienced miners in the 'Little Museum' and at the Rotthausen mining collection, and art and contemporary history are combined in the collection of Werner Thiel.





The museum at Schloss Horst takes visitors way back to pre-industrial times. It is a genuinely interactive museum. On a journey through time to the castle construction site in 1565 the focus is on seeing, hearing and trying things out. Visitors are able to experience with all of their senses life and work in the Renaissance era in one of Westphalia's most important buildings from that time.

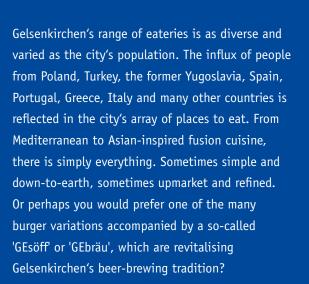
In Gelsenkirchen there is, of course, no escaping the beautiful game. Football fans and especially fans of FC Schalke 04 are totally in their element in the Schalke Museum. From the birth of the 'Schalker Kreisel' short passing game to the Champions League, there is everything here for football enthusiasts to see and hear. And it is all in the heart of one of Europe's most modern football temples: the VELTINS Arena auf Schalke.

## 13 museums - differing fields

High-class art, mining history, long forgotten times and football legends – yet in Gelsenkirchen there is still more to see: architectural and engineering art, an exhibition of the city's history in the Hans-Sachs-Haus, an icon of brick expressionism, and a museum that deals with the history of Polish immigration. Visitors can retrace the trail of Jewish life in Gelsenkirchen and a documentation centre tackles the era of National Socialist dictatorship.

In total there are 13 museums that cover off a very varied spectrum





You can, of course, also get the classic Ruhrgebiet 'Currywurst' in the city and practically every snack bar has its own secret recipe for the curry sauce.

Regardless of whether by bike or on foot, coming from a concert or an exhibition, the perfect place





Gelsenkirchen's stately homes provide the fitting ambience for appropriate occasions, as do the inns where the chat is all about football.

Right next to FC Schalke 04's legendary former stadium, the Glückauf Kampfbahn, is the inn where Schalke legend Ernst Kuzorra supped his beer. Sparkling wine, beer or soda – in Gelsenkirchen no problem!



## Experience Gelsenkirchen

#### out and about on a double-decker bus



#### All aboard, please!

From April to October on every second Thursday and every fourth Sunday in the month there are open-top city tours around Gelsenkirchen. In around 100 minutes the key tourist sights are visited and explained.

#### Special football fan tours

Gelsenkirchen, that's Schalke 04, obviously. But the city's football history is much richer still. Don't forget, for instance, the Emscher Hussars. If that has made you curious, climb aboard!

### Summer night's dream special trips

Experience the allure of (industrial) culture, and do so at locations steeped in history – on mild summer evenings it's especially enjoyable.

Information on other offerings, such as crime thriller tours and themed trips is available from the City and Tourist Information Office in the Hans-Sachs-Haus

## Overnight accommodation

for weary explorers

#### **Hotels**

#### 4-star hotels:

COURTYARD by Marriott, Heiner's Parkhotel, Hotel Maritim, Hotel-Restaurant Schloss Berge

#### 3-star hotels:

Ambient Hotel Zum Schwan, Hotel Buerer Hof, Hotel Ibis, InterCityHotel. Hotel-Restaurant La Scala

More details and further hotels at www.hotel.de/gelsenkirchen

### Private accommodation / Motorhome sites

Info at

www.gelsenkirchen.de/touristinfo



## All information is available here

Gelsenkirchen City and Tourist
Information Office Hans-Sachs-Haus
Ebertstraße 11 · 45875 Gelsenkirchen
Phone + 49 (0)209 169-3968 or -3969
E-Mail touristinfo@gelsenkirchen.de
www.gelsenkirchen.de/touristinfo
Monday to Friday: 8:00 - 18:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 14:00
Closed on Sundays



## Out and about

on a hired bike or by bus and rail

Onto your bike, ready, go! Here's how it's done: www.metropolradruhr.de

Mobile by bus and rail: www.vrr.de (Service-Hotline 0180 6504030 \*)

or www.bogestra.de (Service-Hotline 0180 6504030 \*)

\* €0.20 per call from a German landline. Max. €0.60 per call from a mobile.

## A packed 2016 programme

### The highlights

#### Fourth Puppet Theatre Week

#### → 23 to 31 January

Consol Theater and other locations No sooner has the year begun, than in Gelsenkirchen puppets are dancing on the table.

www.kulturgebietconsol.de www.gelsenkirchen.de/ figurentheaterwoche

### ZOOM World of Adventure new season opening

#### → 13 March

ZOOM World of Adventure Gelsenkirchen www.zoom-erlebniswelt.de

#### Westwind Festival

#### → 23 to 29 April

Consol Theater Renowned drama festival for a young audience www.kulturgebietconsol.de www.gelsenkirchen.de/kultur

#### KulturKanal

#### → May to September

Jazz, rock and cabaret on and beside the Rhine-Herne Canal www.kulturkanal.ruhr www.gelsenkirchen.de/kultur

#### Tenth Kite Festival

#### → 13 to 15 May

kultur.gebiet CONSOL Colourful kites at the international kite-flying meet www.gelsenkirchen.de/freizeit

#### RockHard Festival

#### → 13 to 15 May

Amphitheatre, Nordsternpark Raw vocals and hard riffs www.amphitheatergelsenkirchen.de www.gelsenkirchen.de/kultur

### Packed programme in the VELTINS Arena

#### → May to December

Udo Lindenberg (20 May), Herbert Grönemeyer (27 May), Coldplay (1 June), Season Opening auf Schalke (August), Biathlon (December)

www.veltins-arena.de www.gelsenkirchen.de/freizeit

#### Fourth VIVAWEST Marathon

#### → 22 May

Start/finish: Musiktheater im Revier Circular course along the main arteries of the Ruhrgebiet www.vivawest-marathon.de www.gelsenkirchen.de/freizeit

#### **BLIND DATE Festival**

#### → 3 to 5 June

Open-air stage next to the Taubenhaus, Goldbergpark www.gelsenkirchen.de/kultur

#### Cirque Bouffon

#### → 1 to 26 June

Kennedyplatz
Premiere of a magic show
www.cirque-bouffon.com
www.gelsenkirchen.de/freizeit

#### Gaudium

#### → 4 and 5 June

Chivalric entertainment at Schloss Horst www.schloss-horst.de

#### ExtraSchicht

#### → 25 June

Nordsternpark / kultur.gebiet CONSOL Industrial culture night www.extraschicht.de

#### SummerSound

#### → 17, 24, 31 July and 7 and 14 August

Music pavilion, Stadtgarten High-class folk music – outside and for free! www.gelsenkirchen.de/kultur

#### Schloss Berge Summer Festival

#### → 22 to 24 July

Schloss Berge parklands Live music, fun fair, cabaret and fireworks www.schloss-berge.de www.gelsenkirchen.de/freizeit

#### Twenty-ninth Jazz Days

#### → 2 to 4 September

Gelsenkirchen city centre www.jazz-rolf.de www.gelsenkirchen.de/freizeit

#### Drama Festival and Theatre Season Gala

#### → 17 September and 3 October

Musiktheater im Revier, Kennedyplatz Festival programme for the season opening www.musiktheater-im-revier.de www.gelsenkirchen.de/kultur

#### Mord am Hellweg

#### → 17 September to 12 November

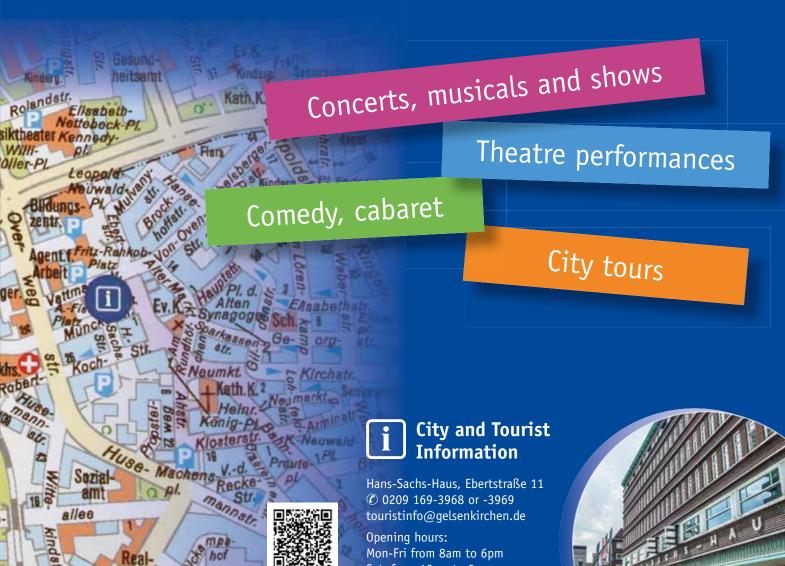
www.gelsenkirchen.de/kultur

Various locations Europe's largest international crime thriller festival www.mordamhellweg.de



## Your leisure time begins here!

Tickets for the really big names - from the City and Tourist Information Office



Sat. from 10am to 2pm

Dickampst



City of Gelsenkirchen
The Mayor
Public Relations Unit
in collaboration with
Stadtmarketing Gesellschaft Gelsenkirchen mbH

Photographs: Gerd Kaemper, Pedro Malinowski, Thomas Robbin, Martin Schmüderich, Caroline Seidel, Franz Weiß, City of Gelsenkirchen