



# WHY VISIT DÜSSELDORF

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Düsseldorf may be coming up on its 730th birthday, but its true strength is rooted in its forward-looking spirit. Of late, the city has embraced a flurry of dazzling cultural projects, capped by a new metro line that's an ingenious symbiosis of art, architecture and engineering. It's the latest in a long list of great reasons to give the state capital on the Rhine a fresh look.

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MUSEUM KUNSTPALAST

## ► HAVEN OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Paul Klee, Joseph Beuys, Gerhard Richter, Otto Piene and Andreas Gursky are among the key modernist protagonists who called the prestigious Düsseldorf Arts Academy home. The best spot for tapping into this pedigree is the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, whose collection is so vast that it has to be shown in two museums, K20 and K21. For up-to-the-minute experimental art, visit KIT – Kunst im Tunnel, a subterranean exhibit space beneath the Rhine river promenade. Another edgy space is NRW Forum Düsseldorf, which deals in cutting-edge media, including digital art. It shares a 1920s expressionist complex with the Museum Kunstpalast and its famous collections of Old Masters, 19th-century art and more.

## ► MUSIC SCENE RELOADED

Mythical techno pioneers Kraftwerk may be Düsseldorf's most famous musical export, but there are plenty of new musicians worth keeping on the radar. Among them: the neo-electro band Stabil Elite and star-DJ Jan Schulte. Under his alias Wolf Müller, Schulte has even produced sets for the 'Boiler Room' and is a resident at Salon des Amateurs, the most avant-garde electro venue in town. Over in Flingern, ZAKK is the go-to place for non-mainstream indie and alternative artists, while AK 47 does punk and Stahlwerk dance parties.

## ► NEW TAKES ON 'OLD' BEER

Düsseldorf's beverage of choice is a smooth, copper-hued ale called 'Altbier'. For over 150 years, the traditional craft breweries – Uerige, Schlüssel, Schumacher and Füchschen – have kept the suds flowing in the historic Altstadt quarter. Fresh competition came in 2010 from new kid Brauhaus Kürzer and its no-fuss brewpub with exposed brick walls and look-at-me glass barrels. Another start-up, Gulasch Alt, boasts a pert and slightly fruity beer brewed in the suburb of Oberkassel. Old-school beer halls like Brauerei im Füchschen offer classic pub grub. Rib-stickers like *Schweinshaxe* (roast pork knuckle) and *Rheinischer Sauerbraten* (pot roast marinated in wine and vinegar) are perfectly suited for keeping the brain in balance.



OPEN SOURCE FESTIVAL

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## ► VIBRANT FESTIVALS

Festivals are fabulous for plugging into local culture, and Düsseldorf fields some real champs. Every first Thursday of the month, palates are teased and pleased at the Street Food Festival, held in a former factory in Flingern. In July, the Open Source Festival rocks the city's race track with an international lineup of indie bands on three stages. And in October, pioneers and fans celebrate Düsseldorf's vaunted electronic music legacy with lectures, DJ sets and concerts during the three-day Electri\_City Conference, which this year includes a concert by Jean-Michel Jarre.

## NEXT-WAVE DUMPLINGS

**► DARINGLY FRESH DINING**

Düsseldorf's new culinary edge is equal parts art, design and food. Take Phoenix, for example, where plush mid-century décor meets eye-catching art and a next-wave interpretation of German classics in a rebuilt home in the Dreischeibenhaus, an iconic 1960s skyscraper. Rocca im Gehry's is a sassy steakhouse where prime cuts get the 'shock treatment' in an 800-degree oven and dozens of wines are available by the glass. Finally, soaring ceilings and bold design by the Cuban-American artist Jose Pardo (along with soulful fusion cuisine) mean Pardo Bar is a must-visit at the K21 art museum.

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SHOPPING IN FLINGERN

www.martin-hauser.com  
Kaufhaus Flörschweg 100 40225 Düsseldorf

## ► EXTREME MAKEOVER 'HOODS

Flingern, a former blue-collar neighbourhood, is alive with owner-run boutiques, homey hangouts like Café Hüftgold (divine cakes!) and minimalist-chic restaurant-bars like Nooij on the Ackerstrasse. Even Kraftwerk's old Kling Klang Studio has been reborn as an edgy sound lab, while an old tram depot hosts Tanzhaus NRW, an acclaimed contemporary dance academy and performance venue (famous Düsseldorf dance company Ballet am Rhein, led by the renowned Martin Schläpfer, performs across town at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein). Adjacent to MedienHafen, Unterbilk brims with creative vibrancy, especially along Lorettostrasse, which hosts wildly popular spring, midsummer and Indian summer festivals. An industrial-flavoured event space called Boui Boui lures a motley crowd with parties, concerts, street food fairs and a night flea market year round.

## ► SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Düsseldorf is a great place to shop – the city's appetite for high fashion manifests itself on its glamorous Königsallee, a historic avenue bisected by a canal and lined by international couture labels. For a dose of street cred head to Ackerstrasse in Flingern or Lorettostrasse in Unterbilk, which have some funky galleries, local designer boutiques, jewellery studios and vintage stores along with charismatic cafes for giving your feet (and credit cards) a rest.





FRANK GEHRY BUILDINGS, MEDIENHAFEN

## ► STUNNING ARCHITECTURE

Along the Rhine, striking postmodernist icons by such design luminaries as Frank Gehry and David Chipperfield punctuate the MedienHafen, an old commercial port turned high-tech creative hub. Uptown, Libeskind's sinuously geometric Kö-Bogen links a city park with the Königsallee shopping avenue. And since February, the six stations of the new Wehrhahn metro line deliver a striking (and ad-free) spectacle of dramatic sightlines, sound sculptures and 3D animations.



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Düsseldorf on the Rhine dazzles with its infrastructure and modern architecture. It cultivates its traditions and creates a cosmopolitan buzz with a vibrant cultural program and exclusive shopping amenities. Düsseldorf is one of the world's leading cities when it comes to ranking quality of life (6th place, Mercer 2016). Around 4.5 million overnights and many millions of day visitors per year are the impressive proof that Düsseldorf is one of the German cities that must be seen.

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