



Welcome to Aachen

**Discover the city at
the heart of Europe!**

www.aachen.de/welcome

stadt aachen



It's great to
have you
here!



Archaeological Showcase in the Elisengarten. Photo: Peter Hinschläger



Welcome to Aachen

Our city combines science,
cosmopolitan flair and 7,000
years of solid history into a
very special quality of life.



Aachen

Your guide to our city

A warm welcome to our city


In this booklet, we've put together some interesting facts about Aachen for you. Aachen – a city in the Dutch-Belgian-German border triangle – has a very relaxed European flair. In this city of short distances, the booklet will help you get a first impression of the unique mix of historical heritage and future orientation that we are so proud of.

It's great to have you here!

Enjoy Aachen!

www.aachen.de

 @stadtaachen

 @unseraachen

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Aachen
city map



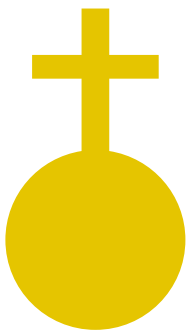
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**How it
all began**



Aachen Cathedral – view upwards through the Barbarossa Chandelier into the cupola of the Octagon. Photo: Andreas Herrmann

Aachen's history





Route

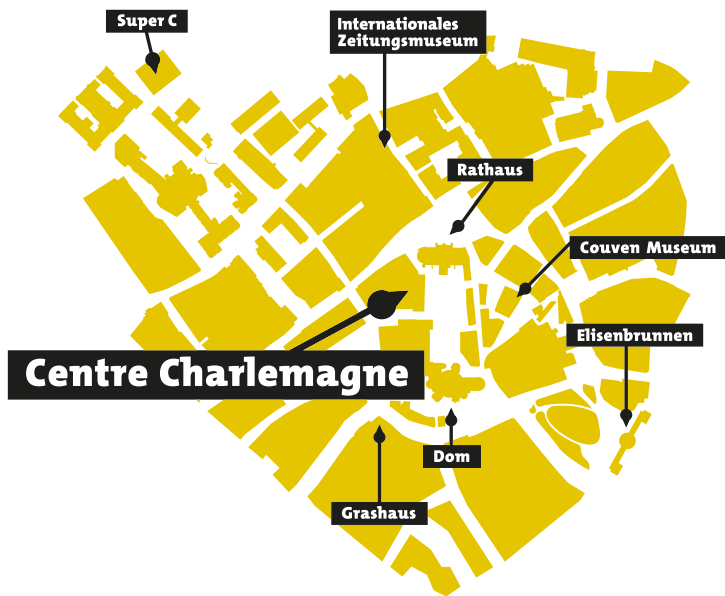
Charlemagne

It all began with Charlemagne.

Yes, of course, Aachen existed long before the Emperor of the Franks. A peek into the Elisengarten's Archaeological Showcase proves the point: the thermal springs here had already been enjoyed by the Celts and the Romans. But it was Charlemagne who gave the city its historical significance. He chose Aachen as his favourite palace and made it the first capital city of his European empire.

To this day, the spiritual expression of this greatness remains, in the form of Charlemagne's St. Mary's Church, Aachen Cathedral. This is where his throne stands, and this is where, in the Middle Ages, numerous kings were crowned. Aachen's historic Town Hall, built on the foundations of the Carolingian King's Hall, is an impressive reminder of this former centre of secular power.

The International Charlemagne Prize vividly links Aachen's past with the present and future. The annual award ceremony on Ascension Day attracts queens and kings, heads of state and prominent scholars to the Town Hall's Coronation Hall. Here, together, they seek consensus on Europe's answers to the challenges of the 21st century.



The "Centre Charlemagne – Neues Stadtmuseum Aachen" is the centre and the starting point of the Route Charlemagne, a walking tour through the history of the city, taking you to significant places and buildings. Each of the route's stations has its own topic. www.route-charlemagne.eu

**Aachen
2030**



*On its way to becoming a climate-neutral city, Aachen has initiated a mobility revolution.
Photo: Stadt Aachen / Andreas Steindl*

Aachen

City of the future





Aachen embraces the future

Becoming a city smart and vibrant, climate-neutral, with transformed urban mobility – Aachen embraces the challenge.

In Aachen, citizens, businesses, politics and administration have committed to collaboration in rethinking our city and making it fit for our children's children. They are building the Aachen of the future – climate-neutral and with a city centre that offers a high quality of life.

Aachen's civic society has firmly taken to heart the goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2030. No wonder, then, that the large plot of land at the "Büchel", in the heart of the city, is scheduled to have its concrete replaced with greenery. The city has its own environment and climate department. A 123-million-euro programme for climate protection has been launched, and 18 million euros are earmarked for the installation of solar energy systems on municipal buildings and for funding solar upgrades of private houses. But – of course – there can be no climate protection without radical changes in urban mobility. So, in 2020 alone, we installed 4.2 km of new major cycle routes, 1076 new bicycle stands and 150 new charging stations for e-vehicles. And there's a 30 kph speed limit in the city centre.

There's lots to do. And we embrace the challenge!



Civitas Award

The CIVITAS Forum, Europe's leading conference on sustainable mobility, honoured Aachen with the CIVITAS Award 2021 for the most convincing approaches towards transforming urban mobility. A great honour, and a great incentive.



Fair Trade

Aachen has been certified as a Fair Trade City for ten years. This means that the city has committed itself to promoting Fair Trade Certified goods within the policy framework of Fair Trade.



Circular Cities

Almost 60 European cities are participating in "Circular Cities" and pursuing the goal of using available resources sustainably. In October 2021, Aachen became the second German city to sign the "Circular Cities Declaration" (CCD).



"We love shops"

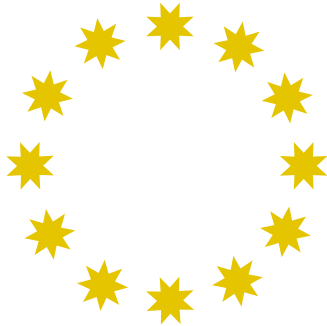
In campaigns like "Citygold" and "Ladenliebe", Aachen's City Management transforms unoccupied salesrooms into pop-up stores for startups, designers and artists, and also uses them to present the latest projects from the science sector to the general public.

**Living
Europe**



Fountain statue of Charlemagne in front of Aachen's Town Hall. Photo: Andreas Herrmann

Aachen and Europe





Where Europe is at home

In Aachen, Europe is so much more than just a political matter.

The city is firmly centred in the Dutch-Belgian-German border triangle, with the European capital Brussels practically on its doorstep. Residing, working, studying, shopping and living in three countries – that's everyday life in Aachen.

A European sense of togetherness is reflected not only in the way people feel about life, but also in organised cooperation in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine in the sectors of environmental and climate protection, sport, culture, education, science and business. Three countries, three languages, five regional cultures – Europe is at home in Aachen.



**Pursuing
research in
Aachen**



The FIR Institute for Industrial Management on Campus Melaten. Photo: Harald Krömer

Aachen's Science





Excellent research and teaching

RWTH Aachen University – a “university of excellence” in research and teaching – Aachen University of Applied Sciences, the University Hospital, the Julich Research Centre as well as research institutes and research departments of international corporations all exemplify local scientific creativity, technological innovation and social progress.

But it's not only in Natural Sciences and Engineering that highly qualified specialists are trained in Aachen. The Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW and the University of Music and Dance are also renowned for their excellent practice-based teaching. A total of around 65,000 students are enrolled in Aachen; 48,000 of them at the RWTH alone.

The RWTH Aachen Campus is an additional “hot spot” – an international marketplace for research and development. Innovative, close-to-industry and interdisciplinary. More than 420 enterprises are already involved in the RWTH Aachen Campus. In Aachen, research has its sights firmly set on the future.



10,000

best-educated graduates each year supply the foundation for innovative and entrepreneurial activities in the region.



400 million

euros are raised annually by RWTH Aachen University for research and teaching – the highest sum of third-party funding in Germany.



The whole city

pulsates to the rhythm of university and research activities. The „Future Lab Aachen“ platform provides updates through events, its mobile App and its website.

www.futurelab-aachen.de

 @futurelabaachen



2 billion

euros investment volume, area of 800,000 sqm, 19 research clusters, 10,000 jobs – RWTH Aachen University is one of the largest and most innovative university development projects in Europe.

**Working
in Aachen**



Headquarters of Generali Deutschland AG. Photo: Tobias C. G. Hahn

Aachen's Economy





High-tech region

Aachen

The regional economy also benefits from Aachen as a research and development location and its excellent teaching: knowledge-based, economic activity – hallmarks of the high-tech region Aachen.

Optimal use is made of excellent competence in interdisciplinary research and development through cooperation between universities and industry in forums and networks and through the promotion of startups. This creates a climate in Aachen and the entire "Euregio" that inspires people to aim for world-class discoveries and developments.

It's no coincidence that forward-looking companies like Ford, Philips, Umlaut, Babor, FEV, Saint-Gobain Sekurit or e.GO have chosen to locate themselves here. And Aachen's "sweet side" is also famous beyond the region through the products of the companies Lambertz, Lindt and Zentis.

Knowledge is transformed into business. Aachen is *the* startup city of NRW and ranks among the top 5 locations nationwide. RWTH Aachen University alone generates around 75 spin-offs every year.



Trendsetting

High-tech knowledge is bundled in five fields of expertise: automotive technology; information and communication systems; life sciences; innovative materials; and production technologies.



eMobil

StreetScooter and e.GO were founded in Aachen. Here, the self-driving, modular-suspension bus of the future is being built, and everything revolves around "New Mobility".



Digital

Aachen is a model region in NRW. In the Aachen digitalHUB – a beacon for digital transformation – bright minds are busy developing ideas for the future.



Innovative

Every 6th employee in research and development in NRW works in the Aachen area.

**Enjoying
Aachen**



Summer in the „Hof“ - Photo: Bernd Schroeder

Aachen

laid-back





Where people know how to enjoy life

If you stroll through the weekly market in front of the Town Hall, you'll hear a mix of foreign languages: Dutch, French, English and the local dialect, Öcher Platt. The international flair of this university town in the heart of Western Europe is unmistakable.

Aachen's picturesque Old Town around the Cathedral and Town Hall invites you to explore and enjoy summer outdoors. Treat yourself to a time-out at a classic café, or one of the old-established pubs, or one of the new bars with cold brew coffee and vintage optics. Those less interested in consume culture – mainly young people – tend to hang out in the Elisengarten. If you happen to wander by the Elisenbrunnen on a summer evening, you may hear the sounds of salsa music coming from the Rotunda, where Latin dance aficionados meet regularly. And, of course, you're most welcome to join in!

Cultural diversity also has a rich culinary dimension. And there's so much to enjoy in Aachen: sushi, french fries, local specialities like "Aachener Sauerbraten", and all kinds of international cuisine. If you love Turkish food, you'll find it in abundance in the "Ostviertel" (East Quarter) – in Elsasstraße at Kennedy Park, to be precise. The Old Town is certainly not the only place where you can enjoy long summer evenings outdoors. Check out the trendy town quarters like Frankenberg Quarter, Burtscheid, Südstraße... In Aachen, we know how to enjoy life.



Convivial

A regional beer? Or would you prefer an aperitif?! Aachen has traditional pubs, cool cafés and restaurants that offer enjoyable ways to wind down after work!



Blissful

Everybody knows that Aachen owes its foundation to its thermal springs. If you want to follow in the footsteps of the Romans and Emperor Charlemagne, you can immerse yourself in bliss at the "Carolus Thermen" baths.



Peaceful

Aachen Forest covers more than 1,350 hectares and boasts a 100-kilometre network of hiking paths and horse trails. If you just want to 'hang out' – literally – try one of the coveted hammocks on Lousberg – with a panoramic view over the Soers.



Bicycle-friendly

Aachen has more than 330 km of cycle paths. And we're working on increasing the network.

**Aachen
takes a
breather**



In the middle of a residential quarter: Frankenberg Park. Photo: Andreas Herrmann

Aachen

has green aplenty





Aachen

takes a breather

Our Dutch neighbours have a wonderful word: “wandelen” – a mixture of hiking and walking. Aachen has beautiful parks, many of them historic, where you can go for a stroll and take a breather.

In Van Halfern Park, for example, which features mighty, old, giant trees from all over the world, you can let your mind drift. Or in the City Park, with its winding paths that lead from one horticultural vista to the next. Some of Aachen’s large historical parks form a 4,500-metre ring of boulevards around the city centre connected by surviving remnants of the city wall that still encircled the city until 1830. These include Monheimsallee, Ludwigsallee, Heinrichsallee and Langer Turm. Or you can explore West Park, Frankenberg Park, Ferber Park, Kennedy Park, Elisengarten, Gillesbachtal, Hollandwiese, Kaiser Friedrich Park, Lousberg, Müsch Park, Nelson Mandela Park, Lufo Park...

Have fun “wandeling”!



Aachen Zoo

Small, but really nice. And every child's favourite park in Aachen. With public feeding of penguins, pony rides, meerkats, monkeys, cheeky goats and freshly-hatched chicks.



Edible Aachen

Hirschgrün is a 1,500 sqm community garden in the middle of the city centre. A wonderful place to take a breather after a shopping marathon. Anyone who wants to do some active gardening is welcome to join in.



Half-pipe

Kennedy Park features a half-pipe for the skate community. Insiders praise the variety of different elements: "Nice long rail, ledge, 'pyra' with banana curb, London Gap, and especially the nice, wide, 2 step manual pad." That sounds pretty 'rad', right?



BBQ areas

There are official BBQ sites in nine of Aachen's parks, two in Aachen Forest and a further six in the city's districts. You'll find a map of their locations here: www.aachen.de/grillplaetze

Aachen
'sportive'



Cycling on the Vennbahnweg. Photo: Andreas Steindl

Aachen

does sports





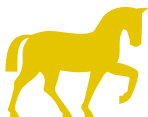
Aachen

does sports

Year for year, the CHIO attracts the international equestrian elite to the Aachen Soers, where you can sip champagne in style and marvel at superlative performances.

The only thing better is doing it yourself. Aachen boasts 220 sports clubs with 62,400 members. You can do gymnastics, play badminton or basketball, golf, stretch or swim ... for example in the Elisabethhalle, a masterpiece of art nouveau architecture, or one of the other four indoor swimming pools in the city. And in summer, the open-air swimming pool at Hangeweier offers a welcome option for a cooling dip.

There are rock-climbing gyms and a high ropes climbing garden. If you want, you can play underwater rugby, go mountain biking, cycle along the Vennbahnweg to Luxembourg, take part in the New Year's Eve Run or simply jog through Aachen Forest. Out of breath already? You can also take it easier – with a walk through the "Grenzland" (Border Zone) or a hike in the High Fens in the neighbouring Eifel highlands. Thanks to a sophisticated system of signposted junctions, there is very little risk of you getting lost.



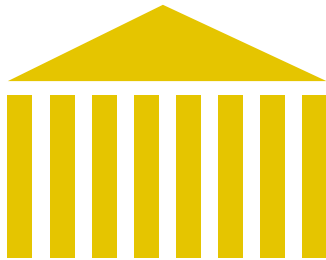
**Experience
Aachen**



Dance festival „Schrittmacher“. Photo: Stadt Aachen / Ute Melchior

Aachen

does culture





Aachen's culture crosses borders

Culture is: saxophone sounds on the Katschhof; garden art in the Lufo Park; Shakespeare at Aachen's City Theatre.

In Aachen, you'll experience plenty of culture – indoors and outdoors, loud and quiet, entertaining and challenging. Aachen does culture that crosses borders: choral singing in churches; summertime "Kurpark Classix" in the City Park; alternative theatre performed in a cellar; rock, jazz and electro music at the Open-Air September Special.

The Ludwig Forum exhibits contemporary art – and offers film screenings, readings, workshops and much more. The Suermondt-Ludwig-Museum takes you on a trip through the fine arts of bygone centuries. At the cult festival "Schrittmacher", avant-garde dancers perform in a former factory hall. Aachen's Symphony Orchestra ranks among the top ensembles in NRW, and, every two years, the International Choral Biennale builds musical bridges to a partner region or country.

www.kulturkalender-aachen.de

www.aachen.de/kulturnewsletter



1
UNESCO World Heritage site can be found in Aachen: Aachen Cathedral, which in 1978 became the first German monument to be inscribed into the UNESCO List. Its Treasury is world-class.



1825
is when the City Theatre on Theaterplatz was first opened. It has been dazzling audiences ever since – with operas, plays, dance performances and concerts.



6
municipal museums await you in Aachen, featuring Andy Warhol, Rembrandt, a historic pharmacy, a Carolingian child's coffin, a frenzy of flashbulbs, and contraband.



x
star conductors – starting with Herbert von Karajan and Wolfgang Sawallisch. Since then, every subsequent Musical Director has become the darling of the Aachener public. Classics of the highest class.

**“Öcher”
among
them-
selves**



Time to go for a spin at Öcher Bend. Photo: Martin Biedel

Aachen

typical





Printen, Parties, “Au Banan”



“Au Banan”

is an exclamation in Öcher Platt – Aachen’s local dialect – expressing astonishment or irritation. It was introduced by Aachen cabaret artist Wendelin Haverkamp, who used it repeatedly in his shows.



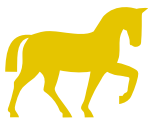
Aachener “Printen”

are a delicious, spicy Aachen biscuit speciality, a blend of honey and gingerbread and a very popular delicacy among Aacheners and their guests – and not just at Christmastime!



The “Klenkes” sign

For generations, Aacheners away from home have acknowledged their common origin by greeting each other with the little finger of their right hand. The greeting stems back to a work routine in Aachen’s bygone needle industry: defective needles were sorted out with a sideways flick of the little finger.



CHIO

The “Concours Hippique International Officiel” is the world-renowned International Equestrian Festival that takes place annually in Aachen. Started in 1924, today it draws more than 350,000 visitors to Aachen every year.



“Oche Alaaf”

is what Aachen Carnival revellers traditionally howl at each other. The “Öcher” celebrate Carnival with great zeal and clownish zest.



Thermal springs

Aachen’s thermal-mineral water is hot: 72°C! The city owes its spa and bathing tradition – and its full name, “Bad Aachen” – to more than 30 thermal springs.



“Öcher Bend”

is the name of the huge funfair – the Aachener Kirmes – that takes place here every spring and summer. Lots of noise and action!



Alemannia Aachen

is Aachen’s largest football club with more than 100 years of history – admittedly with its fair share of ups and downs. It needs all the loyal fans it can get. So, grab yourself a yellow-and-black scarf and make your way to the Tivoli!

Explore Aachen

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**Let's go,
Aachen!**



*Summer fun at the outdoor swimming pool Hangeweier. Photo: Jonas Hellmann
Title page: Magnolia blooms on Münsterplatz. Photo: Katharina Franke*

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