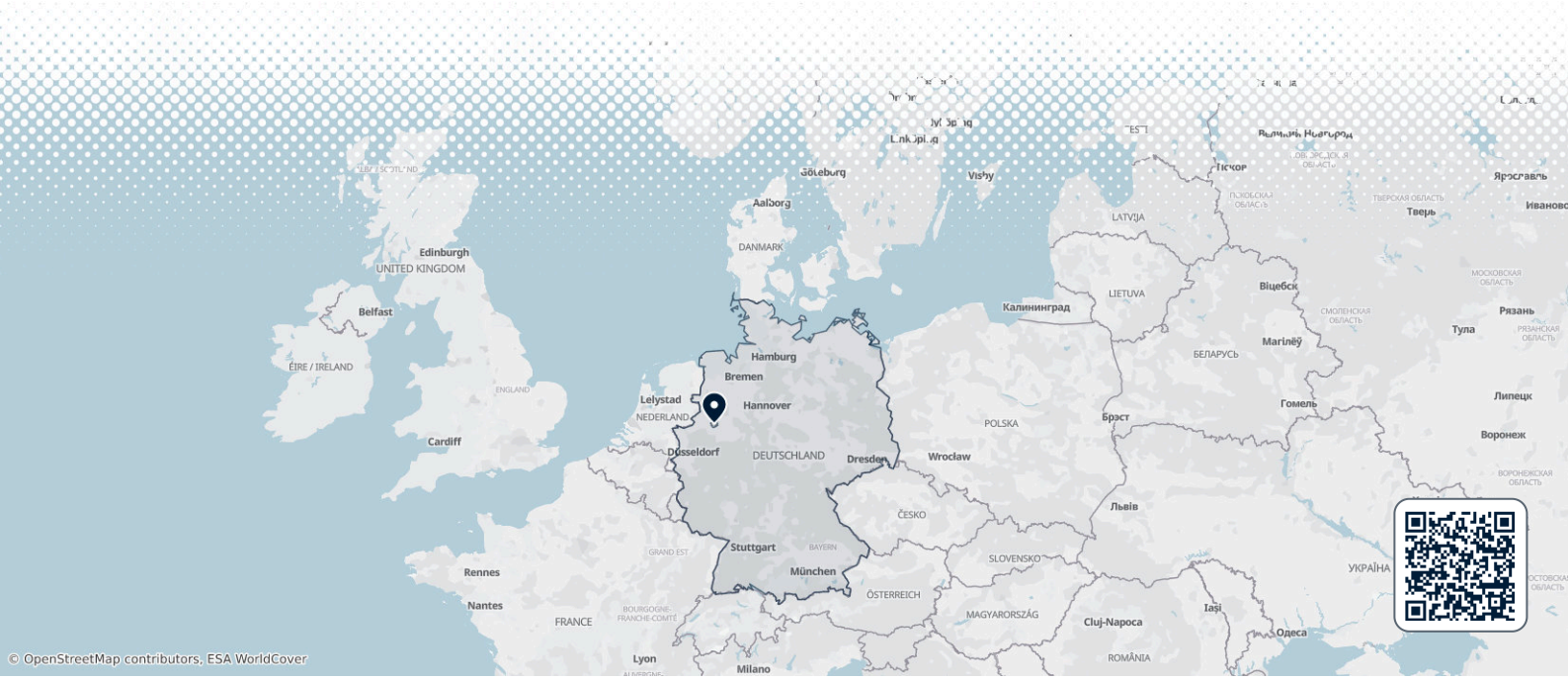


Münster

Münsterland · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Münster is a university city in Westphalia, in north-west Germany. It is known for its bicycles, its green ring road and its rebuilt historic centre. The city suits a relaxed trip of two or three days.

The old town is compact and easy to explore. Gabled merchant houses, churches and cafés stand close together. Parks and a large lake lie just beyond the centre. Many students live here, so the city feels young and busy outside the main season too.

When to visit

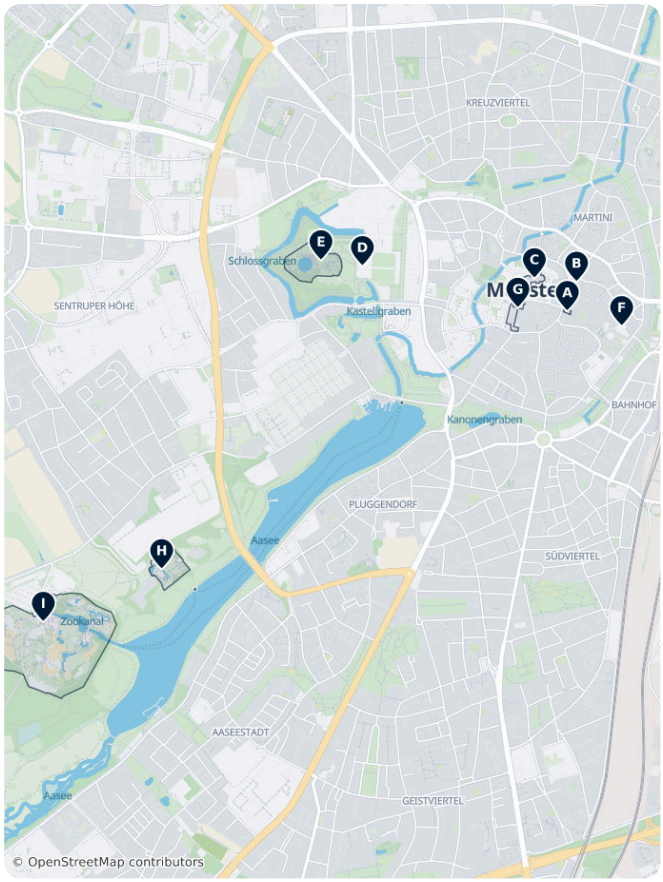
Late spring to early autumn is the best time, with mild days and long evenings. Rain is possible in every season, so pack a light waterproof. Winters are cold and grey. In Advent, Christmas markets fill the old town.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like -2°	-1° / -10°	15 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 12° Feels like 0°	0° / -8°	13 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 17° Feels like 5°	1° / -4°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	14° / 22° Feels like 10°	4° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25° Feels like 15°	8° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	11° / 7°	13 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	13° / 9°	16 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	13° / 9°	14 rainy days
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	10° / 6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
October	Good Good for cycling	15° / 21° Feels like 11°	7° / 1°	14 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	9° / 15° Feels like 4°	3° / -3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like -1°	0° / -7°	15 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, August

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Historisches Rathaus stands on the main shopping street and has a Gothic gable front. Inside, the Peace Hall is open to visitors.
- B St. Lamberti is the market church. Iron cages hang from its tower, and a tower watchman still blows a horn in the evening.
- C St.-Paulus-Dom is the city's cathedral. Its astronomical clock plays a tune at noon.
- D Fürstbischöfliches Schloss is the main building of the university. The E Botanischer Garten is next to it and is good for a quiet break.
- F Erbdrostenhof is a baroque town palace in the old town.
- G LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur shows art from the Middle Ages to modern times and sits close to the cathedral.
- H Mühlenhof Freilichtmuseum is an open-air museum with historic Westphalian farm buildings. It stands near the Aasee lake.
- I Allwetterzoo Münster is a large zoo, good for families and for wet days.

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What to experience

- Cycle the Promenade, the tree-lined ring that follows the line of the old city walls.
- Watch the astronomical clock in St.-Paulus-Dom.
- Walk or cycle around the Aasee.
- Visit the Christmas markets in the old town in Advent.

Day trips

The towns of the Münsterland are close, flat and good for cycling or short train rides.

- **Telgte**: 30 minutes or less by train. A small pilgrimage town with a famous chapel and a river walk.
- **Warendorf**: about 30 to 45 minutes by train. A pretty old town known for horses and riding.
- Burg Hülshoff: about 30 to 45 minutes by bus or car. A moated castle and the birthplace of the poet *Annette von Droste-Hülshoff*.
- Billerbeck: about 45 minutes by bus or car. A quiet town with a large church and walks in the hills.
- Osnabrück: about 1 hour by train. A historic city that shares the story of the Peace of Westphalia with Münster.

Getting there

- **By air**: Münster Osnabrück International Airport (FMO) lies north of the city. Many travellers fly to Düsseldorf (DUS) instead and continue by train, about 2 hours.
- **By train**: Münster Hauptbahnhof has direct trains to Cologne, Düsseldorf, Berlin, Osnabrück and Essen. Book long-distance tickets on Deutsche Bahn.
- By bus: Long-distance coaches also serve the city. Trains are usually the easier option.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small and mostly pedestrian-friendly. Most sights are within 15 minutes of each other.
- **By bike**: Bike paths run across the city, and the car-free Promenade circles the old town.
- Public transport: City buses cover the districts and the Aasee. See Stadtwerke Münster.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and most sights are close together.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Münster has a dense bike network and a car-free ring path around the old town.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for a city stay. The old town is small and the best way to move is by foot or bike.
- **Parking**: Use a car park at the edge of the centre. The Promenade is closed to motor traffic.

Food & drink

Westphalian food is hearty. Try pumpernickel bread and Westphalian ham. Töttchen is a traditional local meat stew.

The Kuhviertel, north-west of the cathedral, has many bars and cafés that suit students and visitors. The streets around the Prinzipalmarkt and the cathedral square have traditional restaurants and bakeries.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

Münster is very safe for visitors. Bike theft is the most common crime, so lock your bike to a fixed object. Watch for pickpockets in crowded markets and at the station.

History

Münster became a bishop's seat over a thousand years ago. In the 1530s, radical Anabaptists took control of the city, and the bishop's troops ended their rule.

In 1648 the Peace of Westphalia was agreed in Münster and Osnabrück. It ended the Thirty Years' War. You can see the Peace Hall in the Historisches Rathaus.

Air raids in the Second World War destroyed most of the old town. It was rebuilt in the 1950s in its earlier style, so the gabled houses you see today are mostly reconstructions.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



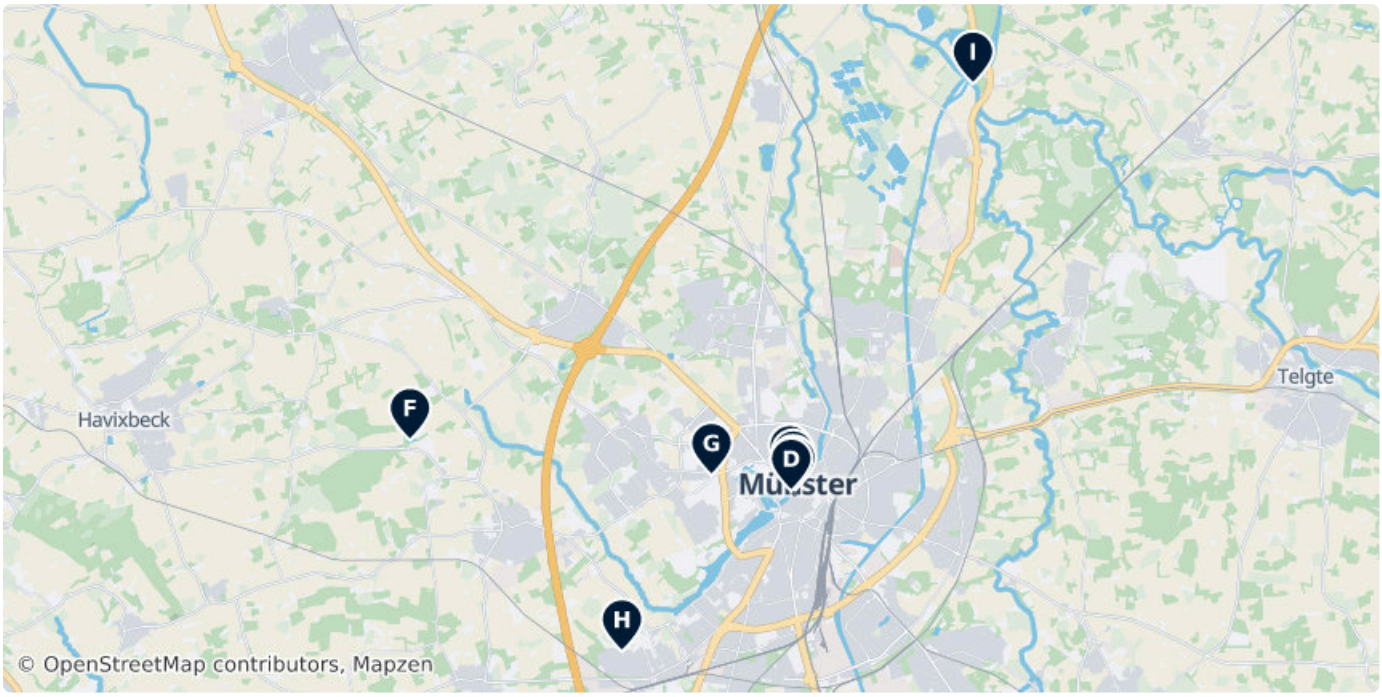
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Münster Must-Sees

Explore Münster’s rich heritage through this selection of historical landmarks and specialized museums. The list spans from the city's ecclesiastical heart at the Gothic Überwasserkirche and the Baroque Bischöfliches Palais to the specialized scientific collections of the university's Geomuseum and Archaeological Museum. Beyond the city center, you can discover the 11th-century Burg Hülshoff water castle and the significant 19th-century industrial engineering of the Gelmer canal crossing.





A Westphalian State Museum of Art and Cultural History

The Westphalian State Museum of Art and Cultural History

Domplatz 10, 48143 Münster, DE (51.96173, 7.62459)

Mo–Su 10:00–24:00

lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/LWL-Landesmuseu... , +49 251 5907201



B Überwasserkirche

Überwasserkirche is the common name of a Gothic hall church in Münster, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

Überwasserkirchplatz, 48143 Münster, Germany (51.96414, 7.62285)

liebfrauen-muenster.de



C Bischöfliches Palais

Located on Domplatz, this 18th-century palace serves as the official residence of the Bishop of Münster. The building is a notable example of regional Baroque and Classical architecture.

Spiegelturm, 48143 Münster, Germany (51.96312, 7.62398)



D Geomuseum

The University of Münster's geological and paleontological museum houses extensive fossil and mineral collections, including a nearly complete mammoth skeleton discovered in Westphalia.

Pferdegasse 3, 48143 Münster, DE (51.96150, 7.62329)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

uni-muenster.de/Geomuseum, +49 251 83 33900



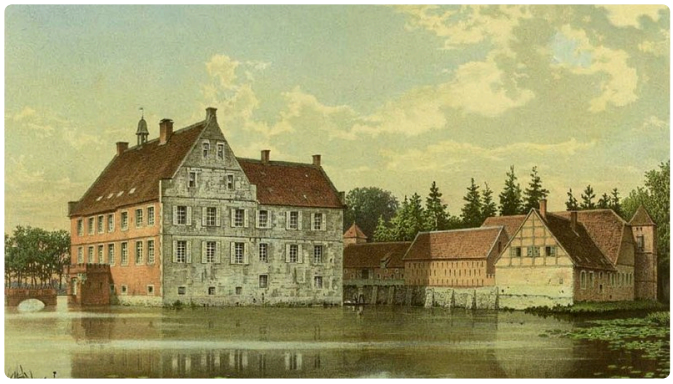
E Archäologisches Museum

Situated in the Fürstenberghaus, this university museum displays ancient Mediterranean artifacts, including Greek and Roman sculptures, pottery, and a collection of ancient coins.

23A Domplatz, Münster 48143, Germany (51.96205, 7.62389)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

uni-muenster.de/ArchaeologischesMu... , +49 251 83 245 88



F Burg Hülshoff

A traditional Münsterland water castle dating back to the 11th century. It is the birthplace of the famous German poet Annette von Droste-Hülshoff and features a museum dedicated to her life.

48329 Havixbeck, Germany (51.97131, 7.50356)

burg-huelshoff.de, +49 2534 1052



G Lukaskirche

A modern Protestant church located in the western district of Münster, situated near the Coesfelder Kreuz university campus.

(51.96455, 7.59824)

lukaskirche-muenster.de



H Martin-Luther-Kirche

An evangelical church in the Mecklenbeck district, constructed between 1966 and 1967 showcasing mid-century modern ecclesiastical design.

(51.93043, 7.57014)

johannes-kirchengemeinde-ms.de



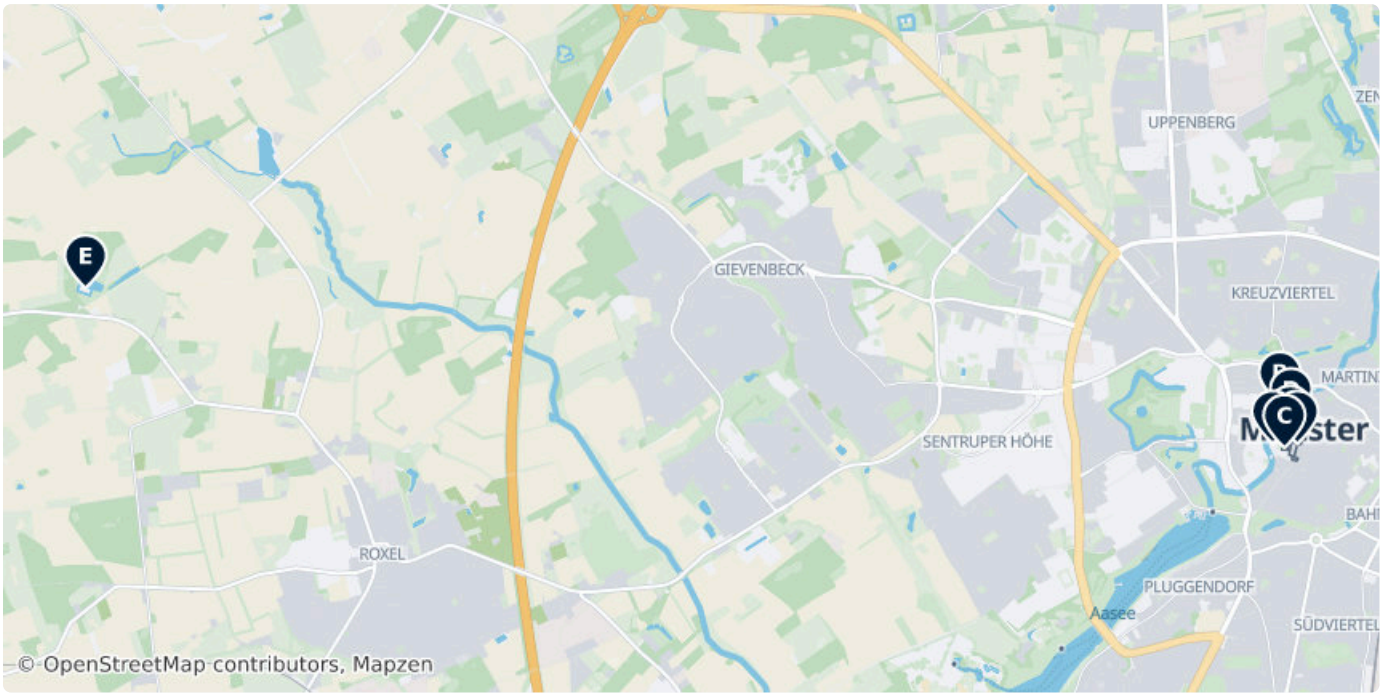
I KÜ

A significant late 19th-century industrial monument near Gelmer where the Dortmund-Ems Canal is carried over the Ems River by a massive arched bridge structure.

48268, Germany (52.04019, 7.68038)

Münster Heritage & Museums

Münster's historical landscape features a blend of academic institutions, ecclesiastical landmarks, and regional heritage sites. This collection includes the LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur, housing centuries of Westphalian art, and the University's specialized collections like the Geomuseum and Archaeological Museum. Architectural highlights range from the Gothic Überwasserkirche and Renaissance St. Petri to the Baroque Bischöfliches Palais. Just outside the city, the 11th-century Burg Hülshoff represents the region's traditional water castle architecture.





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Überwasserkirchplatz, 48143 Münster, Germany (51.96414, 7.62285)

liebfrauen-muenster.de



C Geomuseum

The Geological-Paleontological museum of the University of Münster displays fossils and geological specimens detailing the Earth's history and regional soil development.

Pferdegasse 3, 48143 Münster, DE (51.96150, 7.62329)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

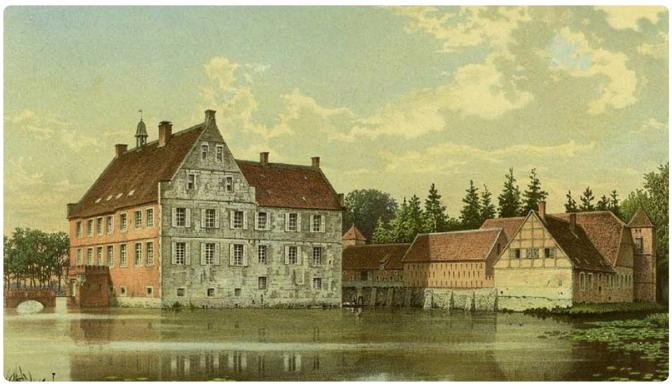
uni-muenster.de/Geomuseum, +49 251 83 33900



D Bischöfliches Palais

The official residence of the Bishop of Münster on Domplatz. Built in the late 18th century, the building showcases a blend of Classicist and Baroque architectural styles.

Spiegelturm, 48143 Münster, Germany (51.96312, 7.62398)



E Burg Hülshoff

A classic Westphalian water castle first documented in the 11th century. It is the birthplace of poet Annette von Droste-Hülshoff and features extensive moated grounds.

48329 Havixbeck, Germany (51.97131, 7.50356)

burg-huelshoff.de, +49 2534 1052



F St. Petri

A Catholic church featuring Renaissance architecture. Originally built for the Jesuit order in the late 16th century, it currently serves as the university church.

Jesuitengang, 48143 Münster, Germany (51.96174, 7.62213)

kshg-muenster.de/index.php



Archäologisches Museum

Located in the Fürstenberghaus, this university museum houses a collection of ancient artifacts from the Mediterranean and Near East, focusing on Greek and Roman antiquity.

23A Domplatz, Münster 48143, Germany
(51.96205, 7.62389)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

uni-muenster.de/ArchaeologischesMu... , +49 251 83 245 88

Münster's Religious Heritage

Münster’s skyline is defined by its diverse religious architecture, reflecting centuries of spiritual history. This collection spans from the Gothic hall structure of Überwasserkirche and the Renaissance-style St. Petri to modern 20th-century Protestant community centers like Martin-Luther-Kirche. These sites showcase a transition from ornate medieval stone masonry to functionalist post-war designs, offering insight into the city's Catholic traditions and its evolving Protestant presence across various districts.





A Überwasserkirche

Überwasserkirche is the common name of a Gothic hall church in Münster, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

Überwasserkirchplatz, 48143 Münster, Germany (51.96414, 7.62285)

liebfrauen-muenster.de



B St. Petri

Catholic church located near the university, noted for its Renaissance architectural elements.

Jesuitengang, 48143 Münster, Germany (51.96174, 7.62213)

kshg-muenster.de/index.php



C Lukaskirche

Protestant church in western Münster, situated near the Coesfelder Kreuz transit hub.

(51.96455, 7.59824)

lukaskirche-muenster.de



D Martin-Luther-Kirche

Protestant church in the Mecklenbeck district, constructed between 1966 and 1967.

(51.93043, 7.57014)

johannes-kirchengemeinde-ms.de



E St. Johannes Nepomuk

Heritage-protected Catholic branch church dedicated to St. Johannes Nepomuk.

13 Hansell, Hansell 48341, Germany (52.04167, 7.53673)

F Matthias-Claudius-Haus

Protestant community center and place of worship serving the Albachten district.

(51.92400, 7.52588)

ev-kirche-roxel.de

G Zionskirche

Protestant church and place of worship.

(51.98804, 7.70394)

zionskirche.com, +49 251 270 4840

H Kreuz-Christi-Kirche

Protestant church and place of worship.

(51.88382, 7.60934)

ev-kirche-hiltrup.de

I Andreas-Kirche

Protestant church and place of worship.

(51.99453, 7.64707)

andreas-kirchengemeinde-muenster.de

J Lydia-Gemeindezentrum

Protestant community center and place of worship.

(51.99689, 7.55672)

evk-havixbeck.de

K Sankt Marien

Catholic place of worship.

(52.03491, 7.61713)

L St. Johannes der Täufer

Catholic place of worship.

3a Venne, Venne 48308, Germany
(51.85400, 7.54722)

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