

Guide to **Mönchengladbach**



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DISCOVER MÖNCHENGLADBACH

Mönchengladbach (MG) is a wonderful place to live. With its population of almost 270,000, it is the largest city to the left of the Lower Rhine. Its character derives from an attractive combination of urban flair and rural charm –the city, with its many parks and woods, is also called the ‘city in the countryside’. Mönchengladbach has so much more to offer; such as the arts and culture. There are important historical buildings, world famous museums, a renowned theatre and a lively cabaret and ‘little arts’ scene. Those who like shopping need look no further than Mönchengladbach which has many pedestrian precincts and shopping arcades which cater for all tastes.

There are plenty of ways to get to know this city. In this booklet you will find a few suggestions on where to go and what to see for Art lovers, for shoppers for nature lovers and for night revellers too.

This booklet is just an insight into places of interest you may wish to visit in Mönchengladbach. For further details and more ideas, check out the website:

www.moenchengladbach.de

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The city can be reached quickly and easily via the excellent motorway, rail networks and by bus.

By Car

Mönchengladbach is connected to the surrounding region, the cities of Cologne (Köln) and Düsseldorf and the neighboring countries by an extensive road network. The A52 runs north of Mönchengladbach from the Netherlands to the Ruhr, the A61 in the west links southern Germany to the Netherlands and the A44 joins the Aachen and Ruhr regions.

Car-parking system



Numerous car parks can be found in and around Mönchengladbach. The city has introduced a guidance system to spare visitors the lengthy search for a space to park, which is now a simple task. Further information can be found under

www.parkinfo.com (in German)

Public transport

Mönchengladbach is served by the Rhein-Ruhr (VRR) public transport network. More detailed information can be obtained under www.vrr.de

The city's two large bus stations are situated in the Bahnhofsplatz (station square) in Mönchengladbach itself and in Rheydt - ZOB, Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof (central bus station).

If you're living on JHQ, the number 23 bus will take you from JHQ into Mönchengladbach. Bus timetables can be picked up from the HIVE.

By Train

Mönchengladbach's main station is situated opposite the bus station. Timetables and tickets: www.bahn.de

Taxis

Taxis in Mönchengladbach
Tel: 02161.13013 and 02166 41010

Shopping in Mönchengladbach

Mönchengladbach town centre has a central shopping street – Hindenburger Strasse, which is pedestrian and buses only. The Alter Markt at the top end of Hindenburger Strasse and the bus and train station at the bottom end. There are good shops and department stores, many of which accept tax free forms.

There is also a good general shopping centre in Mönchengladbach-Rheydt.

The Altstadt – well worth a visit

Some people say, tongue in cheek, this is the most Italian square this side of the Alps: the Abteiberg Plateau with the Alter Markt and the Capuchin Monk's Square (Kapuzinerplatz). This is where the market takes place on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. A wide variety of food and drink is on offer in the lanes and side streets leading off the Alter Markt into the Altstadt. The Alter Markt itself is part of the Mönchengladbach nightlife.

Eating Out in Mönchengladbach

Abtshof

Krefelder Strasse 726, 41066 Mönchengladbach. Tel 02161 651088

www.abtshof-mg.de Part of the Abtshof indoor/outdoor riding school by the Trabrennbahn. Watch the horses as you dine! Seasonal themed buffet. Closed Mondays.

Brauerei Zum Stefanos

Wickrath/Memrath. Tel 02161 580154. Traditional German brewery and restaurant. Closed Mondays (Good by bus)

Caspers

Blumenberger Strasse 24 Mönchengladbach. Tel 837023. Big Portions. Closed Tuesdays.

Dorthausener Hof

Gladbacherstrasse 403(on the B57), Mönchengladbach-Dorthausen. Tel: 02161 542706. Greek restaurant and hotel. Closed on Tuesdays. www.dorthausener-hof.de

Dschingis Khan

Ruhrfelder 37, 41199 Mönchengladbach-Odenkirchen. Tel: 02166 217532 Mongolian Restaurant www.dschingis-khan-mg.de

El Albanico,

Marktstiege 20, 41061 Mönchengladbach. Tel: 02161 567440. Spanish Restaurant.

www.el-abanico.de

El Cucharon

Bar de Tapas restaurant, Wall Strasse 13, 41061 Mönchengladbach. Tel 02161 4686240.

El Paso

Turmstieg 8, Altermarkt 41061 Mönchengladbach. Tel: 02161 895499. Mexican Restaurant. Open every day. www.el-paso-gmbh.de

Also Aachener Strasse 23, Mönchengladbach.

Giorgio

Wallstrasse 24, 41061 Mönchengladbach (Marienhof). Tel: 02161 20107. Italian Restaurant. www.ristorante-giorgio.de Something a bit special!

India Palace

Alter Markt, 41061 Mönchengladbach. Tel: 02161 206405. Tandoori restaurant. All You Can Eat buffet Weekend evenings and Sundays.

Kartoffel Haus

Aachener Strasse 471, 41069. Tel: 02161 5739742. Open daily from 17:00. Also open on Sundays from 10:00-15:00 hrs. Traditional freshly cooked German dishes with a kick of gourmet! Speaks English.

Kastanienhof,

Krefelder Strasse 765, 41066 MG-Neuwerk. Tel: 02161 821 2060. Hotel, restaurant and beergarten. www.kastaninhof-hotel.org Situated opposite the Trabrennbahn. Breakfast & Sunday brunch (booking required). Open every day.

La Pampa

Berlinerplatz 11, Mönchengladbach. Tel: 02161 16017. Argentinean Steak House.

Maccheroni

Sandrad 1, (Alter Markt), 41061 Mönchengladbach. Tel: 02161 175490. Italian Restaurant. www.maccheroni.de

Mike's Winebar

and Bistro, Weiherstrasse 51, 41061 Mönchengladbach. Tel: 02161 12540. Closed Sundays & Mondays. www.mon.de/nr/mikes-bistro

Moshibar

Krichelstrasse 22, 41061 Mönchengladbach. Tel: 02161 247432. www.moshibar.de open daily from 1800 hrs. Bar, lounge & Asian Cuisine.

Spickhofen

Restaurant and Hotel, Dahleener Strasse 88-92, Rheydt. Tel: 02166 2550. Open every day. Huge mixed grills!

Sukhothai

Hovener Strasse, MG- Neuwerk. Tel: 02161 963736. Thai restaurant. Closed Tuesdays. www.sukothai.de

Weinhof Voosen Voosen 51A, 41179 Mönchengladbach. Tel 02161 581027

Wickrather Brauhaus

Wickratherberger Strasse 8, Wickrath. Tel: 02166 552463.

4 Komma Drei

Friedrich-Ebert Strasse 276, MG Rheydt. Tel: 02166 248703. Turkish Café/Restaurant. Open every day.

The HIVE holds an Eating Out Guide which covers MG and further afield. Pop in and collect yours.

MG – Mostly Green

Over half the urban area in Mönchengladbach consists of green spaces and wonderful gardens and parks.

Bunter Garten (Colourful Garden)

Just north of the Kaiser-Friedrich-Halle is the 30 hectare Bunter Garten. Here you will find the Botanical Garden, with its rock, herb and pharmacist's gardens and a scent and touch garden for the visually impaired.

Stadtwald (City Forest)

The City Forest is an extensive woodland area with a pond and the "Rheydter Höhe", which is the highest point in MG. The meadows in the Stadtwald are popular in the summer for picnics and the Water Fun Park is a great attraction for youngsters.

Cultural Landscape Path

The 13km walk from the Rheydter Höhe to the Hardter Wald is part of MG's "environmental open space concept" and a pleasant way to spend the day.

Hardter Wald (Hardt Forest)

The Hardter Wald is the biggest area of woodland in Mönchengladbach. A popular place for walkers.

Rheydter Schlosspark (Castle Park)

Around the castle, visitors can enjoy the tranquillity of woodland, ponds and streams.

Schwalm-Nette Nature Park

This nature park stretches along the German-Dutch border. The lovely countryside offers great days out.

On your bikes

The parks and woodlands on the outskirts of MG offer ample opportunities for strolling, hiking and biking. Two tours for the biker are especially recommended: 'Country houses, châteaux and castles' and 'Ponds, lakes and mills'. 'Country houses, châteaux and castles': The castles on the outskirts of the city – genuine architectural jewels – are an absolute must for all visitors interested in the history of architecture. The green stretches on both sides of MG's biggest stream, the Niers, are ideal for biking. This stream runs 14 miles from the Donk in the north to its source near Kuckum in the south. This route will take you past castles, châteaux, country and large farm houses. Here are the most notable stops: Schloss Myllendonk is one of the finest moated castles to be found in the lower Rhine area. It has preserved some medieval features. A golf course has been laid out nearby. Continuing south from there you come to Schloss Rheydt situated in a conservation area. It is the only Renaissance building of its kind in the Lower Rhine area left in such an impressive state of preservation. It consists of the main gatehouse, the former guard's rooms and stables and the manor. The whole complex is surrounded by a star shaped rampart with bastions. Today the Chateaux houses a museum of cultural history and the history of the arts as well as a section on local history.

Leaving Schloss Rheydt, a little detour, going east through the Hoppbruch, might be worth your while. It will take you to Haus Horst, a neogothic building erected in 1853 around a medieval manor house, which now houses a clinic specialising in treating people with sleeping problems. Close to Haus Horst, there is the picturesque village of Liedberg with its numerous half timbered houses and small castle in the Baroque style. Further south there is Schloss Dyck. Itself of great historical interest this old moated castle also boasts a historic park; about 190 species of trees grow here, some as much as 2,000 years old. On returning to the green banks of the Niers, you continue to Schloss Wickrath. This Baroque Châteaux built around 1750 had its central building demolished in 1859. The part of the châteaux that housed the guards' rooms and the stables, which has survived, served as a stud farm owned by the state of Prussia for about one hundred years. A bird museum is situated in another part of the châteaux. There is a fine park with what used to be a moat, with ponds, a lake, and wide walks lined with old trees. The other tour suggested for biking is the 'Ponds, lakes and mills': The national park Maas-Schwalm-Nette begins on the western outskirts of MG and stretches out into the neighbouring Netherlands.

The Millbrook valley (Mühlenbachtal) is situated in the south-eastern part of the national park. Starting from Rheindahlen you go onto the 14th century Holzmühle which has a pub and a boating pond, then follow a stream called Schwalm as far as the 16th century Buschmühle and its pub – to the Papelter Mühle, then to the Gennekesmühle. From there, you leave for the Lüttelforster Mühle, after which there is the Pannenmühle and the Radermühle. Then onto lake Harik (Hariksee), on which there is the Mühlrathermühle. Lake Harik offers a little steamer, boating facilities, a large open air swimming pool and several restaurants. This tour along the two streams, Mühlenbach and Schwalm, is about 50 miles long and is only part of a whole network of fine roads and paths suitable both for hiking and for biking that criss-cross over the German and Dutch parts of the Maas-Schwalm-Nette national park that altogether covers about 280 square miles. For further information on hiking and biking around MG contact the Mönchengladbach City Council, Department of Parks and Cemeteries, tel: 02161 25 68 17, 25 68 18, 25 68 51. Maps of the area are available from there. For bike hire, pop into the HIVE for a list of rental dealers.

Breweries

A small selection

Brauerei Jöris

Speicker Str. 3. Tel: 02161 834070

Brauerei zum Stefanus

Mennrath 59. Tel: 02161 580154

Hannen Sudhaus

Alter Markt 22. Tel: 02161 175976

Hensen Brauerei

Untere Str. 133. Tel: 02161 838088

Wickrather Brauhaus

Wickrathberger Str. 6. Tel: 02166 552463

Places of Interest

This is just a small list of places of interest in MG. For more information, pop into the HIVE and pick up some brochures on Mönchengladbach.

Tiergarten Mönchengladbach

MG's zoological garden, the Tiergarten is home to over 400 animals of about 100 different species – tigers, bears, seals, wild boars, red and fallow deer, European Bisons and exotic birds, to name but a few. The zoo, situated in one of MGs 10 districts called Odenkirchen on the gentle Kamphausen hill (Kamphausener Höhe), covers about 10 acres. There are several playgrounds inside the zoo and just outside the gates. Opening hours: 09.00-18.00hrs daily in the summer, 09.00-16.00hrs during the winter months.

www.tiergarten-moenchengladbach.de

Museum Schloss Rheydt (Rheydt Castle)

A splendid Renaissance building housing a museum with cultural history and the history of the arts throughout the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Annual events such as the medieval Ritterfest take place in the grounds of the castle. For more information visit:

www.schlossrheydt.de

Schloss Wickrath (Wickrath Castle)

This baroque castle is situated in a park, designed in the shape of a coronet, and consists of a main building and two outer baileys.

Museum Abteiberg

Abteistrasse 27. The Abteiberg is a famous museum of international art of the 20th and 21st Century. The museum has excellent collections and exhibitions.

www.museum-abteiberg.de

Trabrennbahn (Trotting Track)

Founded in 1893, the Trabrennbahn (Trotting race track) of Mönchengladbach is the oldest one in Germany.

Wasserturm (Water Tower)

The Wasserturm, built in 1909, is the “most beautiful art-nouveau water in Germany”.

Useful Phone Numbers and Websites

Police

110

Fire Brigade

112

Bus Service (MöBus)

01803 504030

DB Rail Travel Service

1 18 61

www.bahn.de

Tourist Information

02161 252525

www.moenchengladbach.de

Airport

Düsseldorf 02111 42 10

Mönchengladbach 02161 68980

Taxi

02161 13013 and 02166 410 10

Lost & Found

02161 256255