

100 Things You Should Know About Duisburg

1. Carl Lehr was Oberbürgermeister for 35 years, from 1879 to 1914 – a record
2. A superstar in Duisburg: In 1995 Michael Jackson appeared on the TV-Show „Wetten dass...“. The program was broadcast from the Rhein-Ruhr-Halle in Hamborn.
3. Duisburg became a „kreisfreie Stadt“ in 1873 (analogous to a ‚county borough‘).
4. Duisburg is divided into seven bezirks - Walsum, Hamborn, Meiderich/Beeck, Homberg-Ruhrort-Baerl, Rheinhausen, Mitte und Süd. The bezirks encompass 46 localities.
5. Duisburg has two botanical gardens. The oldest, founded in 1890, is situated by the Kaiserberg. The largest is in Hamborn and was laid out in 1905.
6. At the end of 2010, Duisburg had a population of 488,218. In 1979 it was 559,000. At the moment it occupies 15th place by size of population in the list of German cities.
7. The town extends over an area of 233 square kilometers.
8. The Filmforum was opened in 1970 and is the oldest municipal cinema in Deutschland. Its interior is decorated in the style of the 1950s and it has an important film archive.
9. The bezirk of Süd is the largest bezirk with an area of 49,84 km² .
10. The boundary of Duisburg is 101 kilometers long.
11. The center of the town of Duisburg lies on the Ruhrorter Straße/Ruhrdeich Kaßlerfeld in the area of Kaßlerfeld.
12. With 169 kilometers of waterfront and around 700 bridges, Duisburg has more bridges than Venice or St. Petersburg (or so city authorities claim anyway)
13. It was in February 1904 that Duisburg first recorded a population of 100,000 and thereby became a Großstadt.



14. The Meidericher Spielverein was founded in 1902, better known latterly as MSV Duisburg. In 1963, they had a sensational start in the first season of the new Bundesliga: MSV were runners-up in that year.

15. MSV have chalked up other records during their time: their 9:0 victory over Tasmania Berlin in 1966 is the highest-scoring away win in Bundesliga history.

16. Highest point in the city is at the location of the Haus Hartenfels at 80,6 meters above sea level. The lowest point, 15,2 meters above sea level, is in Walsum - on the Kurfürstenstraße.



17. Duisburg lies on the confluence of the Ruhr with the Rhein, one of the busiest rivers in Europe. The Rhein flows through Duisburg for 37.5 kilometers.

18. In 2011, MSV managed to make the Cup Final for the fourth time, this time against local rivals Schalke 04.

19. On account of its many grain mills and silos, the Inner Harbor was considered, up until the 1960s, as the „Bread Basket“ of the Ruhr District.

20. Duisburg is a „Schlauch“ (tube). The city extends 25.2 kilometers North to South but only 13.5 kilometers West to East.

21. Duisburg females can also play excellent football: The Bundesliga members FCR 2001 Duisburg have been runners-up four times since 2005 and were champions in 2000.

22. In the Inner Harbor, you can find the Garten der Erinnerung (Garden of Remembrance), designed by the Israeli artist Dani Karavan. Karavan worked into this garden the particular importance of the Inner Harbor and its industrial history.

23. In 1925, President Paul von Hindenburg visited Duisburg after the ending of the Ruhr Occupation.

24. Oberbürgermeister Karl Jarres almost became President in 1925. However, despite winning the first round he withdrew his candidature in favor of the eventual winner, Hindenburg.

25. The architecturally-exceptional synagogue, dedicated in 1999, is a further attraction in the Inner Harbor.

26. Opposite the synagogue lies the Yitzhak-Rabin-Platz, officially opened by Lea Rabin, the widow of the murdered Prime Minister.

27. In the 1930's Duisburg had its own airport in Neuenkamp. Later it was used by Hitler's „Stukas“.

28. In 1942 a concentration-camp outlier was erected in Duisburg-Meiderich, which was subject to , among others, Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald. The camp was destroyed in an air raid in 1943 resulting in the death of 50 internees.



29. The first Schimanski-Tatort TV program, bearing the title „Duisburg-Ruhrort“, was transmitted in 1981. Götz George and Eberhard Feik played the dissimilar crime-fighting duo, Schimanski and Thanner.

30. Duisburg Zoo was opened in 1934.

31. The town was severely damaged by around 300 air raids in the Second World War, 80 percent of living accommodation was either razed to the ground or severely damaged.
32. The Inner Harbor and Outer Harbor are, coincidentally, located along the former course of the Rhein - before it changed course (straightened itself out) sometime between 1000 and 1200.
33. In 1985 Günter Wallraff published his book „Ganz unten“. It dealt with the inhuman working conditions endured by Turkish guest workers in the Duisburg steel industry.
34. In 1966, the whole nation followed the zoo director Dr. Wolfgang Gewalt in his pursuit of a white whale which had strayed into the Rhein.



35. The notable silo (or „Milchtüte“) named Mr. Softy, was demolished in 1994 as it stood in the way of the re-development of the Inner Harbor.

36. The University was founded in 1972. In 2003 it was merged with the University of Essen.

37. It was to be a major festival during the European Year of Culture 2010 and ended in horror: at the

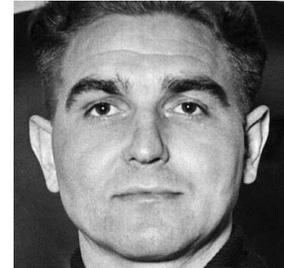
Loveparade in Duisburg, 21 people died in the confusion and 500 were injured.

38. After 56 years of dominance by the Social Democratic Party, the CDU's Adolf Sauerland became Oberbürgermeister in 2004. Sauerland suffered heavy criticism after the Loveparade tragedy.
39. During the World Cup in 2006, the eventual winners Italy resided in the Landhotel Milser in the South of Duisburg.
40. The first heavy industry in Duisburg was neither coal-mining or steel production, but the chemical industry. It started up in the town in 1824.
41. Duisburg also produced negative headlines throughout the whole of Europe in 2007 when the Mafia organisation N'drangheta murdered six men in the vicinity of the main railway station.
42. The Duisburg firm of Thyssen AG merged with Essen-based Friedrich Krupp AG Hoesch-Krupp in 1999, producing ThyssenKrupp AG.
43. With ThyssenKrupp Steel, Hüttenwerke Krupp-Mannesmann und Arcelor Mittal Ruhrort, Duisburg is the most important steel town in Deutschland and the second-largest worldwide.
44. Krupp announced in 1987 the closure of their works in Rheinhausen. Krupp had been smelting iron and producing steel there for about 100 years. It finally came to an end in 1993.

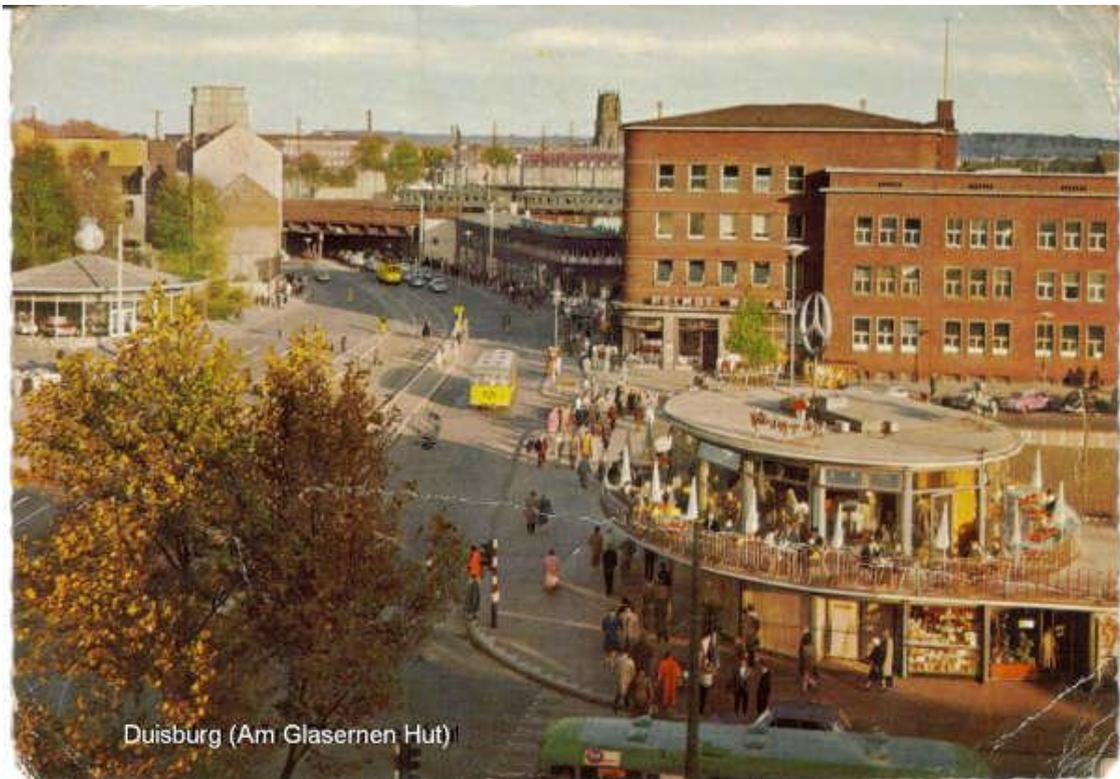
45. The colliery in Duisburg-Walsum, the last of the Duisburg coal mines, ceased operations in 2008.
46. The König-Brauerei, producers of König-Pilsener, have been in existence since 1858. Since 2004 the company has belonged to Bitburger Holding.
47. Logistics play an important part in re-structuring. Thus, for example, the founding of „Logport“ has produced a new international logistics center. Until 1993 the site was occupied by the Krupp steelworks.
48. Duisburgers are formally committing themselves to each other less and less: in 1990 3369 couples got married. Since then it has gone continuously downhill. By 2009 the figure was only 1926.
49. The first red-red-green (SDP-die Linke-Greens) coalition in NordRhein-Westfalen was formed in Duisburg on 17th. March 2011.
50. The suburb of Kaßlerfeld no longer contains a single church. Both denominations have had their churches demolished.
51. In the suburb of Rumeln-Kaldenhausen once stood the largest brick-built mill in the Lower Rhein. It was pulled down in 1968.
52. Rumeln-Kaldenhausen is indeed a suburb of Duisburg, the most westerly, yet it has a Krefeld dialling code: 02151. Rheinhausen, Homberg/Hochheide, Binsheim and Baerl also have a different dialling code.
53. In 2008, a mosque built in the traditional Ottoman style was opened in Duisburg-Marxloh. The mosque is one of the largest in Deutschland.
54. Coal is, or rather was, not the only thing of worth to be extracted from under the ground in Duisburg. In Walsum, Rheinfels-Mineral Water was extracted from the substratum of the Rheinaue.
55. The largest sporting event to be held in the city was staged in 2005: the World Games. More than half a million people viewed competitions in non-olympic sports.
56. The Cubus-Kunsthalle was the first new library building to be opened in Deutschland after the Second World War.
57. In 2012, the Gerhard-Mercator-Year will be celebrated in Duisburg. The epitaph of the famous geographer and mapmaker (1512 – 1594), who moved to Duisburg from Flanders in 1552, can still be found in the Salvatorkirche.
58. The „Corputiusplan“ from 1566 is the oldest map of Duisburg. It was drawn up by the Dutchman Johan van den Corput, a pupil of Gerhard Mercator.



59. Duisburg first became a University town in 1655. This first University was closed in 1818, its rights passing to the University of Bonn.
60. The Sportpark Wedau in the southern part of the city, encompassing 200 hectares, is one of the largest contiguous sport parks in Deutschland.
61. The Sparkasse building in the city center dates from the 1920s and was built in Bauhaus style.
62. The oldest confirmed date in Duisburg's history is 883 AD when it is recorded in writing that the Normans (Vikings) attacked „Duisburch“.
63. The oldest written document in the Duisburg City Archives is a document with the seal of King Lothars III concerning permission to be allowed to break stones. It dates from 1129.
64. The Rhein changed its course ending up a few kilometers away from the town. As a result Duisburg lost its importance as a trading center at the end of the 14th. century.
65. The famous sculptor Wilhelm Lehmbruck (1881 -1919) was born in Duisburg-Meiderich. His son Manfred designed the Lehmbruck-Museum in Duisburg's Kantpark, opened in 1964.
66. The Dreigiebelhaus near to the Inner Harbor is the oldest surviving residential building in the city. It was mentioned for the first time in 1536.
67. The Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord in Meiderich is no ordinary park. Its main attraction is the Thyssen blast furnace decommissioned in 1985.
68. As far as can be proved so far, the great Kirmes (fair) in Duisburg-Beeck, which is still celebrated today, was first mentioned in 1549.
69. Goalkeeping legend Toni Turek was born in Duisburg-Wanheimerort in 1919. He was the goalkeeper in the World Cup winning squad of 1954.
70. Duisburg has twinning partnerships with Portsmouth (Britain), Calais (France), Vilnius (Lithuania), Wuhan (China), Gaziantep (Turkey), Perm (Russia), San Pedro Sula (Honduras) and Fort Lauderdale (USA).
71. The Regatta Course in the Sportpark hosts international competitions in canoeing and rowing. The course has been continually modernized and was first dedicated in 1935.
72. The Sechs-Seen-Platte, a recreation area in the south of the city, does not consist of naturally-occurring lakes. The lakes came about as a result of the extraction of sand and gravel for the building of the local marshalling yards and for the building of housing in Wedau.
73. With 2500 hectares, a good ten percent of the city is forest. Not actually too high in comparison with the rest of the country – for Brilon in Sauerland it is something like 33 percent.



74. Virgin forest in Duisburg: There are seven so-called ‚Referenzflächen‘ with an area of 92 hectares. ‚Referenzflächen‘ are selected areas of forest which are left alone to develop naturally.
75. With an area of 600 hectares, the wooded area on the boundary with Mülheim counts among the top 15 largest urban forests in Deutschland.
76. There is not only an Alpenverein in Duisburg. On the Mölltaler Glacier in Austrian Oberkärnten stands the „Duisburger Hütte“, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010.
77. The Binnenhafen, with its center in Ruhrort, is considered to be one of the the largest inland ports in the world.
78. NRW has four casinos, one of which is situated in Duisburg. The others are in Aachen, Dortmund and Bad Oeynhausen.



Duisburg (Am Glasernen Hut)

79. The „gläserne Hut“ was opened near to the main railway station in 1956. It was conspicuous because of its architecture: round, with a sun terrace looking like the brim of a hat. The building was a waiting room, kiosk and Kneipe. Demolition: beginning of the Eighties.
80. Hamborn Abbey was founded in 1136. For centuries it was a cultural and economic center of the region. Today you can still view a part of the old cloisters.
81. In 2007 the famous architect Norman Foster presented his masterplan by which Duisburg’s Inner Harbor was to become more attractive.
82. If you want to rent a flat in Duisburg, you have a choice of seven Wohnungsgenossenschaften (housing associations).

83. The first „intelligent“ house of the Fraunhofer-Institut was opened in 2001 on the University campus. The building is an experimental concept for new ideas of space, innovative building materials and intelligent building technology.
84. Since 1977, Duisburg has been the showplace of the prestigious festival of culture „Duisburger Akzente“. Since then, 2005 was the only year when it did not take place – in favor of the culture program associated with the World Games.
85. In 2008 a large shopping center with 57,000 square meters of rentable space was opened in the city center – the „Forum Duisburg“.



86. The Finkenkrug, a traditional student kneipe in Neudorf, has 222 types of beer on offer.
87. The Rheinland Department of the Land Archives of NRW, which was housed in Düsseldorf, is moving to Duisburg.
88. In 1989, the Universiade, the World Student Games, were to have been staged in Brazil, yet it ran into financial difficulties. Duisburg sprang to the rescue.
89. The first horse tramway started operations in 1881, running from Duisburg to Ruhrort. By 1898 the whole network had been electrified.
90. In 1960, the Duisburger Verkehrsgesellschaft (DVG) started taking on women as workers on the tramway for the first time since the war.
91. The tramway was a familiar sight along the Königstrasse. This ended in 1992 when the U-Bahn-Tunnel was opened.
92. 2010 was the year of bombs for Duisburg. 17 unexploded devices were found. As many as the number of years without any such unexpected surprises.
93. There five Revierparks in the Ruhr district. The largest is the 45-hectare Revierpark Mattlerbusch in Duisburg.
94. Duisburg is a divided city. Not only does the Rhein divide it west from east but the Stadtautobahn A59 divides it north from south as it passes through the center of the city.
95. Between 1928 and 1930 the Einschornsteinsiedlung (One-Chimney-Settlement) was built in Duisburg-Neudorf, characterised by the architecture of the Bauhaus.
96. The old Ruhrort Swimming Pool, built in the Art Nouveau style, has housed the Binnenschiffahrtsmuseum since 1998.
97. In Deutschland there are currently two maritime training colleges – one is the Schiffer-Berufskolleg „Rhein“ in Duisburg-Homberg.
98. The largest coffee mill in the world belongs to the Café Dobbelstein in Duisburg. It is 2.5 meters high, weighs 450 kilograms and can grind 50 kilograms of coffee a time.

<http://portsmouth-duisburg.com>

99. The Düsseldorfer Straße is the longest road in the city with a length of 6950 meters.

100. The largest employer is ThyssenKrupp who employ 13,600 in Duisburg