

RUB

# Bochum – in the Heart of the Ruhr Area



## 4.1 The “Ruhrgebiet”

The “Ruhrgebiet” (Ruhr Area) is an urban region in the west of the Federal Republic of Germany. A total of 53 towns and municipalities combine to form a unique, seamless metropolitan area that has the feel of a single town. The Ruhr Area is not a natural region but an economic one that owes its cohesion first and foremost to its history as the largest industrial mining region in Europe. It stretches from Hamm in the northeast and Wesel in the northwest as far as Duisburg in the southwest and Hagen in the southeast. As such, the Ruhr Area covers an area of 4,435 square kilometres, roughly 13 per cent of the total area of Nordrhein-Westfalen. Just 200 years ago, the Ruhr Area was a thinly-populated rural region, but with the advent of industrialisation its rich reserves of coal soon turned it into the most important coal mining and steel region in Europe. Within a few decades, several hundred collieries had evolved and the population exploded. The heyday of the mining industry lasted from the 19th to the mid-20th centuries. Altogether, some 3,200 collieries and numerous coke ovens, ironworks and steelworks grew up, employing up to a million people.

### The undiscovered metropolis

Hardly anywhere in Central Europe has changed as much over the last few decades as the Ruhr Area. In the second half of the 20th century, a period of structural change meant that most of the collieries and iron- and steelworks shut down, throwing the region into serious crisis. Since then, the Ruhr Area has not only been fighting for its economic future but also for its regional cohesion. Despite this, the Ruhr Area with its 5.3 million inhabitants from more than 150 different countries is still the largest economic region in Europe and one of the most important centres of education, science and research. In place of yesterday’s mines, today’s service industries and educational establishments have found a home here. Technology, trade and service industries are the economic sectors of the future. The Ruhr Area has been a conurbation and industrial landscape for 200 years – now it is developing into a metropolis. Nowhere in Europe can you marvel at so many old buildings or gaze at so many new ones, and nowhere are they so closely interwoven. The Ruhr Area is reinventing itself – for more than 30 years now, this stolid old colossus, formed by coal and steel, has been ridding itself of its corset of hard work and industrially determined lifestyles.





### Industrial Heritage Trail:

- [www.route-industriekultur.de](http://www.route-industriekultur.de)
- [www.metropoleruhr.de/en/start](http://www.metropoleruhr.de/en/start)

#### INSIDER INFO:

You can obtain information and maps on the Ruhr Area, the Industrial Heritage Trail, culture and leisure from the International Lounge at RUB. The staff will be pleased to advise you.

### Business and science

Since the 1960s, the “motor and energy supplier for the German economic miracle” has been transforming itself into a modern science and technology location. With 5 universities, a university of the arts, 15 other institutions of higher education, 4 Fraunhofer and 3 Max Planck institutes, and 5 members of the Leibniz Association as well as more than 150 other non-university educational, research and development institutions, today’s Ruhr metropolitan area is one of the most important science landscapes in Europe. And there is a special feature, too: wall-to-wall linkages between the many collaborations and centres of excellence in the various research areas. The Ruhr is well on the way to becoming one of the leading locations for industry and service industries in Germany. Many enterprises have set up their headquarters in

one of the Ruhr cities. This is where important European streams of commerce are organised; this is where future European energy policy is shaped. New, modern branches, especially information technology, medicine and logistics as well as energy and water management, determine the economic direction the coal-mining district is taking today.

### Industrial heritage

The Ruhr Area is reinventing itself – and has discovered a completely new form of culture: industrial heritage. This regional consciousness is and was focused on industrial locations: yesterday’s workplace – the pithead towers and blast furnaces, the slag heaps and gasometers – has become today’s monument or landmark. The buildings and factories abandoned by industry are now often used for art and culture, theatre and exhibitions and, indeed, for sport and leisure. During the summer “Ruhrtriennale”, the Ruhr Area’s festival of arts, these venues host a top-class theatre programme with a unique atmosphere. Once a year, the “Extraschicht” (extra shift), the long night of industrial culture, opens the doors for one night on industrial facilities from the past and present, which become the unforgettable backdrop for productions by international artists. In 2010, the Ruhr Area was the European Capital of Culture. Under the motto “Change through Culture – Culture through Change”, it featured many projects and programmes that kick-started sustainable change in the entire region.

### Industrial Heritage Trail

The “Industrial Heritage Trail” links the individual locations in the Ruhr Area. A 400 km route wends its various ways through the region and features themed trails and cycle trails. The anchor points of the Industrial Heritage Trail include:

#### World Heritage Site: the Zollverein Pit in Essen

The “most beautiful colliery in the world” now houses the “red dot design museum”, the “Phänomania/ Erfahrungsfeld” (experiencing science centre) and the Ruhr Museum, to name but three. In the neighbouring coke oven there is a works swimming pool and an ice rink.

#### The Zollern Colliery in Dortmund

This magnificent art nouveau building is now a museum where visitors can get an impression of colliery life in the 19th century. And it is also possible to visit the housing estates built for the miners in the vicinity.

#### “Jahrhunderthalle Bochum” (Century Hall)

This impressive hall was built as an exhibition space by the iron and steel works “Bochumer Verein” for the 1902 Düsseldorf Trade Fair. Today, it is a highly atmospheric performance centre for theatre, concerts and opera.

### North Duisburg Landscape Park

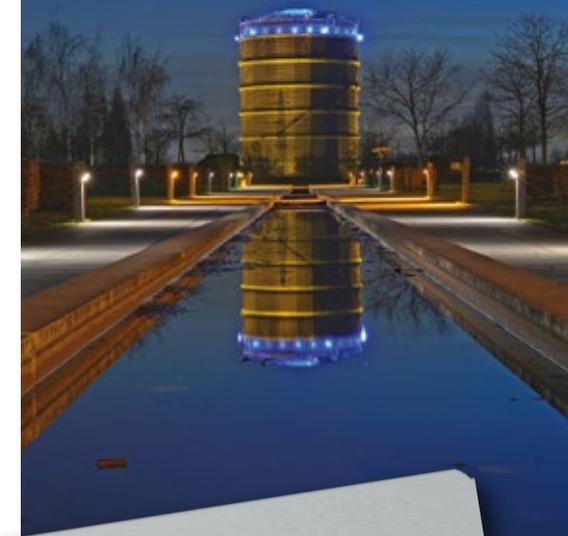
The huge site of the former ironworks has now been turned into a public recreation area with climbing walls in the old ore bins and a gasometer for scuba diving. Every evening, a permanent light installation bathes the smelting works in a fascinating show of light and colour.

#### The Oberhausen Gasometer

Built in 1929, the gasometer now houses the largest and arguably most unusual exhibition space in Europe. The inside is more than 100 metres high, and fascinating exhibitions and installations are shown here. There is a magnificent view over the Ruhr Area from the viewing platform on the roof.

#### Henrichshütte Steelworks in Hattingen

The oldest blast furnace in the entire coal-mining area was operational for 150 years. Today, it is an industrial museum introducing visitors to the work and significance of the steelworks for the region, including a “path of iron” demonstration. There are also cultural programmes, special exhibitions and much, much more.



#### INSIDER INFO:

In Bochum and the entire Ruhr Area there are plenty of places to hire bicycles which will enable you to discover the area by following some of the many cycle paths. Concessions are available for students.

- [www.rub.de/anreise/fahrrad\\_en](http://www.rub.de/anreise/fahrrad_en)
- [www.rub.de/welcomecentre/bochum/bicycle.html.en](http://www.rub.de/welcomecentre/bochum/bicycle.html.en)

## 4.2 Ruhr Culture in Figures

What	How many	Where
<b>Industrial heritage</b>	about 3,500	In the entire Ruhr Area, incorporated in the Industrial Heritage Trail  Visitors' Centre at the "Zollverein" world heritage site in Essen
<b>Festivals and festivities</b>	about 250 per year	Including the Ruhrtriennale, Ruhr Theatre Festival, Ruhr Piano Festival, Ruhr European Classics Festival, as well as other events in many different sectors of the arts (music, cinema, dance etc.) in the entire region
<b>Museums</b>	about 200	In the entire region: Ruhr Museum at the "Zollverein", Museum Folkwang in Essen, Emil Schumacher Museum in Hagen, Dortmund U
<b>Theatres</b>	about 120	Including the Aalto-Theater and Grillo Theater in Essen, Schauspielhaus Bochum, Theater Duisburg
<b>Cultural centres</b>	about 100	In the entire region
<b>Concert halls</b>	about 100	Including Dortmund, Essen, Duisburg, (Musikzentrum Bochum under construction)
<b>Musical theatres</b>	2	Bochum, Oberhausen

Source: [www.ruhr-tourismus.de](http://www.ruhr-tourismus.de)

### INSIDER INFO:

The "RuhrTopCard" allows you free access to more than 90 attractions – not just museums, exhibitions and industrial heritage but also zoos, swimming pools, inland waterways and leisure parks. The card is valid for a calendar year and gives you one-time free entry to each attraction. Prices: 49.90 euro for adults; 33.90 euro for children (as of 2014)

[www.ruhrtopcard.de](http://www.ruhrtopcard.de)



## 4.3 Bochum

Bochum is situated in the very heart of the Ruhr Area in central Nordrhein-Westfalen, not far from the state capital of Düsseldorf. With a population of some 365,000 (as of 31.12.2013) it is the sixth largest town in the Federal State and amongst the 20 largest cities in the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1905, the number of inhabitants passed the 100,000 mark, turning Bochum into a city. Bochum was once the town with the most collieries in the Ruhr Area. From the mid-19th century, coal and steel brought the town a hundred years of prosperity. One of the main protagonists was the Bochum iron and steel company, the "Bochumer Verein", still a leading cast steel factory, which used to be famous for producing cast steel bells.

In the post-war years, there was a tangible sense of purpose in the devastated town; the Ruhr Area was the driving force in Germany's economic miracle. Iron and steel worked to capacity, and Bochum built a new "Schauspielhaus" (theatre) on the ruins of the old one and a new main station. The effects of the crisis in the coal industry turned the 1960s into a decade of change for Bochum. The decision to set up an Opel production plant was taken, the largest German shopping centre "Ruhrpark" was built outside the urban area, Bochum Museum was opened and the first and largest university in the Ruhr Area was founded: Ruhr-Universität Bochum.

### Bochum: facts and figures

**Federal State:** Nordrhein-Westfalen

**Administrative District:** Arnsberg

**Regional Association:** Westfalen-Lippe, Ruhr Region

**District:** Urban District

**Area:** 145.7 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 364,852 (as of 31 December 2013)

**Population density:** 2,504 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>

**Altitude:** 43–196 m

**Geographical location:** 51° 29' N, 7° 13' E

**Vehicle registration:** BO

Bochum online:

[www.bochum.de](http://www.bochum.de)

[www.bochum-tourismus.de](http://www.bochum-tourismus.de)



Schauspielhaus Bochum

[www.schauspielhausbochum.de](http://www.schauspielhausbochum.de)

Ruhrtriennale

[www.ruhrtriennale.de](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de)

The last of the collieries was shut down in 1973. Today, Bochum is a town poised between industry, academia and culture. The result is a charming mixture of friendliness, the student scene and cutting-edge culture – unique in its variety and vitality.

### UniverCity Bochum

There are eight institutions of higher education in Bochum, including Ruhr-Universität and various universities of applied sciences focusing on technical, social and arts subjects: With more than 42,000 students, Ruhr-Universität is one of the largest universities in Germany. It is also the oldest university in the Ruhr Area with a portfolio covering a broad spectrum of subjects as well as internationally renowned science and research. The “Hochschule Bochum” is Bochum’s largest university of applied sciences with more than 6,300 students and 450 staff. It offers degree courses in engineering and business. The “Technische Fachhochschule Georg Agricola” is a private technical university of applied sciences that has its origins in the “Bochumer Bergschule” (school of mining), founded in 1816. It offers degree courses in engineering and technological subjects, including those related to mining. The “Evangelische Fachhochschule Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe” is the largest institution of higher education in Germany maintained by the Protestant Church. Some 2,000 students study for degrees in the social and educational fields. Fur-

thermore, Bochum also has a drama school that is affiliated to the “Folkwang-Hochschule” (university of the arts) in Essen, the EBZ private business school, a study centre belonging to the FOM University of Applied Sciences (economics and management) and the social security department of the Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences. In 2010, Bochum became the site of the new Healthcare Campus North Rhine-Westphalia. In addition to the “Hochschule für Gesundheit”, the first state-funded university for healthcare professions in Germany, the campus is home to the BioMedicine Centre, a communal development area for health sector businesses, and the “Landeszentrum Gesundheit Nordrhein-Westfalen”, an advisory body promoting health in the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen. This integrated strategy implements the dovetailing of health policy with science, research and teaching on the one hand and business development on the other.

### Culture and leisure in Bochum – thrilling diversity

More than 40 stages, including the famous “Bochumer Schauspielhaus” and the Bochum Symphony Orchestra as well as a host of small venues, offer plenty of choice for an evening’s entertainment. The unique German Mining Museum, the Art Museum Bochum, the Zeiss Planetarium as well as numerous smaller museums and galleries run interesting exhi-

bitions and events. In the “Bermuda3Eck” (Bermuda Triangle), there are more than 60 pubs, bars and restaurants to choose from on the longest entertainment strip in the Ruhr Area.

### “Schauspielhaus Bochum”

Bochum’s theatre is one of the most respected stages in Germany. The much-acclaimed productions of famous directors like Hans Schalla, Saladin Schmitt, Peter Zadek, Claus Peymann, Leander Haußmann, Matthias Hartmann and Elmar Goerden with outstanding companies formed the basis for the excellent reputation that the theatre successfully continues to uphold.

### “Ruhrtriennale”

The international “Ruhrtriennale” festival captures the imagination again and again with its productions interweaving opera and drama with other art forms like visual arts, pop and classical music. The main venue is the “Jahrhunderthalle Bochum”.

### Bochum Symphony Orchestra

For more than 90 years, this internationally renowned classical orchestra has been entertaining audiences with an extremely varied programme and will soon move into a permanent home. Between 2013 and 2015, a new music centre is under development in the Viktoria district of Bochum. It will house both a concert hall and space for promoting young musicians.

### “Starlight Express”

With an audience of more than 13 million, “Starlight Express” is Germany’s most successful and fast-paced musical. Since 1988, the performers, on roller skates, have been hurtling across the stage right down the middle of the auditorium at speeds of up to 60 kilometres per hour.

### ... and much, much more: other venues

FIDENA (figure theatre of the nations), Variété et cetera, prinz regent theater, Kultur Magazin Lothringen, Theater Zauberkasten, Theater der Gezeiten, Kulturhaus Thealozzi – lots of stages in Bochum regularly host performances and events.

### The “Entertainment Mile”

The “Bermuda3Eck” is the most popular pub and entertainment district in the city centre. More than 60 restaurants, bars, clubs, pubs and cafés catering for about 10,000 people constitute the most concentrated amusement area in the region. During “Bochum Total”, a music festival that takes place every summer, the Bermuda Triangle is transformed into a gigantic open-air stage.

### “Bahnhof Langendreer”

The former railway station “Langendreer Bahnhof” is a particular kind of cultural centre. The wide-ranging programme includes cabaret and comedy, music and concerts, children’s theatre, cinema, readings, events and lectures on political topics.

### Bochumer Symphoniker

[www.bochumer-symphoniker.de](http://www.bochumer-symphoniker.de)

### Starlight Express

[www.mehr.de](http://www.mehr.de)

### “Entertainment Mile”

[www.bermuda3eck.de](http://www.bermuda3eck.de)

### Bahnhof Langendreer

[www.bahnhof-langendreer.de](http://www.bahnhof-langendreer.de)

### Other venues

[www.bochum.de](http://www.bochum.de)

### INSIDER INFO:

You can get tickets for events and general information about Bochum at the “Bochum Ticketshop Touristinfo” in Huestr. 9 (100 m from the main station) or online by visiting [www.bochum-tourismus.de/en/index](http://www.bochum-tourismus.de/en/index)



## Additional information on Bochum and the Ruhr Area

### Bochum – official website

[www.bochum.de](http://www.bochum.de)

### Ruhr Area – official website

[www.metropoleruhr.de/en/start](http://www.metropoleruhr.de/en/start)

### Bochum Marketing

[www.bochum-tourismus.de/en/index](http://www.bochum-tourismus.de/en/index)

### German Mining Museum

[www.bergbaumuseum.de/index.php/en](http://www.bergbaumuseum.de/index.php/en)

### Art Museum Bochum

[www.bochum.de/museum](http://www.bochum.de/museum)

### Railway Museum

[www.eisenbahnmuseum-bochum.de](http://www.eisenbahnmuseum-bochum.de)

## Art and museums in Bochum

Bochum showcases its industrial past in various industrial heritage museums. But art gets a fair showing, too. The “Kunstmuseum Bochum” (museum of art) focuses on contemporary art in both permanent and temporary exhibitions. And since amateur astronomer Heinz Kaminsky set up the “Volkssternwarte” (observatory) in 1946, Bochum has become a centre of astronomy as well. Today, there is a planetarium and an observatory in Sundern.

### “Deutsches Bergbau-Museum”

The German Mining Museum in Bochum is the most important specialist museum of its kind in the world. You can visit a replica mine covering 2.5 kilometres under the museum, huge halls containing mining equipment, and see a wealth of exhibits and models. You can also take a lift up the double strut-frame headgear that has become the symbol of Bochum to enjoy a panoramic view of the area from the viewing platforms 50 and 62 metres above the museum.

### “Kunstmuseum Bochum”

At the Municipal Park in the very heart of the town you will find the Art Museum Bochum. The exhibitions change regularly and feature both photography and young, experimental art. The museum sees itself as a place of communication and as an “art workshop” with a varied supporting programme of events.

### “Eisenbahnmuseum”

The Railway Museum Bochum-Dahlhausen houses a varied collection of historical steam and diesel locomotives and carriages as well as signal boxes and signalling equipment. The collection includes a number of rarities, such as the dining carriage from the famous Orient Express. During the summer an historical train runs through the Ruhr Valley to Hagen via Hattingen.

### “Zeche Hannover”

The massive brick Malkow tower is the hallmark of the industrial museum at Hannover Colliery. The “Kids’ Colliery” is the highlight for children. Here they can play at being coal miners in the gallery and pit and operate a hoist.

### “Zeiss Planetarium”

At the Zeiss Planetarium in Bochum you can gaze at 9,000 stars twinkling under a 20-metre dome. Anything up to 300 people can settle down in comfortable reclining chairs to watch the formation of the universe or observe the starry sky above. The ethereal music of the spheres and special events like an eclipse of the moon are particularly popular, not least with children.

### Ruhr-Universität Art Collection

See Chapter 3.3, University Institutions and Facilities, Art and Culture on Campus

### “Situation Kunst” (for Max Imdahl) in the grounds of Haus Weitmar

“Situation Kunst” (for Max Imdahl) is part of Ruhr-Universität’s art collections. The whole complex was the brainchild of the gallery-owner, Alexander von Berswordt-Wallrabe, in 1988, and it was implemented in 1990. The buildings house a permanent exhibition including significant works by contemporary artists as well as African and Asian artefacts. In 2010, KUBUS was opened, an exhibition space for temporary exhibitions.

### “Haus Kemnade”

Kemnade House was built in the 17th and 18th centuries. Today, the castle hosts a local heritage collection including the Kortum Archive, temporary exhibitions by the Bochum Art Society as well as collections of musical instruments and East Asian art. In summer, “Kemnade International Festival” takes place in the courtyard of the moated castle. There is also a rural heritage exhibition in the Farmhouse Museum to the east of the castle.

### Hannover Colliery

[www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/wim/portal/profil/englisch](http://www.lwl.org/LWL/Kultur/wim/portal/profil/englisch)

### Zeiss Planetarium

[www.planetarium-bochum.de](http://www.planetarium-bochum.de)

### Kemnade House

[www.fv-hauskemnade.de](http://www.fv-hauskemnade.de)

### Iron ore railway path

[www.ruhrgebiet-industriekultur.de/erzbahn-trasse.html](http://www.ruhrgebiet-industriekultur.de/erzbahn-trasse.html)

**Bochum Zoo**

 [www.tierpark-bochum.de](http://www.tierpark-bochum.de)

**Lake Kemnade**

 [www.kemnader-see.de](http://www.kemnader-see.de)

**Bochum: surprisingly green**

Former industrial districts transformed into recreation areas, Bochum's Municipal Park, numerous open spaces and lakes, meadows and woods along the banks of the Ruhr: Bochum is simply unbelievably green. You can jog until your heart's content, rollerblade or simply relax in the sunshine in the recreational areas spread all over the town.

**“Die Ruhr”**

The river Ruhr, which has given its name to the entire region, meanders along the city limits in south Bochum. You can make your way on foot from Lake Kemnade via Hattingen and Dahlhausen to Essen or wander in the opposite direction through the green Ruhr Valley at Witten. Alternatively, you can cycle along the “Leinpfad”, the old towpath beside the river, or cover the distance by canoe.

**Lake Kemnade**

The most popular recreation area in easy reach of Bochum is the big Ruhr reservoir in the south of the town. Unfortunately, you are not allowed to bathe, but you may surf, row or chug across on the steamer “MS Kemnade”. Many of the people who live in Bochum come here to walk and jog or to rollerblade and cycle round the lake. There are public barbeque areas, plenty of grass for lounging around, crazy golf, beach volleyball and tennis for the whole family. You can acquire a “Segelschein” (sailing licence) at the boatshed. The Heveney waterpark is situated directly on Kemnade Lake and boasts indoor and outdoor pools, waterslides and extensive sauna facilities.

**“Stadtspark”**

Bochum's municipal park was one of the first public parks to be opened in Germany in 1876. Beautifully designed gardens, attractive paths and a view of Bochum bathed in green from the Bismarck Tower guarantee its popularity today. There is a big children's playground and a well-kept crazy golf course. Bochum's Zoo is also located in the municipal park and has a pets' corner for children.

**“Westpark”**

The site of the Krupp steelworks, formerly a “forbidden city”, is now a recreation area just a short walk west from the centre of town. In between the industrial sites around the “Jahrhunderthalle” a modern park has been created that amalgamates the industrial character of the place with leisure and sport facilities. At night, light installations illuminate the edge of the paths, the birches and poplar trees. It is in the Westpark that the “Erzbahntrasse” begins, the old iron ore railway line that has now become a foot and cycle path leading all the way to the Rhine-Herne Canal.

**“Weitmarer Holz”**

Incredible, but true: there is a forest in the middle of Bochum! Weitmar Wood is a favourite destination for a day out with beautiful natural forest tracks, a game reserve, children's play areas and crazy golf. From the highest point you have a view over the Ruhr Valley stretching for miles.

**The Botanical Gardens**

Immediately behind the science faculty at Ruhr-Universität you will find the university Botanical Gardens, covering an area of 13 hectares. The top attractions are the Chinese Garden and the Tropical Greenhouse. You can discover more in Chapter 3.3.

