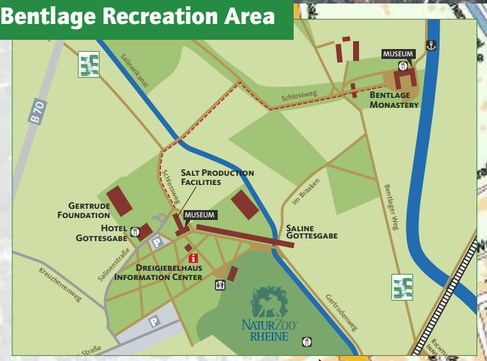
Bentlage Recreation Area



Bentlage Monastery

In the center of a nature conservation area, on the left bank of the Ems River, stands the former Knights of the Cross Monastery at Bentlage. Founded in 1437, the monastery was redesigned as a noble residence after 1803 and since 1978 has been in the keeping of the City of Rheine. Today, following an expert restoration, the historically listed monastery boasts a cultural center, museum, "green area" of retreat, and is a popular excursion site for visitors from far and near.

Saline Gottesgabe

The park on the Saline River in the Bentlage recreation area is highly relevant to the cultural and historical identity of the city. It contains the grounds of the former salt water baths, and historical structures once used in salt extraction and production. These buildings number among the oldest technical cultural monuments in northern Westphalia.

Natural Zoo

Close-up encounters with animals can be experienced in the Natural Zoo: for example, in Germany's first monkey forest, in the penguin aviary, and in the petting zoo. The natural enclosures are home to some 1,000 animals from 100 species, including rare geladas, tigers, sloths and trained seals. An outstanding selection of learning games is available. The Zoo Bistro offers tempting things to eat.

Tourist-Information
Rheine Tourism Office,
Bahnhofstr. 14
Tel. 05971 / 800 65-0

Parking
The city's Parking Guidance System will direct you to available parking spaces.
1. Parking Garage „Am Bahnhof"
2. Parking lot „Sparkasse"
3. Undergr. p. garage „Nadorff-Haus"
4. Parking lot „Klostergarten"
5. Undergr. p. garage „Rathaus"
6. Undergr. p. garage „Auf dem Thie"
7. Undergr. p. garage „Stadthalle"
8. Undergr. p. garage „Ems-Forum"
9. Parking lot „Butterstraße"
10. Undergr. p. garage „Woolworth/ Parking lot Münstermauer"
11. Parking lot „Kolpingstraße"
12. Parkhaus „Zentrum"

Public Toilets
Rathaus (City Hall), Klosterstr. 14, Herrenschreiberstraße, Café Extrablatt, EEC, Humboldtstraße 20, Central Train Station, Am Hauptbahnhofe 2A, Humboldtplatz 18, Stadthalle undergr. p. garage

Additional noteworthy attractions

S1 St. Antonius Basilika
The church building, typical of the Neo-Romanesque style, was built between 1899 and 1905 according to plans by Johannes Franziskus Klomp in the style of a Romanesque imperial cathedral, and consecrated to St. Anthony of Padua. It is the first catholic parish church east of the Ems, where since 1846 textile factories and workers' housing developments had been erected. Its builder, Dean Bernhard Pietz, gave it the traditional motto: "Raise the smokestacks – and raise the church towers higher!" At a height of 102.5 meters, it is the tallest church tower in the Münster region.

S2 The Red and Yellow Villas
The two villas were built beginning in 1886 by the textile magnates Hermann and Karl Kümpers. The architects were Bernhard Tüshaus and Leo von Abbema of Düsseldorf, who designed the Red Villa based on the German-Dutch Renaissance style and the Yellow Villa in the style of an Italian "garden villa" of the High Renaissance. The two former factory owners' villas give testimony to the historical importance of the Rheine textile industry.

S3 Gymnasium Dionysianum (Secondary School)
The Gymnasium was founded in 1658/1659, and is thus the oldest in Rheine. It was originally located on the site of the current City Hall (Rathaus) at Borneplatz. In 1908/1909 a new structure was built on what is now Anton-Führer-Straße, designed by the Gelsenkirchen architect Josef Franke. The main entrance to the school, completed in 1909, sets the building's most impressive architectonic accent, and also provides information about the school's humanistic educational philosophy.

S4 Rheine Textile Museum
Rheine can look back on a century-long tradition of textile manufacture. This was once an important center of textile production (fabric industry, 1732-1812). In the 1830s cotton weaving mills were once again ascendant, and in 1847 northwest Germany's first cotton weaving mill went into operation. By 1927, 12 large textile plants with thousands of employees were active in Rheine. Well into the 1960s, the textile industry was the dominant commercial industry in the city and Rheine was one of Germany's most important textile centers. Viewing by appointment only, Dr. Andreas Oehlke, Tel.: 05971-10018.

Historic Textile Tour

Another interesting and informative look at the history of this district on the east bank of the Ems is available: the historic tour on textile history, with 12 illustrated plaques provided through an initiative of the ISG Emsquartier Rheine in 2011. The accompanying informational brochure can be found in adjacent businesses, and at the Verkehrsverein Rheine (Tourism Office), and is free.

Verkehrsverein Rheine
Leben an der Ems
Bahnhofstraße 14 • 48431 Rheine
Tel.: 0 59 71 / 800 65-0
Fax: 0 59 71 / 800 65-20
E-Mail: verkehrsverein@tourismus.rheine.de
www.verkehrsverein-rheine.de

Rheine City Tour

Verkehrsverein Rheine
Leben an der Ems

Sights worth seeing

Rheine owes its existence to the hills of limestone which caught the attention of Frankish warriors some 1,200 years ago, who found them perfectly suited to the establishment of a military base in order to secure the strategically important ford on the river Ems. On the site of the modern Falkenhof there stood, at one time, the "Villa Vocata Reni". And it was precisely under this name that Rheine made its first historical appearance, in the Deed of Gift of June 7th, 838 with which the Emperor Ludwig "the Pious" made over the "Reni" estate and grounds on the aforementioned limestone hills to the Benedictine monks of the Herford Foundation. Ludwig II, Bishop of Münster, awarded the Town Charter and Privilege to the citizens of Rheine on August 15th, 1327. In the industrial age, circa 1850, the small agricultural town began to grow rapidly, thanks to the textile industry and the spread of railroads. A city of 76,000 inhabitants with good prospects for the future – this is the way the city proudly presents itself today. Whether as a place to live, learn, work, or experience life: Rheine is 146 square kilometers of attractive living space on the Ems.

1 Historic City Hall

From 1660 to 1822, the side of the courtyard which is now open was occupied by the long single-knave abbey of the Franciscan Observants order, based in Rheine since 1635. The three-winged house, built in 1662, was used first as a monastery, beginning in 1811 as a school and later as a courthouse, and after 1910 as a Rheine City Administration building. The stairwell tower and the upper floor were added in 1887 and 1938 respectively.

Historic Rheine City Hall

2 City Relief Image

The bronze relief of Rheine's medieval "old city" was created by the artist Egbert Broerken as a "touch model" and is intended to bring the city's current visual appearance nearer, and make it tangible and capable of being "grasped" by both blind and sighted persons. Streets and buildings are represented true to scale and accompanied by inscriptions in the Braille system, which replaces letters with points, and thus makes the words legible by means of touch.

Noteworthy attractions in the City Tour are labeled with signs like this one.

3 Böneker Chapel

The Catholic Böneker Chapel ("Bönekerskapelle") in the city image is all that remains of the medieval poorhouse and hospital of the City of Rheine. The previous chapel structure was replaced in 1685 on the initiative of the Vicar Bernhard Böneker by a new one in the Post-Gothic style. From 1838 until 1855 the protestant community of Rheine was allowed to hold religious services here, which represented a rarity in the Catholic church of that period. Today the Bönekerskapelle remains an inviting spot for quiet meditation.

4 Barönchen

In 1815, Joseph Weddige bought this house – which had been run until 1810 as an inn by Mayor Niemer – and installed a general store in it. In the same year of 1815 the new owner had the modern gable added, based on the design of the Rheine architect August Reinking, who had previously designed and built the façade of the house Markt 14. In the same year the house was the birthplace of Carl Weddige, who later achieved fame as a genre painter, primarily of images featuring people in everyday situations.

5 Nepomuk Statue

When the Pfeilerbrücke bridge, built in 1691 and later altered a number of times, was torn down in 1980 to be replaced by one of concrete, a copy of the figure of Saint Nepomuk – which had been severely damaged in the Second World War by an explosion – was added. The 1735 original can be seen in the Falkenhof Museum. Johannes Nepomuk, canonized in 1729, was a Prague priest and confessor to the consort of King Wenzel, who demanded that he violate his oath of confessional secrecy. When the saint refused the king's command, Wenzel executed him in 1393 by having him thrown from the Moldaubrücke bridge.

Nepomuk Statue

6 Markt 12

In 1649 this upper middle-class early baroque residence was rebuilt by Johann Lethmate and his wife, after the previous Renaissance style structure had been destroyed in the great 1647 fire. The relief on the Münsterstraße house wall shows the original gabled house. In the second half of the 17th Century the house was used as an "inn for the well-to-do classes" and was known as such far beyond Westphalia's borders. The house was only slightly damaged in the Second World War.

Markt 12

7 St. Dionysius Parish House (Markt 14)

The classicist facade gives this house a manorial appearance and reflects the social position of the builder, the physician and civil doctor Dr. Friedrich Carl Schilgen. The building is a typical (upper) middle-class town house, and was used as such from 1778- 1973. It then became the property of the St. Dionysius Parish, and today it houses church offices..

The Legend of St. Dionys

After Dionysius had been beheaded, according to legend, he took his head and went to the place where he wished to be buried. Thus the saint is often depicted with his detached head held in his hand.

8 Beilmann House (Markt 15)

Beneath the seven cannonballs on the gable side one can read the inscription (in old German): "Anno 1647, 21st September were these glowing balls shot herein by the enemy and hundreds more houses tragically burned. – O God preserve this house and bring happiness to those who go in and out. – Soli Deo Gloria." The inscription reminds us that in the 30 Years War (1618 – 48) the Swedish General Königsmarck destroyed almost the entire city with cannon fire. The relief sculpture represents the horror of war in the form of an imaginary creature.

9 St. Dionysius Church

On the site of a church mentioned as early as 838, the Catholic Hallenkirche church was built beginning in 1400 in a number of construction phases. St. Dionysius is thus the oldest structure in the city. In the irregular cross-section, the long construction history is reflected, completed with the casting of Rheine's oldest church bell in 1520. On the door lintel stand three figures: the Bishop of Paris Dionysius/Denis (as clerical patron), its Deacon Eleutherius and its priest Rusticus. All three were executed in 285 on the Montmartre ("Mountain of Martyrs").

St. Dionysius Church on the Marketplace

10 Sträter House

A large town house in the classicist style, this house was built in the Westphalian baroque tradition in 1801 by the Rheine architect August Reinking (1776 – 1819) for the Mayor Johann Heinrich Striethorst. On the occasion of the induction of Duke Wilhelm Joseph of Rheina-Wolbeck in 1803, the house was considered the most modern and elegant in Rheine. Owners since 1814 have included the Ellerhorst, Timmermann, Kümpers and Sträter families. Today it houses the Rheine Business Development Corporation.

11 Emswehr (Ems Dam)

The original wooden dam served to harness the water power of the Ems; the limestone cliffs in the area had hindered shipping traffic. The site also proved well suited for a water-powered mill. The Bishop of Münster and Osnabrück, Franz von Waldeck, planned the construction of the stone dam on the Ems after maintenance work on the powerful mill had often brought its operation to a stop. This dam was built in 1550 of sandstone. It is 3 meters high and 3.35 meters wide. In 1579 the first lock was built at the dam. In 1841 the construction of the shipping canal was begun, with the goal of improved navigability. From the canal's completion in 1843 until the present, the face of the dam has hardly changed.

12 Emsmühle

In 1754 the Bishop of Münster, Clemens August I of Bavaria, authorized new construction of the mill, with three water wheels between the mill and the dam. Following a fire in 1894 another storey was added to the mill and the water wheels were replaced by turbines. In 1937 a silo system was added to the mill, embellished with the image of a man sowing grain. The mill was closed down for economic reasons on December 31st, 1965. Since 1985 it has once again produced electricity. With two turbines, it produces 900,000 kWh of electricity annually.

Ems Mill / Ems Dam

13 Falkenhof Museum

In 838 Emperor Ludwig "the Pious" transferred possession of the Carolingian manor estate "Reni" to the Benedictine convent at Herford. Administrators from the aristocracy were Lords von Hake and von Valke, who gave the estate its name. It was designed to protect the Ems ford, and is the earliest mentioned housing site in the city. The many structural alterations to the Falkenhof came to an end in 2004. The contemporary city museum contains sensational archaeological discoveries and interesting exhibits. Exhibitions include the weapons collection, the city's collection of paintings, the Kasimir-Hagen Collection of artworks from the 14th – 20th Centuries, and the graphics collection.

Falkenhof

14 Kümpers House

This 1743 bourgeois house, built in the Dutch Late Baroque style, attracts special attention with its broad facade and its outside staircase. In 1743 the civil physician Dr. J. C. Giese opened a "house pharmacy" on the site, the Adler Apotheke. After the Löwen Pharmacy on the marketplace, which was mentioned before 1677, it is the city's second oldest. Dr. Giese, also a garrison physician, cared for the soldiers billeted nearby during the war.

15 Carillon

The strokes take place by means of magnetic hammers installed in the bells. There are 96 musical pieces available, which play according to the season and day. The carillon can also be played manually with its attached keyboard. Together the bells weigh approximately 500 kg. The largest bell has a radius of 418 mm and weighs about 51 kg. The smallest has a cross-section of 200 mm and weighs ca. 11 kg. The carillon consists of 23 bells, and began operation on February 20th, 2007.

Carillion

16 Protestant Unity Granary

The two-storey timber-frame structure, built in the 18th Century, is the only remaining granary in the medieval city center. Its original roof was pointed, and it was separated from the main house for reasons of fire safety. A trap door and a freight elevator indicate that the upper floor was used as a "spieker" or granary. Thus the timber-frame structure was integrated in a petty bourgeois farmer's townhouse.

Protestant Unity Granary

17 Old City Moat

From the early 14th Century, the City of Rheine was protected by walls and moats. The course of the oldest city moat, which lost its protective function with the integration of Thies around 1460 and was later laid with pipes and built over, can be seen by the distinct paving.

18 Kannegießer House

This stately town house, which numbers among the oldest preserved town houses in Rheine, was probably built at the end of the 15th Century above the oldest city moat. The pediment with its roof chimneys, and the stone cross windows, are reminiscent of Renaissance forms which developed through modifications in the 16th and 17th Centuries. In the 17th and 18th Centuries this house was the home of the Kannegiesser family, which between 1576 and 1680 provided the City of Rheine with many of its mayors.

19 Nienkemper House (Markt 2)

The bisecting cornice separates the older ground floor, probably built in the 16th Century, from the newer Rococo style gable. In the central axis, Mary stands on the crescent moon and crushes the head of the snake, which entwines Adam and Eve under the tree and tempts them to original sin. The inscription proclaims Mary to be the house's patron saint. The large letters on the chronogram display (twice) the number 1765, the year of the gable's construction, shortly after the end of the Seven Years' War (1756 – 1763).