

Walking through the city
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Sculpture: Guillaume Bijl, "A new successful day", 2008

WUPPERTAL  MARKETING



Discover Wuppertal – welcome to the city tour

Wuppertal is a lively and modern university city in the middle of hilly countryside. It was founded in 1929 by a decree of the Prussian government, bringing together the towns of Elberfeld and Barmen on the river Wupper, as well as the neighbouring towns of Vohwinkel, Ronsdorf, and Cronenberg. Dönberg, Dornap, and Schöller were incorporated in 1975. Today, around 352,000 people live in the city.

Elberfeld was mentioned in a charter for the first time as Kölner Tafelhof in 1161; the first stone church has been there since around the year 1000. Barmen was registered as “Barmon” in 1070. The Wupper valley was one of the first industrial conurbations, with the first bleaching firms being established there around 1400. In 1527, both towns on the Wupper received the privilege of manufacturing cotton and the right to bleach and sell cotton. Around 1750 the first significant textile manufacturers emerged. During the 19th century, in the heyday of the textile industry, the Wupper valley became an important industrial region. Today, Wuppertal is a city of brands; Aspirin, woodchip wallpaper, and Sympatex products were all developed here. Research and services are also strong pillars of the economy.

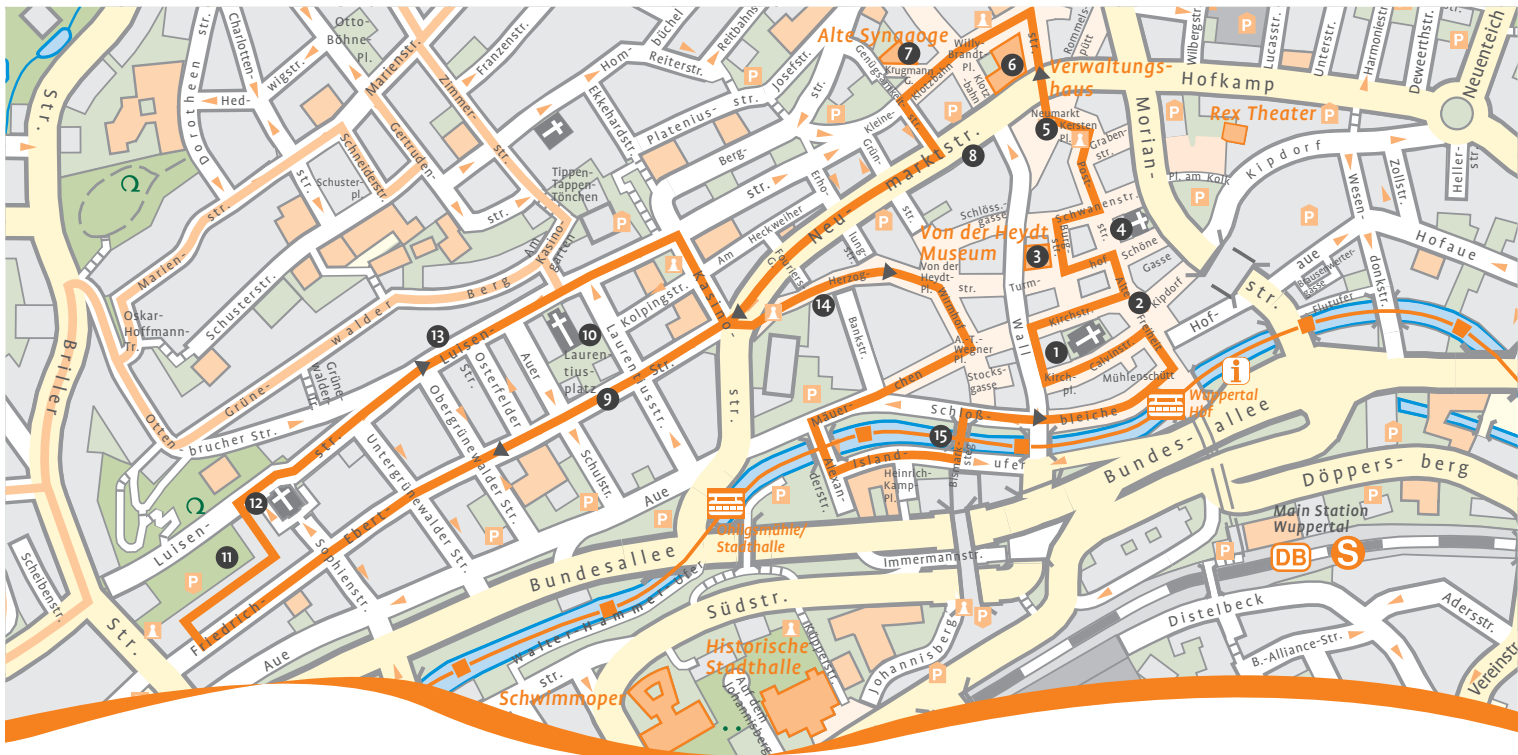
With around 4,500 historic architectural monuments, Wuppertal is one of the richest cities in Germany in this respect. Bergish half-timbered and slate houses, classical buildings from the first half of the 19th century, stucco-decorated buildings from the Gründerzeit (years of rapid industrial expansion in Germany, 1870 – 1919), and art nouveau houses from the beginning of the 20th century decorate the cityscape. The city tours present 200 years of architectural history.



The Briller Quarter is one of the largest continuous residential areas from the Gründerzeit in Germany. Wuppertal-based textile magnates built their fine, prestigious houses here in large parks with largely uninterrupted views across the valley at the end of the 19th century. By contrast, the Nordstadt was a typical workers' quarter. Between 1870 and 1914, space-saving accommodation for the families of textile workers was built in this area. Comfort was negligible in the four-storey buildings on the cramped yards: there were no toilets or bathrooms, nor was there any heating or power. Due to the fact that residents there were still burning petrol lamps in the evenings long after light bulbs came into use in the Briller Quarter, the Nordstadt became known as the Ölberg (Oil Hill). Since extensive restoration work took place during the 1970s, this area has developed into a lively and multicultural residential quarter with its many decorative Gründerzeit façades.

Impressive architectural monuments can be found all over Wuppertal, including the classical townhouses, the Laurentiuskirche (St Lawrence's church), the Schwimmooper (municipal swimming pool) with its concave roof, the magnificent Stadthalle (concert hall) in Elberfeld, as well as the enormous Rathaus (town hall), the Bergish-baroque Schieferhäuser (slate-roofed houses), and the Opernhaus (opera house) – restored in the 1950s style – in Barmen. Throughout the valley you'll find suspension line stations in various styles from futuristic to art nouveau, which are all well worth seeing.

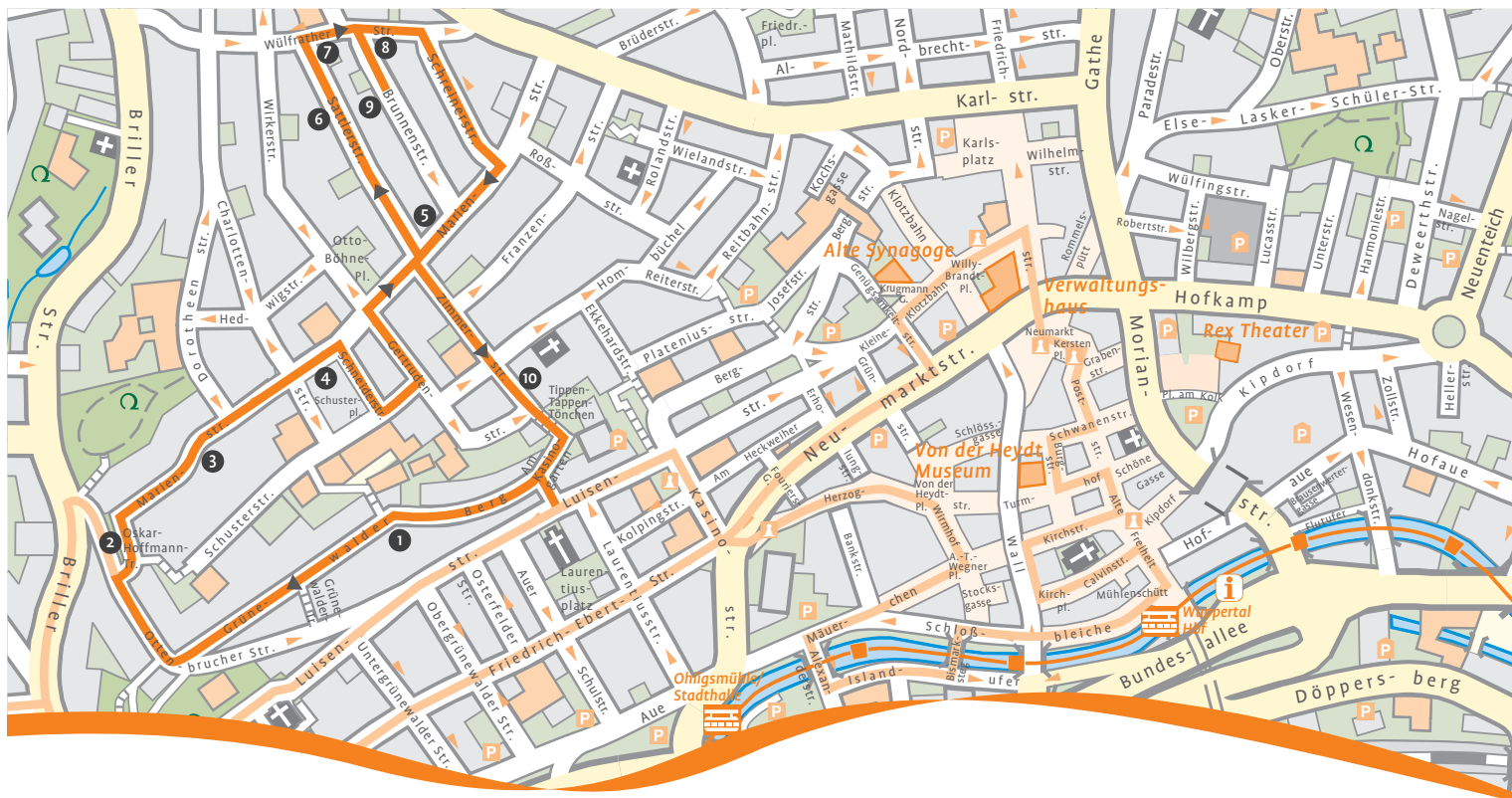
Take a stroll along the four tour routes, which can also be combined with one another, and discover Wuppertal for yourself. Look out for the blue plaques erected on buildings by the Bergischer Geschichtsverein (Bergish History Association), which provide information about their historical backgrounds. Have fun!



City Tour 1: Downtown Elberfeld (1½ hours)

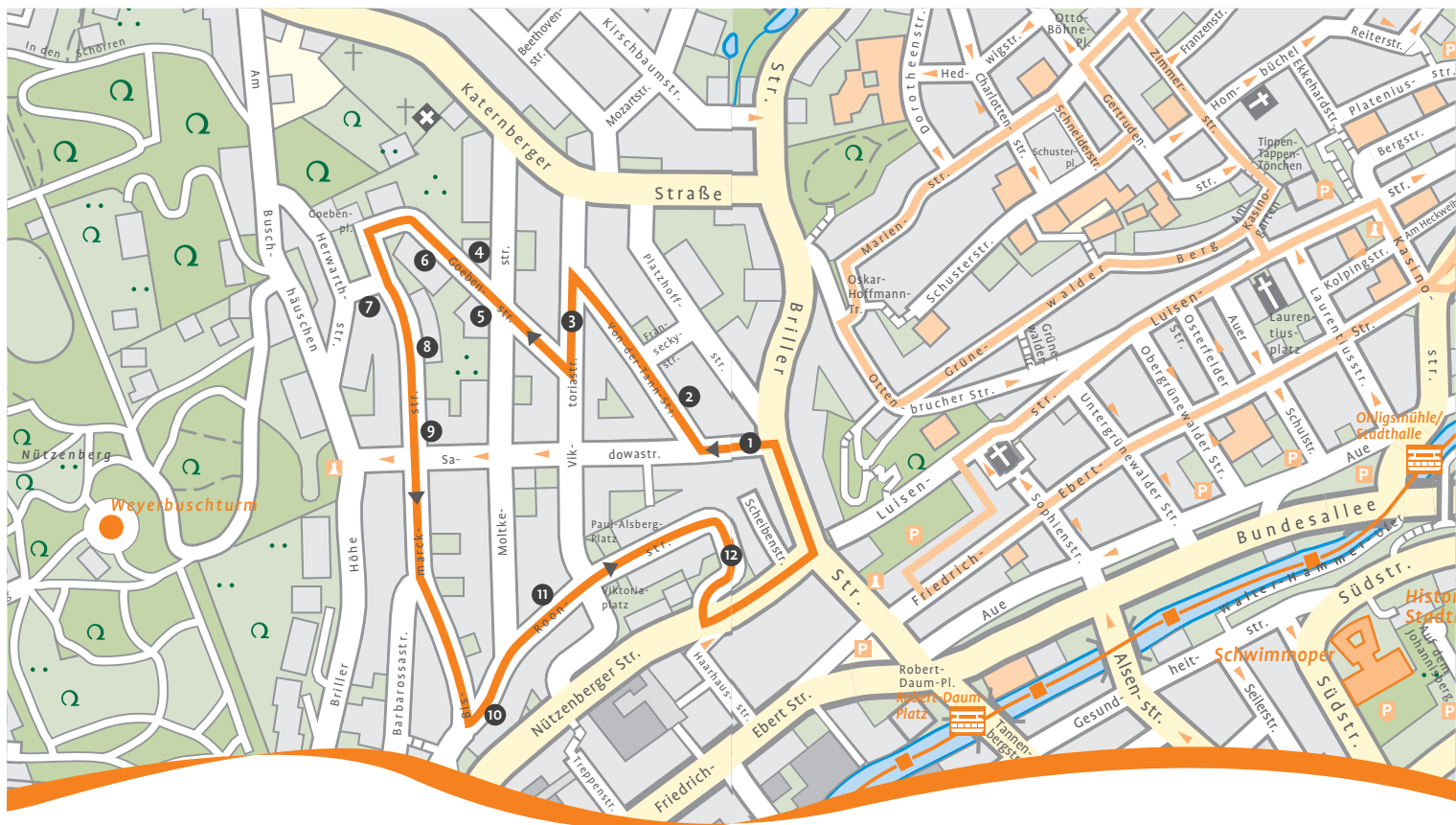
- 1 Before it burned down in 1536, Burg Elverfelde (Elverfelde castle) stood on the site of Alte Freiheit and Wall. A model can be seen on Kirchplatz.
- 2 There is a sculpture by Ulle Hees here. Mina Knallenfalls was an Elberfeld historical figure.
- 3 The very best of art history is represented in the Von der Heydt Museum on Turmhof. The entrance is framed by two sculptures by Tony Cragg.
- 4 You just can't ignore the glockenspiel that sounds at 10am, midday, 4pm, and 6pm at Poststraße 11, and there is also a clock museum (Saturdays 11am to 2pm).
- 5 The Jubiläumsbrunnen (anniversary fountain) (1901) on Neumarkt is a replica of the fountain of Neptune in Trento, Italy.
- 6 The contemporary administration building was built in 1900 as the town hall.
- 7 The Alte Synagoge (old synagogue) meeting place is a reminder of the location of the original synagogue and contains extensive material on the history of the Jews in the Bergisches Land.
- 8 On Neumarktstraße you'll find the magnificent old Kaufhof-Fassade (Kaufhof façade).
- 9 Friedrich-Ebert-Straße is the entrance to Wuppertal's "kleiner Altstadt" ("little old quarter"), the Luisenviertel, which today is a very popular and

- fashionable area full of little boutiques and stylish eateries. At the beginning of the 19th century it was Elberfeld's grandest boulevard. The old grandeur still shines through in the shape of the town houses on Laurentiusplatz.
- 10 The Laurentiuskirche, with its two spires, was built in the classical architectural style in 1835.
 - 11 More than 200 years ago the Deweerth'sche Garten was opened as the first public park in Wuppertal.
 - 12 New Reformed Church (1858)
 - 13 It's worth wander along this street with its Gründerzeit façades. Number 94a gives you a glimpse behind the scenes. Through a low opening you can see into a half-timbered yard with a toilet building and uncover what living conditions were like during the early days of industrialisation. Up to 100 people would have lived around this half-timbered courtyard.
 - 14 On Herzogstraße you'll find traces of one of Wuppertal's most famous daughters: a mosaic monument remembers the Jewish poet Else Lasker-Schüler. She was born in number 29 in 1869.
 - 15 Along the newly designed waterfront, a beautiful art nouveau bridge – the Bismarcksteg – crosses the river Wupper. The suspension line runs directly overhead, carrying around 82,000 passengers every day.



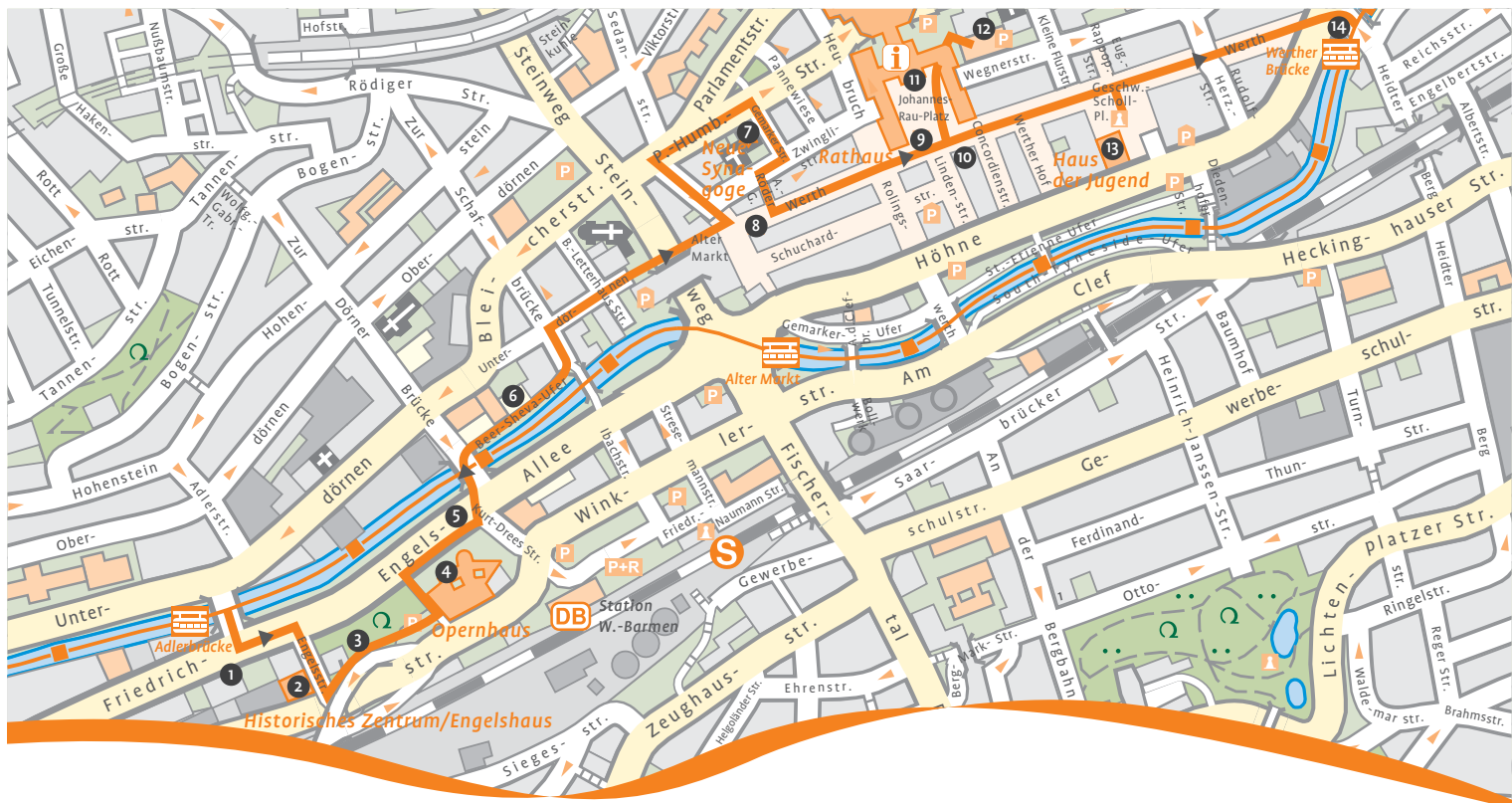
City Tour 2: Nordstadt (1 hour)

- 1 From here there is a marvellously enticing view across the city. Opposite, on the slopes of the Johannisberg, stands the Bergische Universität, founded in 1972. Below, you'll see the towers of the grand historical Stadthalle (concert hall), built in the Wilhelminian style in 1900 and now an excellent event venue. Next door is the Schwimmoper (1956) – the municipal swimming pool with its bold architecture is a listed building.
- 2 The street ramp which connects Ottenbrucherstraße and Marienstr. shows what this quarter has to offer: Gründerzeit façades with typical rococo columns, neo-gothic decoration, and neo-classical window sills. There are more than 800 listed buildings in the Ölberg / Nordstadt area.
- 3 The lower part of Marienstr. up to Schusterplatz was inhabited by officials and the middle-class, and accordingly there is a greater degree of comfort here in the shape of piano nobile and grandiose Gründerzeit façades.
- 4 Schusterplatz is bordered by prestigious façades. The opposition to the Nazis originated from the traditional “red quarter”. A sea of red flags was waved here and at Otto-Böhne-Platz, and there was even gunfire.
- 5 This area of Marienstr. was a typical workers' quarter. The walking route passes beautifully decorated listed façades, although only cheap prefabricated buildings were erected here. The arrangement of the façades with their wood cladding is reminiscent of stone ashlars.
- 6 An interesting look behind the scenes can be found between numbers 18 and 20 – there's an old Bandwirkerhaus (ribbon weaving factory) there.
- 7 From here you get an uninterrupted view of the half-timbered backs of the Gründerzeit houses and another former Bandwirkerhaus.
- 8 The house on the corner of Brunnenstraße has a “cut off” corner, like many houses in Nordstadt. They were particularly beautifully designed, and often had doors to “Eckkneipen” (“corner bars”).
- 9 At Brunnenstraße 12 you'll find the first meeting place of Wuppertal's socialists.
- 10 The route back to the city leads through Schreinerstraße and Marienstr., with several artists' studios, across the Tippen-Tappen-Tönchen – so called because of the noises that the workers' wooden clogs made as they walked up and down the angular steps.



City Tour 3: Briller Viertel (1 hour)

- 1 Sadowastraße, one of the steepest streets in Wuppertal, runs into the middle of the upper-class residential quarter. The poet Else Lasker-Schüler grew up in number 7.
- 2 Armin T. Wegner, a poet whose work deals with war and oppression, lived in number 10 Von-der-Tann-Straße.
- 3 Viktoriastraße leads you past attractive Gründerzeit villas in park-like gardens with old trees. In the garden of number 85 you'll see a tea pavilion that was typical of the period.
- 4 Until about 1905 there were villas in the textile magnate quarter with neo-gothic, neo-renaissance, and neo-baroque elements. Since 1900, ever more art nouveau design emerged, being replaced from 1910 onwards by elements of the Bergish Heimatstil. The town councillor Wilhelm de Werth commissioned the building of the imposing villa with a half-timbered gable at number 7 Goebenstraße in 1901.
- 5 During the textile industry boom in the last century, the Schniewind family made their fortune in silk weaving. They lived in a suitably fine house on the corner of Goebenstraße and Moltkestraße.
- 6 The villa at Goebenstraße 16 was the home of the Esser family, manufacturers of cutlasses.
- 7 The prestigious Villa Roseneck stands at number 2 Goebenplatz. It was designed by Wuppertal's star architect Ludwig Conrad.
- 8 Villa Springorum at Bismarckstraße 90 was also a Conrad design, built in the Bergish Heimatstil with a slate roof, white cornices, green shutters and baroque elements in 1924.
- 9 Number 64 is a neo-baroque villa from 1880.
- 10 From here the view opens up over the other side of the Wupper onto the Arrenberg'sche Quarter, one of the first workers' quarters in Wuppertal.
- 11 Roonstraße offers a wonderful view of "Reihenhäuser" (terraced houses) in the style of the Briller quarter. One grand façade follows another in a row of splendid front doors and porches.
- 12 One of Wuppertal's 496 stairways takes you back up into the city.



City Tour 4: Barmen (1½ hours)

- 1 The light blue Palais Bartels was moved here due to a widening of Berlinerstraße.
- 2 Historisches Zentrum (Historical Centre): the Engels family built both of the old-Bergish townhouses on Engelsstraße in the late baroque style with slate cladding in 1875 (number 10) and 1895 (number 6). The Museum für Frühindustrialisierung (Early Industrialisation Museum) offers a lively insight into industrial history and the life and work of Friedrich Engels.
- 3 In the Engelsgarten you'll see the "Die starke Linke" ("The strong left") monument by Alfred Hrdlička.
- 4 The Opernhaus (opera house) was built in 1905, rebuilt after the Second World War, and restored in the style of the 1950s using state of the art technology in 2008: Wuppertal's world famous Tanztheater Pina Bausch (Pina Bausch dance troupe) performs here.
- 5 Sculpture by Tony Cragg. The award-winning sculptor also created the Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden (Waldfrieden Sculpture Park) at Hirschstraße 12.
- 6 Newly designed Wupper waterfront, presenting a view of the river.
- 7 The Neue Synagoge (new synagogue) stands on a historic site; a synagogue was destroyed by the Nazis on this spot.
- 8 The bronze plaque is a reminder of the "Barmer Erklärung" ("Barmen Declaration of Faith") by the protestant Confessing Church against the influence of National Socialism, signed in the Cemarkter Kirche (on Zwinglistraße) in May 1934.
- 9 The fountain at Johannes-Rau-Platz, created by Bert Cerresheim in 1979, tells the story of the city with 700 bronze figures and 26 relief representations.
- 10 Residence of the Gesellschaft Concordia (built 1900).
- 11 The castle-like town hall was built between 1913 and 1922. To the left and right there are statues of Rhenania and Barmenia, reflecting the Rhenish and Bergish sides of the region. The figures on the roof represent the 8 pillars of community life.
- 12 Wuppertaler Brauhaus (Wuppertal brewery): Wuppertaler Bier has been brewed again in the former swimming baths dating from 1882 since 1997.
- 13 The Ruhmeshalle (Hall of Fame) on Geschwister-Scholl-Platz, built in 1900 and opened by Kaiser Wilhelm, is an event venue today. The square is watched over by a statue of Bismarck with Clio, the muse of epic poetry and history (1900).
- 14 Werther Brücke station, built in the art nouveau style.

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Saturday: 10 am – 2 pm

You can find information and brochures about Wuppertal here. Book trips on the historic suspension line (Kaiser carriages), city tours, classic bus trips, and hotel rooms. We'll happily advise you on how to spend your time in Wuppertal. You can purchase souvenirs and gifts from our shop at www.wuppertalshop.de



13 routes: we also have information about “Threads, Colours, Water, Steam – the industrial age in Wuppertal”. 13 signposted walking routes will lead you through the most interesting parts of the city. Blue plaques on typical or notable buildings explain the development of the industrial city during the 19th century.

We're looking forward to seeing you!

Masthead

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