

VERSION 1.0

**RHINE-RUHR 2025**  
**HOST CITIES**

ENGLISH



**FISU**  
WORLD  
UNIVERSITY  
GAMES  
SUMMER

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# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to Germany: a people-friendly powerhouse at the heart of Europe

From its beautiful coastline, rolling countryside and rugged mountains, to its cosmopolitan cities, bustling towns and quaint villages, Germany has it all.

Home to 84 million people from every imaginable background, Germany sits at the heart of Europe, sharing land borders with nine other nations.

The country is a world leader in manufacturing, scientific development and services, while also being rich in natural resources, culture and creativity. Access to education is universal and free, and many of its 100+ universities are among the best in the world.

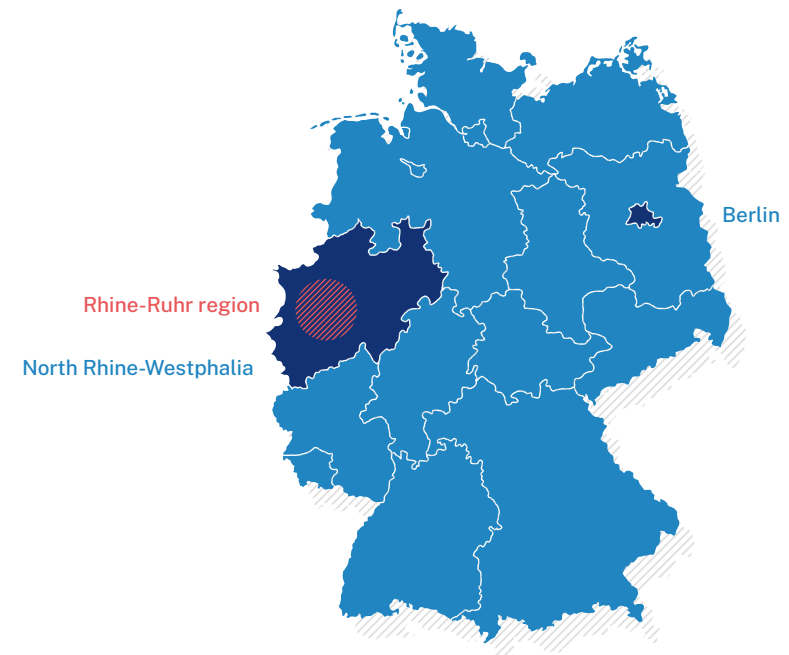
And then there is sport. With fantastic facilities, broad levels of grassroots participation and professional clubs which consistently grace the final stages of pan-European competitions, Germany has cultivated an enviable reputation for sporting excellence.

This sports-obsessed country is also no stranger to international extravaganzas. Germany has hosted two Olympic Games, a Paralympic Games, three FIFA World Cups (two men's and one women's) and four UEFA European Championships (men and women, two each) - to name but a few. And now, in the summer of 2025, comes another: the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games.

**»At the Rhine-Ruhr FISU World University Games in the summer of 2025, we want to offer the international university sports athletes, guests and spectators outstanding sporting competition, unforgettable experiences and exciting exchanges and encounters. Due to its dense network of sports facilities and scientific institutions, the Rhine-Ruhr region offers an excellent framework for hosting inspiring Games and presenting Germany as a reliable host of major international sporting events.«**

(Mahmut Özdemir, Parliamentary State Secretary for the Interior and Community)

- › Germany is the most populous country in the European Union, with over 84 million inhabitants.
- › About 3.8 million of these live in Berlin, the capital city.
- › Hamburg, Munich and Cologne are also each home to over one million people.
- › The total land area of Germany is 348,672 square kilometres, making it the 63rd largest country in the world.
- › The Rhine-Ruhr region of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is by far the largest metropolitan area in Germany, with a population of over 10 million.
- › Over 750,000 students are enrolled at universities in NRW, accounting for 25% of Germany's total student population of three million.





### International University Sports Federation (FISU)

The International University Sports Federation (in French: Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire) is the body responsible for the organisation and governance of international competitions for student-athletes, including the FISU World University Games. FISU is based in Lausanne, Switzerland, and is governed by President Leonz Eder.

### FISU World University Games

Debating as the World University Games in 1923 in Paris, France, the precursor event was held in Europe every two years until 1939. The event was revived in 1947 – two years before the founding of FISU - and returned as the 'Universiade' in Turin, Italy, in 1959. As part of the relaunch, the 'U' shape of the FISU flag and the song 'Gaudeamus Igitur', which is played at the award ceremonies instead of the national anthem, were introduced. Since then, the multi-sport event has been held every two years (in odd-numbered years), with both summer and winter editions. The most important competition in international university sport, the Universiade became known as the 'FISU World University Games' in 2020.

#### Eligibility

The FISU Games are open to students who will be aged between 18 and 25 on 31 December of the year of the event (that is, born between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2007), and who have been nominated by their national university sports federations. Participants include both up-and-coming student-athletes and established top athletes, many of whom already have world championship and Olympic Games appearances – and medals – to their name.

#### Sports

The summer edition of the FISU World University Games comprises 15 compulsory sports: archery, artistic gymnastics, athletics, badminton, basketball, diving, fencing, judo, rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, taekwondo, tennis, table tennis, volleyball, and water polo. The optional sports 3x3 basketball, 3x3 wheelchair basketball, beach volleyball and rowing complete the programme of the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games.

## THE JOY OF SIX

›Alle spielen mit‹ (›Everybody is all-in‹)

From 16 to 27 July 2025, the Rhine-Ruhr region plus Berlin will be the stage for one of the greatest sporting shows on Earth, as over 8,500 student-athletes and officials from up to 150 countries come together for the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games. With medals to be won in 18 sports, the action will be shared among the cities of Bochum, Duisburg, Essen, Mülheim an der Ruhr and Hagen in North Rhine-Westphalia, plus Berlin.

Tickets will be available in three categories: as a Ground Pass, giving access to all venues on all days in all cities, but without guaranteed seating; as a City Day Ticket, giving access to all venues in a city without guaranteed seating; and as a Sport Ticket, giving access to all venues in a city, with a guaranteed seat in a sport.

Beyond the 23 competition venues, there will be plenty more to see and experience. Because this will be a sporting spectacular with a festival vibe, reaching out to a diverse audience through an extensive - and mostly free - programme of artistic, cultural, and educational opportunities.

›Alle spielen mit‹: for 12 glorious days in the summer of 2025, there really will be something for everyone to enjoy.



### »Sportland Nummer 1«

The No.1 state for sport in Germany? With approximately 18,000 professional and local sports clubs with five million active participants, it would be hard to argue against North Rhine-Westphalia. The state hosts more Bundesliga football teams than anywhere else, the world-leading CHIO equestrian centre in Aachen, the annual 'Final Four' in handball, biathlon in Schalke, rowing in Duisburg and hockey in Mönchengladbach.

But the Sportland.NRW initiative focuses on so much more than high-performance sport. Community sports for everyone, club and school sports, and inclusive sports for people with impairments or social disadvantages: in North-Rhine Westphalia, nobody is left on the sidelines.



## SPORTLAND.NRW

»Top sport with international world class? We can in North Rhine Westphalia! The FISU World University Games 2025 will bring combine high level sport and social interaction - our 'Sportland Nummer 1' has the perfect infrastructure and a passionate audience. I look forward to it!«

(Hendrik Wüst, Minister-President of the state of NRW)

### A tale of two rivers

Five of the host cities at the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games lie on or near the two large waterways which give the event – and the region – its name.

**The Rhine** defines much of the border between Germany and France as it flows north from its source in the Swiss Alps to the Netherlands, where it empties into the North Sea at Rotterdam. At 1,233 km, it is the second-longest river in Central and Western Europe (after the Danube).

**The Ruhr** is a tributary of the Rhine and joins at the right bank of the much larger river in Duisburg. Running to 219km in length from its source in the Sauerland, the Ruhr has undergone significant environmental regeneration in recent years and currently provides drinking water to five million people. The meeting of the two rivers at Duisburg is marked by the largest riverport in Europe.



# EVENT OVERVIEW

## Easy access

The Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU Games will feature three larger venue hubs at Bochum, Duisburg and Essen, standalone venues in Mülheim an der Ruhr and Hagen, plus three sports in Berlin. Due to the short distances between most competition venues, it will be possible for visitors to watch several different sports on the same day.

## Distances by road between host cities (kilometres)

	BOCHUM	DUISBURG	ESSEN	HAGEN	MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR	BERLIN
BOCHUM	x	35	14	22	24	478
DUISBURG	35	x	19	63	8	513
ESSEN	14	19	x	44	9	494
HAGEN	22	63	44	x	54	477
MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR	24	8	9	54	x	504
BERLIN	478	513	494	477	504	x

## Breaking new ground, by not breaking any

The host cities of the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games will use only existing venues for every competition, producing a low carbon footprint and leaving a sustainable legacy since no new halls or stadia are required to be built.

# COMPETITION VENUES AND SPORTS

CITY	COMPETITION VENUES	SPORTS			
BOCHUM	02	Jahrhunderthalle	02	3X3 Basketball	
		Lohrheidestadion		3X3 Wheelchair basketball	
					Athletics
DUISBURG	04	ASC Duisburg	04	Water polo	
		Regattabahn Duisburg		Rowing	
		Sportpark Duisburg		Beach volleyball	
		Walter-Schädlich-Halle		Basketball	
ESSEN	10	ETUF Tennisanlage	07	Tennis	
		Grugahalle		Basketball (finals)	
		Messe Essen		Halle 1	Table tennis
				Halle 3	Artistic gymnastics
				Halle 4	Judo
				Halle 5	Rhythmic gymnastics
				Halle 6	Fencing
		Sporthalle Am Hallo		Taekwondo	
		Sportpark Am Hallo Stadion		Basketball	
		Zeche Zollverein		Archery (qualification)	
	Archery (finals)				
MÜLHEIM A.D.R.	01	Westenergie Sporthalle	01	Badminton	
HAGEN	01	Ischelandhalle	01	Basketball	
BERLIN	05	Schwimm- und Sprunghalle im Europasportpark (SSE)	03	Diving	
				Swimming	
		Ballsporthalle Köpenick		Volleyball	
		Horst-Korber Sportzentrum			
		Max-Schmeling Halle			
Sportforum Große Halle					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>			<b>18*</b>	

\* Note: Basketball listed under three different cities

## THE HOST CITIES

## BOCHUM

Population 363,000

Rank in Germany 16th

Known for Rich coal mining heritage, Ruhr University, Starlight Express.

Motto »Wir ziehen das gemeinsam durch« (»We'll get through this together«)



FISU WORLD CONFERENCE

**Bochum is the sixth-largest city in North Rhine-Westphalia and Germany's tenth-largest university location, and this former industrial hub occupies a prime location in the centre of the Ruhr area.**

After a long history in the coal mining sector, in recent decades the city has reinvented itself as a centre for technology, services and academic excellence. There are nine universities in Bochum including the Ruhr University - one of the largest in Germany with over 40,000 students.

Popular attractions in Bochum include the mining and railway museums and the Bermuda3eck dining and nightlife complex in the city centre, which receives around four million visitors annually. The city is also famous for the »Starlight Express Theater«, where a world record of over 18 million people have watched the German-language production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical since its premiere in 1988. Equally well-known and popular is the renowned Schauspielhaus Bochum, which has become an integral part of the German-speaking theatre scene.

In sport, TV Wattenscheid 01 has a proud history of developing successful track and field athletes for the Germany national team. These include five-time Olympian Sabine Braun in heptathlon and discus thrower Daniel Jasinski (see page 14). The club is based at the Sportpark Lohrheide, where the Lohrheidestadion is being redeveloped as a 16,000-seat venue for the athletics competition of the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU Games.

The premier local men's football team, VfL Bochum, returned to the 1. Bundesliga in 2021 after an 11-year absence. The team plays in the traditional VONOVIA Ruhrstadion, which is not being used for the FISU Games.

### Top sports stars from Bochum

**Daniel Jasinski** (born 1989) Discus thrower who won the bronze medal at Olympic Games Rio 2016 and competed also at Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, and who finished ninth at the Shenzhen 2013 Universiade.

**Mark Warnecke** (born 1970) Four-time Olympian swimmer who won the bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke at Olympic Games Atlanta 1996 and the gold in the 50m breaststroke at the 2005 World Aquatics Championships in Montreal.

**Ruth Lamsbach** (born 1950) Multi-sport Paralympian who competed in seven consecutive Paralympic Games from 1968 to 1992 in basketball, swimming, pentathlon, and table tennis, winning four gold, four silver and four bronze medals.

»We are a vibrant metropolitan region where people do not just think about themselves. Whether we're talking about long-term transformation processes, such as our common path to becoming the greenest industrial region in the world, or more specific projects, we're all pulling together. That goes for attracting new businesses, planning joint land use, coordinating public transport, and of course, hosting the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games.«

(Thomas Eiskirch, Lord Mayor of the City of Bochum)

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

[www.instagram.com/bochum\\_de](https://www.instagram.com/bochum_de)

[www.facebook.com/StadtBochum](https://www.facebook.com/StadtBochum)

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[www.linkedin.com/company/stadt-bochum/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stadt-bochum/)

[www.youtube.com/StadtBochumDE](https://www.youtube.com/StadtBochumDE)



# DUISBURG

**Population** 509,000

**Rank in Germany** 15th

**Known for** Duisport – the largest inland port in the world. Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord. Birthplace of Wilhelm Lehmbruck, renowned German sculptor active in the early 20th century.

**Motto** »Duisburg ist Echt« (»Duisburg is real«)



**OCE** OPENING CEREMONY

**CCE** CLOSING CEREMONY

**Where the Ruhr meets the Rhine: Duisburg occupies a unique position among the six host cities since it belongs to both the Lower Rhine region and the Ruhr area. The city has successfully leveraged its prime twin-river location to develop the Port of Duisburg - the largest inland port in the world with 21 docks handling over 20,000 ships and millions of containers each year.**

Popular attractions in Duisburg include the German Inland Waterways Museum, the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum and Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord – a former ironworks re-purposed in 1994 as a nature and cultural park and drawing over one million visitors annually. The 180-hectare site will host the Closing Ceremony on 27 July 2025.

Despite the obvious focus on heavy industry, the city also contains not one, but two, botanical gardens. In addition, more than half of the city area consists of green spaces. Duisburg is unique among the host cities for another reason: in 1989 it hosted the Universiade - the forerunner to the FISU World University Games.

Sport runs through the city. ASC Duisburg is one of the strongest water polo clubs in the country, while the nearby Regattabahn is cherished by rowers and canoe sprinters the world over. In football, the leading local club MSV Duisburg was one of the 16 founding members of the Bundesliga in 1963. While most visitors to their Schauinsland-Reisen-Arena are used to cheering for the ›Zebras‹, the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 Opening Ceremony on 16 July 2025 will be a full colour, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see this impressive arena like never before.



### Top sports stars from Duisburg

**Nicole Uphoff** (born 1967) Equestrian athlete who won four gold medals in the individual and team dressage events at Olympic Games Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992.

**Jürgen Hingsen** (born 1958) Track and field star who held the world record in decathlon in 1982 and again from 1983 to 1984, and who won silver at Olympic Games Los Angeles 1984.

**Rolf Milser** (born 1951) Weightlifter who competed at the 1972, 1976 and 1984 Olympics, winning the gold medal in the heavyweight I class in 1984. He was also a two-time world champion.

**»We are certain that we will be able to create ideal conditions for the athletes to deliver outstanding sporting achievements. But it is even more important to me to show the participants from all over the world that here on the Rhine and the Ruhr - and in the sports city of Duisburg - we are going to be warm and welcoming hosts. Young people who might have very different origins or cultural backgrounds will come together not only to compete, but also to stand up for values such as fair play, respect and tolerance.«**

(Sören Link, Lord Mayor of the City of Duisburg)

- [www.duisburgstecht.de](http://www.duisburgstecht.de)
- [www.sportstadt-duisburg.de](http://www.sportstadt-duisburg.de)
- [www.instagram.com/duisburg\\_de](https://www.instagram.com/duisburg_de)
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- [www.youtube.com/user/StadtDuisburg](https://www.youtube.com/user/StadtDuisburg)



# ESSEN

Population 579,000

Rank in Germany 10th

**Known for** The Zeche Zollverein – UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Rüttenscheid. Former European Capital of Culture and European Green Capital.

**Motto** »In Essen geht alles!« (»Everything is possible in Essen!«)



**Essen is located in the centre of the Ruhr area and is an important industrial and economic hub. With its almost 1,200-year history, Essen is older than Berlin, Munich or Dresden.**

One of the most important sights is the Zeche Zollverein, a former coal mine which closed in 1986 and has been repurposed as a centre for art, design, culture and history. At its peak, the Zollverein colliery extracted 12,000 tonnes of coal per day, making it the most efficient underground mine in the world. Since 2001, shafts 12 and 1/2/8 of the mine - including the so-called ›Eiffel Tower of the Ruhr area‹ – are protected by the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Zeche Zollverein is also an anchor point of the European Route of Industrial Culture and houses the ever-popular Ruhr Museum and the Red Dot Design Museum.

Essen's ›green lung‹ is located in the south of the city, around Lake Baldeney and the circa 120 kilometres of signposted hiking trails. The historic nearby districts of Kettwig and Werden bear witness to the city's long history with their half-timbered houses and old churches.

Also south of the city centre, the trendy Rüttenscheid district has hip cafes, bars and restaurants, and a plethora of independent and boutique shops. Nearby lies the Grugapark, a 60-hectare green space which features numerous themed gardens and attracts over one million visitors a year. It can be little surprise that in 2017 Essen was awarded the status of ›European Green Capital‹ to add to the ›European Capital of Culture‹ award it celebrated on behalf of all 53 towns in the Ruhr region in 2010.

Sport is also very important to the city. SG Essen swims in the 1st Bundesliga while TuSEM Essen is a multiple German champion, cup winner and European Cup winner in handball. The city's premier football club, Rot-Weiss Essen, were German champions in 1955 and still enjoy big support despite spending most of the past three decades in the regional leagues. The SGS Essen women's football team has been playing in the Bundesliga since 2004.

### Top sports stars from Essen

**Sabine Braun** (born 1965) Five-time Olympian and Barcelona 1992 silver medallist in heptathlon who also took silver at the Duisburg 1989 Universiade.

**Helmut Rahn** (1929-2003) Footballer who scored the winning goal in Germany's 3-2 defeat of Hungary in the 1954 FIFA World Cup final, and who won the German football championship with Rot-Weiss Essen in 1955.

**Kira Walkenhorst** (born 1990) Beach volleyball star who won the women's gold medal at Olympic Games Rio 2016 and the world championships in 2017 alongside teammate Laura Ludwig.

»Numerous world champions and Olympic champions have come from Essen's sport clubs. Amateur sport has also been - and still is - an important way for many people to identify with their city. That is why we are looking forward to the FISU World University Games in the summer of 2025.«

(Thomas Kufen, Lord Mayor of the City of Essen)

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

[www.instagram.com/visit.essen](https://www.instagram.com/visit.essen)

[www.facebook.com/StadtportalEssen](https://www.facebook.com/StadtportalEssen)

[www.twitter.com/Essen\\_Ruhr](https://www.twitter.com/Essen_Ruhr)

[www.linkedin.com/company/stadt-essen](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stadt-essen)

[www.youtube.com/@StadtEssen\\_Ruhr](https://www.youtube.com/@StadtEssen_Ruhr)



# MÜLHEIM

## AN DER RUHR

Population 171,000

Rank in Germany 46th

Known for Broich Castle, Field hockey, Badminton

Motto »Stadt am Fluss« («City on the river«)



**The smallest of the host cities, what Mülheim an der Ruhr lacks in size, it makes up for in environment. As the name suggests, the city enjoys a riverside location and is carpeted by green spaces and forested areas.**

Dating back to the late 800s, the former trading, leather and mining town has successfully evolved into a diverse centre for business, entertainment and academia. The vast Rhein-Ruhr Zentrum is a case in point: located on the site of the former Humboldt colliery, it was the first covered mall in Germany and the first to be built on the site of an old coal pit.

Mülheim is also home to two Max Planck Institutes – for Coal Research and Chemical Energy Conversion – and the Ruhr West University of Applied Sciences, which was founded in 2009.

The city also punches far above its weight in the sporting arena.

The Uhlenhorst Mülheim Hockey and Tennis Club founded in 1920 is one of the most celebrated hockey clubs in Europe. Both the women's and men's team are regular fixtures in the national Bundesliga, while the men's side have international pedigree, winning nine European Cups in a row between 1988 and 1996.

The German Badminton Association (DBV), the national governing body for badminton in Germany, has its headquarters in Mülheim. The city is also home to a prestigious local badminton club 1. BV Mülheim. This club dominated the national team championships for 13 consecutive seasons between 1968 and 1980. It therefore follows that the Westenergie Sporthalle will host the badminton competition at the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU Games. The 2,000-capacity arena has staged the annual German Open since 2005.

### Top sports stars from **Mülheim an der Ruhr**

**Lars Lürig** (born 1975) Swimmer who competed at the Paralympic Games Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000. In 1996, he won gold and set the world record in the 200m freestyle in the S5 class, as well as claiming silver in the 50m and 100m freestyle. In 2000, he won bronze in the 200m freestyle.

**Carsten Fischer** (born 1961) Four-time Olympian field hockey player who won the gold medal in the men's team event at Olympic Games Barcelona 1992 and the silver medals at Los Angeles 1984 and Seoul 1988.

**Jonathan Rommelmann** (born 1994) Rower who won the silver medal at Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 in the lightweight double sculls. 2020 in the lightweight double sculls.

**»Mülheim an der Ruhr will welcome the many athletes, coaches, supervisors, officials and spectators from all over the world and offer a high-quality badminton event with a great atmosphere. With our Sportpark Styrum and the ›TrendSport‹ youth programme, we also bring a lot of experience and good structures in other sports areas to contribute to an attractive supporting programme. Mülheim an der Ruhr will present itself as cosmopolitan, hospitable and sporty.«**

**(Marc Buchholz, Lord Mayor of the City of Mülheim an der Ruhr)**

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

[www.instagram.com/muelheim\\_ruhr](https://www.instagram.com/muelheim_ruhr)

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[www.twitter.com/Muelheim\\_Ruhr](https://www.twitter.com/Muelheim_Ruhr)

[www.linkedin.com/company/stadt-muelheim-an-der-ruhr](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stadt-muelheim-an-der-ruhr)



# HAGEN

Population 198,000

Rank in Germany 41st

**Known for** Basketball, Hohenlimburg Castle, The ›Gateway to Sauerland‹, Nena (and her 99 red balloons)

**Motto** »Hagen, Stadt der FernUniversität« (»Hagen, City of the FernUniversität«)



**Often referred to as ›the Gateway to the Sauerland‹, Hagen lies to the south of the Ruhr River and is dissected by three of its tributaries: the Lenne, the Volme and the Ennepe.**

Another ›life source‹ flowing through the city is basketball, since Hagen is home to the German Basketball Federation (DBB) and the professional men's team Phoenix Hagen, who bounced back from near-financial oblivion to reach the Bundesliga in 2010. Forerunner clubs SSV Hagen and Brandt Hagen were both German cup winners and perennial title challengers. Still backed by some of the most passionate fans in Germany, Phoenix currently play in the Pro A league at the atmospheric Ischelandhalle, which will host preliminary matches at the FISU World University Games and has also staged matches of the women's national team.

Other popular attractions in Hagen include the modern art Osthaus-Museum near the city centre and the Hagen Westphalian Open-Air Museum in the leafy southern district of Selbecke. A testament to the textile and metal industries that once powered the region, the museum features around sixty original workshops and, since 2012, an active brewery. Around 10km further east is Hohenlimburg Castle, a medieval fortress which has earned the name ›Westphalian Heidelberg‹ because of its picturesque hillside location.

Look west to the horizon from here and you may see 99 red balloons approaching, or (more likely) the childhood home of Gabriele Susanne Kerner. The musician shot to fame as ›Nena‹ - the voice behind the song which reached No.2 on the US billboard charts in 1983 in its original German version (›99 Luftballons‹).



### Top sports stars from Hagen

**Hans-Joachim Höfig** (1915-2006) Basketball player turned sports administrator who played for SSV Hagen before becoming president of the German Basketball Association (DBB) in 1964. The development of basketball in Hagen, but also in Germany, is closely linked to his name.

**Per Günther** (born 1988) Basketball player who began his career with Phoenix and then made over 500 appearances in the 1. Bundesliga for Ratiopharm Ulm (2008-2022), during which he competed in eight BBL All-Star matches including one match in 2016 as the Most Valuable Player (MVP). Capped 65 times by Germany.

**Walter Rodekamp** (1941-1998) Footballer who spent four seasons in the 1. Bundesliga with Hannover 96 and made three appearances for the German national team in 1965.

**»Hagen is a stronghold of sport. I am therefore delighted that our Ischelandhalle will be the venue for international basketball matches and that we will be able to prove our reputation as a basketball city.«**

**(Erik O. Schulz, Lord Mayor of the City of Hagen)**

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

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[www.x.com/hagen\\_westfalen](https://www.x.com/hagen_westfalen)



# BERLIN

Population 3.8 million Rank in Germany 1st

**Known for** Spree River, Berlin Wall (1961-1989), Brandenburg Gate, Reichstagsgebäude, Museum Insel, Fernsehturm (TV Tower), Creative industries, techno, currywurst

**Motto** »Wir sind ein Berlin« (»We are one Berlin«)



**There is nowhere quite like Berlin. Germany's multicultural capital is home to 3.8 million people, of which one in four have a foreign passport and almost 200,000 are students at one of the city's 38 universities.**

There are 290 art galleries, 170 museums, 150 theatres and performance venues, and 23 Michelin-starred restaurants. Uniquely, Berlin also has three opera houses, two zoos, and three UNESCO World Heritage Sites – of which ›one‹ is actually six Modernist Housing Estates built between the two World Wars which ravaged the city.

In sport, Berlin's amenities are world class and numerous. The Schwimm-und Sprunghalle im Europasportpark (SSE) is the largest swimming facility in Europe by total water surface area, while the iconic Olympiastadion - built for the 1936 Olympic Games - seats almost 75,000 people. The modern, indoor Max-Schmeling Halle and Uber Arena both host top-level sporting competitions throughout the year in basketball, handball, ice hockey and volleyball.

And all that is not to overlook the city's legendary nightlife. The most celebrated spot is Berghain, a nightclub occupying a gargantuan former power plant on the border of Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg, and popularly known as the ›world capital of techno‹. Head from here to the river and you will meet the East Side Gallery, a series of murals adorning the longest surviving section of the Berlin Wall, which divided the city for 28 years until 1989. Perhaps here more than anywhere, the first-time visitor will realise that in Berlin, everyone has their own story to tell.



### Top sports stars from Berlin

**Betty Heidler** (born 1983) Track and field athlete who held the women's world record in hammer throw from 2011 until 2014 and won the silver medal at Olympic Games London 2012. She was also world champion in 2007 and the silver medallist in 2009 and 2011.

**Franziska von Almsick** (born 1978) Swimmer who won four silver and six bronze medals in four Olympic Games appearances from 1992 to 2004, including 200m freestyle silver at both Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996.

**Kevin-Prince Boateng** (born 1987) and **Jérôme Boateng** (born 1988) Footballing half-brothers who both began their storied careers at Hertha BSC in the capital. Kevin-Prince played for 13 other professional clubs, including over 100 times for AC Milan in Italy, while Jérôme made 229 appearances in a ten-year spell with Bayern Munich and collected 76 caps for the national team.

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