



WELCOME TO NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

EUROPE'S HEARTBEAT

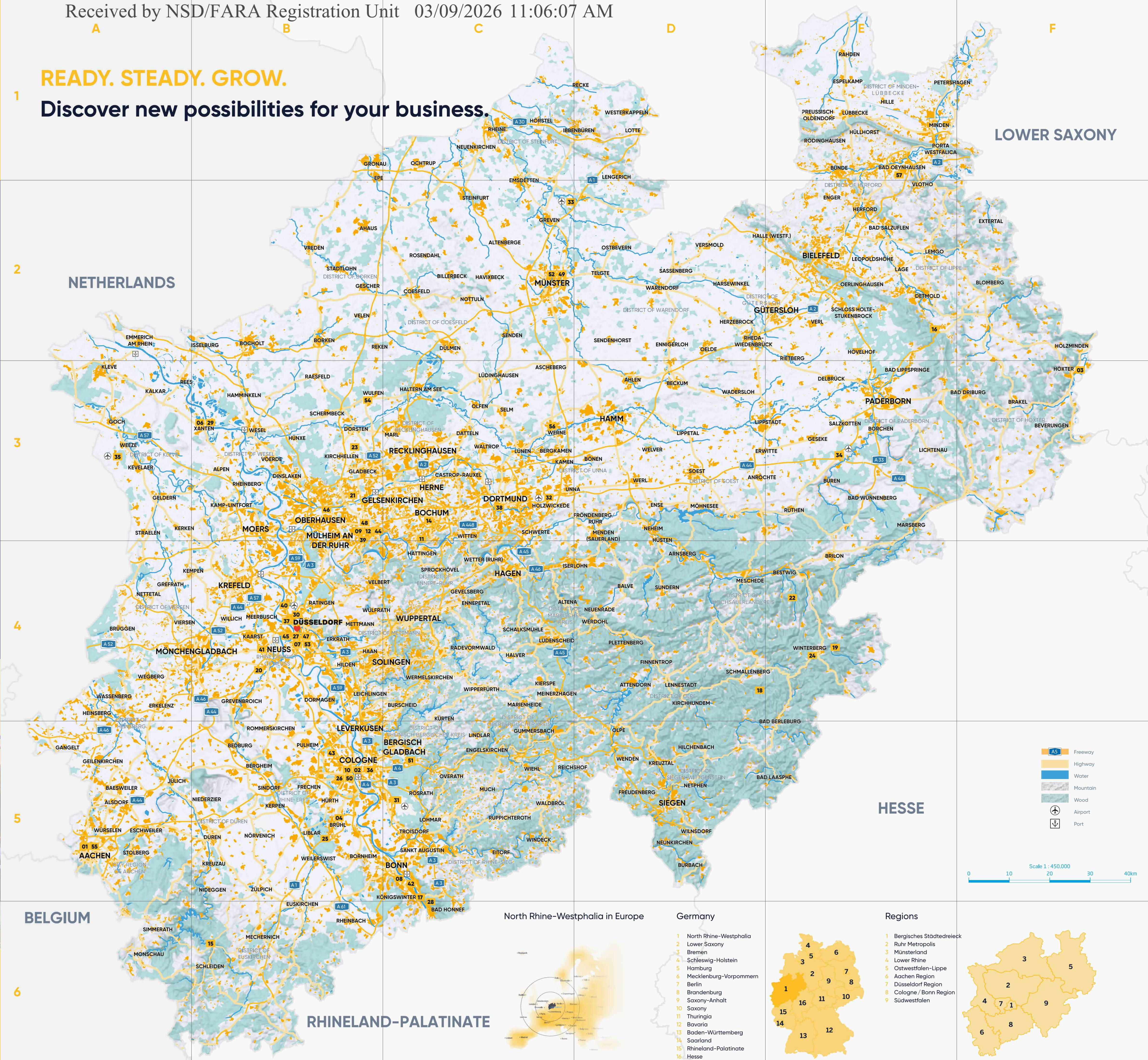
Explore Germany's No. 1 Investment Location



READY. STEADY. GROW.

Discover new possibilities for your business.

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Quality of life

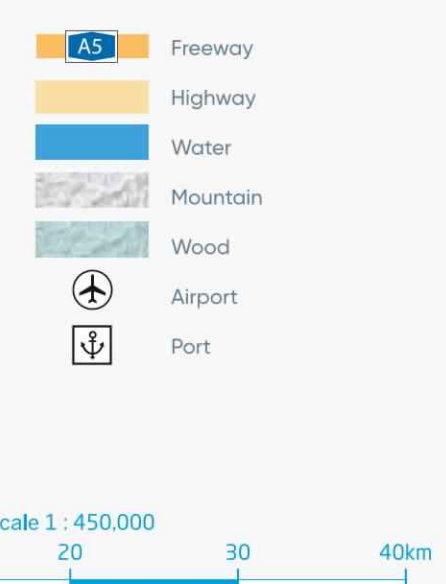
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BELGIUM

North Rhine-Westphalia in Europe

Germany

Regions

- 1 North Rhine-Westphalia
- 2 Lower Saxony
- 3 Bremen
- 4 Schleswig-Holstein
- 5 Hamburg
- 6 Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- 7 Berlin
- 8 Brandenburg
- 9 Saxony-Anhalt
- 10 Saxony
- 11 Thuringia
- 12 Bavaria
- 13 Baden-Württemberg
- 14 Saarland
- 15 Rhineland-Palatinate
- 16 Hesse



- 1 Bergisches Städtedreieck
- 2 Ruhr Metropolis
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- 4 Lower Rhine
- 5 Ostwestfalen-Lippe
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- 7 Düsseldorf Region
- 8 Cologne / Bonn Region
- 9 Sudwestfalen



RHINELAND-PALATINATE

Six best reasons for your location decision



1 Business location NRW – the heart of Europe beats here

This is where the heart of the economy beats: NRW is the most populous state in Germany. With its 18.1 million inhabitants, there are actually more people living here than in the neighboring Netherlands. At around 839.1 billion euros, they generate the highest gross domestic product of all German states and one-fifth of the GDP of Germany as a whole. 46 million consumers within a radius of around 200 kilometers create the largest European market of potential customers that no other metropolitan region in Europe can boast.

A special feature that contributes significantly to the economic success of NRW is the mix of large corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises. 17 of the 50 highest-grossing German companies are based here. These include renowned global players such as Bayer, Bertelsmann, Deutsche Post DHL, Deutsche Telekom, E.ON, Henkel and ThyssenKrupp. But above all, around 702,000 small and medium-sized enterprises form the economic backbone of the state. In NRW you will find 30 percent of all hidden champions in Germany. They are NRW's hidden treasures: companies little known to the public and market leaders who have achieved a top global position in their industry. These small and medium-sized enterprises are excellent cooperation partners for the development of products, in production processes, as well as in service or research – making them magnets for international partners.

2 A talent pool in a class of its own

NRW is a state of highly qualified workers and academics. This is ensured by around 70 universities and universities of applied sciences where about 710,000 students are preparing for a successful future career. Year after year, more than 110,000 students earn a university degree – many with a focus on technical, engineering, or IT fields. Around 4,900 different study programs are available in NRW, ranging from traditional fields like economics, law and social sciences to STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). NRW's universities also attract global talent. Around 100,000 international students are educated at NRW universities – more than in our neighboring countries Netherlands and Belgium. In fact, one in eight students holds a foreign passport.

3 Room for innovation and cutting-edge research

Whether at the elite universities RWTH Aachen and the University of Cologne, Forschungszentrum Jülich, the German Aerospace Center, ten institutes of the Leibniz Association, 20 Fraunhofer and Max Planck Institutes – every day many thousands of scientists and developers advance the know-how in their fields a little more. Nowhere in Europe are there as many prestigious research institutions in such a small area as in NRW: In addition to the approximately 70 universities, more than 60 technology and startup centers and more than 50 nonuniversity research institutions form the densest research network in Europe. They create the best conditions

for innovation, technology and knowledge transfer – and a productive basis for the most vibrant startup scene in Europe. As a result, every fifth German startup now comes from NRW.

4 Excellent infrastructure – the hub of Europe

NRW is an important transportation hub in the middle of Europe. This is ensured by two international airports and four more airports with European connections with a total of 450 direct international flights to the cities of the world. NRW has the densest rail network in Germany with around 6,500 kilometers of tracks. More than 2,200 kilometers of freeways and 17,600 kilometers of national and secondary roads ensure that almost all of the state's locations are optimally connected to the European interstate road network. The state also has a lot to offer on the water: Around 720 kilometers of waterways with 120 ports, including the world's largest inland port in Duisburg which handles some 98 million metric tonnes of freight annually. In almost no other region of Europe will companies find better conditions for transport and logistics.

5 Investment location No. 1 in Germany

More than 24,000 international companies are based in NRW. They manage their German and European business activities from here. For example, Amazon, 3M, BP, Ericsson, Ford, Huawei, GVC, UPS, Toyota and Vodafone have discovered NRW as an investment location. This is primarily due to the optimal conditions that international companies find

here for their growth. International companies have long established themselves as major employers and provide jobs for around 1.3 million people in NRW.

6 Quality of life

Life in NRW is diverse: Here, imposing industrial monuments stand next to relaxing landscape parks, elegant shopping streets alternate with urban metropolitan oases. Cosmopolitanism and creativity determine the quality of life to be found in NRW. The cultural offerings in NRW are also first-rate: More than 900 museums and 130 stages make the state one of the most diverse cultural regions in Europe, on a par with Paris and London. Six sites in NRW alone have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO: Aachen Cathedral, Cologne Cathedral, Augustusburg Castle in Brühl, Abbey of Corvey in Ostwestfalen-Lippe, the former colliery Zeche Zollverein in Essen and the Lower Germanic Limes, an important section of the Roman Empire's frontier. For outdoor activities, there are 14,000 kilometers of cycle paths and over 50,000 kilometers of hiking trails. And in winter, the largest ski area north of the Alps attracts hundreds of thousands of winter sports enthusiasts to the Sauerland region. The varied and diverse range of cultural and leisure activities allows visitors to discover something surprising and stimulating every day.

Overview of key industries

Industry	Major companies	Facts
BIO-TECHNOLOGY	AlCuris, Bayer, Biofrontera, Evonik, Henkel, Miltenyi Biotec, Numafarm Qiagen, UCB	From novel therapies to fight cancer cells to sustainable new products to make the economy less dependent on fossil fuels – NRW is leading the way as an innovation center for biotech in Europe. More than 500 life science companies work every day to make life safer and healthier.
CHEMICALS & NEW MATERIALS	3M, ALTANA, AUNDE, Covestro, Evonik Industries, Henkel, LANXESS, SAERTEX, Wacker Chemie	Approximately one-third of all German chemical industry sales are generated in NRW. A particular focus of the industry is the research and development of innovative solutions to meet the ever-growing demand for sustainable and advanced materials.
CYBER-SECURITY	bluvo, Bücker IT-Security, G DATA CyberDefense, Infodads, securnet Security Networks	NRW is a pioneer in the fight against cybercrime and one of the core centers for cybersecurity in Europe. There are more than 400 IT security companies and more than 1,000 scientists at 30 research institutions and universities help create secure conditions for companies to flourish.
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES	Arvato Systems, Computacenter, DeepL, Infosys, LeanIX, Materna Information & Communications, Microsoft, NTT DATA Business Solutions, Telekom Deutschland, Vodafone	NRW is the ideal location for digital technologies in Germany. It boasts a diverse range of companies in the fields of software, web and app development and IT consulting. This makes it a hub where companies can influence and benefit from digital transformation.
ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES	2G Energy, E.ON, ENGIE Deutschland, Flender International, RWE, Schneider Electric, Uniper, Vaillant, Voltfang	With its numerous energy technology companies, NRW plays a pioneering role in the industry. These include manufacturers of energy generation technologies, energy supply companies, battery manufacturers and energy efficiency companies.
GREENTECH	Brüninghoff, Cylbit, Franz Haniel & Cie., REMONDIS, Veolia Deutschland, WILCO, ZINQ	NRW is the largest greentech location in Germany, where global players and green tech startups generate almost one-fifth of Germany's total environmental economic output. Of all patents in the environmental industry licensed in Germany, 20 percent are from NRW, making it Germany's hotspot for greentech innovation.
HYDROGEN	Air Liquide Deutschland, Linde, neoxid group, NEUMANN & ESSER, Open Grid Europe (OGE), Plug Power, ThyssenKrupp nucera, Westfalen AG	NRW is home to Germany's entire hydrogen chain, which makes the region one of the world's most important drivers of innovation in this technology of the future. With 240 kilometers of pipelines, NRW already has the largest hydrogen network in Germany.
MEDETECH	3M, Brasselers, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, OrCam, Starstedt, Stryker, VYGON Germany	By generating sales of over two billion euros a year, NRW is a growth engine for medical technology. Max Planck, Fraunhofer and Leibniz institutes as well as over 60 technology and startup centers form a strong research landscape that is redefining patient care.

NEW LOGISTICS	BEUMER Group, Fiege Logistik Stiftung, proLogistik, REMIRA Group, Rhenus	NRW is one of the most important logistics hubs in Europe and home to numerous companies that are revolutionizing the logistics sector with innovative solutions. They use technologies such as big data, artificial intelligence and blockchain to make supply chains as efficient and sustainable as possible.
SMART CITIES	Arvato Systems, bee smart city, energienleker solutions, Materna Information & Communications, Okeanos Smart Data Solutions, Telekom Deutschland, Unigy	NRW, as Germany's largest metropolitan area, not only offers great potential in terms of digital solutions for sustainable urban development but is already home to many companies in this sector. Around one-fifth of German companies in this sector come from NRW – ranging from leading international telecommunications providers to IT specialists and startups with new, innovative concepts.
SMART INDUSTRY	Beckhoff Automation, Claas, DMG Mori, Harting Technology Group, MKW Digital Automation, Phoenix Contact, Weidmüller	NRW is the place to be for industry. Here, a traditionally grown and innovative industrial landscape meets technological know-how. Leading companies and research institutes develop smart solutions to optimize production, using state-of-the-art technologies.
SMART MOBILITY	Accure, BENTELER, HELLA, Mennekes, Mobileye	NRW leads in smart mobility with strategic investments in sustainable transport, hydrogen fuel cells and e-mobility innovation. With pioneers like Mennekes shaping Europe's EV charging and Germany's only battery cell research factory in Münster, NRW is a prime hub for zero-emission mobility and energy independence.



NRW – Facts and figures

Demographics

- Population: 18.1 million inhabitants, 531 inhabitants/sq. km

Politics and administration

- State capital: Düsseldorf
- Language: German
- National holiday: October 3 (German Unity Day)

Economy

- GDP: 839.1 billion EUR
- GDP per capita: 48,177 EUR
- Employed persons: 98 million
- Exports: 223.2 billion EUR
- Imports: 280.9 billion EUR
- Foreign direct investments: 196.1 billion EUR

Geography

- Area: 34,112 sq. km
- Most important rivers: Rhine, Maas, Weser, Ems, Ruhr, Lippe, Mittelland Canal, Rhein-Herne Canal
- Largest cities: Cologne, Düsseldorf, Dortmund, Essen and Duisburg
- Most important metropolitan regions: Ruhr Metropolis, Rhineland

Culture

UNESCO World Cultural Heritage

NRW boasts six UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Cologne Cathedral is considered a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. With more than six million visitors every year, the cathedral is Germany's most popular sightseeing destination. Aachen Cathedral, a major testament to Carolingian architecture, was the first German monument to be declared a World Heritage Site in 1978. Its cathedral treasury is one of the most impressive church treasuries in Europe. With their architecture, their paintings and their gardens, the Augustusburg and Falkenlust castles near Brühl are regarded as the complete artwork of German Rococo. In 1984, UNESCO awarded them World Heritage status. The Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen, once the largest and most advanced coal extraction plant in the world, is one of Europe's most impressive industrial monuments. The coal mine has been included in the list of World Heritage Sites since 2001. In summer 2014, UNESCO awarded the Abbey of Corvey World Heritage status. Founded in the Westphalian town of Höxter in 822, it is one of the most important Carolingian monasteries. In 2021, the Lower Germanic Limes, marking the Roman Empire's frontier along the Rhine, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This ancient border stretches through parts of NRW, highlighting the region's rich Roman history.

Museums

Whether history, art or culture, literature, architecture, technology or nature – in NRW more than 900 museums provide fascinating diversity in a wide range of thematic worlds. The state's outstanding museums include the Art and Exhibition Hall in Bonn, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, the Folkwang Museum in Essen, the Haus der Geschichte (House of History) in Bonn and the Art Collection North Rhine-Westphalia in Düsseldorf.

Theater, dance and music

With some 130 stages, NRW has the densest theater landscape in Europe. Renowned stage venues such as the Schauspielhaus Bochum or Schauspiel Köln provide audiences with highly varied entertainment. Three of Germany's most important theater festivals – the RuhrTriennale, the Ruhr Festival in Recklinghausen and the Mülheimer Theatertage – take place in NRW. Venues such as the Kölner Philharmonie or the Konzerthaus Dortmund provide great musical pleasure – in the form of classical and modern music, choral concerts or jazz. Dance and ballet enthusiasts are well catered for at such renowned locations as the Ballett der Deutschen Oper am Rhein or the Dance Theater Wuppertal. Furthermore, NRW has a huge selection of festivals and concerts ranging from jazz, rock and pop to well-known musicals.



Leisure

Nature

Hikers in NRW will find signposted paths stretching for a total of more than 50,000 kilometers. The most beautiful hiking trails include Rheinsteig, Eifelsteig and Rothaarsteig. The Eifel National Park provides hikers with an area of approx. 110 square kilometers. The park is home to thousands of animal and plant species.

Sport

NRW has a highly varied sports program to offer. Golf, tennis, soccer, watersports, dancing, cycling or horse riding – there is something for everyone. With 14,000 kilometers of cycleways, NRW is Germany's No. 1 bicycle state. A total of 66 kilometers of ski slopes at the Wintersports-Arena Sauerland, the indoor ski slopes in Neuss and Bottrop and the bobsled and toboggan run in Winterberg make the state the largest winter sports region north of the Alps. Top-class professional sports can also be followed in the sports state of NRW. The soccer arena in Dortmund, Germany's largest stadium capable of holding over 80,000 spectators, offers high-quality Bundesliga soccer.

Amusement parks

Fun and thrills for the whole family – provided by amusement parks such as Phantasialand Brühl or Movie Park Germany near Bottrop. Numerous attractions and events, wild rollercoasters and waterslides, giant trampolines, hang-gliding rides and carousels as well as exciting theme shows ensure enjoyment and relaxation.

Carnival

Helou & Alaaff! By tradition, the Carnival, also known as the "fifth season," begins at 11 minutes past 11 on November 11. Starting on "Weiberfastnacht" (the Thursday before Shrove Monday), a "state of emergency" is declared in the Carnival strongholds Düsseldorf and Cologne. Everyone sways to the music, singing and flirting up to Ash Wednesday. Thousands of Carnival revelers celebrate in the street Carnival, at "sessions" and Carnival balls, or take part in the traditional Shrove Monday processions.

International

The world in NRW

NRW is a cosmopolitan and multicultural hub: International companies and their employees value not only its geographical location, but also the quality of life as well as the tolerance and open-mindedness of the people here. This welcoming culture ensures that both large and smaller communities from different countries quickly feel at home here – not just for their business but also culturally. For example, Düsseldorf is home to Europe's third-largest Japanese community, with around 15,000 residents supported by a well-established network of Japanese institutions, schools and cultural centers. Similarly, NRW is home to 14,500 U.S. citizens. The U.S. Consulate General, the U.S. Commercial Service and the American Chamber of Commerce provide one of the best business networks in Germany and cultivate strong cultural and economic ties between the United States and NRW.

Multicultural learning

Employees of international companies and their families not only find the best conditions for a second home in NRW, but their children also have the opportunity to pursue an internationally oriented education here. In total, there are around 5,400 schools, including seven international and eleven foreign schools – an important location bonus for foreign company employees. International schools are privately run educational institutions. Here, students can obtain internationally recognized degrees that give them access to the numerous universities and courses of study. Foreign schools, on the other hand, offer qualifications in accordance with the school laws applicable in the respective country of origin and prepare students for access to higher education in that country.

Quality of life

Shopping

Modern malls, vibrant pedestrian zones, elegant shopping streets – NRW offers highly varied shopping paradise for all retail enthusiasts. Schildergasse in Cologne, for example, is the most popular shopping street in Germany. Another must is a stroll down the stylish "Ko" in Düsseldorf or in the Centro Oberhausen, Germany's largest mall. Whether it's a fashionable designer dress, a new smartphone or gripping literature – NRW leaves nothing to be desired.

Food & drink

Eating out in NRW is a pleasure and a "distinction" – there are 55 stars shining above the 52 restaurants here. They glitter both in the cities and in the rural regions. Guests can choose from a range of regional delicacies or international specialties. Besides the enjoyment provided by the gourmet chefs it is also well worth taking a trip through the many culinary regions of NRW: From the Rhine specialty Sauerbraten (marinated pot roast) through the Bergische Kaffeetafel (coffee and fancy cakes) to the Currywurst (sausage in a spicy sauce) from the Ruhr Metropolis, the state has something to satisfy every taste.

Wellness

NRW is the ideal place to "go under the radar" and leave all your cares behind. The wellness facilities offered in the state provide a large choice. Numerous thermal baths look after the personal well-being of their visitors. At the Carolus Thermen in Aachen guests can experience the healing effect of hot springs at first hand. A genuine island feeling is also to be found in NRW: The Bali Terme Bath in Oeynhausen pampers visitors with mineral springs and Asian flair. Health is also catered for in NRW: Besides traditional spa treatments, a large variety of spas and health resorts provide a wide range of possibilities to regenerate, such as the peat and mineral health spa in Bad Driburg or the climatic health resort Winterberg.

