



Düsseldorf –
from fishing village
to metropolis
Seven centuries of
urban development



Dusseldorf, a small village on the Düssel estuary which was granted its town charter in 1288, has developed over more than seven centuries into a cosmopolitan metropolis: Düsseldorf am Rhein.

State capital of the most populous federal state North Rhine-Westphalia since 1946, Düsseldorf presents itself with attractive urban architecture, and with its famous old town, it stands for the Rhenish attitude to life. The shopping promenade, the *Königsallee* – or “*Kö*” is equally popular. The town’s grand boulevard with its prestigious fashion and shopping strip is famous throughout the world as a symbol for Düsseldorf.

The state capital is an international trade and service centre: today’s sixth largest city in Germany is a top location for many well-known sectors and a leading trade fair location for the world of industry. The convenient transport links to the centre of the Rhine-Ruhr-Region, due not least to the international airport, ensures the city’s significance in Europe. Culturally too, Düsseldorf plays a leading national role with opera, theatre and a diverse landscape of museums.

This brochure presents the main stages of the development of the city.



Town coat of arms

The original coat of arms of Düsseldorf shows an anchor. At the end of the 17th century, the coat of arms received an addition. Since then, it has shown the heraldic animal of Bergisch Dukes, the Bergisch Lion, which holds the anchor in its paws.



Oldest town seal

The oldest town seal is found on a deed from 1303. It shows the stylised representation of the Lambertus church, the first large church in the town.

— A fixed place on the Rhine and the Düsseldorf

In medieval times, larger territorial estates formed on the Lower Rhine. There were repeated confrontations between the Archbishop of Cologne, who was also the largest territorial lord in this region, and emerging secular rulers - like the Counts of Berg.

On 5 June 1288, two armies met on the Worringer heath between Cologne and Düsseldorf in armed conflict. The battle is considered one of the bloodiest of the Middle Ages. The opponents of the Archbishop, including Count Adolf von Berg, prevailed. On 14 August 1288, Count Adolf made use of the Archbishop's defeat to form a small settlement on the Düsseldorf estuary, which would later become the town.

This *Düsseldorp*, as the settlement is named in the earliest sources, started out as a modest fishing village. Situated on the right bank of the Rhine, the town was intended as a counterweight to the expansion aspirations of the Archbishop on the left bank of the Rhine. The town was subsequently secured by moats and embankments.

Around 1350, a first boundary wall enclosed the approximately four hectares of the town. A castle of the Counts of Berg was built on the Düsseldorf estuary at this time, which was then expanded into a mighty palace in the 15th century.

1288 | Battle of Worringen

Monumental painting by
Peter Janssen, 1893.



around 1300 | Codex Manesse

Reports on the Battle of Worringen are also to be found in the well-known script of the Middle Ages.



1988 | 700-year anniversary

Local artist Bert Gerresheim processed scenes and historical events into a monument referring to the year of grant privileges of Düsseldorf in 1288. As a gift to his hometown, Gerresheim's sculpture was erected in the anniversary year 1988 at the historical *Burgplatz*.

— The bergisch capital and ducal seat

In 1380 the county of Berg became a duchy. The first duke, Wilhelm II von Berg, had Düsseldorf greatly extended. He therefore also counts as the second founder of the city. With around 1,800 inhabitants, the town was the largest in the new duchy of Berg.

Around 1550, the position of Düsseldorf as the capital and ducal seat of the united duchies Jülich-Cleves-Berg became firmly established. During this time, the castle was extended to form a palace complex in the Renaissance style. The city fortifications were also strengthened. The rank of a capital also manifested itself from an economic point of view: the Rhine just outside the city gates was the most important trade and transport route of its time. Goods were transported on it from the

Netherlands to the Alps. Around 1570, a first port was built near the Citadel as a transshipment point for goods to the bergisch lands.

In 1573, a new town hall was built in the direct proximity of the palace complex. The construction originating from the period between late Gothic and Renaissance replaced the town hall in Ratinger Straße 6. Around 150 years later, the building was somewhat redesigned in baroque style and since then, it has essentially shown the face we know today.

Düsseldorf's leaders have been influential personalities throughout the centuries. Their terms of office can be historically documented almost without any gaps since 1303.



1585 | Royal wedding

Dietrich Graminäus described a royal wedding at the Düsseldorf court. Franz Hogenberg captured the opulent festivities in several copper engravings.

© Frank Vincentz



1573 | New town hall



1791 | Market square with town hall

Ink drawing by Thomas Rowlandson.

around 1570 | Old port

Reconstructed harbour basin in front of the citadel.



© Ingo Lammert

1713 | Equestrian statue

Jan Wellem had the equestrian statue erected during his own lifetime at the market place in 1713. The design came from Gabriel de Grupello.



© LVR/Stefan Arendt

around 1760 | Carl Theodor



1756-1768 | Schloss Benrath

Built by Nicolas de Pigage as a hunting lodge and pleasure palace.



© Fine Art Images/ARTOTHEK

1708 | Princely pair

Jan Wellem and Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici. Painting by Jan Frans van Douven.



1735 | Fortifications

Building works on the towns eastern fortifications. Painting by H. E. Beckers (detail).



— Baroque rulers enhance Düsseldorf's splendour

With the death of the last prince of the Dukes of Cleves in the year 1609, a division of the significant mass of lands on the Lower Rhine was imminent. Ultimately the Counts Palatine of Palatinate-Neuburg took over the Jülich lands and developed Düsseldorf into a significant residence in this region.

Above all the duke Johann Wilhelm von Jülich-Berg (1658 – 1716), later more popularly known as Jan Wellem – since 1690 also Elector Palatinate – lastingly shaped the town and its reputation. With his second wife Anna Maria Luisa from the

house of Medici, he held a glamorous court at Düsseldorf and promoted the arts: he had the first opera house built and gathered a very high quality collection of paintings.

One of his successors, Elector Carl Theodor (1724 – 1799) may never have lived permanently in Düsseldorf, however, we have him to thank for a new district – known as *Carlstadt*. With Schloss Benrath in the south of the town (built 1756 – 1768), Carl Theodor gave Düsseldorf an architectural masterpiece of late Rococo.

— Düsseldorf turns green and Prussian

The razing of the walls, bastions and ramparts in 1801 freed the city from the corset of military installations. This condition for the withdrawal of the French revolutionary troops after the Peace of Luneville was a stroke of luck for Düsseldorf's further urban development.

From 1802, the architect Caspar Anton Huschberger and the landscape gardener Maximilian Friedrich Weyhe transformed the former eastern defence area of the city into today's Königsallee. A little later, Weyhe tackled the area which is now the city's green lung, the *Hofgarten*.

Together with the prominent boulevard and the parks with the *Kaiserteich* and *Schwanenspiegel* bodies of water, they form a green belt around the old town for which Düsseldorf is rightly envied by many other cities.

Under Napoleon I, the Grand Duchy of Berg emerged, with Düsseldorf as its capital. On the occasion of his visit in November 1811, which went on for several days, a wooden triumphal arch was set up for the emperor, who resided in *Schloss Jägerhof*.

After the Napoleonic era, as a result of the Vienna Congress, the Rhineland – and Düsseldorf with it – fell to the Prussians in 1815. But the Düsseldorfers never really warmed to their far off sovereigns in Berlin. This was also apparent in 1848, when the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV travelled to Düsseldorf in the midst of the revolutionary turmoil. On *Kastanienallee* he was – so tradition has it – pelted with horse droppings, and never visited the town again. As a token of apology for the disrespect shown, the magistrate renamed this particularly beautiful street *Königsallee*.



1811 | The entry of Napoleon

Watercolour by Johann Petersen.

1814 | Safe haven

The harbour which had been started in 1806 at the Art Academy (left) was completed on Napoleon's initiative. It was filled in in 1897 for the ramp construction of the Oberkassel bridge.



around 1890

1788-1862 | Friedrich Wilhelm von Schadow

During Schadow's period of office (1826 -1859), the Art Academy in Düsseldorf experienced a hitherto unequalled heyday.



© akg-images



around **1820** | **Hofgarten idylls**

Contemporary artists were inspired by the views in the newly created Hofgarten.



1808 | **Hofgarten plan**

The landscape gardener Maximilian Friedrich Weyhe (1775 – 1846) created the foundation for the design of the *Hofgarten*.

around **1850** | **Rhine front**

Coloured steel engraving by J.M. Colb.





1872 | Palace fire

The *Düsseldorf Schloss* burned down again after 1795. Apart from the Schloss tower (right), it was demolished a few years later.



1889-1902 | Triton fountain

The sculptor Friedrich Coubillier created the fountain at the northern end of *Königsallee*.



1906-1908 | The Stahlhof

Built as a representative building of the *Deutschen Stahlwerksverband AG*. Today: seat of the administrative court.

© Thomas Robbin



— Expansion for industry, trade and transport

Rid of its fortifications, Düsseldorf was free to expand. A great locational advantage – especially compared to the fortress city of Cologne. Thus, during the period of industrialisation from around 1850 on, the emerging business and trading companies were able to find sufficient space for expansion outside of Düsseldorf's former city gates. Extensive plants were set up, a first rail connection laid, and new harbour installations built along the river Rhine.

Between 1880 and 1920 the city grew particularly rapidly and the development of the infrastructure came with it: starting in 1885, the first central

station was built at its current location, and in 1898 a permanent bridge connection was finally constructed to the opposite bank of the Rhine.

Large manufacturing companies from the neighbouring Ruhr region also chose the town for their headquarters, thus earning Düsseldorf the nickname "desk of the Ruhr area". Its increasing importance was also reflected in the seat of the district government and the state parliament of the Rhineland. Düsseldorf thus became an administrative centre. This traditional administrative function ultimately proved an advantage for the town after 1945.



1880 | The Ständehaus

Erected as Parliament building of the provincial state parliament of the Rhineland. 1949-1988: Federal state parliament. Since 2002: Art collection.

around 1890 | Town hall

with western expansion in Wilhelminian style.



Colored postcard around 1890



Painting by Oscar Detering, 1880



1895 | The "Berger Tor"

The last city gate, the *Berger Tor* was demolished in 1895.

around 1880 | Königsallee

Overlooking the Bergisch-Märkischen railway station of 1838 at today's *Graf-Adolf-Platz*.

around 1905 | Rhine promenade

In the background, the first permanent Rhine bridge of 1898.



— Düsseldorf grows and spreads out

Between 1880 and 1900, the population of Düsseldorf doubled to 200,000 people – also through immigration from home and abroad. Many neighbouring villages and small towns – including Benrath, Gerresheim and Kaiserswerth and Heerdt and Oberkassel on the left bank – virtually became suburbs of Düsseldorf. Amalgamation was thus literally unavoidable. In 1908/09 and again in 1929, the city expanded into the countryside; its area tripled. Around 100,000 new Düsseldorfers were added, making a total of 477,000 inhabitants in 1929. In 1975, a third amalgamation was to follow.

In terms of town planning, at the beginning of the 20th century, Düsseldorf was already planning to accommodate over a million inhabitants. Although this never came about, Düsseldorf nonetheless enjoys the cultural life of a great city: opera, plays, cabaret, private theatres, museums, art galleries

and other cultural events make the city a vibrant, rewarding destination for excursions and entertainment.

Hand in hand with the economic rise, the city also flourished in the artistic and architectural field. Examples include the department store *Tietz* (today *Kaufhof*) of Joseph Maria Olbrich (1907-1909), an icon of Art Nouveau architecture, Peter Behrens' office building (1911-1912), a dominant feature of the Rhine front, and the *Wilhelm-Marx-Haus* (1922-1924), one of the first skyscrapers in the German Reich.

With the artists' association *Das Junge Rheinland*, expressionism also continued to blaze its trail in the Rhineland after 1919. Moreover, both before and after the First World War, Düsseldorf was able to establish itself as one of the most important trade fair cities in the west of the country.



© Thomas Ledegank

1908/1909 | Amalgamation

Gerresheim and Kaiserswerth, medieval city foundations, are incorporated and thus become Düsseldorf's oldest districts.



1920s | City life

Painting by Gert H. Wollheim, 1924, „Abschied von Düsseldorf“ (extract).



© Museum Kunstpalast/Horst Kolberg – ARTOTHEK

1907-1909 | Department store *Tietz*

on *Alleestraße*, today *Heinrich-Heine-Allee*, was badly damaged in the war.



1912 / 1922 | City architecture

Prominent buildings: the Wilhelm-Marx building and the Mannesmann building on the bank of the Rhine.



Colored postcard around 1900



© Thomas Robbin



Police headquarters around 1920

1940 | Gestapo headquarters

in the historical town house. Since 1987, the memorial of the state capital has been located in part of the building. It is dedicated to all the victims of the Nazi tyranny in Düsseldorf.

1945 | Resistance group

From left standing: Aloys Odenthal, Ernst Klein, Josef Lauxtermann, sitting: Dr. Karl August Wiedenhofen und Dr. Karl Müller.



— National Socialism and World War II

During the period of National Socialism, Düsseldorf was also a city of exclusion and persecution. After Berlin, the Gestapo office in Düsseldorf was the second largest in the Third Reich. Jewish citizens were dispossessed, exiled, deported and murdered. Of the roughly 5,500 inhabitants of the Jewish community prior to 1933, barely 60 were left in Düsseldorf in 1945.

The persecution of other population groups on racial, religious, political and other grounds also claimed many victims.

On 17 April 1945, the war in Düsseldorf came to an end, because a small group of resistance fighters managed to surrender the city to the American troops without a fight. Their endeavours were revealed on the evening before, and several members of the group known as *Aktion Rheinland* were then murdered for high treason. Thanks to them, the imminent bombing and thus wide-scale destruction of the city was averted.

The city was a scene of devastation at the end of the war. Ten million cubic metres of rubble lay on the streets, many buildings were completely destroyed. Evacuated Düsseldorfers returned and many refugees also poured into the town. The destitution was great, but the reconstruction work got underway.



1945 | End of the war

American troops enter the district of Flingern.

— Fresh start and change: appointed state capital

Due to the administrative function which had developed over the centuries and the existing buildings, Düsseldorf – although heavily damaged – presented itself as the political administrative headquarters for the British Protecting Powers.

On 21 June 1945, Düsseldorf became part of the British occupation zone. A year later, the new state North Rhine-Westphalia was formed from the northern part of the Rhine Province and Westphalia. The former Free State of Lippe was added later.

The *Operation Marriage* was initiated on 1 August 1946 with the sentence “Its capital will be Düsseldorf” and formally completed with a decree on 23 August 1946.

In the following decades, Düsseldorf became the heart of “Rhineland capitalism” in the young Federal Republic of Germany. In terms of urban development, the initial focus within the context of restructuring works was firmly on traffic planning. Numerous streets were widened, others were created from scratch, first and foremost the *Berliner Allee*.

It was not long before innovative buildings such as the upright “*Dreischeibenhaus*” (1957-1960) and the curved *Schauspielhaus* (theatre, 1965-1969) opposite started to emerge. The state parliament building right on the Rhine and at the *Stadttor* (city gate) with the seat of the state chancellery followed later. Companies and organisations, politics, administration and culture also wanted to have representative buildings in the capital.



1946 | The first state parliament

On 2 October 1946, the new parliament formed for the first time at the Opera House – still under the flag of the protecting powers.



1945 | Democratic new beginning

The first city council assembly met on 29 November 1945 to debate the rebuilding of communal structures.



1981-1988 | Parliament building

Six semi-circular buildings are grouped around the circular plenary chamber.

1995-1997 | The *Stadttor*

The layout of the 20-storey tower block corresponds to a parallelogram.





1955 | Road construction

As part of the restructuring plan, *Berliner Allee* was constructed parallel to *Königsallee* as a new, wide relief road.

Gustaf-Gründgens square

The newly created square has been dominated for years by the “*Dreischeibenhaus*” and the *Schauspielhaus* (theatre).



© Thomas Robbin



1979-1982 | The *Rheinturm*

The 240.5-metre tall telecommunications tower is a landmark of Düsseldorf and has a light sculpture on its shaft which is a clock.

2006



© Guido Bogdan

1752-1763 | Schloss Jägerhof

As a Goethe Museum, it houses the third-largest collection of the poet in Germany.



© akg-images

1797-1856 | Heinrich Heine

Painting by Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, 1831.

1875-1879 | Art Academy

A breeding ground for young artists to the present day.



© Jörn Wriegels

— Düsseldorf City of Culture between tradition and avant-garde

Düsseldorf is a city of short distances. This is especially true for the arts. Around the old town, surrounded by baroque churches, trendy boutiques, galleries of international renown and rustic bars, a cosmos of art unfolds which leaves practically nothing to be desired. Almost all of these creative addresses are within a short walk of each other – a paradise for citizens and tourists which is hardly matched by any other city in the world.

Since the Elector “Jan Wellem” established Düsseldorf’s reputation as a city of art in the 17th century, the city on the Düssel has always remained true to its cultural heritage.

This comes across most strongly at the so-called **Kunstachse** (Art Axis): there – from Ehrenhof via the old town to the Ständehaus park – temples of the muses are hung like pearls on a string: the *Museum Kunstpalast*, which runs the gamut from Jan Wellem’s picture gallery to the modern age, the *Tonhalle* in the former planetarium, where music has its most beautiful setting, the opera house of the *Deutsche Oper am Rhein*, the *Art Academy*, where artists such as Klee, Beuys, Richter, Becher and Gursky have worked, and which is still one of the most important breeding grounds for the artists of tomorrow.

Let’s wander on ... ►

Schumann memorial
The artist couple Clara and Robert Schumann moved to Düsseldorf in 1850.



© Heinrich-Heine-Institut

Schumann memorial



© VG Bildkunst / Dieter Schwille



© VG Bildkunst / K20

1864-1947 | Johanna Ey

The female art dealer and patron, painted by Otto Dix (1924).



Art collection K20

Opened in 1986.

► After the *Kunsthalle* and *Kunstsammlung NRW* (K20) on Grabbeplatz comes the exhibition house *KIT (Kunst im Tunnel)*, a spectacular hot spot for contemporary art under the popular Rhine water-side promenade. And – to conclude this cultural excursion – there is the Dependence of the *Kunstsammlung NRW* (K21) in the historical *Ständehaus*, which is dedicated to the art of the 21st century.

The great stages of opera, ballet and theatre are also joined by prestigious smaller stages such as the *Kom(m)ödchen* (cabaret) in the *Kunsthalle*, the *Komödie* (boulevard theatre) on *Steinstraße*, the *Junges Theater in der Altstadt* (youth theatre) and the wonderful *Düsseldorf Marionetten-Theater* (puppetry) on *Bilker Straße*.

1921-1986 | Joseph Beuys

Cover photo from 1976.

Group of artists ZERO

Fountain by ZERO-artist
Heinz Mack, erected in 1988.

To the right and left of the **Kunstachse**, culture unfolds in a most colourful array: the *Hetjens-Museum*, for example, is the only institute worldwide which presents the history of ceramics from its beginnings to the present day. The *Filmmuseum* next door sees itself as a “School of vision”. The *Theatermuseum* in the shadow of the *Schauspielhaus* reflects the diverse local and regional theatre scene.

Two heroes of Düsseldorf’s cultural life have also left their mark: **Heinrich Heine**’s birthplace in the centre of the old town is now a literary site. Research and presentation on Düsseldorf’s most famous son have their most important address worldwide in the *Carlstadt* district. Diagonally across from the *Heinrich-Heine-Institut*, **Robert and Clara Schumann** lived with their children. Their mansion – today a memorial venue – pays tribute to their life and work in Düsseldorf.



© Studio Tomás Saraceno / K21



Art collection K21

The glass top floor provides space for many spectacular installations.



© Tonhalle / Susanne Driesner



© DOF / Hans-Jörg Michel

Deutsche Oper am Rhein

Around ten opera and ballet premieres are performed at the opera house per year.

Tonhalle

The former planetarium has been the performance venue of the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra since 1978.

— Düsseldorf keeps on reinventing itself

Urban development is a dynamic process. The rapid reconstruction in the post-war years was followed by stages of urban redevelopment that were mainly oriented towards major infrastructure projects such as the construction of the underground in the 1980s, and most recently the *Wehrhahn* line. This particularly characterises the recent architectural history of the city.

With the establishment of the new state parliament on the filled-in basin of the Berger harbour, the transformation of a large part of the harbour area started in the mid-1980s. In particular, renowned architects created a new service centre along the ancient trading port with new and converted buildings: the Media Harbour.

In the 1990s, Düsseldorf opened itself to the Rhine. A four-lane tunnel alongside the river brought the city – especially the old town district – back to the bank of the Rhine by putting the traffic underground. A promenade was built on the long tunnel roof. It invites people to stroll and gather between the Oberkassel bridge and the *Rheinturm*.

The city itself is also going through an era of change: the “*Tausendfüßler*”, a fifty-year-old fly-over, was demolished in 2013 and private transport as well as large parts of the aboveground tram service moved to the tunnel. The areas gained around *Jan-Wellem-Platz* were developed under the brand “*Kö-Bogen*”. The striking building by Daniel Libeskind has created an architectural eye-catcher at the northern end of the *Königsallee*.

Düsseldorf has been continually growing for years. The city now has over 630,000 inhabitants – not far from its historical high (1962: 705,000). On many wastelands and estates from Düsseldorf’s industrial past, new districts, quarters and spacious residential complexes are emerging around the town centre.



Colored postcard around 1900

The Kö-Bogen

At the historical site close to the waters of the *Landskrone*, Düsseldorf’s new urban centre started to form in 2009.



View over the former glass-works in 1954



© Sammlung Forsten Behr

Glassmakers' quarter

Where Europe's largest glass-works produced bottles and glasses until 2005, the Glassmakers' quarter is to be developed with 1,400 flats.

New district Grafental

On the grounds of a locomotive plant – later a shoe factory – the new district *Grafental* has been established with 1,200 residential units.



© Grafental.de

Animation

Düsseldorf's vivid waterfront

A four-lane road along the lower Rhine wharf went underground in 1993 in a roughly 2,000-metre long tunnel.



Colored postcard around 1900

The Media Harbour

The slanting buildings by Frank O. Gehry, the "*Neue Zollhof*" (1994-1999), are symbolic of the Media Harbour (*MedienHafen*).



around 1990



— An impressive location, economically successful

At the latest in the years of the economic boom, Düsseldorf continuously developed into an important business location in Europe. The key factors for this were the central location in the Rhine-Ruhr region, *Düsseldorf International* – the third largest airport in Germany – and the Düsseldorf trade fair with its worldwide reputation.

A first commercial exhibition was held in Düsseldorf in 1811. In 1926, the *GeSoLei* (large exhibition for health care, social welfare and physical exercise) attracted 7.5 million visitors. In 1949, the *IGEDO* (interest group for women's clothing) organised the first sales week in Düsseldorf and thus laid the foundation for the international fashion fair *CPD Collection Première Düsseldorf*. Today around 50 trade fairs are held in Düsseldorf per year, including 24 leading international fairs.

The economic area of Düsseldorf not only leads in the fashion industry; mobile telecommunications, life science institutes, legal and business consultancies as well as many advertising agencies also make the city on the Rhine a strong, reliable location. At the same time, Düsseldorf is also still a major industrial location with global markets – primarily for steel products, machine and plant engineering, chemicals, food and automotive production.

Business people value Düsseldorf as a city of short distances: in ten minutes, you can get from the airport to the trade fair or the city centre. It's no wonder that around 5,000 foreign companies now have their headquarters in the economic area of Düsseldorf – many of them positioned in the city zone.



Düsseldorf Fair

In 1971, a new exhibition centre was developed in the north of the city. It has expanded to currently 305,000 square metres.

Start-ups

The Media Harbour is a dynamic business location, especially for innovative creative industries and start-ups.

Heinrich Heine University

With its many institutes of higher education, the Düsseldorf location guarantees a highly qualified workforce and innovations.



© Schmittstelle

Europe Day

The event is celebrated in and around the Town Hall every year and creates points of contact with Europe.



© HHU/Jörg Reich

Twin cities

Reading / Great Britain
Haifa / Israel
Chemnitz / Germany
Warsaw / Poland
Moscow / Russia
Chongqing / China
Palermo / Italy

— Cosmopolitan Düsseldorf, friendly, international

Around 40 consular offices and more than 30 foreign chambers of commerce and foreign trade organisations facilitate business contacts in Düsseldorf and promote the business climate. Among the countries concerned, Japan has a special status and, with 480 Japanese companies, the economic area of Düsseldorf has been the country's most important location in Europe for many years. The number of Chinese companies is developing rapidly; 340 are currently located in Düsseldorf.

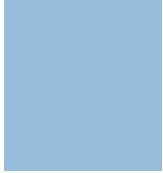
In addition, the broad range of studies and an attractive employment market draw many people from around the world. Düsseldorf's international character is also reflected in its city partnerships: in cooperation with seven international twin towns and numerous city friendships, the state capital of Düsseldorf supports projects in all social areas.

Düsseldorf is actively involved in a variety of European and multinational networks. This commitment provides for vibrant and diverse international exchanges, promotes the visibility of European and international topics in Düsseldorf and positions the state capital as a multicultural, cosmopolitan metropolis in the heart of Europe.



Japan Day

A special symbol of friendship between Düsseldorf and Japan: the annual Japan Day with around 750,000 visitors.



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