



As Beautiful as the Lower Rhine and as Diverse as the Ruhr Region

An attractive, middle-sized town situated where the lower Rhine and the Ruhr region meet: Dinslaken is as charming as the the lower Rhine and as varied as the Ruhr region. An attractive town inhabited by 72.500 mainly pleasant people. Nobody knows exactly where the borderline between the lively Ruhr region and the peaceful Lower Rhine runs. Anyway, Dinslaken has something to offer to everyone. Enjoy the natural landscape surrounding the city or the cultural events in front of a historic backdrop.

Most parts of the town have remarkable sights: the idyllic village Hiesfeld with its wind- and watermill attracts bikers and strollers to the Rotbach Lake and its valley. The center of the village invites strollers to its fine shops. In Eppinghoven the nature reserve Rheinaue grants lovely views on the river Rhine and the ships passing by. The pretty miners settlement in Lohberg is a historical place under protection.. As a visitor you will find it hard to decide what to see first.

The city center presents itself cosy, clean and charming. The shopping precinct between Neutor and the old town with its great open-air theatre Burgtheater, the museum Voswinkelshof and further sights invite to lingering and strolling.

A likeable city where strolling and shopping are fun because you enjoy peace and you live at your own pace. One moves easily from the pedestrian precinct to the greenery of the Rotbach trail which connects nearly all parts of the city. Dinslaken is popular. Numerous people who work in the Ruhr region or in one of the cities along the river Rhine wish to live here. For all of them there is a plentiful offer of nurseries, schools, sports facilities and a variety of cultural events. Dinslaken is an exciting town.

A Short History of the Town

12th Century

Construction of a castle and first documentary mentioning as "Lake juxtaInstincfeld" (brine next to Hiesfeld) in a land and interest register of the Benedictine abbey in Essen-Werden.

1273

Conferment of the rights of a city by count Dietrich VII of Kleve.

1478

Dinslaken is awarded the right to have a market.

1540

Dinslaken becomes a member of the Hanse.

1652

The crucifixion group - well known by art historians - is saved from destruction and brought from Wesel to Dinslaken.

1850

The onset of industrialisation. Factories producing glue and spark plugs are set up also a rolling mill. The de Fries family acquires the castle of Dinslaken and establishes farming and a distillery.

1856

The railway arrives. The post stop and several of its express connections are therefore abandoned.

1894

The town and its cattle market become a centre at the Lower Rhine. For the first time more than 10.000 animals are brought to the market.

**1896**

August and Josef Thyssen found their commercial company.

1909

The former castle is converted into a district administration building. Before employees can begin their work, a great fire destroys substantial parts of it.

1945

With the end of the war imminent, the citizens of Dinslaken have to face the most difficult time of their town's history: during several air raids hundreds of allied aircrafts blanket-bomb the town. More than 800 women, old men and children die. More than 80% of the town is destroyed. The following day American combat units cross the river and approach Dinslaken.

1951

A small group of actors, initially caring for the miners culture establish a theatre. This is the birthday of the Burghofbühne Dinslaken (Dinslaken theatre).

1954

The Dinslaken trotting course is opened.

1965

A new chain store in the city satisfies consumers' needs which so far remained unfulfilled.

1966

Citizens and visitors can stroll and go shopping without being irritated by car emissions. Neustrasse is one of the first pedestrian precincts at the Lower Rhine.

1973

Town council and citizens improve the good neighbourhood and start a partnership with the French town Agen.

The city hall and the subterranean car park are finished.

The 700th anniversary of the town is celebrated spectacularly. "DIN-Tage" (the days of Dinslaken), a colourful town festival, is born.

1975

In the course of a municipal restructuring the district of Dinslaken is disbanded. The town becomes part of the district of Wesel.

The town twinning with Agen is definitely sealed.

1989

A second town partnership with Arad in Israel is agreed on.

2005

After nearly a hundred years the coal mine Lohberg-Osterfeld closes in December.



Dinslaken in figures

There are many ways to generate an image of a town. Often only the good parts are described and glossy photographs are shown while the backyard corners are avoided. Authors indulge in a greenery that nowhere else can possibly be greener. Sceptics rely on figures, data, facts. Some of these are given here. More data can be found at [Landesamt für Datenverarbeitung und Statistik NRW](#).

Municipal area

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Surface | 47,67 qkm |
| Location | 51° 33' N / 6° 44' E |
| Maximum extension north to south | 8,5 km |
| Maximum extension east to west | 12,4 km |
| Highest point above sea level | 113 m |
| Lowest point below sea level | 20,5 m |

Population structure

The following data concerning population, age groups, foreigners and religion are related to citizens whose main place of residence or second place of residence is Dinslaken (source: KRZN Moers, state of data: September 2008)

Population

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Entire population | 72.347 |
| female | 37.109 |
| male | 35.238 |

Age groups

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 0 to 5 years | 3.171 |
| 6 to 15 years | 6.901 |
| 16 to 18 years | 2.294 |
| 19 to 24 years | 4.951 |
| 25 to 64 years | 40.528 |
| 65 years and older | 14.102 |

Foreigners

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Total number | 5.458 |
| female | 2.686 |
| male | 2.772 |

Religion

| | |
|------------|--------|
| protestant | 24.324 |
| catholic | 25.404 |
| others | 22.619 |



Households in the areas of settlement

| Area of settlement | number |
|--------------------|--------|
| Inner city | 8.373 |
| Averbruch | 6.338 |
| Hagenviertel | 5.036 |
| Eppinghoven | 4.166 |
| Lohberg | 6.209 |
| Blumenviertel | 7.374 |
| Feldmark | 12.916 |
| Oberlohberg | 4.878 |
| Hiesfeld | 16.464 |
| Grafschaft | 593 |

(Source: own determination, state of data: 31.12.2007)

Data concerning industry, trade and commerce

Employees within the scope of National Insurance per 31.12. 2006

(Source: LDS NRW)

| branch | employees | male | female |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| agriculture and forestry | 100 | 78 | 22 |
| mining, | 30 | 18 | 12 |
| manufacturing sector | 3.094 | 2.519 | 575 |
| supply of energy and water | | | |
| construction trade | 1.279 | 1.121 | 158 |
| commerce | 2.631 | 1.207 | 1.424 |
| hotel trade, pubs etc. | | | |
| Transport and communication | 475 | 348 | 127 |
| Banking and insurance business | 515 | 198 | 317 |
| real estate and service provider | 1.436 | 670 | 766 |
| civil services and similar | 932 | 345 | 587 |
| public and private services (civil services excluded) | 3.835 | 916 | 2.919 |
| total | 21.045 | 9.549 | 11.496 |

Unemployment

| total | male | female |
|-------|-------|--------|
| 2.701 | 1.281 | 1.420 |

Unemployment figures district of Wesel

8,3 %

(source: LDS NRW, Stand 30.06.2008)


Further data
Tourist trade (January to December 2007)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| companies in total | 10 |
| number of overnight accommodation | 304 |
| overnight stays | 39.566 |
| average length of stays (days) | 2,3 |

Number of motor vehicles

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| motorcars | 39.566 |
| utility vehicles | 2.073 |
| trailers | 3.182 |
| motorcycles | 3.352 |
| motor vehicles total | 48.173 |



The Mayor



How do you govern a city? The highest level is the council. Even the mayor has to follow the decisions of the council. Although he prepares and finally acts upon them, he just has one vote in the council. And where do the citizens come in? They have numerous opportunities to participate. The citizens of Dinslaken may write to the office of ideas and complaints or may phone. They may make use of the advice session or address the mayor directly on important matters. Michael Heidinger functions as a link connecting citizenry, town council and factions on the town council.

The citizens are free to turn to one of the political parties represented on the town council. "I think that our municipality is in need of more people who commit themselves politically or socially to our city", says Heidinger. It is clear to him that almost daily the municipality has to balance the wishes of the citizens and what is feasible from a legal, a factual and a financial point of view. The mayor, who is elected directly by the citizens for six years, is in charge of the entire town council. Appointments for the advice sessions are granted by phone (02064 / 66300) or [by e-mail](#).

Council and committees

Everyone wants to have a say in municipal matters but that is not possible everywhere and and at all times. That is why the citizens elect the council or to say it more precisely their councillors from their neighbourhood. These are 25 honorary politicians. In addition, there is the same number of elected councillors from lists leading to a total of 50. The 51st vote belongs to the mayor. All municipal matters are in the council's responsibility as long as this is in accordance with the law. The local elections on the 30th of August 2009 surprisingly resulted in 6 additional compensation seats. Thus the council now comprises 56 councillors. The municipal council meets only four or five times a year. The real work is done in special committees or in the main committee, which is the most important committee apart from the council.

At present there are six parliamentary parties

Although it is often heard or read the council has no parliamentary status, it is part of the executive authority and it is "in the same boat". To put it bluntly, the administration is rowing while the council determines in what direction to go and at what speed. Or to say it in a technocratic way: the administration, headed by the mayor, prepares the resolutions for the council and then acts upon these decisions. The council as a whole as well as parliamentary parties can take the initiative – as it is done in big politics.

Councillors may form political parties. At present there are six: SPD (21 seats), CDU (17), Grüne (6) Unabhängige Bürgervertretung – Independent Representatives of Citizens (4), FDP (3) and die Linke – Leftists 3 seats. There are also two councillors who do not form a parliamentary party. They belong to Offensive Dinslaken and Alternative Wählergemeinschaft respectively. There are also two independent councillors. The dates and the agenda of all meetings are made public und put on the internet. All meetings are open to the public. In those parts of the meetings which are not open to the public personal matters and contract issues are being discussed. Copies of all documents are available to keep all listeners well informed.