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**Akustikwunder**

Historische Stadthalle Wuppertal

**ABOVE RIGHT** Three suspension monorail trains in the Vohwinkel depot; (from left to right) Generation 72, the Emperor's Carriage (Kaiserwagen), Generation 15

**BELOW RIGHT** Two hyacinth macaws in the zoo's aviary *Aralandia*

**05 ZOO/STADION**

Built in 1881, Wuppertal's zoo on a hilly site is considered one of the most attractively landscaped zoos in Germany. The elephant enclosure and *Aralandia* are impressive, the latter with an area of over 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> one of the largest free-flight aviaries for macaws in Europe.

From 1892 on, an area of imposing residences was built here and in 1924 the football stadium. The massive Sonnborn railway viaduct next to the stadium is the only structure that passes over the suspension railway.



**ABOVE LEFT** Lettering of the photovoltaic panels on the roof of the football stadium at the zoo

**BELOW LEFT** Warning: busy waiting staff crossing in the *Luisenviertel*

**10 OHLIGSMÜHLE/STADTHALLE**

An architectural highlight from the 1970s is the high-rise savings bank (Sparkasse) on the river bank (Islandufer). It was built beginning at the top and then adding each lower floor. The station Ohligsmühle is a modern construction built in 1982. On the Johannisberg stands the Historische Stadthalle, a magnificent concert hall praised for its acoustics and dating from 1900. The adjacent indoor swimming pool in the architectural style of the 1920s is known as the *Schwimmer* ("swimming opera house"). The reason for this unusual name is that this was considered as a possible new site after

**ABOVE RIGHT** The former railway head office is now a central and modern citizen's office and education centre

**BELOW RIGHT** Case Maclain's "Café Müller" is one of the large-scale murals

**12 KLUSE**

The trains run close to a former factory, the Baumsche Fabrik, a reminder of the time when Germany's biggest trading centre for textiles was here in Hofaue. Postcards simply addressed "Hofaue" reliably reached their addressee.

Several murals can be seen here. The next station is Kluse, a modern steel and glass construction built in 1999. Right next to the station are the future Pina Bausch Centre (in the former theatre building) and the CinemaxX.



**ABOVE THE** Schwebodrom takes visitors on a virtual-reality trip into the year 1929

**ABOVE CENTRE** Wuppertal's imposing city hall in the centre of Barmen

**BELOW CENTRE** Historic façades are typical of many parts of the city

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**FACTS ABOUT THE CITY**

Wuppertal covers an area of almost 170,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Woodland and public green spaces account for a third of this. The population of Wuppertal reached its highest level of 423,000 in 1963. When the city of Wuppertal was founded in 1929, it had 415,000 inhabitants, and today it has almost 360,000. The city is divided into the ten districts: Vohwinkel, Elberfeld-West, Elberfeld, Uellendahl-Katernberg, Barmen, Oberbarmen, Heckinghausen, Langerfeld-Beyenburg, Ronsdorf and Cronenberg.

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**THE EMPEROR RIDES THE SUSPENSION MONORAIL**

On October 24<sup>th</sup> 1900, Kaiser Wilhelm II and his consort Auguste took a test ride in the suspension monorail. March 1<sup>st</sup> 1901 marked the official opening on the section between Kluse and the Zoologischer Garten.

**TUFFI JUMPS OUT OF THE SUSPENSION MONORAIL**

The young female elephant Tuffi jumped out of a train into the Wupper near the station Adlerbrücke on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1950. The *Circus Althoff* wanted the ride to advertise its performances, but the elephant became scared, broke open the side of the carriage and plunged into the Wupper. Fortunately, Tuffi suffered only a bruise. Souvenirs of Tuffi and the suspension monorail are available from

www.wuppertalshop.de

01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
VOHWINKEL	BRUCH	HAMMERSTEIN	SONNBORNER STRASSE	ZOO/STADION	VARRESBECKER STRASSE	WESTENDE	PESTALOZZI-STRASSE	ROBERT-DAUM-PLATZ	OHligSMÜHLE/STADTHALLE	WUPPERTAL HBF/DÖPPERSBERG	KLUSE	LANDGERICHT	VÖLKLINGER STRASSE	LOHER BRÜCKE/JUNIOR UNI	ADLERBRÜCKE/OPERNHAUS	ALTER MARKT	WERTHER BRÜCKE	WUPFERFELD	OBERBARMEN/BERLINER PLATZ

**01 VOHWINKEL**

With its depot, workshop and station, the suspension railway terminus in Vohwinkel is considerably larger than the other stations. Photographers come to the platform for the view of the narrow Kaiserstraße, into which the supports and rails have been squeezed. Original parts of the supports and trains have been restored and are displayed here in the park, Am Stationsgarten.

Equally eye-catching is the nearby imposing town hall of Vohwinkel (1897–99).

**02 BRUCH**

You could almost serve coffee and cake, so close do the trains run to the houses in Kaiserstraße. The railway opened in 1901, but many of the buildings are from a later date. Their inhabitants have found a way of getting along with Wuppertal's poltergeist.

**03 HAMMERSTEIN**

Kaiserstraße and Sonnborner Straße once merged imperceptibly, but in the 70s the Sonnborn autobahn intersection cut through this part of the city. A 485-metre section of the track had to be raised by 2.20 metres so that the trains could pass over the intersection.

**04 SONNBORNER STRASSE**

At the main church in Sonnborn (1922–26), the overland section ends and the suspension railway continues its route over the Wupper.

**06 VARRESBECKER STRASSE**  
In 1863 Friedrich Bayer senior founded his paint factory in Wuppertal-Heckinghausen. Three years later, he moved the headquarters to Elberfeld. This site on a large area below the suspension railway is where the worldwide company Bayer originated.

**07 WESTENDE**

Westende is one of a number of stations with a modern steel and glass construction designed by the architects Jaspert + Seffens in Cologne. Ideally located for employees of the Bayer plant, it is close to the valley's narrowest point with almost 600 metres.

Just beyond this station, trains pass the imposing brewery building of the Kipper-Brauerei, later a wine merchant's and today the event location U-Club.

**BELOW A** look into the workshop in Vohwinkel

**BELOW RIGHT** View from the *Schwebbahn* of the Bayer works



**08 PESTALOZZISTRASSE**

Arrenberg, once a working-class district, has developed into a fashionable area. Around the former hospital Sauerbruch-Klinik (now the "Arrenberg'sche Höfe"), a new urban quarter is developing where people live, work and spend their free time. The factory buildings in Moritzstraße, where Elba once produced ring binders, are now used by, among others, the local radio station Radio Wuppertal and the coworking space codeks.



**ABOVE** The suspension railway in front of St Laurentius School on Robert-Daum-Platz

**09 ROBERT-DAUM-PLATZ**

The Briller Viertel is one of Germany's largest uninterrupted areas of listed-building residences. Those who lived here include the poet Else Lasker-Schüler, the chemist Carl Duisberg, the conductor Hans Knappertsbusch and the former president of the Federal Republic Johannes Rau. The Briller Straße separates this part of Wuppertal from the *Ölberg*, a former working-class district. Until the 1920s, those who lived here used oil or paraffin lamps as there were no gas pipelines. With many listed apartment blocks built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, this is one of the city's trendy districts. At the foot of the *Ölberg* is the Luisenviertel, a district popular for its restaurants and shops around the neo-classical basilica minor St. Laurentius (1828–35).

**THE SUSPENSION MONORAIL: FACTS**

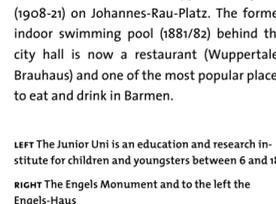
**ROUTE LENGTH** 13.3 km, including 10 km above the Wupper **JOURNEY TIME** about 30 minutes **STATIONS** 20 **TOP SPEED** 60 km/h, **LENGTH OF THE CARRIAGES** 24 m **WEIGHT** 40 t (fully loaded), **CAPACITY** 42 seats and 130 standing passengers **PASSENGER VOLUME** average of over 80,000 passengers on working days, almost 24 million a year. The planning of a renewal programme for the suspension monorail system, including the supports and stations, began in 1995. This took until 2014 and a key aspect was safety. To ensure barrier-free access, lifts and tactile guidance elements were installed.



**13 LANDGERICHT**  
The station Landgericht is modelled on the art nouveau style. In order to meet modern requirements (barrier-free access), the building has been replaced by a new one that preserves the original design. Next door is the imposing façade of the Landgericht, one of the oldest law court buildings in Germany (1848–1854). The saying "to cross the Wupper", meaning to go to prison or to become bankrupt, originated here on this river island with its law courts.

Next to it are the Engelsgarten and the Museum Industriekultur Wuppertal, with the Museum of Early Industrialization (due to open in autumn 2025) and the Engels-Haus, which documents the life of the Engels family. Friedrich Engels wrote the *Communist Manifesto* together with Karl Marx. Nearby is the "Theater am Engelsgarten", a stage used by the theatre company.

Next to the station is the brightly coloured building of the Junior Uni, an innovative and privately-financed educational institution for children and young people that has a practical focus. For more information see www.junioruni-wuppertal.de



**LEFT** The Junior Uni is an education and research institute for children and youngsters between 6 and 18

**RIGHT** The Engels Monument and to the left the Engels-Haus

**16 ADLERBRÜCKE/OPERNHAUS**  
The opera house, built in 1905, destroyed in the war and rebuilt between 1954 and 1956, is the main venue for opera and theatre performances and the world-famous Dance Theatre (Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch). From the spherical fountain, you can see the *Schwebodrom*, where the virtual-reality trip on the suspension railway in 1929, the year when the city of Wuppertal was founded, is proving very popular with visitors. The pedestrian zone leads to the former Ruhmeshalle (1900) or Hall of Fame on Geschwister-Scholl-Platz. It is now known as the Kunsthalle Barmen/Haus der Jugend and for a long time has been an event location and museum for special exhibitions. It is also used by the *Bergische Universität* (University of Wuppertal) as an art gallery (*Kunsthalle Barmen LAB*).

The train station in Barmen with a former entrance hall now used as an event location completes this cultural complex.



**LEFT** The Junior Uni is an education and research institute for children and youngsters between 6 and 18

**RIGHT** The Engels Monument and to the left the Engels-Haus

**OPEN-AIR ART GALLERY ON THE WALLS OF BUILDINGS**

Wuppertal is also a vibrant hot spot for street art. The projects of *Urbaner Kunstraum Wuppertal* have turned the city into a huge open-air art gallery that is attracting enthusiastic visitors from all over the world. In various parts of the city, international artists have created large-scale wall paintings or murals, each telling a colourful story. Some of these are within easy reach on foot of the stations Ohligsmühle (Kasinostraße and Bergstraße), Kluse (Hofaue) and Werther Brücke (Kleiner Werth and Rauer Werth). For more information see www.urbaner-kunstraum.de

**20 OBERBARMEN/BERLINER PLATZ**

The terminus at the eastern end of the suspension monorail has a depot where trains remain overnight. Not far away is a structure symbolizing development, a new beginning and renewal in this eastern part of the city: the gasometer. On its roof, almost 70 metres up, is a skywalk. Under the roof of this former disc-type gas holder is the *Visiodrom* – a



Spectacular at night too: the station Werther Brücke

pillar-free space 38 metres in diameter and 47 metres high equipped with screens and high-performance laser projectors that present dream worlds as projection shows on Europe's largest 360° round screen, with viewers in the middle of a unique show experience. This listed building also has a restaurant and exhibition space.



The gasometer in Heckinghausen

WUPPERTAL MARKETING Brochure JO1 Edition 4/2025

**WUPPERTAL**

SUSPENSION MONORAIL // CITYGUIDE

FROM STATION TO STATION: A brief guide to all the 20 stations DISCOVER THE CITY: Places of Interest nearby

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**AT THE CITY'S BORDERS AND UP ON THE HILLS**

The suspension monorail gives access to places in the valley, providing a convenient connection between Vohwinkel and Oberbarmen, but there are attractive parts of Wuppertal some distance from the track.

One of these is Langerfeld-Beyenburg, with very different traditions. Langerfeld was a centre of ribbon making, and today there are firms still producing some of their ribbons on historical looms and using traditional patterns and techniques from the heyday of the textile industry. Beyenburg developed from 1296 around a monastery of the Crosiers (Brethren of the Holy Cross). The Gothic monastery church is reflected picturesquely in a lake used for water sports (Beyenburger

Freiheit, bus 616, 626 from the station Oberbarmen).

Ronsdorf and Cronenberg are on the southern uplands above the valley of the Wupper. Cronenberg was an important centre for the production of tools as early as the Middle Ages. This is where Knipex, a world market leader, still produces its pliers. Forges and grindstone workshops are reminders of Cronenberg's long tradition. Ronsdorf was not founded until the 18th century, its nucleus the settlement of the Ellerianer, a sect that formed around Elias Eller and his wife Anne von Büchel. (Bus routes to Ronsdorf 636, 646 and 666, to Cronenberg CE64, CE65, 625).



Photo: Von der Heydt-Museum

LEFT The Von der Heydt-Museum is renowned internationally for its collection of artworks and exhibitions

chestra. Johannisberg 40 (a five-minute walk from the station Ohligsmühle), [WWW.STADTHALLE.DE](http://WWW.STADTHALLE.DE)

**WUPPERTALER BÜHNEN**

The venue for plays, operas and theatre dance is the opera house in Barmen, built in 1905. Just a few minutes' walk away is a second stage in the Theater am Engelsgarten. Opera House: Kurt-Drees-Straße 4. Theater am Engelsgarten: Engelsstraße (a three-minute walk from the station Adlerbrücke), [WWW.WUPPERTALER-BUEHNEN.DE](http://WWW.WUPPERTALER-BUEHNEN.DE)

Tickets for performances of the *Wuppertaler Bühnen* are available from the *KulturKarte*, [WWW.KULTURKARTE-WUPPERTAL.DE](http://WWW.KULTURKARTE-WUPPERTAL.DE)

**VON DER HEYDT-MUSEUM**

The Von der Heydt-Museum offers a fine collection of paintings, sculptures and graphics from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present as well as special exhibitions. Turmhof 8 (a five-minute walk from the station Hauptbahnhof/Däppersberg), [WWW.VON-DER-HEYDT-MUSEUM.DE](http://WWW.VON-DER-HEYDT-MUSEUM.DE)

**SKULPTURE PARK WALDFRIEDEN**

In 2008, Tony Cragg, a world-famous sculptor resident in Wuppertal, opened the Sculpture Park Waldfrieden in the grounds of a listed building, the Villa Herberts. It displays works by Tony Cragg himself, one of the most important representatives of contemporary art, and exhibitions of work by other artists. Hirschstraße 12 (a 20-minute walk from the station Landgericht, bus 628 from Kluse), [WWW.SKULPTURENPARK-WALDFRIEDEN.DE](http://WWW.SKULPTURENPARK-WALDFRIEDEN.DE)

**KUNSTHALLE BARMEN/HAUS DER JUGEND**

The former Ruhmeshalle (1910) in the centre of Barmen is now known as the *Kunsthalle Barmen/Haus der Jugend*. This building has a long history as an event location and museum for special exhibitions. It is also used by the *Bergische Universität* (University of Wuppertal) as an art gallery ("Kunsthalle Barmen LAB"). Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 4-6 (a five-minute walk from the station Werther Brücke), [WWW.KUNSTHALLEBARMEN.DE](http://WWW.KUNSTHALLEBARMEN.DE)

LEFT The Historische Stadthalle, opened in 1900 to mark the visit by Kaiser Wilhelm, is regarded as one of the world's finest concert halls

RIGHT In the Sculpture Park created by the artist Tony Cragg, sculptures (here "Three Columns") contrast with the lush vegetation



Photo: Jürgen Ufermann

LEFT Between 2014 and 2016, the "Nordbahntrasse", a disused railway line, was turned into a pedestrian, cycling and skating route through Wuppertal. The former stations are now popular meeting places

**RELAXATION AND RECREATION**

Wuppertal is one of Europe's greenest cities. Six of its parks belong to European Garden Heritage Network, more than any other city in Europe.

**HARDT UND BOTANICAL GARDEN**

The Hardt, overlooking Barmen and Elberfeld, is probably Wuppertal's most popular park. With its sunbathing lawns, café, barbecue area and open-air stage, it is highly appreciated by visitors. Its highlight is the Botanical Garden, 15 hectares and next to the *Elisenturm* (1838). On the perimeter of the Hardt stands the 22-metre-tall *Bismarckturm* (1907). Eisenhöhe 1 (a 20-minute walk from the station Landgericht, bus 643 from the main train station), [WWW.BOTANISCHER-GARTEN-WUPPERTAL.DE](http://WWW.BOTANISCHER-GARTEN-WUPPERTAL.DE)

**ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN**

Founded in 1881, the zoo is attractively landscaped. Visitors should not miss *Aralandia* and the penguin tunnel. A bridge on the the *Samba-Trasse*, a disused railway line that is now a cycle track, passes over the outdoor enclosure for tigers. Hubertusallee 30 (a ten-minute walk from the station Zoo/Stadion), [WWW.WUPPERTAL.DE/ZOO-WUPPERTAL](http://WWW.WUPPERTAL.DE/ZOO-WUPPERTAL)

**BARMER NORDPARK**

Meadows, woods and a deer enclosure along a stream are an invitation to walk and explore. At the highest point are the *Turmterrassen* with facilities for sport and play areas. A special highlight is the skywalk. (a 30-minute walk from the station Werther Brücke, bus 332 from Alter Markt).

RIGHT The Elisenturm stands next to the Villa Eller in the park called the Hardt and was once an observatory. Today it is a viewing point and a venue for wedding ceremonies

**BARMER ANLAGEN**

This park of 100 hectares (the second-largest privately-owned park in Germany with public access) was laid out and is managed by the *Barmer Verschönerungsverein*. The *Toelleturm* (1888) and the *Adolf-Vorwerk-Park*, known for the magnificent blooms on the large rhododendron bushes, are well worth seeing. (a 20-minute walk from the station Alter Markt), access via An der Bergbahn, bus 640), [WWW.BARMER-ANLAGEN.DE](http://WWW.BARMER-ANLAGEN.DE)

**BURGHOLZ**

This extensive forest includes a 250-hectare arboretum with more than 130 kinds of conifer and evergreen trees from three continents. It is also a research laboratory for climate-resilient trees. The best starting point to explore it is the Forestry Education Centre (Waldpädagogisches Zentrum), Friedensstraße 69 (a 15-minute walk from the bus stop in the centre of Cronenberg, buses CE64, CE65, 625), [WWW.WPZ-BURGHOLZ.DE](http://WWW.WPZ-BURGHOLZ.DE)

**NÜTZENBERGPARK/KAISERHÖHE**

Parkland around the Weyerbuschturm (1897) with an adventure playground, climbing park, sunbathing lawn, areas for sport and games (about a 10-minute walk from the station Westende to the lower end of the park).

**KÖNIGSHÖHE**

This park with its many footpaths and trails was laid out as a summer residence of the Von der Heydt family in 1887. In this woodland area is the Von der Heydt-Turm (Königshöher Weg, about a 30-minute walk from the station walk from the station Werther Brücke, bus 332 from Alter Markt).

**NORDBAHNTRASSE**

The 23-kilometre-long Nordbahntrasse is part of a disused railway line turned into a pedestrian and cycling route. Highlights along its route include viaducts and tunnels and the former stations, among them Mirke (café, Creative Centre and "Utopiastadt") and Wichlinghausen (Germany's biggest parkour area), [WWW.NORDBAHNTRASSE.DE](http://WWW.NORDBAHNTRASSE.DE)



Photo: Daniele Bernatta



Photo: Christian Böhm

**THE ECONOMY, RESEARCH AND SCIENCE**

Woodchip paper, Aspirin the Thermomix and the Kobold vacuum cleaner – Wuppertal firms have established makes and products considered leaders on the world market. Typical of Wuppertal's economy is the strength of its medium-sized businesses renowned for reliability and innovation.

Wuppertal's significance for research and development is demonstrated by the research centre Bayer AG / WuXi Biologics Germany and by the university (*Bergische Universität*), which was founded in 1972 and has eight faculties and a School of Education. The university is part of a close-knit regional network with companies in the fields of the economy, research and science. Wuppertal companies support students and prospective entrepreneurs with work experience and projects.

Other important areas of focus include the circular economy, sustainability and digitalization. The Wuppertal Business Award has led to success stories involving excellent start-ups as well as traditional companies, [WWW.WIRTSCHAFTSPREIS.DE](http://WWW.WIRTSCHAFTSPREIS.DE)



Photo: Janine Langguth Universität Wuppertal

**CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES**

A city of religious communities and churches, Wuppertal is logically also a city of church towers.

Important churches in Elberfeld are the neo-classical minor basilica St. Laurentius on Laurentiusplatz, the CityKirche on Kirchplatz, the Friedhofskirche in Hochstraße as well as the village church in Schöller and the monastery church in Beyenburg. Some of them, such as the CityKirche and the Immanuelkirche, now have a new or an additional function and are used as an event location, a cultural centre or a concert venue.

The Gemarker Kirche in Zwinglistraße has special historical significance as the place where the *Barmer Theologische Erklärung* was drawn up in 1934. A special feature is the fact that it shares its site with the synagogue (*Bergische Synagoge*), opened in 2002. A church and a synagogue here occupy the same plot of land. The mosque in Gathe in Elberfeld and the Buddhist stupa in Heinkelstraße in Unterbarmen are reminders that other religious communities play an active part in the cultural life of the city.

Wuppertal does not have one main cemetery but instead about 50 small ones. The large number is a special feature of the city and is due to the many different religious communities.

Wuppertal will soon have Germany's first cemetery for Muslims that is managed exclusively by the Islamic community – it will have neighbouring Christian and Jewish cemeteries.

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**DATES IN HISTORY**

From about 955 existence of a fortified settlement Burg Elberfeld.

Around 1070 Barmen first mentioned in historical documents.

1298 Crosiers (Brethren of the Holy Cross) found a monastery in Beyenburg.

1527 the Duke of Berg grants the bleachers in the valley of the Wupper the sole right to make linen yarn out of flax. They thus have a monopoly guaranteeing an unparalleled rise to economic prosperity. This right is the basis for the development of the valley of the Wupper into a centre for the textile industry.

1610 Elberfeld is granted a town charter.

19<sup>th</sup> century The growth of the textile industry brings to the valley unprecedented economic growth. Road and railway networks are built.

1808 Barmen is given the status of a town.

1815 The Grand Duchy of Berg becomes part of Prussia.

1863 Friedrich Bayer and Johann Friedrich Weskott found the Bayer factory in Heckinghausen.

1900 Kaiser Wilhelm II visits the towns on the Wupper.

1901 Following test runs in the years before, the suspension monorail is opened on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

1929 To simplify administration tasks and reduce costs, the communities along the Wupper are united to form a city (August 1<sup>st</sup>). The city is named Wuppertal in 1930.

The water power of the Wupper was in all respects the formative element. It is the basis of Wuppertal's unique industrial history, it cut valleys into hills, and it made Wuppertal refreshingly greener than almost every other German city. Open spaces alternate with narrow sections, hills with valleys, tranquillity

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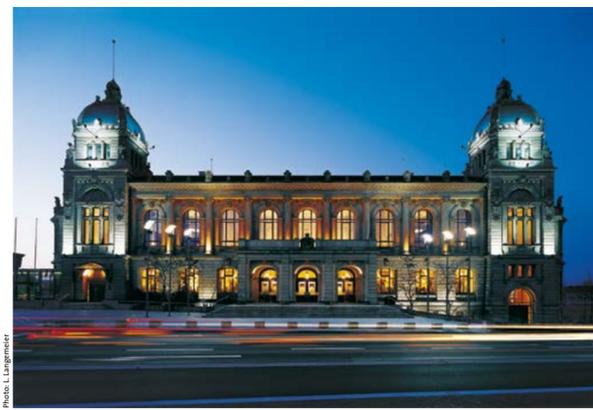


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