

BUDGET TRAVELLER'S  
GERMAN WANDERLUST

36 HOURS IN

# Düsseldorf



Must



Bars & Cafes



Nightlife



Festivals & Events



Shopping

# Youth HotSpots

in Germany *Share the moment.*

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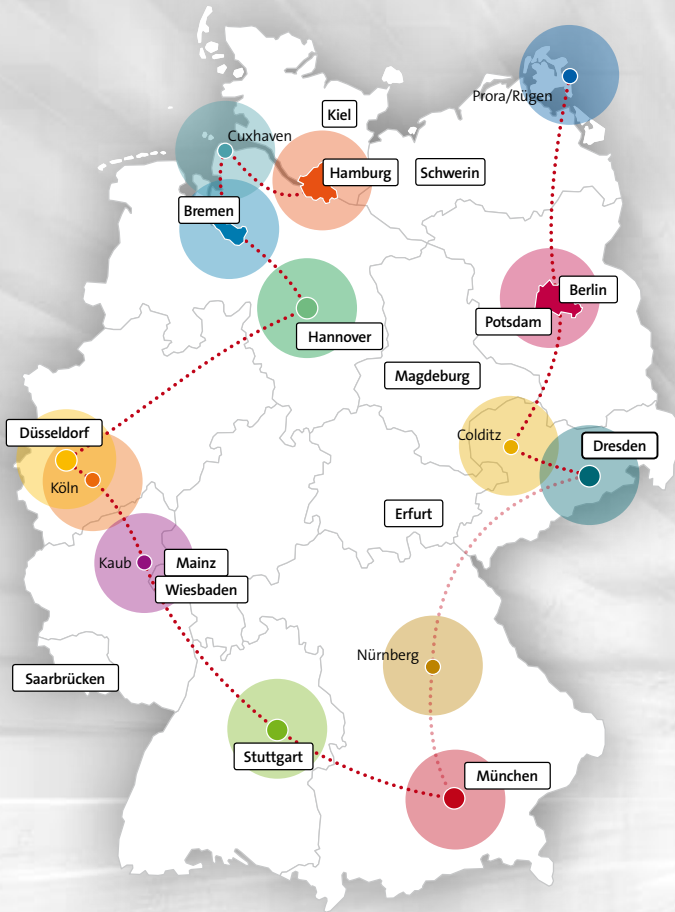
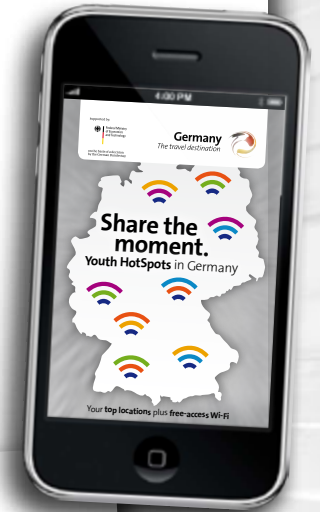
**Germany**  
The travel destination 

[www.germany.travel](http://www.germany.travel)

# Youth HotSpots in Germany share the moment.

BUDGETTRAVELLER'S 48 HOUR GUIDE TO GERMANY is a personal snapshot of some of the coolest youth hotspots [www.germany.travel/youth](http://www.germany.travel/youth) in 12 of Germany's leading cities and towns. The guide comes complete with my itinerary plus the cost associated with each activity so that you can pick and choose activities that are best suited to your interests and budget. Each itinerary was created to allow travellers the freedom to explore each place in a relaxed manner and without blowing your budget. I welcome your feedback – Share your thoughts on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram using the hashtag **#youthhotspotsgermany**.

**Get the Youth HotSpots App!**  
Your top locations plus free-access Wi-Fi  
for when you're on the move. For **iOS** and **Android**



## BudgetTraveller's biography



Kash Bhattacharya has been travelling on a budget for the last 4 years, blogging about his adventures at [BudgetTraveller.org](http://BudgetTraveller.org). He has been featured in the New York Times, Guardian, Vanity Fair and National Geographic. In July 2013, he's launching a guide to Luxury Hostels in Europe and also helped develop award-winning campaigns like **#BlogVille** for the Emilia Romagna Tourism Board, **#Blogmanay** for Unique Events and Event Scotland and **FilmTraveller\_CoteD'Azur** – a blog about film tourism in Cote D'Azur for the Cote D'Azur tourism board. You can also follow Kash on Twitter and Facebook.



Share the experience  
[youth-hostels.de](http://youth-hostels.de)



The German Wanderlust is part of the campaign 'Youth HotSpots in Germany – Share the moment.' launched by the GNTB at the 2013 ITB travel fair in Berlin to promote its year of youth tourism. For the project the GNTB has teamed up with the German Youth Hostel Association (DJH) [www.youth-hostels.de](http://www.youth-hostels.de) and transport partner Deutsche Bahn [www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com).

The Youth HotSpots, such as bars, cafés, must-sees and events, featured on the interactive map at [www.germany.travel/youth](http://www.germany.travel/youth) provided orientation points for Kash. Kash stayed overnight in DJH youth hostels and was travelling by train with Deutsche Bahn.



BUDGET TRAVELLER'S GERMAN WANDERLUST  
36 HOURS IN **Düsseldorf**

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Total cost of trip 14



## Good to know

While my trip has been sponsored, the views and thoughts represented in this article are my own.

### *When you think of Düsseldorf, you commonly associate the city with it's world class architecture and art museums*

However, as I discovered on a recent trip to the city as part of the Youth Hotspots in Germany campaign, there is so much more to the city than just that.

From their world-class coffee shops where you can sample, high quality coffee made from hand roasted coffee beans to discovering the world's largest decimal clock to hanging out with the local students in the cool neighbourhood of Bilk to enjoying the city's fantastic Imbisse (snack bars) where you can enjoy everything from Reibekuchen to falafel sandwiches ... lots and lots to do but only 36 Hours to spend in Düsseldorf... Here's what I did.

#### **Top Tip**

##### **Free Sunday organ concert, Andreaskirche**

If you are lucky to time your visit to Düsseldorf on a Sunday, pop into one of Rhineland's most beautiful baroque churches, Andreaskirche (Andreasstrasse 27). Every Sunday at 4pm, they offer a **free organ concert**.

DAY 1

2 PM

1



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## Check-in: Jugendherberge Düsseldorf

With great views of Altstadt across Rhine, the Jugendherberge Düsseldorf (Düsseldorfer Str. 1) is a modern, clean and comfortable hostel. It's an odd location for a hostel, situated in the up-market residential neighbourhood of Oberkassel. However, being away from the hullabaloo of the Altstadt makes this hostel a nice, chilled out base for exploring the city. Clean and spacious rooms, generous breakfast, friendly staff plus free wifi in the lobby are other key features of this hostel. Bed in a 4 bed dorm starts at €28.50 while a double room for 2 people with ensuite bathroom starts around the €70 mark.

### Getting there

From Main Station take U70, U74, U75, U76 or U77 to Luegplatz, from there it's 7 minutes on foot along Kaiser-Wilhelm-Ring to the hostel.



DAY 1  
.....  
4 PM

2



**Must See: Romantiklabor**

## Head over to the trendy student quarter, the Bilk

Mondays all the museums are closed in Düsseldorf and across Germany. The next best thing for me to do was to go for a walk up the Rhine embankment to the student quarter of Bilk and the adjacent Mediahafen district.

The Bilk is one of the favourite neighbourhoods for students to live in and this is reflected in the hub of cool cafes spread across the area. You can discover gems like 'Kaffeepiraten' (Neusser Str. 121) which serves great coffee, top notch food with a range of daily specials (Chicken curry with rice for just €6.50) plus they offer free, fast wifi.

Plus you can unearth shops like the quirky 'Romantiklabor' (Lorettostrasse 32) where everything is handcrafted. No wonder this was voted one of the most beautiful shops in Germany by Architecture & Living magazine.

## Sunset o'clock. Mediahafen

One of the best places to capture sunset in Düsseldorf is in front of Frank Gehry's eye catching warped 'Neuer Zollhof' which stands against the towering backdrop of the Rheinturm. The three dancing, slanting towers are just one of the many creative, architectural icons you can spot in this area. You have Claude Vasconi's 'Grand Bateau' which resembles an ocean liner, the **North Rhine Westphalia** Parliament plus William Alsop's Colorium with its kaleidoscope glass front. Walking around, despite the futuristic skyline, I still feel a glorious sense of decay about this old industrial port area. The huge warehouses that were lying empty have now been given a new lease of life thanks to the TV, radio stations and media agencies who have been setting up shop in these vast spaces.



DAY 1  
.....  
6 PM

3



**Must See: Medienhafen**

# Meet the iconic Rheinturm, the world's largest decimal clock

DAY 2  
.....  
6:30 PM

4



*Must Sees: World's largest  
decimal clock*

Another architectural highlight of the Düsseldorf skyline is the towering 168 metres tall Rheinturm. Visitors can pop into the tower's self-service, revolving (revolves around the tower shaft once every half hour) restaurant at the top where you can enjoy Black Forest gateau and coffee while enjoying amazing views of the Rhine River and city landmarks. On a clear day you can see as far as **Cologne Cathedral**.

Interesting fact: When you are standing in front of the tower, note the portholes lining the structure which form part of the world's largest decimal clock.

DAY 2  
.....  
7 PM

5



## Cortado and free wifi at Woyton

My caffeine binge continues. A short walk from Mediahafen, I stumbled upon a local coffee chain, Woyton.

Cortado here is excellent & the chocolate brownie is wow... Loved this place. Give me Woyton over Starbucks and Costa Coffee anyday.

Note: Guests can take advantage of their **free wifi for 1 hour**.



**Bars & Cafés: Woyton**



DAY 1  
.....  
7:30 PM

6

*The walk home to the hostel on the Rheinkniebrücke...*

Rheinkniebrücke



DAY 1  
.....  
8 PM

7

## *Dinner at the Jugendherberge Düsseldorf*

You can enjoy not only a nice breakfast but also lunch and dinner at the majority of the Jugendherberge network of hostels in Germany.

This is handy, especially at the end of a long day of travel.

For dinner, I enjoyed the delicious Linseneintopf – a delicious lentil stew with some Bockwurst. Plus they have an excellent salad buffet. On top of that, for dessert I had Apflestrudel with cream.

I washed that down with some of the excellent local Schlosser Alt beer that you can order separately from the hostel bar. Great meal.



*Dinner at the Jugendherberge*

**Cost** Including the beer, €9



It's another sunny day in Düsseldorf and perfect for a morning walk along the Rheinufer Oberkassel.

**Cost** Espresso €1.50

DAY 2  
10 AM

8

## Kaffeeschmeide

Before heading over to Altstadt I continue my pilgrimage of Düsseldorf's great coffee houses at Kaffeeschmeide (Belsenstrasse 11). I am beginning to realize that Düsseldorf is a place for caffeine friends and few brew a better cup of coffee than Tamas Fejer. For the last 7 years he has been roasting his own coffee beans and supplying local caffeine friends. A regular customer summed up the magic of this place for me nicely – 'There are many places you can drink good coffee but few places where it is made for you to enjoy it as an experience'.

 **Bars & Cafés: Kaffeeschmeide**



 **Bars & Cafés:  
Caffe im NRW Forum**

DAY 2  
11 AM

9

**Cost** €2.50

## 'Caffe im NRW Forum'

Caffeine binge continues.

Before popping into the museum I check out the very stylish 'Caffe im NRW Forum' where the coffee is great and lots of hipsters. **Free wifi** too.

DAY 2  
11:30 AM

10



 **Must Sees: NRW Forum**

## NRW Forum Düsseldorf

Düsseldorf has a collection of world class museums and the NRW Forum Düsseldorf (Ehrenhof 2) is one great example. The museum holds exhibitions on some of the most diverse topics in pop culture ranging from applied art, design, advertising, architecture & photography to video, comic books and fashion. I was lucky to be visiting at the time of the great singer and photographer 'Bryan Adams-exposed' exhibition, a comprehensive cross-section of his best work.

**Cost** €5.80 (Concession €3.80 with a student card)

Entrance price is reduced to €3.80 on a Friday after 6pm.

## Lunch at the Farmers Market

For lunch I decided to go to the excellent Farmer's Market in the old town.

I nip over to Borra's Imbiss, a great place to sample Reibekuchen – delicious Germany potato fritters that are a typical snack of the Rheinland and usually savoured with some apfelsauce. Later I buy some baguette bread & gouda cumin cheese from Das Kaseparadies, a sole juicy clementine is my delicious dessert.



DAY 2  
.....  
1 PM

11

**Cost** €4.50



**Bars & Cafés:** Farmers Market



DAY 2  
.....  
2:30 PM

12



**Must Sees:** Filmmuseum

## Filmmuseum

The Filmmuseum is a must see for movie buffs visiting Düsseldorf. You can learn more about cool stuff like the machinery used in filmmaking, art of special effects & often the museum hold special exhibitions on famous movie actors plus they have inhouse 'Black Box' cinema which shows rare flicks & silent movies accompanied by an organ player.

**Top Tip** Last hour (4pm) is **free everyday** so time your visit accordingly. Otherwise admission price is **€3** (Concessions: **€1.50**)



## *Lazing in the sunshine on the Rhine Promenade*

Suns out and it's a beautiful day. I decide to take it easy for a few hours and laze on the steps at Burgplatz with a book. It's the perfect spot in Düsseldorf for watching the world go by. Boats and barges chug along merrily down the mighty Rhine. Thirsty tourists pack the several bars and cafes that line the promenade, sipping on the famous local Altbier.

As day turns to night and sunset approaches, steps get noticeably busier with buskers of varying levels of musical proficiency dropping by and serenading the crowds with their tunes. Meantime, the age old view of the Rhine just doesn't seem to fade with time. I put my book back in the bag, enjoy the ebullient flow of life around me against the panoramic backdrop of the Rheinkniebrücke and Oberkassel quarter. These few hours were pure bliss.

## *A night at the Museum: K20*

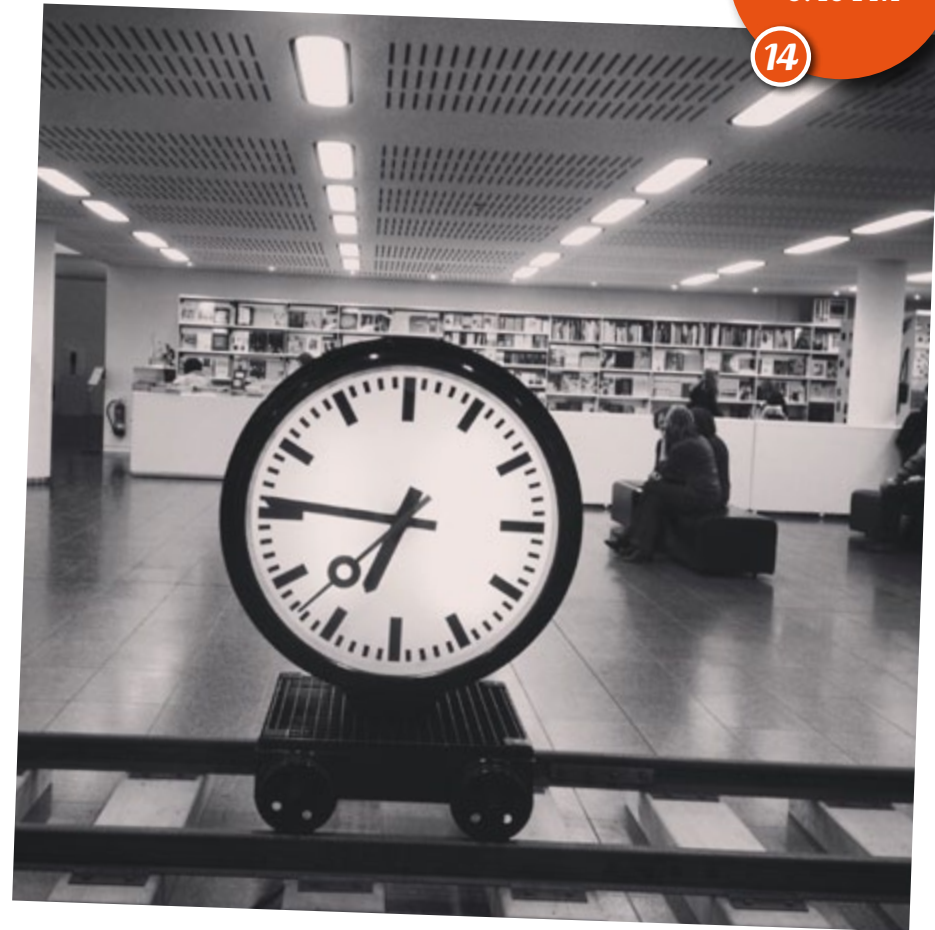
Arrived late. Luckily, the K20 on first Wednesday is **open for free** from 6 – 10pm.

The Kunstsammlung 20 (Grabbeplatz 5) is one of the world's most respected art museums with a cracking collection of modern art which ranges from Classical Modernism to American Pop Art and other major contemporary works.

A who's who of classical modernism, the museum's permanent collection features works of Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, and Piet Mondrian plus over 100 drawings and paintings by Paul Klee. The collection of postwar American art includes works by Jackson Pollock and Frank Stella and by Pop artists Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns and Andy Warhol.

DAY 2  
.....  
6:46 PM

14



*Must See: K20*



DAY 2  
.....  
9 PM

15

## Falafel sandwiches at Libanon Express

Eating out in Düsseldorf is a pricey affair so snacking is the best way to save money. One of the best Imbisse joints in town is Libanon Express (Berger Strasse 21) who hands down make the best falafel sandwiches in Düsseldorf.

**Cost** €3.20

 Libanon  
Express

## Altbier at Schlüssel Oberkassel

My last tip. No trip to Düsseldorf is complete without a few glasses of the locals favourite beer, the 'Alt'. It's a dark, rich and top-fermented beer. In the Altstadt you will find a number of small, traditional breweries that serve this beer. I visited the Oberkassel outpost – Schlüssel Oberkassel (Oberkasseler Str. 84, about a 10 minute walk from the hostel) of the famous Hausbrauerei 'Zum Schlüssel'. Along with a glass of the Altbier, I snack on some Bockwurst, rye bread accompanied by some sweet mustard. It's a nice wee pub, packed with friendly locals, a great way to wind down the day and finish my Düsseldorf trip.



DAY 2  
.....  
10 PM

16

**Cost** €6

### Top Tip

Avoid the 'longest bar in the world'

The Altstadt is famous for it's raucous nightlife which has earned it the grand epitaph of the '**longest bar in the world**'. Unfortunately during my visit in March, such lofty claims seemed to have only attracted the worst kind of tourists: stag and hen parties were howling in their droves from England and different parts of Germany. Avoid this part of town and head to Bilk or Flingern where there is a less touristy vibe and some cool local bars.

 **Nightlife: Schlüssel Oberkassel**

## Düsseldorf – Getting there and away



**Train:** Düsseldorf is well connected with regular services to **Cologne** and **Aachen** via the excellent S-Bahn network. There are regular ICE trains running to **Frankfurt** (from €29, 1¾ hours), **Berlin** (from €29, four hours) and **Munich** (from €29, five hours). [www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com)

**Air:** Many domestic and international carriers serve the Düsseldorf International Airport. Or alternatively you can fly to Weeze which is served by low-cost airlines like Ryanair and is 70 km from Düsseldorf.

**Buses** to Düsseldorf leave from outside the terminal. Or alternatively hop on a bus to Weeze train station (the journey takes approximately 10 minutes) and from there to Düsseldorf by train is 1 hour & 15 minutes.

Big thanks to the German National Tourist Board, their partners for the 'Youth Hotspots' campaign – Jugendherberge: The **German Youth Hostel Association** and Deutsche Bahn for sponsoring my 'German Wanderlust' tour.

Also like to thank the **Düsseldorf Tourism Board** for their kind support.

I was touring Germany as part of an effort to highlight and discover the country's emerging 'Youth Hotspots.'

Find out more about these hotspots at [www.germany.travel/youth](http://www.germany.travel/youth), feel free to add your own and also do download their free youth hotspots app that is now available on the Apple Store & Android Store.

## Total cost of trip

2 nights in 4 bed dorm at Jugendherberge Düsseldorf, including breakfast	€57.00
Coffee at Kaffeepiraten	€2.30
Cortado and Chocolate cake at Woyton	€4.50
Dinner, with beer at Jugendherberge Düsseldorf	€9.00
Espresso at Kaffeeschmeide	€1.50
Caffe im NRW Forum	€2.50
NRW Forum Düsseldorf	€5.80
Lunch at Farmers Market	€4.50
Filmmuseum	€3.00
The Kunstsammlung 20	€Free
Falafel sandwich at Libanon Express	€3.20
Altbier and bockwurst at Schlüssel Oberkassel	€6.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>€99.30</b>

» **Visit Düsseldorf online**